



**Soroptimist  
International  
Edinburgh  
news  
notes  
anecdotes**

Issue 181

June 2019

Following her visit to the club, and at my request, Ayushi writes: *Ed.*

“Of the several cherished experiences that Soroptimism has gifted me with, the most notable is being selected as a SIGBI delegate to attend CSW63. Attending the CSW63 taught me new lessons in each step of the way. To be in an institution with 9000 other women and men, who are all there with a single motive...to make this world a better place for women...made me feel powerful. But it enraged me at the same time.

“Year after year, an assembly as such has to be convened to fight for the rights of women...to assess the progress made by the Member States in giving effect to their rights...to evaluate what further steps are required to be taken to ensure that women’s rights are not bypassed. Never in the history of mankind were any such assemblies or actions required to be taken for men’s rights...why? The answer lies in the fact that their rights have always been considered inherent...but why don’t women’s rights receive the same acknowledgment, even in this day and age? The CSW is a grim reminder of the several future sessions that require to be convened in the long road to the emancipation of women.

“The CSW this year considered social

protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality, as its priority theme. The paucity of time forced me to be selective about the events I attended, out of a huge list of events I wanted to attend. The two events which I found most exciting were ‘The Townhall Meeting of the Secretary General with CSOs’, and ‘Take the HOT SEAT: A High-Level Intergenerational Dialogue’.

“The several parallel events I had the chance to attend left a lasting impact on me. In these sessions, discussions were also held, inter alia, about the rights of indigenous women, older women, and women with disabilities.

“I had my own chance to contribute as a panellist in one of the sessions: ‘What is True Justice: Intersection of Education and Entrepreneurship’. As the title suggests, the session focused on how encouraging women to become entrepreneurs make them independent and economically self-sufficient. I discussed the importance of bringing more women into the STEM sector, and highlighted the Indian perspective. You can read more about it here:

<https://sigbi.org/members/2019/csw63/>

“Attending CSW63 left me feeling driven and hungry to take action. There is a lot one can do to make a difference, even in individual capacity. Start with small steps. You do not need to be a part of an organisation to fight against the discriminations women face.

‘Our future will become the past of other women, and girls, you are those other women!’

**“Ayushi Kundu**

Advocate,  
Calcutta High Court.  
Member SI Calcutta.”

## Programme Action

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

The date of the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 from 10am has been confirmed with KIDS LOVE CLOTHES out at Ratho Mains. Reminders will be sent out to all club members in mid-August and hopefully we will manage a small team to help sort the mountain of donations they regularly receive.

We would only be there to 'sort' - into age groups - and learn a bit more about this charity. Clothes arrive clean and tea and coffee is provided and a nice loo is available. Come for as long or as short as you can manage.

### CHALLENGE BREAST CANCER SCOTLAND

I attended their AGM on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019 - it was a very small meeting but I was made most welcome and I agreed to 'friend' the charity on Facebook. Why is this charity different from all the other breast cancer charities? It seems they pay particular attention to raising awareness to the breast cancer problems in the workplace. Those of us who attended the 2017 event at Holyrood where particularly interested in Andrew Waterston's revelations of problems with nurses (in Canada) on permanent night duty. Next event will be on 19.09.2019 - place to be confirmed

### CRANSTON STREET HOSTEL

Three large - very large - carrier bags will be delivered before the end of the month. Many thanks to all the members who made generous donations. Next collection will be about November time when we can include our Christmas gift - same as past few years - warm hat, gloves, brolly, and scarves - anything to keep out the Edinburgh winter weather!

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

### TIDDLEMUFFS

Yes, I have my wool, my pattern, my needles and ten weeks to get knitting.

*Lindsey*

**Ladies, were you intending to knit tiddlemuffs?** (see Lindsey's PA report above)

If so, please note I have had this information for about two weeks. Perhaps you will only have seven or eight weeks as a result.

*Ed.*

### **Dates for Your Diary**

#### **2019**

July 18-21 SI Convention, Kuala Lumpur

|      |       |                                      |
|------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| Sept | 7     | SISSR Meeting and AGM, Kirkintilloch |
|      | 11    | Business Meeting                     |
|      | 25    | Speaker Meeting                      |
| Oct  | 9     | Business + Speaker Meeting           |
|      | 23    | Friendship Groups meet               |
|      | 24-26 | SIGBI Conference, Bournemouth        |

**SIGBI day of action** - 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to raise funds for Meru Women's Garden Project.

The **3S Fund Handbook**, version 5, has now been completed and is available for use when requests/applications are received.

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**Items for SIenna 182** should be sent, to the editor by 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019

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

## **SIE Business Meeting held on 12 June 2019 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel**

**Present:** Clephane (in the chair) + 13 members. Clephane, in the absence of Gari, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies** for absence were received from six members: Gari, Margaret, Nikki, Winifred, Myint Su and Carolyn.

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

This was read by Christine.

**News of Members:** Margaret is reasonably well but decided to stay at home this evening.

### **Minutes of Business Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019:**

These were unanimously accepted as a correct record.

### **Matters Arising:**

The summer social will be at Gladhouse on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at **5.30 p.m.** A board was passed round to arrange transport and catering.

**Treasurer's Report:** There was no report, but a plea for any filled/partly filled 'smartie tubes' to be brought to the summer social.

### **Resolutions for Conference:**

These to be discussed on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2019. Please read relevant background.

### **SIGBI Election of Office Bearers:**

After a short discussion the following votes were recorded:

Vice President: Cathy Cotteridge **For 1**

Johanna Raffan **For 13**

**Against and abstentions 0**

Director of Membership Judith Grocott **For 14**

**Against and abstentions 0**

Project Liaison Officer [Helen Murdoch ]

[Rayner Rees **For 14**]

**Against and abstentions 0**

Note – the two candidates for Project Liaison Officer wished to job-share. The club welcomed this new initiative and also endorsed both candidates.

### **Friendship Link matters:**

Edith reported that Ayushi and her friend Dishari had enjoyed their stay in Edinburgh and were pleased to see the photograph in print in SIEnna 180.

Edith gave an up-date on the visit by members of SI Winterthur on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September from 1.00 p.m. The meeting in the form of an Afternoon Tea, will take place on the balcony of the Balmoral Hotel overlooking the main entrance and with a harpist. The table lay-out will be 4 or 6 people at a table. 19 are expected from SI Winterthur and Eva from SI Dunfermline. Edith will contact all Edinburgh members during the second half of August to confirm numbers and ask for any special dietary requirements.

Pat raised the question of a present for the visiting club. Clephane undertook to purchase something suitable.

Clephane alerted us to the fact that we may have more requests from visiting Soroptimists during the Edinburgh Festival.

Irene reported that she has now established that the email addresses required by the Friendship Link co-ordinator were those of the recipient clubs. She has compiled the list.

### **Press and Publicity:**

Christine reported that the photograph of Ayushi and the club had been published in the Edinburgh Evening News (see above in *Friendship Link matters*). She has also submitted a photograph of Lorna Slater, our speaker on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

A paper copy of the May 2019 Soroptimist Magazine was given to Morag.

Gift Aid forms are available.

On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (our Region AGM) there is an event 'Scottish Women in Parliament'. It was suggested that we might have a stand there. Pat will investigate to find out if another organisation would take our literature. Christine and Clephane indicated that they would be willing to do a stint on the day.

### **Programme Action:**

Lindsey encouraged us all to take part in service either by attending meetings organised by the UN, Scottish Older People's Assembly or Scottish Women's Convention.

**Or** to help out by knitting *tiddlemuffs*. These are simple garter stitch muffs but are highly decorated with buttons, ribbons etc. Lindsey has the pattern. These are given to dementia patients and Alison has established that they would be appreciated by the geriatric wards of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

**Or** in taking part in *Sewing for Hope* a project to help girls and women in Kaagera cope with period poverty. Contact [Sew4Hope@tumainiscotland.org.uk](mailto:Sew4Hope@tumainiscotland.org.uk)

**Or** take part in *lendwithcare* to help and empower women in developing countries. This consists of giving various sums of money to be used by the women. It does not produce any monetary interest and money may be withdrawn should the need arise, but it does help with the microfinancing schemes.

**Or** help sorting at *Kids Love Clothes*. A board was circulated to try to make a team for the autumn. Incidentally the *Pub Quiz* raised £7,500.

Lindsey thanked all who had donated items for Cranston Street. Caroline is willing to sell DVDs. These should be brought to any meeting.

### **Membership:**

Anna reported that she had raised the question of mature student fees (as requested) at the Region meeting. Melanie took note of his.

Aurora is still interested in re-joining the club.

Anna also handed the treasurer £52 to be sent to the Meru Project as a result of our publicity stand at RBS.

### **3S Fund:**

Marjory, unfortunately, cannot raise a reply from Kirsty in Guyana regarding the possible donation of books. She suggests we wait till Kirsty returns to further this. Meanwhile, Gari has a donation of second-hand books from Morningside Primary School. These will be stored until arrangements for shipment can be made.

### **SI Scotland South Region:**

Some comments were given, but in the absence of a report SIEnna readers are directed to SI SSR Femail, June 2019. Highlights were the celebration of five Soroptimists who had given more than 50 years' service to the Region (and previously the Division Union); views of younger members;

Florence Nightingale Travel Scholarship; “lendwithcare”; and a power point presentation on the significant changes that will arise following the resolutions at conference.

**AOCB:**

Pat showed Christmas decorations made by the Paisley club using the last of the Soroptimist tartan. They will be available, for a donation, at the Region meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Edith reported that Jenifer McFarlane would like a few quotes on “impressions on being a steward” – for publication at the Bournemouth conference.

Marjory reported that the Caledonian Horticultural Society cannot consider our request to plant a tree at Saughton Gardens till September as they are so busy planting up the beds.

Christine asked about the Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrews and St Georges West Church.

Clephane will explore the situation.

The raffle was drawn.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – Summer Social at Gladhouse (see Matters Arising above).

**Note added from 7<sup>th</sup> June briefing:**

SI President 2021 – 2023: Two nominations received – Pat Black and Maureen Maguire. Both have produced a three-minute video. It is hoped we could review these before conference.

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I think that is it for the next three months (or two and a half). I’ll be back in September. *Ed.*

