

**Soroptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

Issue 174

November 2018



**SIGBI Board 2018/2019 elected at
Conference**

Left to Right:

1. Cathy Cottridge, Director Without Portfolio
2. Judith Grocott, Director of Membership
3. Susan Biggs, IPP
4. Sue Williams, President
5. Isobel Smith, PE
6. Barbara Dixon, VP
7. Ruth Healey, Director of Finance
8. Kay Richmond, Programme Director
9. Shirley Jones, Director Without Portfolio
10. Judi Chaddock, Director Without Portfolio

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S.I. Kiev 25th Birthday

At the beginning of October I went to Kiev as S.I. Kiev were celebrating 25 years since they were chartered. We have had a friendship link with them for the last 20 years.

I had a very early start to get there and I was sitting patiently waiting for my flight to be called at 5.00am. Suddenly from the ceiling a small dark object came tumbling down. It was about the size of a small walnut. As it tried to get up, I realised that it was a very small mouse. It was in shock and was having difficulty getting up on four feet. Three feet, yes, but the fourth crumpled in which ever order it tried to organise them. Eventually it got the hang of it and scampered off. Beware if you are in Edinburgh airport as it might rain mice! The birthday celebrations were a very happy occasion as we were truly international, including the following countries who were represented, Latvia, Israel, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, Belgium, England and Scotland, also, members from the five Ukrainian Clubs were there.

The Kiev Club showed us a video depicting all the projects that they had taken on over the years. Some, like their involvement with a school for partially sighted children, have been ongoing throughout all the years. When I first knew this project, the school lacked the basics for the children's wellbeing. Often, the Club would be asked to supply things such as bed sheets or potatoes. With the help of the Danish and Swiss Soroptimists, the situation has improved greatly and the living conditions are much more hygienic and cheerful, and much more appropriate for children. Some of you will recall that a few years ago, our club sent money so that the Kiev club could buy a computer for the children who were about to leave the

school so that they could acquire some skills and so perhaps get work.

Among the more recent projects, was one concerning the use of a dog to help disturbed children. The club paid for a number of sessions with a trained therapist.

Because of the war in the Ukraine, many women and children have had to flee from the war zone leaving all behind. This has been a concern of the club. They are working to help these women to settle and find work. This is not easy as even if the women and children are safe, the menfolk are still in the war zone or worse.

You will be pleased that I handed over your greetings card to the Kiev Club together with 250 euros. They were very grateful and thank all of you who contributed.

We were taken on several sightseeing tours around Kiev and some of the history was explained to us. Some of us went to Chernihiv, a town about one hour away. It was interesting to have a guided tour of this town and to visit an ancient monastery which was totally underground. It is not used this way now!!

While I was in Kiev, I met Olga Markova from the Dnipro Club and gave her the ten small blankets that I had for the youngest children in the school for handicapped children that they help. As you can see, my visit to Kiev was very worthwhile. I certainly learned a great deal and I hope that I was able to help in a small way.

Received from Nataliya in Dnipro on my return home.

“I hasten to inform you that on Saturday I visited the orphanage and gave the children your gift. The blankets loved the children. You very well picked up the different colours of blankets. The children asked: ‘is it for me?’ I think that you will see the photos and see their reaction. I told the children that a lady who lives in

Scotland tied you in rugs. The kids really liked your name.”

Winifred

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SI Winterthur visit to Scotland, September 2019

Eva, SI Dunfermline, writes with information about connections between Winterthur and Dunfermline.

“There was, a long time ago, a close connection between Winterthur and Dunfermline, in connection with the silk mills in Dunfermline. The specialists came over from Winterthur. There is also in Dunfermline a Winterthur Lane.”

We should consider this when planning next year’s programme. *Ed.*

International Women’s Day 2019

Scottish Women’s Convention
Sat 9th March 2019
in the Scottish Parliament

Note: Registration closes 31st December.

Fundraising

3S Fund: SI Edinburgh has £92, received since April this financial year.

‘Smarties’: At the last Business meeting there was some discussion about saving 20p coins in Smartie tubes – as we had done previously. You may wish to consider this – or use a ‘pretend’ Smartie tube, i.e. an old envelope.

Another method we used before was our ***Hippo***. Any loose change, small coins that weigh you down, could be saved in Hippo.

Thoughts for the New Year Ed.

SIE Business Meeting held on 14 November 2018 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel

Present President Gari (in Chair) plus 19 members plus Lucy (3S Fund applicant).

Apologies for absence were received from 1 member.

SI Vision and Mission statement

This was read by Clephane.

3S Fund

Lucy, a pupil at Broughton School, gave a brief presentation on her planned expedition to Chile, where, under the auspices of Project Trust, she will spend a year in Santiago teaching English as a second language. It was agreed to support Lucy's application.

Marjory encouraged members to support the 3S Fund, as she had noted that the size of the fund was reduced from a year ago and SI Edinburgh had put forward a large proportion of the successful applicants. Pat Black suggested holding a fund-raiser some time in 2019.

News of members

Anna intimated that Carolyn would be unlikely to be able to attend any meetings in the foreseeable future. She would welcome visitors, but would appreciate a telephone call beforehand.

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October

The minutes were agreed (proposed by Dorothea and seconded by Irene).

Matters arising from previous minutes

There are no matters arising that are not covered in the usual agenda items.

Treasurer (Myint Su)

Myint Su confirmed that all payments are up to date. She will leave the chequebook and bank pay-in book as per arrangements while she is away. Membership cards will be available at the next meeting.

Scotland South meeting (Myint Su)

Myint Su's brief report on the meeting will be in SIENNA. She mentioned:

No. 63 AGM on 19 January 2019 – see later for more details of the issues.

Display on "Women in WW1" was held at the meeting.

SIGBI Conference 2019 will be held in Bournemouth. President Sue Williams' theme is **"Think on it"**, and she wishes clubs to give thought to mental health and well-being when planning their club programmes and activities.

SI Paisley Dinner – 14 March 2019.

"Easy-giving" arrangements whereby clubs can gain some financial benefit from members' expenditure on internet purchases – some information is available.

Scotland South PA and Membership meetings (Christine and Anna)

Christine reported that the following had been highlighted:

The importance of publicising the fact that S.I. has a voice at U.N.

PFR reporting is not the responsibility of the club PA Officer alone.

PFRs should be submitted timeously, rather than saving a year's reports at a time.

UN's 16-day campaign re Elimination of Violence Against Women. (Orange badges were available for club members and an SIE club photo taken).

Anna highlighted the importance to clubs of having interesting speakers and events, in order to attract members.

Correspondence (Christine)

SI Falkirk – post-St Andrews Day event on 1 December 2018.

Christine has drawn up a job description for Correspondence Secretary, which she has passed to Edith.

Press & Publicity (Christine)

Christine drew several articles to members' attention, including one relating to Girl Guiding's new badge, which she thought could lead to a joint activity re STEM.

Programme Action (Alison)

Alison asked that anyone who has been involved in any Programme Action work let her know, for reporting purposes.

SIGBI Conference (Pat Black)

Pat Black reported briefly on the Liverpool conference, mentioning the high quality of the speakers, the Best Practice awards, the celebration of 100 years of votes for women and the excellent organisation of the event. As regards the AGM, Pat reported that the Nepal project was selected for support in 2019/22. More information on this will be available in due course.

Pat also mentioned the voting on the other resolutions and the PA Chair elections. This will all be reported in the Soroptimist magazine.

Soroptimist Residential Club ('No. 63') (Pat Black)

Pat reported that the AGM is to be held on 19 January 2019, but there are to be 2 additional General Meetings relating to the future of No. 63. Pat emphasised that any member holding shares who is unable to attend the meetings should arrange for a proxy.

Pat explained that there is still a question mark over the future of No. 63 but that the new management board has been working hard to increase the occupancy rate and increase publicity for the venue. Forms are available for members who might wish to support No.63 in future, to indicate how they might do so, e.g. by buying shares, making interest-free loans, or donating. This would give the management board some indication as to the feasibility of keeping No. 63 going.

Miscellaneous

The Christmas outing will be to a carol concert at the Usher Hall. Around 12 members will be attending.

Any further Christmas gifts for Cranston Street should be delivered to Lindsey Fyfe.

The Italian Soroptimist who met with some SIE members earlier this year has just been involved in starting a new club in Florence.

Dorothea has applied to attend CSW at UN New York in March 2019.

Isabel reported on some work being done by Christians Against Poverty to help people manage their finances and so possibly reduce reliance on food-banks.

Isabel advised that she would be visiting the V&A in Dundee with a group and that there was a ticket available if anyone was interested. Contact Isabel for details.

Next meeting

This will be held on 9 January 2019 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel, at 7:30pm.

Brief report on SI SSR AGM on 10th Nov 2018

Myint Su, Region Rep

- Margaret took over as President from Pat Black; Tina was installed as President Elect; the post of Vice President is still vacant.
- President Margaret's theme is Building Partnerships, how to work and share our vision and mission with those we've been in partnership with such as WES (Women's Engineering Society), STEM, Smalls for All, Better World Books, Mercy Ships.
- Clubs are urged not to regard Region as "them and us", to come along to Region Executive meetings, to volunteer to participate in Region events. She would like to have suggestions for a 'Region Event' from members.
- 2 silent observers reported on the last Executive meeting on filling Regional Council posts. They encouraged SI members to attend Executive meetings so that they learn about each post and what it involves. Region will circulate the posts that are available, the terms of office for each post and the support that can be called upon. Club Presidents and Secretaries are urged to make themselves familiar with the procedure for filling Council posts.
- The joint project with WES on an essay competition to encourage schoolchildren in science and maths is not now going ahead because many pupils no longer write essays; a poster competition was considered but WES did not agree. The resources such as posters and funds are still available and Region will look at other STEM subjects.
- There was a good display on Remembrance: Women in WW1 (*see pictures below*) with some reading of poems by members.
- Clubs not having sent in filled SIGBI questionnaires were reminded to do so by Jenifer.
- Update from Federation Councillor Jenifer: Charitable status for SIGBI is, at the moment, only in England and Wales but will be pursued in Scotland. As a charity we will all have to make sure that what we do is for public benefit. A safeguarding presentation will be sent to clubs on 16 Nov; Region will have a 'safeguarding' officer; this is not necessary for clubs.
- Feedback from the Liverpool conference was given by 2 members and various reports can be read on-line.
- No 63 is not closing at present; the rules are being reviewed, investment funding is being sought and shares will be sold if the decision to continue is ratified at the SGM in January. If anyone is a shareholder, she should make sure she is represented at the meeting in January.



Dates for Your Diary

2018

Dec 12 Concert at Usher Hall

2019

Jan 9 Business Meeting

SI President's Appeal

Feb 13 Business Meeting

27 Friendship Groups

Mar 2 SISSR Meeting, Kirkintilloch

9 IWD – see page 2

13 Business Meeting

27 Claudia Beamish, MSP,

*“A woman in the Scottish
Parliament”*

Apr 10 Business Meeting

24 AGM

Items for SIEnna 175 should be sent to the editor by 21st January 2019

SI Edinburgh web address:

www.sigbi.org/edinburgh

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A Very Happy
Christmas
to you all

I'll see you
in January

Ed