



Soroptimist International Edinburgh news notes anecdotes

Issue 160

February 2017

Frances Lynch, speaker 8 March 2017 Business Meeting

Frances Lynch is a singer and composer, who studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. She has been involved in various projects to encourage young women to be interested in a career in science through music and singing. She has previously worked with Bournemouth SI, which is why she approached us through our website. Last year she had a very successful show at the Edinburgh Fringe festival on this theme. This year she is concentrating on prominent Scottish women scientists.

Alison was not able to meet her on the two dates last month when Frances was in Edinburgh, so asked me if I could do so. With my background in physics and meteorology I was delighted to take this on and we had a very interesting meeting on 25th January, when I was able to give her two useful contacts, Alison McClure of the Institute of Physics in Scotland and Dr Vicky Ingram of Heriot-Watt University. These have responded very positively. She is also working with someone in the National Library of Scotland in relation to historical examples of Scottish women

scientists. I also told her about the Edinburgh Music School at Broughton High and Flora Stevenson schools, where there might be a collaborative project between the science departments and the music school.

She is Artistic Director of Minerva Scientifica, based at King's College London, which is a programme reflecting the lives of British Women Scientists through the music of British Women Composers. She is also Artistic Director of the Electric Voice Theatre, which is a multidisciplinary music theatre ensemble and you can see more about their involvement in Minerva Scientifica events on their website.

www.electricvoicetheatre.co.uk

She will tell us more about what is proposed for this year's Scottish Project on the 8th.

Marjory

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3S Trust – 20p

Members are asked to bring any 20p coins (smartie tube collections) that they may have to the next club meeting. We wish to have the money banked and transferred to the 3S Trust before the end of the financial year.

Sight Village

As in previous years Queen Alexandra College, Birmingham will be hosting an exhibition aimed at providing as much information as possible about the products, services, technology and support available for those who need help with failing eyesight. This will be held as follows:

Place: **Hilton Hotel, Grosvenor St. EH12**

Marriott Hotel, Argyle St.G3 8RR

Date: **Tuesday 25th April** (Edinburgh)

Wednesday 26th April (Glasgow)

Time: **9.30 am - 3.00 pm.** (-3.30 pm Glas.)

If you wish to volunteer in Edinburgh please contact Christine.

If you wish to volunteer in Glasgow please contact Sight Village direct.

Helen Clark Adamson

10th January 1938 to
22nd January 2017

Members will be saddened to hear of the passing of Helen Adamson, a very loyal and active member of Soroptimism. A member of SI Glasgow (and previously SI Glasgow West), she was active at club, DU/Region and Federation level.

Helen was President of Glasgow West in 1981/82, Divisional Union of Scotland South in 1985/86 and SIGBI President in 1995/96. Her travels took her to many places worldwide as she showed her interest in the values of Soroptimism – such as the SIAM project and the Scottish Women's Convention.

Her funeral service took place at Dalnottar Crematorium, Clydebank on 31st January 2017. Pat Black and Hilary-Kay attended, representing Soroptimism in general as well as SI Edinburgh.

(see Soroptimist News, February 2017)

SIE Regalia

(see photos in our history 1927 – 2007)

The cost of insuring our regalia has increased significantly this year. Some items were SI Edinburgh originally and some were SI Leith originally. As a result we have a good collection.

Can we afford this increase?

What are our options?

Keep/Sell/Archive?

Members should give much consideration to this as we are talking about something that represents the work of our predecessors – something we are celebrating later this year – 90 years.

£ £
5p 5p 5p 5p 5p 5p 5p 5p 5p 5p
5p 5p 5p 5p 5p 5p 5p 5p
5p 5p 5p 5p
£ £

We shall make a decision soon.

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Did you know that the £1 coin is being replaced by a newly designed coin on 28 March? As the round coin is too easily forged the Royal Mint is introducing a twelve sided coin. Looking at an article on the internet I think the new coin is very reminiscent of the old 3d coin that we used when we were girls!

The dates to remember are:

28 March - new coin comes into circulation daily,

16 October - the old coin is no longer legal tender.

Check your old handbags and down the back of the sofa etc so that you do not lose out.

Carolyn

Joint Region Conference

22nd April 2017, Perth

For clarification:

There will be PA presentations at this conference. There will not be a competition/award.

Members attending are asked to consider taking lightly used or new bras and new pants for the "Smalls for All" project.

SI Edinburgh member taking Programme Action to another level

Winifred tells of her amazing expedition.

I have just returned from the South Atlantic and Antarctica but Soroptimist activities have not been far from my thoughts.

In the Falkland Islands, I spent an afternoon clearing litter from a beach. This was mainly plastics dropped by fishing boats. A local commented that the beach would be just as bad by next week! Also while there we were not allowed on a beautiful beach because it was still littered with mines from the war in the 1980s. While on our ship, we were encouraged to get involved in Citizen Science. This meant that at set times we made observations which were then sent off to various places in USA and Cambridge. The results will be collated over time. Some people were engaged in counting birds, others in recording cloud formations, others in making photographic records. I was involved in sampling the ocean three times a day and recording the sea and air temperatures as well as salinity and pollution, microbes as well as minute plastic particles.

While in South Georgia, we learned about the problem that rats had caused. They were not native but had escaped from whaling boats in past decades. As there are no trees all birds have to nest in rocks or burrows so the rats could thrive on easy pickings. *There has been a programme over about eight years to eradicate the rats and they have reached the stage of thinking that they have succeeded. We were able to see some of the results as particularly, the South Georgia Pippit is now clearly thriving. In the final stage, they will use dogs to trace any remaining rats and this costs money. I made a donation in the Club's name so that one hectare could be cleared.

As you can see, Programme Action has not been far from my thoughts.

Winifred.

Welcome back, Winifred.

South Georgia



Church consecrated
25/12/1913



Ruins of a
Whaling Station

Photos taken in 2013 on a different expedition.

* Note: In 2011 a small area in South Georgia had been treated successfully. The programme was extended to cover more of the island. Winifred's news is most encouraging. **Ed.**

BBC News 21/2/2017

An item of interest on BBC News talked about a group of women training in Norway to cross frozen terrain. They undertake up to nine hours a day in up to -40 deg. C. temperatures. This is in preparation for an 80 day expedition to Antarctica starting in September 2017. They will be the first all women team to undertake such an exercise. Seven are in the group at present – five will undertake the epic voyage in September. Much research will be undertaken during this time – concentrating on the effects and needs of women under these arctic conditions. Data available at present is based on the effects on men.

We will watch with interest to see how they progress. How does -40 deg. C. compare with your experience, Winifred?

Ed.

SIE Business Meeting held on 8 February 2017 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel

Present Alison (in Chair) plus 13 members and 3S Trust returnee (Lydia).
Apologies for absence were received from 6 members.

3S Trust presentation

Alison introduced Lydia, who had been given support by 3S Trust for a project in Kenya – “First Aid Africa”. Lydia’s presentation covered the work she had done with a group of schools and gave an insight into some of the fascinating issues that she encountered.

SI Vision and Mission statement

This was read by Myint Su.

News of members

Myint Su reported that Carol, a former member, had been diagnosed with Alzheimers. Myint Su was asked to pass on good wishes from club members.

Matters arising from minutes of meeting held on 11 January 2017

The minutes were agreed. Edith reported that she and Anna had attended the SLA Book Café event, and that SIE’s gift of key-rings some years ago was still remembered.

Correspondence

The deaths of Helen Adamson (SI Glasgow City, former SIGBI President) and Myra (SI Hamilton) had been reported by Scotland South.
SI Paisley dinner will be held on Thursday 9 March.

Treasurer

Anna read a brief report from Carolyn, who was unwell.
Carolyn’s recommendation is that subscriptions should be increased to £145 or £150. There are currently just 23 paying members. There was a large increase in the regalia insurance premiums (see last minutes) so perhaps we should consider what to do about this. It was agreed to consider further at the March business meeting.

Scotland South

The next Scotland South meeting is on Saturday 4 March in the Women’s Library, Glasgow.

What Women Do event Region is looking for someone with experience of social history presentations.

Club growth project Details of dates and venues are not yet available, but each club will be expected to send 3 or 4 delegates to the first session. At least 2 of those who attended the first session must also attend the second session. (Four members of SIE have already expressed an interest in attending)

Website survey Pat Black is dealing with SIE’s response.

Programme Action

Alison summarised briefly the response to the UK PAC consultation. One of the conclusions was that communication between clubs and PAC should be better. A full-day PA forum is planned for Cardiff, just before conference.

Marjory reported that she had met with Frances Lynch, who is using music and singing to encourage girls into science. She would be interested to hear of any useful contacts that members may have, eg links with schools or with female scientists. Marjory has arranged for her to speak at the club meeting on 8 March.

Christine has posters for the Sight Village event on 25 April in the Hilton Hotel, Grosvenor Street.

3S Trust

Rachel has been awarded £300 to go to Tanzania with Raleigh International. Isabel advised that she is taking in 3S Trust contributions and would be grateful for these at the next few meetings so that they can be included in the total for the year-end accounts.

SIE 90th anniversary (Anna)

Anna gave an update on progress so far.

It is hoped to issue club invitations at Region in March and at the Scottish Conference.

Hilary-Kay has offered to make gifts of glassware, in the form of curved glass with an old Edinburgh scene, for the invited guests. This was gratefully accepted.

It is estimated that the extra costs of the anniversary to be funded by the club will be in the order of £400 or £500. Anna advised that Hilary-Kay has also offered to host a fund-raiser for the 90th, probably in May.

It was agreed that a gift of £25 should be made to SI Liverpool club charities for their 90th anniversary.

Anna reported that Clephane has invited anyone interested to attend a service at St John's Church on Sunday 10 December.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on 22 February 2017 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel, when Susan Brown will speak about the Girl Guides.

8 March 2017 - Frances Lynch

22 March 2017 – Gari Donn

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Programme Action Consultation

Letter from Barbara Dixon

SIGBI Programme Director

19 January 2017

In April 2016 SIGBI sent out a discussion document to all Clubs, National Associations and Countries about the possibility of restructuring the PA Committees. This was to ascertain as many views as possible – with a view to changing anything members felt necessary. There was a major response and this enabled some moving forward. There was also some misunderstanding of the role of APDs, the concept of clusters, the link to UN.

It also seemed clear that many members did not know enough about many aspects of PA – work of FPAC and APDs, the UKPAC levy. Some thought FPAC and UKPAC were not necessary but most UK clubs were opposed to any changes to UKPAC. Many responses indicated that much was cumbersome and much was not clearly understood.

APDs have been allocated country clusters and attend more club or Region meetings.

Discussion is now underway for a full day PA forum at Cardiff, simplified PA structure diagram, new PA annual report forms, APDs to identify clubs working on similar projects to support and promote them and yet another questionnaire to enable identification of successful group work.

As Barbara says in her letter 'it has been difficult to precis ...'. I would wholeheartedly agree with that!

Ed.

Raffle prize will be donated by Morag in March.

Raffle Tickets: I think we buy our tickets in strips of 5 tickets for £1. Is there the facility to purchase one or two tickets for a lesser sum? If not, may I suggest that we buy one ticket for our pound. This would save someone from having to tear up so many strips every meeting. And our chances would remain the same. Just a thought. *Ed.*

Dates for Your Diary

Mar 4: SISSR at Glasgow Women's Library
8: Business Meeting
Speaker – Frances Lynch, singer and composer
22: Speaker tbc
25: WWF's Earth Hour – see p.2, SIEnna 159
April 12: Business Meeting
22: Joint Region Conference, Perth
26: AGM
May 10: Business Meeting

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SI Edinburgh web address:

www.sigbi.org/edinburgh

