



**Soroptimist  
International  
Edinburgh  
news  
notes  
anecdotes**

Issue 172            September 2018

***President's Message***

“I am delighted to become the 2018 SIE President. It is a great honour and I hope to be able to maintain the SIE profile and activities which were set during the hugely impressive year of Anna, my predecessor as President.

Like Anna, I am aware of the very wide range of activities we set ourselves. Not only do we have two meetings each month, some with high profile speakers, but we have fundraising and service activities throughout the year. In fact, many of our activities could attract audiences and participation from a wide cross section of Edinburgh's civil society and grassroots organisations. This is something I would like to develop during my year as President.

Many of you will know that the UN has 17 Sustainable Development Goals with targets to be achieved by 2030. SDG17 addresses partnership and collaboration and - along with SDG1 No Poverty, SDG2 Zero Hunger and SDG4 Quality Education - is particularly important in creating immense possibilities for improving the state of our communities, societies and our world.



So, over the year of my Presidency, I hope you will help to engage many other civil society organisations with our Vision and Mission. Each member of SI Edinburgh has her own networks: Let's create a joined-up partnership to advance the work, ethos and foresight of Soroptimism in Edinburgh!

***President Gari***

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**Members of SI Paisley invite you to join them at an event to mark the centenary of women's suffrage.**

***“Suffragettes during World War 1”***

***Barbara Graham***

**Thursday 22 November 2018**

**The Glynhill Hotel, Paisley Road,  
Renfrew**

**6.00 for 6.15pm Supper £15 or  
7.30pm Tea/coffee £3**

RSVP by 16 November  
[soroptimistspaisley@gmail.com](mailto:soroptimistspaisley@gmail.com) or  
**07922238330**

## **SIE Business Meeting held on 12 September 2018 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel**

**Present** President Gari (in Chair) plus 16 members.

Apologies for absence were received from 6 members.

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

This was read by Winifred.

### **Welcome to new and transferred members**

President Gari introduced Nikki (transferred from SI Wallasey) and new member Dorothea, and welcomed them to the club. Both said a little about themselves and several club members (Isabel, Clephane and Myint Su) did the same, as an introduction.

### **Matters arising from previous minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 13 June 2018 were agreed.

GDPR Pat confirmed that she and Carolyn have set up the necessary arrangements. Pat said that there was still a little to do, but the club is basically compliant.

Newsletter and membership list Edith noted that she is now compiling SIENNA without full names and any contact details. It was also noted that an updated membership list is being prepared. Members whose contact details have changed should advise Edith as soon as possible, to ensure that the new list is accurate.

### **Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

### **Press & Publicity**

No report, other than that Carolyn has almost completed work on the special SIENNA 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition, which will include an article written by Kathleen re the lunch.

### **Treasurer (Myint Su)**

Myint Su confirmed that the RBS account signatories had now been changed and that current signatories are: Myint Su, Isabel, Carolyn and Dorothy.

Myint Su will check with ECYH to see whether or not they will accept cheques for payment of meeting rental (the balance that is payable on meeting nights). She will make suitable arrangements for cover when she is away. Myint Su advised that anyone who incurs expenses on behalf of the club should

let her have a note of these, including receipts, where possible.

It was noted that we still require to find an independent examiner for the accounts.

President Gari advised that two names have been put forward. This will be discussed further at the October business meeting.

### **SIGBI Conference**

Several members have registered to attend the Conference in Liverpool (25-27 October).

The resolutions for Conference are available on the SIGBI website and are included in a recent SIGBI mailing. They will be discussed at the October business meeting, to determine how SIE voting delegate should vote. Pat indicated that there is to be a Programme Action resolution in addition, but this has not yet been circulated.

Clubs have been asked to vote by 5 October on how information on the candidates for SIGBI's nomination for SI President 2021-22 should be obtained and circulated. The options are:

Candidate interviews at SIGBI Conference 2019, with videos then put on SIGBI website.

(This was the approach used previously by SIGBI for this purpose).

Individual videos made by candidates.

Mixture of 1 and 2.

It was agreed that SIE's vote should go to Option 1. In the absence of the Secretary Anna agreed to submit the response.

### **Scotland South (Myint Su)**

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September are available on the Scotland South website.

Reports were given by two 3S Fund recipients. Also, mention was made of financial help which had been given to enable a young man in Poland to complete his education.

A talk was given by a Syrian woman who is now in Scotland and who has been given support by SI Kirkintilloch

Brenda has taken over as Programme Action Officer.

The incoming President will be Margaret (SI Hamilton). Her plans include the launch of an essay competition open to schools and young people, on STEM in partnership with Women's Engineering Society.

The next joint Scottish Conference will be held in 2021. It has been decided to miss the next two years because of the SI Convention in 2019 and the UKPAC Study Day in 2020.

Those members attending the SIGBI Conference in Liverpool are asked to take saltires to wave.  
The next meeting will be held on 10 November 2018.

**Programme Action (Alison)**

Alison has submitted PFRs to the database. Reference numbers will be shown in SIENNA. Marine Conservation Society is holding beach clean-up events at various venues this weekend. Those wishing to help should register via the MCS website. Several members plan to participate. Edith held a knitting morning, producing poppies for WWI commemoration. Anna has volunteered to help at the SLA fireworks event in November. Target Ovarian Cancer is looking for volunteer helpers for an event in Holyrood Park on 29 September. EDA will accept new knitted toys and sanitary products (not tampons). Isabel will keep SIE informed of updates.

**Club leaflets**

Leaflets are now available for use. President Gari suggested that a small group be set up to agree a possible list of sites for distribution, taking into account our target audience. Anna volunteered to be involved. Pat recommended that when discussing with interested women mention of a club project helped to engage them. She advised that Melanie (Scotland South Membership Officer) would be happy to give guidance. Thanks were expressed to Isabel, Kathleen, Trish and Myint Su for their involvement in producing the leaflets.

**Club programme (President Gari)**

At the next meeting, Jane will speak on “Scottish sportswomen on links and rinks”, which will include reference to Margaret Carswell, a founding member of SIE. There will be a business meeting on 10 October, and then the speaker on 24 October will be a female MSP.

**SI Kiev**

Winifred will be visiting SI Kiev in October for the club’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. She is taking a donation of money for their projects plus some knitted blankets. Members present signed a card.

**Other Friendship Links**

Irene has received some correspondence from SI Caldwell and SI Sioux Falls, and has replied to both clubs.

**Miscellaneous**

Clephane was invited to attend an event re the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Engineering at Edinburgh University. This included the unveiling of a plaque to Molly Fergusson, who was a member of SIE for many years until her death in 1997 and was the first woman to graduate in engineering from the university. Isabel asked about a survey that she had heard of from one of her “chain gang”. It had originated from SIGBI in June and was aimed at finding out from clubs their views as to the future of regions. Pat indicated that Scotland South had asked for an extension of the deadline which originally had been July and submitted a response. Due to the lack of time remaining it was agreed that Pat should submit an email on behalf of SIE asking what problems the survey was designed to address, as this would better able clubs to respond. Dorothy indicated that she would be unable to attend the meeting on 10 October and so a stand-in minute taker would be required. Alison volunteered.

**Next meeting**

This will be held on 26 September 2018 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel, at 7:30pm.

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**Information received from Christine:**

**Secretarial paperwork**

I recently received items from Ishbel in her role as Secretary and also items from Lesley in her role as Secretary. Some papers are in a briefcase which Margaret Thomson kindly donated to the club; there is also Soroptimist headed notepaper and compliment slips. I am steadily going through the box and briefcase and will bring items to each meeting so that members can advise me about them.

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**Sponsored Walk**

I am walking 10 miles for Maggie's Edinburgh Culture Crawl on Friday 21st September to raise money for people with cancer.

I worked at the Western General Hospital when the first Maggie's Centre was planned and built.

Maggie's Centres are warm and welcoming places built alongside NHS hospitals that provide the emotional, practical and social support that people with cancer and their family and friends need.

I welcome donations but please don't feel obliged to give. I'll also bring a form to the meeting on 10th October.

Please see the link below

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ChristineCraig>

**Thanks very much, Christine**

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**Women of the World Conference**

The second conference in Scotland will again take place in Perth, this time opening on 28<sup>th</sup> Friday until 30<sup>th</sup> September and SI Perth has taken a promotional stall at which they will be promoting ALL Soroptimist Clubs in Scotland as the attendees come from all over Scotland. As a consequence, Anna has sent copies of our new club flyer to Jean Campbell, SI Perth.

**Brief report on SI SSR AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2018**

(Members can see the full report from SSR if they wish to. *Myint Su, Region Rep*)

- 2 Associate members attended, one from Coll and one from Dumfries and 2 3S Fund returnees gave presentations; Marissa helped with teaching and other activities in Malawi and Kerry taught in a primary school in India. Marissa has become SSR's youngest Soroptimist. Eva Tyson from SI

Dunfermline talked about a third recipient who did not go to a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country to give service but who was enabled by the grant to go back to Poland to continue with his education.

- Sanaa, a Syrian refugee who addressed the SSR meeting last year reported on how she and her family have been helped by members of SI Kirkintilloch to settle into a new life in Scotland. She said it was the first time in 7 years that she has lost her worries and felt happy.

- Brenda was voted in as PAO to take the place of Lynn Maher who had resigned because of personal reasons.

- Outgoing President Pat said how much she had appreciated her team. There is new work being done on the web site, the possibility of a new club in the Dumfries and Galloway area. SSR accepts change and moves forward.

- Incoming President Margaret spoke about looking ahead to working in partnership with other organisations such as Women in Science. The focus will be on education and gender equality. There is going to be an essay competition launched live on the internet open to schools and other young people for which volunteers are needed to mark the essays.

- There is no SI north/south conference in 2019 as there is the SI Convention in Kuala Lumpur which will incur a considerable expense for members; the next joint conference will be 2021 (Scottish joint conferences are held every 2 years).

**2019**

2<sup>nd</sup> March: Region Meeting. Kirkintilloch

1<sup>st</sup> June: Region Meeting.

Greenpark, Polmont

18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> July: SI Convention.

Kuala Lumpur

7<sup>th</sup> September: Region Meeting and AGM.

Kirkintilloch

24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October: SIGBI Conference

Bournemouth Conference Centre

2<sup>nd</sup> November: Region Meeting

Greenpark, Polmont

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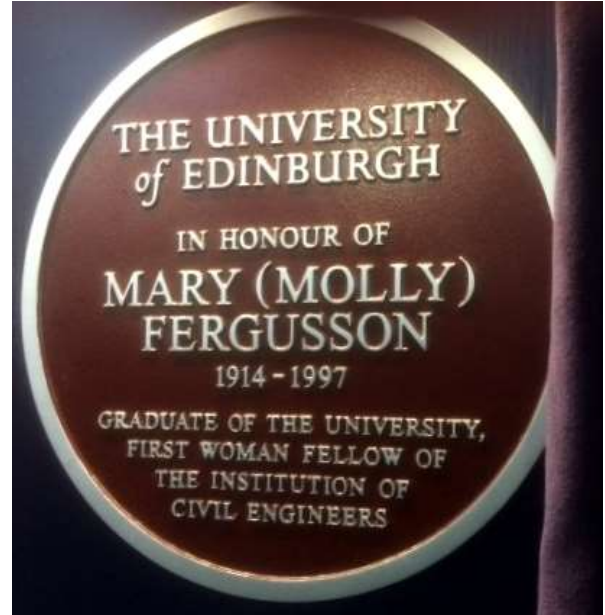
**An honour for Molly Fergusson, OBE**

A couple of months ago an email came through to me via the church website. Asking if I knew how to contact the relatives of one of our former members – Molly Fergusson, whose memorial service John Burdett and I conducted twenty years ago. The lady enquiring had remembered my unusual name and had a go at trying to contact me.

After a bit of a false start, I recalled that one of Molly’s nephews had been involved in setting up a children’s charity and a web search revealed his name among the list of founder directors. So on to the company registers and I found an address. (Don’t underestimate the ability of the internet to locate you.....)

Handing this on to the original enquirer, I hoped she might manage to track him down. And indeed she did! Together with his brother and their wives, he attended the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Molly as the first woman to graduate with honours in Engineering at the University of Edinburgh. This will be placed on the Sanderson Building at King’s Buildings.

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I was privileged to be invited as well. A novel experience, as we assembled at FloWave – the centre for academic research into wave and tidal interactions. From gentle waves to whirlpool action! Molly would have been vastly intrigued.

*Clephane*

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**Poppies**

Club members have supported Dorothy and colleagues who were knitting poppies to have a special display at Liberton Kirk in October/November this year – 100 years since the end of World War 1. We have sent well over 100 to date. The Kirk had received 10,720 as at 16<sup>th</sup> September. You could look out for the display cascading down the tower and side of the Kirk next month.

<b>Dates for Your Diary</b>	
<b>2018</b>	
Sept	26 Speaker Meeting
Oct	10 Business Meeting
	24 Speaker Meeting
	Sandra Howells, Dep. Director of Finance, Heriot Watt University
	25-27 SIGBI Federation Conf. Liverpool
Nov	14 Business Meeting
	28 tbc
Dec	12 Social



**Maggie's Edinburgh Culture Crawl  
21<sup>st</sup> September 2018**



*Above and right:* Members of a singing group in Dunfermline who also enjoy walking.

On her walk on 21<sup>st</sup> September, (see Sponsored Walk above, page 4) Christine met up with many like-minded friends in the singing group. This included SI Dunfermline member, Estelle.



Estelle writes to Christine, “It was lovely to see you on Friday night and I am so glad that you responded to my smile.

“You are a well-recognised face in SI because of all the work you have done so recognising you was easy!

“We were delighted that you were able to join the choir girls. Yann and Morag have had huge personal need for Maggie’s.

“We were delighted you could join our team. You gave us a lot of local knowledge of Edinburgh and libraries and on the journey home everyone said how much we enjoyed your support and company. So glad we met up.”

Estelle, SI Dunfermline

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**Programme Action Activities for  
2017/2018  
Reported on SIGBI database**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Project Number</b>
Donations to <b>Cranston Street</b> during the year and at Christmas	48049
Helping with Publicising <b>Scottish Superwomen of Science</b> Performances in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, August 20017	48047
Sorting items for parcels for <b>Blythswood Care</b>	48048
Collecting for <b>Marie Curie</b>	48097
Work with the <b>3S Trust</b>	48050
Guiding Visually Impaired People round the <b>Sight Village</b> Exhibition, April 2017	45146
Collecting items for <b>Edinburgh Direct Aid</b>	48098
Volunteering at a sponsored walk in Edinburgh in aid of <b>Target Ovarian Cancer</b>	48051
Helping with composing " <b>Stormsong</b> ", commemorating the storm at Eyemouth in 1881, performed by Eyemouth school - children	48181
	<i>Alison</i>

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**Items for SIEnna 173** should be sent, to the editor by 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018

SI Edinburgh web address:  
[www.sigbi.org/edinburgh](http://www.sigbi.org/edinburgh)