



SIEnna 178 – Special edition celebrating the 90th anniversary of SI Edinburgh 1927 - 2017

A CHALLENGE

To celebrate our 90th Anniversary and to further our relationship with Girlguiding we set a challenge for the members of Edinburgh Girlguiding to produce a poster. The subject was “Our World 2027”. Quite a few of the entries expressed the hope of gender equality by 2027 and they were judged by Winifred, a Soroptimist, Margot, an art teacher and Gillian, a Guide Advisor. The prizes were accorded as follows:

Rainbows	117 th Edinburgh Calton District	group entry	£10
Brownies	117 th Edinburgh Calton District	solo entry and overall winner	£50
Guides	198 th Fairmilehead District	solo entry	£10

On 29th November 2017 President Anna, the judges and Isabel visited the Rainbow Unit where a very enthusiastic group of girls told us who had contributed each item before Anna presented their certificate and prize. Our club had been invited to Guide Headquarters that evening to view the entries, hear about the parallels between the two organisations and be entertained to tea, coffee and cake. When President Anna, the judges and Isabel joined them Anna duly presents the certificates and prizes.



President Anna presenting the prize for the overall winner watched over by Carolyn's grand-daughter.

A wish was expressed to have further contact between the two organisations. **Isabel**

AN HONOUR

Members and friends of SI Edinburgh attended a Civic Reception at the City Chambers in Edinburgh given by Edinburgh's Lord Provost Frank Ross to celebrate the club's ninety years of service.



President Elect Dr Gari, President Anna and Edinburgh Lord Provost Frank Ross

SI Edinburgh President Anna presented a cheque on behalf of the members to the Lord Provost for the City of Edinburgh's charity One City Trust.



Did you know that at the time of our 90th anniversary members of SI Edinburgh have given a total of seven hundred and seventeen years of service between us!

A VISIT

Among the many visitors who joined us for our 90th Birthday celebrations was Nataliya a Soroptimist from SI Dnipro in the Ukraine. This was her third visit to Edinburgh.

It is not easy to get a visa to come to UK even when one is applying to come to a 'conference'. The letter of invitation had to be addressed personally and details given of the plans and the cost. As Nataliya was staying with me I had to make all this clear in the invitation. All seemed to be going well until the last ditch. I had copied and sent the official invitation from Anna, our President, in black and white and it had to be in colour!

Having got to Edinburgh, Nataliya enjoyed her stay and joined in all the celebrations including the Lord Provost of Edinburgh's reception, where she was introduced to him.



Nataliya with Winifred at the Civic Reception.

Another highlight was the afternoon spent at President Elect Gari's house as Nataliya loves the countryside.

As her visa was for six months Nataliya had hoped to return for another visit before it expired but, unfortunately, she was too busy at work – writing a new Latin textbook and translating some obscure Latin texts!

Another outcome of her visit is that she saw the small blankets that I was knitting and I agreed to knit ten for the youngest group of children in the school/orphanage for handicapped children in Dnipro which SI Dnipro support.

A SOCIAL EVENING

The evening, hosted by Morag, was a huge success. It was very much enjoyed by members, friends and visitors alike.

Food and wines provided by Waitrose were excellent.

There was lots of chat and we ended the evening with a sing-song organised by Christine.

Another tribute to Anna for planning a great 90th celebration for SI Edinburgh.



Morag, who hosted the social evening

Trish

A LUNCHEON

**Soroptimist International of Edinburgh
1927—2017
90th Charter Anniversary Luncheon
John McIntyre Conference Centre, Edinburgh
Saturday 9th December 2017**

When piper Andrew piped in the top table, the 90th Charter Anniversary Luncheon for SI Edinburgh began with a flourish.

Before guests were ushered through to the dining room, they were offered a glass of wine or juice. They were met by Rev'd Clephane and Isabel who manned (womanned?) the welcome table. They viewed the Charter, presented by Maud Carpenter of SI Liverpool 90 years ago and delivered from America, where Soroptimism commenced. They saw the displays which included the SI Scotland South Region banner, the 28 greetings cards - many handmade, the birthday cake, Lindsey's photographs of the club's Programme Action activities and the winning Girlguiding poster 'Our world 2027'. They probably encountered Registrar Dorothy and Treasurer Ishbel checking all was in order.



Before the meal Dr Morag (longest serving member SI Edinburgh) and Ann (Past President Soroptimist International) cut the celebration cake. It was donated by Pat and decorated in some style by Marie of SI Penrith.

President Anna welcomed members, past members and guests. She then introduced the top table who were Deputy Provost Joan representing the City of Edinburgh, Dr Gari President Elect SI Edinburgh, Hafdis, SI Kopavogur, Iceland, who stood in for SI President Mariet, Sue SIGBI President Elect who stood in for Sue SIGBI Federation President, Jason husband of Sue, Prue President SI Scotland North, Susie representing SI Liverpool, Pat President SI Scotland South and Special Advisor to SI board.



Top table (1) from right to left: President Anna; Sue, President Elect of SIGBI Federation; Jason, Sue's husband; Prue, President SI Scotland North; Susie, representing SI Liverpool; Pat, President SI Scotland South.



Top Table (2) from right to left: President Elect Dr Gari; Joan, Deputy Lord Provost, City of Edinburgh; Hafdis, SI Kopavogur, Iceland, standing in for SI President Mariet; President Anna.

The top table guests lit candles to celebrate the theme of 'Peace' for the Luncheon.

As Master of Ceremonies Hilary-Kay performed the role with efficiency and charm.

Rev'd Clephane gave The Selkirk Grace.

*Some hae meat and canna eat
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat, and we can eat,
And sae the Lord be thankit.*

Nearly 90 people took their places at the tables to which Pat and members of her previous club, Penrith, added finishing touches. The overall décor was in Soroptimist blue and yellow. RBS and Mackie's of Scotland sponsored the individual goody bags. These contained an updated history of SI Edinburgh to which Rev'd Clephane, Edith and Isabel had contributed. Isabel added photographs of a Past President from each decade of SI Edinburgh's 90 years of service. Little posies of bonbons as well as the Order of Day's event sat on the tables.

As for the meal itself, more anon. The promising menu had an international flavour. Thai coconut pumpkin soup was followed by honey roast duck with toasted curly kale, potato fondant, carrot puree and red port and beetroot sauce. Vegetarians were offered butternut squash and rosemary risotto. Dessert consisted of clementine and vanilla torte, mascarpone and passion fruit coulis. The meal finished with Fairtrade tea and coffee, Scottish fudge and, of course, the celebration cake. President Anna proposed the loyal toast to The Queen.

In the speeches after the meal, Deputy Lord Provost Joan said that the City of Edinburgh Council works towards empowerment and equality for women. In her address, President Elect of SIGBI Sue spoke on the theme of 'Peace.' She read out a letter from Sue, SIGBI Federation President who was unable to attend, but in the morning had phoned good wishes to President Anna. Sue maintained that, to her, peace of mind and personal peace are two of the tenets of being a Soroptimist.

Hafdis, Chair of the Soroptimist International President's appeal "Women, Water and Leadership", proposed the toast to Soroptimists by very aptly raising a glass of water. Hafdis is also Assistant Director of Advocacy for Soroptimist International 2017-2019.



Hafdis proposing the toast to Soroptimists.

Prue, President SI Scotland North, who brought greetings from Scotland North replied to the toast on behalf of the guests. Prue originally came from Edinburgh.

The speakers received elegantly crafted glass gifts with scenes of Edinburgh which were made and donated by Hilary-Kay.

During the interval Wendy of SI Cockermouth, a friendship link club with SI Edinburgh (and previously SI Leith) had a photograph taken with President Anna.

A performance from Frances and Herbie of the Electric Voice Theatre, travelling from London for the event, followed the speeches. Their music depicted Scottish Women Scientists.



Frances of the Electric Voice Theatre celebrating Scottish Superwomen of Science

It included a piece inspired by the 1881 Eyemouth Fishing disaster. Marjory, retired meteorologist, had made a series of meteorological charts of the weather on that fateful day and from these had reconstructed the weather observations at Eyemouth. Frances and Herbie and music students at Eyemouth High School had used these to write a series of compositions to form a suite entitled "Stormsong". Frances included her "Storm in C" in her performance at the lunch.



Members and guests with Frances performing "Storm in C".

At the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2017, SI Edinburgh members helped the Electric Voice Theatre with a visually impaired performance, with leafleting on the Royal Mile and with networking.

Marjory discreetly captured the day in photographs.

A hostess presided at each table and made the introductions. She wasn't required to help the flow of conversation - with Soroptimists conversation never being a problem. Those present had travelled from a' the airts, from the Ukraine to Iceland and various parts of Scotland and England in between. Many people were delighted to renew old friendships and form new connections.

(After the event, feedback from the hostesses was invaluable in obtaining a discount and an apology for the meal. It fell well below expectations and not up to the standard of Edinburgh First, Edinburgh University venues' management company. Soroptimist charities benefited from the discount money.)

At the end of the Luncheon Alex, brother of President Anna, gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the guests and Soroptimisters.

And
Whoever we are
Where ever we are
We're a' Jock Tamson's Bairns

Kathleen

April 2019