

**Soroptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

Issue 177

March 2019

Earth Hour
Sat 30th March at 8.30 pm.

When we read of the damage done to our planet, I think it is difficult to work out the damage done by individuals. We read of thousands and millions of this and that. When reading the WWF Earth Hour website the other day I felt these two facts brought home the danger to me.

“Food is a major driver of wildlife extinction. The food we eat in the UK alone is linked to the extinction of an estimated 33 species at home and abroad.”

“We lose an area of forest the size of a football pitch every two seconds.”

There are, of course, many others. But perhaps, as individuals, we could focus on something that we could do as a contribution to improving the situation.

Ed.

Up-date from 3S Fund recipient

“I am a receiver of the 3S fund from last year, currently residing in Phana, Thailand as a volunteer teacher. As I am now 4 months in and fully settled I thought I should send an update on my progress so far.

“I teach around 16 lessons a week to kids varying from ages 5 to 15 and have an additional day working in a nursery with kids aged 2 to 4.

“I am continually growing in my role as a teacher and have overall adapted well to the responsibility despite never teaching more than a class of 9 previously.

“Regardless, I hope to continue to grow as I know there is still a lot of room for improvement and so look forward to doing that over my remaining months here.

“I am also keeping a regular blog whilst here on what we get up to (there are a lot of buddhist events) if you are interested in following that.

“The most recent update:

<https://laurensyearinphana.wordpress.com/2019/01/06/a-festive-time/>

“Thank you again for your generosity last year, I am so grateful for every penny that has resulted in me having such a great experience.

“Yours sincerely,
“Lauren”



SIE Business Meeting held on 13 March 2019 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel

Present President Gari (in Chair) plus 13 members plus Rebecca and Leia (3S Fund applicants). Laura, an intern from UNHS also attended. Laura has been active on the CSW63 conference. Apologies for absence were received from 6 members.

SI Vision and Mission statement

This was read by Christine.

3S Fund

Rebecca gave a brief presentation on her planned trip to Malaysia for a year where she will be teaching English, under the auspices of Project Trust. Rebecca is interested in dance and hopes to start an after-school dance club as she feels this would be beneficial for young girls.

Leia described her planned trip to Fiji and the Cook Islands with Travel Teacher. She will be away for 4 weeks and will be teaching.

It was agreed to support both applications to 3S Trust.

News of members

Morag has moved from Caiystane Court. Her new contact details will be advised. She has household items that she no longer requires and it was recommended that these be donated to Fresh Start.

Winifred has been unwell but is recovering.

Pat Black and Dorothea are attending CSW in New York.

Treasurer (Myint Su)

Monies collected have been paid to the International President's Appeal.

It was agreed that Myint Su should be added as a signatory to the club's account with Nationwide.

It was agreed that all 3S Fund donations from members should be paid to 3S Fund via the SIE account, rather than direct, as this would then show in I&E.

The Youth Hostel charges are to be unchanged for the coming year. However, it was agreed that President Gari and Myint Su should try to negotiate a reduction while there is work ongoing.

Note that there is a Gift Aid form available for tax-paying members that would allow SIGBI to claim tax on an element of the capitation fees.

It was agreed that SIE regalia should continue to be insured via the Scotland South scheme.

Members requiring reimbursement of expenses should advise Myint Su as soon as possible before 31 March.

Myint Su will investigate re registration of SIE with Easy Fundraising website.

Subscriptions for 2019/20 will be notified at the next meeting.

Correspondence (Christine)

SIGBI mailings circulated.

Scotland South Federation Councillor – nomination papers received.

Kids Love Clothes – Pub quiz on 6 June. (Will SIE provide a team?)

Friendship Links etc

A group from SI Winterthur will be visiting Edinburgh in September. Some SIE members will meet them for afternoon tea.

Press & Publicity (Christine)

Marie Curie collection – Christine and Anna collected. Christine will submit a photograph to SIGBI etc.

The most recent Soroptimist magazine included a photo of Christine supporting Maggie's Centre.

Programme Action (Alison)

Alison asked members who have been involved in any PA activities to let her know, in order that she can ensure that they are recorded.

Alison also asked for any suggestions of activities that might be carried out under the "mental health" heading. She mentioned Scotland's Mental Health First Aid course.

Lindsey reported that she would try to organise a team session at Kids Love Clothes for later in the year.

Clephane mentioned that there was to be a film on F.G.M. at St John's Church on 7 November.

Scotland South Membership Meeting (Anna)

Clubs discussed their plans. President Gari agreed to scan and circulate to SIE members copies of the SIE Growth and Orbital Plans drafted by Anna.

Clubs were warned to get permissions when using photographs and to be careful of any copyright issues.

The June meeting will focus on new members.

Annual General Meeting

Edith advised that the first notice for the AGM would be available at the next club meeting. Myint Su suggested that there should be small teams of people attached to each position, so that there was reasonable back-up available. Myint Su agreed that she would produce a short summary of the Treasurer's duties.

Miscellaneous

Anna has been in touch with RBS at Gogarburn re getting a slot there, but she does not yet have a firm date.

Saughton Gardens – there is still no word as to when we will be able to plant something re the 90th anniversary.

"Focus weekends" have been introduced at No.63.

Next meeting

This will be held on 27 March 2019 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel, at 7:30pm.

Notes from Christine

Scotland South Region Programme Action (PA) meeting on Saturday 2nd March

Brenda Kay was in the chair.

She asked if any member was on a cross party group at Holyrood.

Brenda asked each club to send her a note of what we are doing, with the Programme Focus number.

Programme Action Handbook

Brenda talked about this work in progress e.g. criteria for future projects.

Sue (SIGBI President) suggested a section on evaluating a project and lessons learned. *Cont/*

We need to quantify our work by inputting Programme Focus (PF) forms - there was discussion on need for improvement of the PF database, which Sue is working on.
We were advised to keep a Word copy of the PF information

Club activities:-

I mentioned the letters to MSPs and MPs regarding the police practice of sharing data on crime victims with Home Office immigration officials (please see SIENNA issue 175).
I mentioned the talk by Claudia Beamish on 27th March
Kirkcaldy is hosting a Fashion Show on 27th March.
For the SI Day of Action on Saturday 20th July members are invited to visit *Smalls For All* (in Livingston) to sort donations.

Publicity

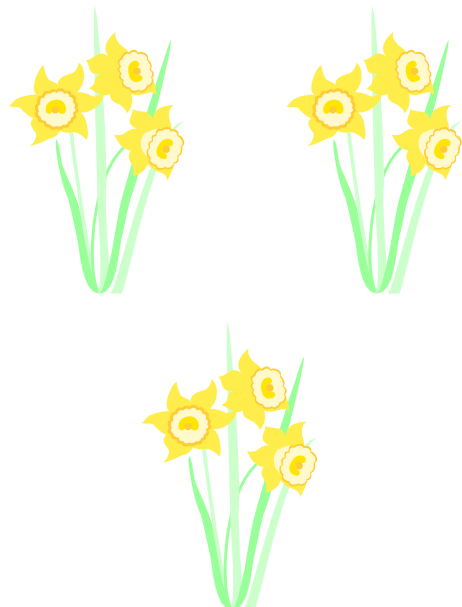
We discussed publicity - encourage 3S recipients to mention Soroptimism in their Facebook posts; post photos on our club/region Facebook pages.
I mentioned the proposed liaison with the University of Edinburgh, which came from a 3S enquiry. Myint Su suggested a Region project.

Suggestions/comments

We ask an MSP to host us at Holyrood.
How does a club decide on a PA Project?
Share at Region meeting when club is starting a project in order to share ideas.
Have closed Facebook group to share PA information.

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Dates for Your Diary	
2019	
Apr	10 Business Meeting 24 AGM
May	8 Business Meeting
June	1 SISSR, Greenpark, Polmont 12 Business Meeting
July	18-21 SI Convention, Kuala Lumpur



Items for SIEnna 178 should be sent, to the editor by 18th April 2019

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