

**Soroptimist  
International  
Edinburgh  
news  
notes  
anecdotes**

Issue 169

April 2018

***Raising Aspirations***

**SI Madurai**

Documentation, paperwork, signatures all now complete. We are delighted to have our Friendship Link established.

While Latha, a Past President of SI Madurai, was in Edinburgh recently she visited Gari at UN House in Hunter Square. She presented Gari and myself with badges saying

***'Connecting Hearts in Service'***

(see below)



***Ed.***

***Raising Aspirations***

It has been an honour to represent the club as President Elect and President in the past two years.

I sincerely thank every member for their support, friendship and input into club activities, and making the past two years very memorable ones.

I thank members for their donations in time, goods or financially towards the celebrations in December 2017 for the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SI Edinburgh receiving the charter from Maud Carpenter of SI Liverpool.

The club members have raised aspirations in communications, Programme Action, and reaching out to other Soroptimists from around the world.

I particularly thank my friendship group for their support and friendship.

I wish President Gari every success in taking the club forward. I trust every member will support her in any way that they can.

***Anna***

***Past President SI Edinburgh 2018-2019***

***April 2018***



**AGM 2018** Back row L-R: Ishbel, Irene, Christine, Anna, Clephane, Gari, Myint Su, Pat, Dorothy, Trish, Lindsey, Marjory.  
Front row L-R: Isabel, Kathleen, Edith.

## Winter Paralympics

Romania had their first athlete Laura Valeanu participate in the 2010 Winter Paralympics in Vancouver, Canada in alpine skiing.



**Laura**

Laura had been in the national Olympic team but at the age of 17, three weeks after her birthday, she lost her leg beneath the knee in a motorbike accident: the motorbike had been a birthday present from her parents.

In 2014 she also represented Romania in the 2014 Winter Paralympics coming an excellent 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> place in her two events. She had already qualified for the 2018 Pyeong Chang Winter Paralympics for 5 events when at the beginning of January, at the finish line of a competition, her ski hit metal hidden underneath the snow causing her to tear apart her anterior cruciate ligament in her good leg. She was operated on and will only resume skiing next season.

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For the first time Romania had also a snowboard athlete qualified - Mihaita Papara - who had lost his leg above his knee in a car accident when he was 23 years old. Mihaita took up snowboard 4 years ago and for him snowboarding gave him the freedom again to move quickly and freely – “with snowboarding I feel fully alive”. He participated in 2 events in Pyeong Chang and came a credible 11th in

each. He finished his stay in the Paralympic Village by saying: “It has been an amazing adventure and incredible feeling being here and competing for my country in the Winter Paralympic Games. I am looking forward to the future!” 😊



**Mihaita**



**Mihaita**

This image was selected as one of the 40 Best pictures of [Getty Images](#) taken in the 2018 South Korea [Paralympic Games](#).

Many thanks to Sally for this article and photographs. **Ed.**

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<p><b>Marie Curie collections</b></p> <p>Anna: 2 hours, £64.80</p> <p>Lindsey: 2 hours, £21.43</p> <p>Christine: 2 hours, £47.59</p> <p>Edith: 2 hours, £40.65</p> <p><b>Total of 8 hours generated £174.47</b></p>
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### Friendship Groups

Our Friendship Groups meet at certain times to suit the members in that group. As well as maintaining our friendships we now use some of the time to discuss club business and to help to progress the development of the club. There are three groups, decided geographically, but this can be altered if a different location suits you better.

Edinburgh North: Pat, Gari, Myint Su, Alison, Nikki and Dorothea.

Edinburgh West: Mary, Edith, Morag, Ishbel, Marjory, Irene, Margaret and Anne.

Edinburgh South: Hilary-Kay, Christine, Lindsey, Anna, Clephane, Winifred, Carolyn, Trish, Dorothy and Isabel.

*Ed.*

### Generations Working Together

As many children do not have the opportunity to form friendships with grandparents, a pilot study has been set up in two very different Perthshire schools. A number of volunteers (50+) have been trained and with the blessing of the staff have gone into the schools primarily to help with literacy and numeracy. They did discover that further training was necessary in educational problems such as dyslexia. To date the results have been encouraging with the children writing poems in Scots dialect. This led to a Haggis celebration. In one school where a volunteer was a gardener the children are setting up a garden in the grounds, including a quiet area to commemorate a pupil who was drowned in the Tay. There are also plans to visit an old people's home and, if they are as successful as the Bristol experiment shown on STV, there will be a great deal of bonding of children and the over 50s.

*Isabel*

### A Hardy Edinburgh Soroptimist visited the Soroptimist Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum on the first day of Spring



I had the bonus of 2 extra nights at my niece's outside Birmingham building an igloo and pulling a sledge!



*Christine*

Well done, Christine. You would have had enough exercise as you did this.

*Ed.*

## **SIE Business Meeting held on 11 April 2018 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel**

**Present** President-Elect Gari (in Chair) plus 12 members plus Marion (visitor from UN House who is interested in joining) plus 5 3S Fund applicants, as listed below.

Apologies for absence were received from President Anna plus 3 other members and Dorothea (UN House).

### **3S Fund**

Ishbel introduced the 5 applicants, each of whom gave a brief presentation.

Kirsty will be spending a year in Guyana, with Project Trust, teaching in primary schools. She hopes to help with the development of education programmes for girls.

Lauren will be spending a year in Thailand, with Project Trust. She will be teaching English in primary and secondary schools, but will have to complete a short Thai language course first.

Sarah will be spending 2 weeks in Cambodia, with Girlguiding. She will be working in a community centre, helping with the teaching of English and building links with the Guiding Association of Cambodia.

Rosie will be spending 2 weeks in Lesotho, on a Girlguiding project in partnership with the Guiding Association of Lesotho.

Lauren will be spending a year in India, with Project Trust. She will be teaching English and helping set up music and sports clubs.

Members agree to support all 5 applications to 3S Fund.

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### **SI Vision and Mission statement**

This was read by Pat Black.

### **Matters arising from minutes of meeting held on 14 March 2018**

The minutes were agreed and there were no matters arising that would not be covered elsewhere.

### **Treasurer (Ishbel)**

Ishbel advised that she had based her calculation of the subscription for 2018/19 on the assumption that there would be 13 meetings held at ECYH. She does not yet know the insurance premium for the club regalia. Club membership has reduced and so fixed costs have to be spread over fewer members. Ishbel indicated that the subscription was likely to be around £130, but this could only be confirmed once she knows the insurance premium. Members were asked to be prepared to pay their subscriptions at the next meeting, if possible, as the club will be required to pay capitation fees to SIGBI shortly thereafter.

### **Annual General Meeting (25 April 2018)**

Edith confirmed that she now has nomination papers signed for the positions of President, Treasurer, Programme Action Officer, Correspondence Secretary and Minute Secretary.

### **Correspondence**

- Pat Black reported that she has been passing on requests received via the website from visiting Soroptimists. These are being followed up. The next visitor has been invited to meet some members at the National Library for coffee at 11am on 24 April.
- Myint Su confirmed that the certificate re the new friendship link with SI Madurai has been received for signature. She is arranging for President Anna to sign.

**Programme Action**

- Marie Curie collection figures have been advised to Alison for reporting.
- Lindsey has made contact with Kids Love Clothes to indicate that we would like to assist. She is hoping to arrange a sorting event later in the spring or early summer.

**Growing Our Brand**

Isabel indicated that she hoped there would be a discussion on the draft membership leaflet following the AGM.

**Fundraising and speakers for 2018/19**

It was agreed that these should be discussed at the short meeting following the AGM. We have already received a request from Playlist for Life to come and speak at a club meeting, but whether or not we would wish to support them financially would have to be considered.

**Miscellaneous**

- Clephane mentioned that she had attended an event organised by a Muslim women’s group and that one of the members had attended the last SIE meeting, at Clephane’s invitation. Pat Black advised that one of her aims as Scotland South President was to build relationships with other groups.
- Isabel was invited to the AGM of Edinburgh Direct Aid, but was unable to attend.
- Marjory is giving a talk on the Weathermen on Ben Nevis at 2pm on 29 May at General Register House. Advance booking is necessary for anyone interested in attending.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on 25 April 2018 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel, at 7:30pm.

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<b>Dates for Your Diary</b>	
<b>2018</b>	
May	9 Business Meeting
	23 Friendship Meetings tbc
June	2 SISSR, Polmont
Sept	12 Business Meeting
Oct	5-7 SI Kiev, 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
	25-27 SIGBI Federation Conf. Liverpool

SI Edinburgh web address: <a href="http://www.sigbi.org/edinburgh">www.sigbi.org/edinburgh</a>
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