



**Soroptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

Issue 167

January 2018

Raising Aspirations

**A Happy and Healthy
New Year to all our Members**

I would sincerely like to thank all members for their support for the SI Edinburgh's 90th Anniversary of the Charter. I would like to thank all members who took some small or large part in making the celebrations happen. I was quite overwhelmed with all the Greetings cards and the social media messages received from around the Soroptimist World.

For 2018 we must now turn our focus again on Programme Action and "Growing our brand in the community". What small positive steps can we all take to invite new members to SI Edinburgh so that Soroptimism can continue, and the 95th and 100th Anniversaries can be celebrated?

In friendship
President Anna

On Call Africa

Pat and I attended the SI Dunfermline International night at which we had a talk from Adrian Gosling of ***On Call Africa***. SI Scotland South became aware of this small charity through Liz Spence of SI Kirkintilloch who is the mother of a volunteer.

On Call Africa:-

Founded in Scotland and regulated by OSCR (Scottish Charity Regulator), its aims are to improve access to healthcare in rural Zambia by:-

Treating - volunteer doctors provide primary care, and lab services so patients do not have to travel.

Teaching - health education with an emphasis on prevention.

Training - the charity aims to achieve sustainability by motivating and training Community Health Workers.

It assists thousands of people who would otherwise have little or no access to essential health care.

It works to augment not replace the capacity of existing services.

The charity is based in Livingstone, Zambia (close to the Victoria Falls).

Adrian works from home in Surrey, which minimises overheads.

Adrian emphasised that the charity works in partnership with District Health Offices to identify the communities that are most in need.

Christine

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The Edinburgh Evening News reported (on 17/01/18) that Edinburgh Women's Aid (EWA) marks its 45th anniversary with events including a conference on International Women's Day (IWD) 8th March with Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre, Shakti Women's Aid and Saheliya. The conference includes a new play exploring control in a relationship.

Christine

SI Club of Dnipro, Ukraine is happy to announce the second International Project "**Golden Ring of Ukraine**" and to invite Soroptimists, their families and friends to discover the capital Kyiv and its historical and picturesque suburbs.

The dates of the trip: **Sep 29-Oct 5, 2018.**

Three days you devote to the sightseeing of Dnipro founded by tsarina Catherine II and its suburbs. You will visit the Cossacks' places and the village Petrykivka famous for its unique paintings. You will have the opportunity to see our project Hope 3: 'Give the Child a Chance' The participants and sisters of SI club of Dnipro will also enjoy a gala-dinner with meals of different parts of Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and delicious wines. And you will keep warm recalls about hospitality of Ukrainian Soroptimists' families.

Then accompanied by Soroptimists of our club you will be lucky to see one of the most beautiful cities in the world – Kiev. Besides the wide known places like Khreshchatyk Avenue, Kiev Pechersk Lavra and St. Sophia Cathedral participants will visit Paton Bridge, Left Bank Kiev, Obolon. Some nice surprises will brighten your stay in Kyiv. The guests will also take the "time machine" which transports you to Pereyaslav-Khmelnytsky, famous all over Ukraine for its open-air museum "People architecture and life", consisting of 13 museums.

Bila Tserkva is the largest and one of the most interesting cities in the Kiev region, founded by Prince Yaroslav the Wise in 1032. You may enjoy Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist. Today it is a House of Organ and Chamber Music. Besides other historical places for sightseeing are definitely unique. It is Arboretum "Alexandria", a monument of landscape art of XVIII which represents a kind of gallery of live paintings, one of the largest landscape parks in Europe with its great territory of plants and ponds. It is also the opportunity to help the Club

make the fundraising for its Projects: 'Give the Child a Chance' to help physically and mentally disabled children of the orphanage.

Think of your vacation today! Your husbands, children and friends are welcome!

The total price for the six-day trip including transportation, hotels' accommodation, all meals and, gala-dinner and excursions is 630 Euros. You pay only after arrival.

WELCOME!



Our Club projects you may see at:

<http://soroptimist-dnepr.dp.ua/>

<https://www.facebook.com/www.soroptimisteurope.org>

Coordinators of the "Golden Ring of Ukraine" are Olga Markova and Nataliya Nechukhaeva.

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We are waiting for your reply till May 20, 2018.
Winifred

Yvonne Wilson, MA
27 January 1926 – 16 November 2017

Yvonne joined Soroptimist International in 1975 when she was Secretary at the then Scottish Gas Consumers' Council. She was a quietly dignified and elegant lady who was really committed to all club activities. She was a very dependable committee member and always felt herself very much part of our Club. She read SIEnna enthusiastically to keep up with activities when unable to attend meetings. Yvonne had fully expected to take part in our 90th celebrations but sadly this was not to be.

I travelled with Yvonne for a number of years - first by car to Greens Hotel and then by bus to the Royal Overseas Club and latterly by taxi to our current venue when other modes of transport became too difficult for her. She was a true Soroptimist and will be greatly missed.

contributed by Trish

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Dr Isabel Mary Noble,
MB, ChB, FRCP (Edin)
23 November 1930 – 17 December 2017

Dr Noble died on 17th December shortly after her 87th birthday. She was an Aberdeen graduate who worked in London until she was invited to join the staff of the Deaconess Hospital in Edinburgh with sessions also at Longmore and Bruntsfield Hospitals. In addition she ran clinics at the Elsie Inglis Memorial Hospital for pregnant women with heart problems. With the demise of the smaller hospitals Isabel became a full time consultant physician at The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh where she was held in high regard by staff, students and GPs.

Isabel joined Soroptimist International of Edinburgh in 1972 and almost by default was President in 1977. The club had decided to honour Dorothea Mackenzie Whyte, a Past President of SIGBI, by electing her as President for the Edinburgh club's Golden Jubilee. However, as she (DMW) relinquished her post at Moray House at that time and became a Past Service Member she was ineligible to take office. Isabel then accepted the post and was a conscientious President during the year and a very gracious hostess at the Golden Jubilee Dinner in December 1977.

Isabel was a valued member of the Social Committee and her pancakes were much enjoyed. She continued as a member until health problems made it difficult to attend meetings. However, she kept contact by joining the retired members' coffee mornings until that also became too difficult.

contributed by Isabel

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SIE Business Meeting held on 10 January 2018 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel

Present President Anna Gordon (in Chair) plus 12 members.
Apologies for absence were received from 5 members.

SI Vision and Mission statement

This was read by Edith.

News of members

Margaret is still in hospital.

Several members attended the funeral of past member Dr Isabel Noble on 5 January 2018.

Matters arising from minutes of meeting held on 22 November 2017

The minutes were agreed.

90th anniversary President Anna intimated that the 90th anniversary committee would be meeting on 15 January to discuss the celebrations and note anything that was likely to be of assistance to future organisers. Anna advised that she and Lindsey had met with Edinburgh First to discuss the invoice for the lunch, as it was felt that the food had not been up to the expected standard. A large discount in the bill has been offered and the committee will discuss to come up with proposals as to how this should be dealt with. Meantime, anyone who has incurred expenses in connection with the 90th anniversary should let Ishbel have receipts, as we wish to determine the true cost of the celebrations. President Anna noted that SIE received gifts from SI Glasgow City (£90), SI Dunfermline (£50) and SI Liverpool (£25). She has acknowledged these.

Thanks were expressed to President Anna for her hard work in connection with the 90th anniversary celebrations.

International President's Appeal

President Anna noted that the Appeal for the next two years was to focus on water projects involving women. A bag was passed round for contributions from members.

Correspondence (Christine)

- Sight Village will be coming to Scotland only every second year, with the next visit being in 2019.
- Frances Lynch has asked for some help making Victorian children's aprons and lavender bags.

Press & Publicity (Christine)

Christine advised that:

- she has sent a photo of Anna presenting the cheque to the Lord Provost to Evening News and Soroptimist magazine.
- she has sent an article and photo on the club to Evening News.
- she is trying to obtain a contact at The Scotsman.
- she has not yet advised SIGBI of Yvonne Wilson's death, but will do so.

Treasurer (Ishbel)

As indicated earlier, anyone claiming expenses should give Ishbel the relevant receipts.

3S Fund (Ishbel)

Ishbel has submitted the application for Joanna but has not yet had a reply. She is to meet 3 Project Trust students next week, so further applications may emerge from them.

Myint Su advised that there are currently 4 Project Trust young people in Myanmar, helping at a monastery school.

Programme Action (Alison)

- There has been a change at Cranston Street, which is now run by Four Square Keymoves. They have sent a note of thanks for Christmas gifts. Toiletries etc are still welcome.
- There will be a half-day conference in Edinburgh on 6 February re International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM.
- Alison will check with the Marine Conservation Society re possible beach clean dates and then liaise with Girlguiding Edinburgh to see if a joint effort might be feasible.

Membership – Growing our Brand in the Community

Referring to the initiative that is currently under way, President Anna noted that SIE:

- now has a Facebook page;
- has made contact with Girlguiding Edinburgh
- has worked with Frances Lynch's team;
- still needs to consider club leaflets etc.

Several members summarised their thoughts following attendance at one or more of the sessions in Perth:

Winifred

- Consider formation of a "Little Sister" club, eg 6th form students, college and university students, young mums.
- Emphasise **service** as our main aim. Involve new members early in projects.
- Club meetings – keep costs down; avoid business-only meetings; use friendship groups to do some of the work.

Ishbel

- Set targets for recruiting new members.
- Emphasise **service** – less talking and more doing.
- Produce a club flyer as a recruitment tool.
- Raise club profile.

Isabel

- Take opportunities that arise, eg to run a stall. (eg RBS may offer this possibility). Publicity material would be required.
- We could make links with students by inviting them to help with a project.
- Some clubs do not induct new members immediately, but allow them time to find out more about the club before committing themselves to membership.

Other comments:

- UN House interns would be a possible source of interested women.
- Invite guests to appropriate speaker meetings, eg March 2018.

President Anna noted that we need to strike a balance. Club business still needs to be done, and the club has to be financially viable. She recommended members to look at the membership section of the SIGBI website, where there is a list of 100 ways to recruit new members.

President Anna advised that she has been given the names of two women who may be interested in joining. Clephane offered to contact one of them.

Scotland South Region meeting

The next meeting is to be in Kirkintilloch on Saturday 3 March. Myint Su, SIE's representative, is unable to attend but Christine will do so.

Miscellaneous

Club history- update for last 10 years Edith has copies of the club history update. Any member who was not at the lunch and would like a copy should contact Edith.

63 Bayswater Road The AGM is to be held on 20 January. There has been no further news as to the future of the residential club, but it is understood that a feasibility study is being carried out.

Gift from Ukraine President Anna advised that Nataliya, who had attended the 90th anniversary weekend, had presented a gift of a tablecloth and some chocolate to the club.

Grants for young people with disabilities Isabel intimated that the former Trefoil School has now been sold and a fund has been set up to help young people with disabilities to be the best they can be. Grants may be applied for.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on 24 January 2018 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel, at 7:30pm.

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Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal 2017 (club meeting 8th November)

A grand total of 7268 boxes destined for Romania were sorted in 6 ½ days – but not by the club. The eleven members who attended Craigmillar Park Church were charged with sifting through the contents of a multivarious collection of bags and boxes and with generally tidying up the chapel. Firstly oversize items had to be put to one side then appropriate donations were sorted into categories to allow easy transfer of these 'filler' items to be taken to the hall as and when required. This was a great advantage over the next few days. When we were finished all the items to be returned to Blythswood for separate distribution were boxed, sealed and labelled and the chapel was tidy with easy access to the various categories of fillers. Norman has acknowledged our help in his 'thank you' report the following Sunday.

Isabel

Next Federation Project?

Pat was at the Past Federation Presidents' meeting last weekend and all were being urged to encourage the clubs in their Regions to respond to the request for ideas for the future of these projects. This would enable Federation Management Board to make a decision about the future plans.

Ideas for projects should be around one of the following four options:

1. Select a new project at the Federation Conference in Liverpool 2018
2. Defer the process and select a new project in 2019 - giving members a year free of a project
3. Develop SIGBI's Diamond Education grant as a Federation Project
4. Do not have another Federation Project

This will be considered at the meeting on 24th January as comments are required by 31st January.

Ed.

3S Trust Fund

Have you any partly filled smartie tubes? If so, please bring them to a meeting in February or March so that our annual totals can be included in the next balance sheet. The amount collected so far, since April 2017, is £145. *Isabel*

Change of Address

Soroptimist International has moved to 8A Romsey Terrace, Cambridge CB1 3NH. The telephone number is unchanged; 01223 311833

Dates for Your Diary

2018

Feb 14: Business Meeting
28: **Please note there is no meeting at the Youth Hostel.**
Mar 3: SISSR, Kirkintilloch
8: IWD
14: Business Meeting
28: Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society
Speaker: Pam
Subject: Saughton Garden Project
Apr 11: Business Meeting
25: Club AGM
May 2: House of Lords Lunch
Oct 5-7: 25th Anniversary, SI Kiev
25-27: SIGBI's 84th Conference, Liverpool

SI Edinburgh 90th celebrations

The report, stories, photos and thanks relating to our 90th anniversary in December will be recorded separately – and sent to you in due course. *Edith*

SI Edinburgh web address:
www.sigbi.org/edinburgh

Number 63 (Soroptimist) Limited *(very much a summary)*

The 69th AGM of Number 63 took place on 20th Jan. 2018 at Lancaster Hall Hotel, London W2 3EL.

The voting strength (including 144 proxies) was 250. There were three apologies.

Pat chaired the meeting and welcomed shareholders.

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were accepted. There were no matters arising. It was reported that Number 63 has retained its 3 star AA Award.

Vice Chairman's Remarks:

- Room 105 (the smallest) has been refurbished
- Paying the London living wage
- Staff training undertaken
- Annual tests and checks to establish compliance with food hygiene regulations, H&S and data protection
- Ramp for front steps, safety check by Directors indicate there is still a problem
- Ceiling up-grade has been completed and minor redecoration will continue on a rolling programme

Financial Accounts were accepted.

The 500 Club gave £2000 for Number 63.

The 2000 Club is considering its gift.

There were four vacancies on the Board of Directors and four nominations. All four were duly elected by a show of hands:

1. Liz, SI Winchester and District.
2. Giselle, SI Glamorgan Gwent Marshes.
3. Angela, SI London Cen. & SW
4. Kay, SI Winchester

The newly convened Board will consider the independent review as to the possible future of Number 63 and a review of the Rule Book to ensure it is fit for purpose. Ann announced a House of Lords lunch on 2nd May, in recognition of 70 years of Number 63.

Edith