



**Soroptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

Issue 184

November 2019

The Road to Equality
SI President’s Appeal 2019-2021

“Please join us from 1 October 2019 through to 30 September, 2021 on The Road to Equality as we transform the lives of women and girls through innovative projects and activities, with your valued financial support, your voice and your commitment.”

Extract from President-Elect 2020/21, Sharon Fisher’s report as she announced the President’s Appeal.

The project will focus on much that Soroptimists already do – and the projects involved. These include child marriage, FGM, the rights of women, human trafficking and domestic violence.

Soroptimist International has just announced its first collaboration on **The Road to Equality**. Working with the highly influential Global Media Campaign to end FGM, SI Road to Equality is to support the *Soroptimist Six*, inspired and determined women activists making a difference in their own countries, to bring Female Genital Mutilation to an end.

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We Stand up for Women
SIGBI President’s Theme

SIGBI Project 2019-2022
Empowering Girls in Nepal

“OUTCOMES

Educate and train 45 girls, providing them, alongside their schooling, with life and language skills and tailoring training that can lead to gainful employment and enable them to return to society.

Create a sustainable 30-bed facility which will act as a safe and secure halfway house, a home during transition and a stepping-stone for these girls.”

These outcomes will align with the UN SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8.

Let there be Light

Christmas Tree Festival at
St Andrew’s and St George’s West
Church, George Street.

This is a celebration of the 10th Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival at the church. SI Edinburgh is decorating one of the trees and will be promoting Soroptimism at club, regional, federation and international level. The public will have access to the church from 7th – 24th December (Sundays excepted) from 10.00 am – 5.00 pm and 10.00 am – 8.30 pm on Thursdays.

Three very short summaries show how much is being done to improve the lives of women and girls in different parts of the world and how, close to home, we can promote them. There is much we can do.

Ed.

SI President 2022-2023

At the hustings at the Bournemouth Conference this year both Pat Black and Maureen Maguire took part. This is a long path as those who lead our organisation go through several hoops on the path to becoming SI President.

Many of us have met various candidates over the years at different events and conferences. But now we are nearing the time to consider our leader in 2022. The next steps start now. Pat has been representing Soroptimists on many occasions and we have heard of her visits to UN, among others. She is continuing to wish to serve our aims and objectives – and works very hard at this.

Pat writes;

"I would like to thank everyone for their support for my application to become SI President Elect. It seems a very long process, but I am very grateful you continue to be there for me.

"I am also honoured to have been appointed for another 2 years as Adviser to the SI Board, working on ***Where We Stand*** statements and statements for UN events. I continue to write blogs for the SI website as well.

Thank you again."

The logo for No 63 number, featuring the number '63' in a stylized white font on a blue background, with the word 'number' written vertically in a smaller font to the left of the '3'.

Up-date from Nikki:

- I am now registered as the shareholder contact for SI Edinburgh (i.e. in respect of the shares held by the Club itself).
- I will receive all future correspondence in respect to shareholdings or will be directed to the shareholder section on the No 63 website.
- access to the above is via a password which I am currently awaiting.
- they have confirmed that, as a club, we own 66 shares. This is above the required minimum and therefore no immediate action to bring us to the minimum is required.
- my plan is to review the website and relevant shareholder correspondence and report to the next business meeting (January) re the current situation and plans for No 63 in the hope that we feel more informed and engaged in the development of No 63 and the decisions being made.
- the AGM is on 25th January 2020 so before that date I will ensure I flag any aspects of the agenda I feel we may need an opinion on/required to vote.

Nikki

SIGBI Conference, Bournemouth

Your delegates Anna (voting), Pat, Myint Su, Edith all enjoyed many aspects of Conference and, as usual, met with many friends from yesteryear and made new friends. You will have read of the speakers, business, entertainment and different activities, so below I simply show you some of those we met. *Ed.*



L – R Edith; Myint Su; Bhaswati Biswas, Friendship Co-ordinator; Anna.

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L – R President of SI Madurai, Dr D Janet Vasantha Kumari, with Myint Su

Dates for Your Diary

2019

- Nov 27 Speaker Meeting
See page 6, SIEnna 183, for directions to Lutton Place for the meeting.
- Dec 11 Christmas Social at Anna's

2020

- Jan 8 Business Meeting – St Peter's Church, Lutton Place
- 22 Friendship Group Meeting
- Feb 12 Business Meeting + Catherine Booth speaking on **Women in STEMM** – venue tbc
- Mar 7 SISSR – venue tbc.
- 15 SI Paisley 74th anniversary. Lunch at Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew, 1.30 for 2 pm.
- May 17 SI Dunfermline 70th anniversary. Lunch at Forrester Park, Cairneyhill
- Oct 29-31 SIGBI Conference, Belfast

Oranging the World

Edinburgh's contribution

The Parliament building, St Andrew's House and Victoria Quay in Leith will be 'oranged' on 26th November.

**SIE Business Meeting held on 13th November 2019 in the Choir/Vestry,
St. Peter's Church, Lutton Place, EH8 9PE**

Present: Clephane (in the Chair), 11 members and one 3S returnee. Clephane welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Hilary-Kay, Mary, Gari, Morag, Carolyn, Trish, Myint Su, Irene, Laura and Nikki.

SI Vision and Mission statement: was read by Winifred.

Clephane welcomed Lauren Marnie, a 3S returnee who had been to N.E. Thailand for ten and a half months teaching English to a range of children from kindergarten to senior school. As she and her partner arrived two months before the beginning of the school term, they spent that time helping with a monkey conservation project in the rainforest. Unlike many Project Trust volunteers Lauren and her partner only had one week of home hospitality. Subsequently they catered – helped by the villagers who welcomed them with all the community activities. *Note: Lauren's full report will be in the January 2020 SIEnna.*

Minutes of the Business Meetings on 25th September and 9th October were approved. There were no matters arising. *Note: 25th September minutes follow these minutes, page 7.*

News of Members:

Morag is unlikely to be able to attend meetings in the evenings but appreciates SIEnna which she can read in her own time. She hopes to attend the Christmas celebration on 11th December.

Gari's daughter gave birth to a son three weeks early. He is now home and both Isobel and Rory are doing well. Gari intends to stay in India till 4th December. Messages may be sent to her via her UN House email address.

Myint Su is, unfortunately, still experiencing sore feet. Hopefully the current treatment will be successful.

SIGBI Conference 2019 Report:

Anna thanked the club for allowing her to be our voting delegate. The conference had been very successful and enjoyable. The speakers were inspiring. Anna reported on the outcome of the resolutions.

Resolution 1: The Board now has seven members with Finance and Governance each having its own director.

Resolution 2: Revised Articles – officers are now directors. Standing Committees are to be set up.

Resolution 3: Amendment 2 was passed. The term of office for President and President-Elect will revert to one year immediately. Unfortunately, this is not possible so a further ballot will be issued in the New Year to establish the starting date as 2020. Action: Christine

Resolutions 4 & 5: will be amended in line with Resolution 3.

Resolution 6: The increase in subscriptions from 2020 will be paid by all SIGBI members. The amount will be published in January. The financial shortfall is in part due to the reduction in membership which stands at under 7,000. Members are encouraged to sign up for 'gift-aid'. The target is 2,000 members – currently only 1,300 have signed up. Members are also encouraged to take part in "Easy giving" to increase funds.

Best Practice Awards 2019: These are chosen from the Database and are given for each of the six Programme Focus areas. It was noted that our Friendship Link, SI Madurai, received the Environmental Sustainability Award for their “Go Green exhibits”.

SIGBI President, Isobel Smith’s theme is “We stand up for Women”. Incidentally, this is also the theme for SI Europe.

SIGBI Project for 2019 – 2022 “Empowering Girls in Nepal”. The goal is to raise £105,000 over three years to enable educational and vocational schemes to be set up and for the provision of a 30-bed facility. Ambassadors are required for each Region. A few people have registered interest in SISSR which may lead to a shared presence.

Ballot for SIGBI President-Elect: papers were issued on 29th October. They will be considered at the January Business Meeting and the result sent to HQ by 31st March 2020.

Action: Christine

Clephane thanked Anna for her report.

Voting:

SI President: Clephane asked us to give our views on this election. Anna proposed we support Pat, and Isabel seconded this. All members were in agreement. Clephane will return the voting for Club ballot 7.

The club also unanimously supported the sole candidate for the Assistant Programme Director Food, Security and Health Care 2019 – 2021. Action: Christine by 15th Nov.

Press and Publicity: Christine reported that a photograph of the Maggie’s Centre Culture Crawl had been published in the *Edinburgh Evening News*. This featured Christine as a Soroptimist.

Programme Action:

Lindsey had circulated the current position to all members. Briefly;

- Five members had attended the Mental Health Conference on 9th October.
- Lindsey had attended the ceremony when “Kids Love Clothes” was awarded the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Services.
- Twiddlemuffs: a number had been completed. It is hoped to present them to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh before Christmas.
- Cranston Street Hostel: Christmas gifts were collected.
- 16 days of action – Soroptimists stand on Violence Against Women. Members were reminded of the photocall at the beginning of the meeting on 27th November. Please wear something **orange**, even if only an orange ribbon.

Christmas Tree Festival – see minute of 9th October in SIEnna 183, page 5. This will be from Saturday 7th December till Christmas Eve. Please encourage friends to visit this free exhibition from 10.00 am – 5.00 pm Mon – Sat. Late night opening on Thursdays from 10.00 am right through until 8.30 pm. An opportunity will be given to donate to the three chosen charities.

Lindsey has volunteered to dress the tree and to dismantle it, but members are required to help plan the decorations. This will be at Edith’s on Wednesday 20th November at 10.30 am. Pat and Isabel to supply black and gold ornaments for the SI section. International decorations should be given to Lindsey a.s.a.p.

Programme Action Report Form:

Lindsey has now completed the form for 'Kids Love Clothes'. It has been accepted, number 52228. Brenda has emphasised the necessity to submit PA reports promptly so that they can be scrutinised and, where appropriate, recorded in the database. Anyone can submit a report provided it conforms with the 5Ps, 3As, 3Es and also the SDGs. This means that activities such as Christine reports above. Only projects which are recorded on the database will feature in Soroptimist News. Anyone submitting a report must inform Lindsey. Please do not send information on projects direct to the Office.

Centenary of Soroptimist International:

It has been suggested that clubs plant a tree. Lindsey reported to Region that our club had done so.

SI Dunfermline 70th Anniversary: 17th May 2020.

Newspapers for SSPCA: members had been asked if they could collect old newspapers for SSPCA to use at their animal home in Balerno. Edith had investigated transport in the area. It would be difficult to reach them by public transport. In addition, many members accessed news via other methods. Furthermore, this did not fit easily into our aims and it was decided not to pursue the matter.

Membership:

Anna reported that, unfortunately, two potential new members were both unwell. We hope to welcome them to a future meeting.

AOCB:

Christine reported a free exhibition on 50 years of Mental Health is at the Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street. This is open during working hours.

Kathleen told us her book "Was your mother's name TOCASTU", which is out of print but available on Kindle.

Isabel drew attention to the increasing cost of lithium and this possible effect on the batteries for electric cars.

Dorothy told us of her visit to Tanzania with the Vine Trust. They plan to build a small village of 10 clusters of four houses for AIDS orphans; school; training college and a clinic near Lake Victoria where they have a ship with medical facilities. The main problem at the moment is water. Water is only available from the lake, but they are seeking a source of spring water. Dorothy hopes to have an up-date in a few days.

Christmas Social at Anna's on 11th December at 7.00 pm. About 14 members have registered interest. A board will be circulated on 27th November to organise catering.

Action: Anna re board

Clephane reported that the Austrian Soroptimist who is coming to do a research project around Easter 2020 is to be in Edinburgh this month. Clephane hopes to organise a meeting with Nassim. Information to follow.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 27th November 2019 at 7.30 pm at St Peter's Church.

Minutes of 25th September 2019 see page 7 over/

SIE Speaker Meeting held on 25th September 2019 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel

Present: Clephane (in the Chair) + 16 members.

Apologies for absence were received from President Gari and Kathleen

SI Vision and Mission statement: was read by Nikki

News of members:

Gari: Son in Law is making progress

Morag: in attendance at the meeting. Great to see her!

Updates from Business Meeting (11/9/19)

- Christmas Tree sponsorship: Clephane confirmed cost as £47 per tree, application form to be completed by mid Oct. Theme is to be 'Let there be light' and charities supported will be The Yard, Canongate Youth and Bikes for Refugees. Trees to be decorated on the afternoon of 6th December. AGREED – sponsorship of one tree and Myint Su to complete application form.
- Alternate Venues: Alison has confirmation that the recently refurbished Choir Vestry (can hold 20 people) at St Peters Episcopalian Church, would be available for our meetings in November and January. Cost not yet confirmed but anticipated to be no more than £30 per meeting. Kitchenette facilities available for tea/coffee making. There is some (limited) parking in the Church grounds but parking is available on the surrounding roads. AGREED – to book for meetings in Nov and Jan. Full address: St Peters Scottish Episcopal Church, Luton Place, Edinburgh EH8 9PE

Other Business

- **Celebrating 40 years Soroptimist Service: Clephane presented Edith with a certificate to recognise her 40 years' Service with the organisation and thanked her for her untiring commitment.**
- Stewards for Missing People concert: Lindsey reminded the club of the request for stewards for the G4 charity concert at the Usher Hall on 29/12/19. Anna, Lindsey and Nikki (plus 2 friends) confirmed they will volunteer. Volunteering form to be completed on-line (Missing People Charity web site) and Clephane offered to act as referee if required.
- Reminder that any items being collected for the end of the year should be brought along to the next 2 meetings so they can be distributed.
- Communication: Christine provided hard copies of Scotland South Annual Report.

Resolutions for Conference

A lively discussion re the Resolutions to be voted for at 2019 Bournemouth Conference was led by Pat. Good debate and points raised and discussed.

Resolution 1: agreed with support for Amendment 2. Amendment 1 was felt to still be too loose and therefore was not specifically agreed.

Resolution 2: Agreed

Resolution 3: Agreed

Resolution 4: Agreed

Resolution 5: Agreed

Resolution 6: Agreed.

Anna is our voting delegate. Anna will also attend the Federation conference call on 26th September (along with Nikki and Pat) and will accordingly act on the club's behalf if any further information is presented.

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Wishing you all

a very happy

Christmas

Season

I'll be back in January as we look forward to a busy year, a busy three years, a busy decade? Just gird up your loins, ladies.

Ed

Items for SIEnna 185 should be sent to the editor by 17th January 2020

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