

**Soroptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

Issue 186

February 2020

Soroptimist International – Future Africa Federation



“MEMBERSHIP

Our membership Drive has really paid off with 5 clubs having been chartered in the last two months of the year 2019 bringing the total membership to the desired number of 2000 plus!!!. We must congratulate ourselves for such an achievement! Currently we are in 24 countries in Africa with 104 active Clubs. We have 9 Clubs in the making with Chad working on 4 clubs. A couple of Clubs will be ready to be chartered soon!! We are expecting to add another 200 members by the time we go to the Abidjan Conference.

SIFAF is here, SIFAF is a reality!!!

So let us continue to RECRUIT, NURTURE & RETAIN!!!!”

(extract from SIFAF January 2020 No. 003)

Task Force President 2018-2019, Mary Muia writes:

“Let us all stand up for Africa, let us be Counted as a Federation that supports Soroptimist’s ideals and values in our continent, in our own unique way.

Best sisters we can do it!

#Inspire #Lead #Transform”

CONGRATULATIONS to all who have worked so hard to achieve this year of change.

Programme Action News - February 2020

Scottish Love in Action are holding their Book Café on Saturday 29th February 2020 at 10.30 – 2.30 at George Watson's Dining Hall on Colinton Road.

Tickets are £7.50 – includes 4 books and your soup/roll/shortbread and a hot drink.

Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal – a few of us will collect on Friday 13th March (and on other dates) at Morrison's, at Hunters Tryst. If you are still free to help, please go online and fill in a suitable date and time for yourself. The system is fully automated now.

Kids Love Clothes – change of date as previously advised – now Tuesday 24th March at the storage unit out at Ratho. Only a couple of hours and tea and coffee provided! You can sit to do some of the sorting and by March, it shouldn't be cold!

Just advertised 11th Feb. – **Ironathon** – at Bellsquarry Hall on Saturday 29th February, 9am – 4pm. You can go for as short or as long a period as you can manage. You do have to bring your own board and iron though!

Domestic Abuse Bill – as suggested by SIGBI, some members e-mailed their MPs to encourage them to make sure this Bill, previously to be debated last autumn, is not 'forgotten' and will be brought forward to Westminster at the earliest opportunity. Ian Murray MP, Edinburgh South, sent an excellent reply which I have printed and will bring to the next meeting. Holyrood's Domestic Abuse Bill became law, spring of 2019.




UN celebrates – 75th Anniversary of the United Nations and includes several other anniversaries within the movement – worth taking a little look on our SIGBI web page and we hope Pat will bring back stories and information for us in March.

Christine has e-mailed the **UN Days 2020 measuring our impact**

Four days have been chosen – ideas and thoughts from members to support at least one of the chosen days – my choice would be **World Environment Day 5th June**



Several clubs are collecting bottle tops to make chairs using a granulator.

You can now send your bottle tops for free via your local post office. Just pop them in the envelope with : Freepost LUSH GREENHUB   

[#lush](#) [#recycling](#) [#reuse](#) [#plasticfree](#)

FAQ – The address you can send them to is Freepost LUSH GREENHUB. Please ensure all bottle tops are packaged well in either a cardboard box or envelope (we do believe this is UK only, we will keep you posted if this changes)

SISSR - Next meeting is on **Saturday 7th March** – in Kirkintilloch.

Lindsey

Scottish Kiltwalks for Charity - Empowering Girls in Nepal

The **Kiltwalk** is a fantastic fun way to raise funds and gain publicity. There are 4 **Kiltwalks** in Scotland in 2020:- Glasgow Sunday 26 April, Aberdeen Sunday 7 June, Dundee Sunday 16 August, and Edinburgh Sunday 13 September.

All Soroptimists can participate by either walking or sponsoring.

There are 3 lengths of walks:-

- The Wee Wander: 6 miles - entry fee £10 +£2 VAT + £0.80 service fee;
- The Big Stroll: 15 miles - entry fee £25 registration + £5 VAT + £1.69 service fee;
- The Mighty Stride: 23 miles - same entry fee as The Big Stroll.

Please have a look at the Kiltwalk website for fuller details.

It would be great to have a Soroptimist presence in all 4 Kiltwalks but let's see what we can do for the first one in Glasgow. Last year Glasgow was the biggest ever Kiltwalk with 13,000 walkers supporting 700 charities.

Empowering Girls in Nepal (SIGBI) is now on the Kiltwalk list so we can get signed up right away!

This year Tom Hunter and the Hunter Foundation are adding an extra 50% to all funds raised. Just think what that will do for the girls in Nepal. But what is really important is that the Kilties, the walk's volunteers will also be sponsored!

Lindsey

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

As an associate member, Janet would like to tell Soroptimists in the Edinburgh area about an event being planned by the Scottish branch of WILPF, and has asked for support.

WILPF was founded from the Hague International Women's Peace conference in 1915, was instrumental in establishing the United Nations and has members in sections across the world, and offices in Geneva and New York. WILPF has Consultative Status (category B) with the United Nations, has advocates and lobbies at the UN and monitors activities at the Security Council and General Assembly.

It recognises the existential threats and the disproportionate impact on women of the climate emergency, and from nuclear weapons.

Peace, feminism and the climate crisis?

A Scottish WILPF event with Dr Claire Duncanson, Politics and IR, University of Edinburgh March 26th 6pm-8pm. G.03 in 50 George Square, EH8 9LH. Refreshments will be provided.

This event is to address the relationship between gender, peace, and climate, and aims to start a useful discourse for women in Scotland in the lead up to COP26 in Glasgow in November. We hope that Soroptimists may be encouraged to attend and promote the event. It may be that this is something that you might like to have a role in helping to organise and plan, and if so, that would be very welcome, and I hope you will get in touch.

Janet is Vice-Chair, Scottish CND, *Parliamentary Liaison Scottish WILPF*
Scottish Liaison, ICAN (2017 Nobel Peace Laureate)

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SISSR Membership Meeting Notes 2nd November 2019

The Meeting was chaired by Melanie, Region Membership Convenor.

1. Attendance

Name	Club	
Jan	SI Dunfermline - Membership Officer	
Anna	SI Edinburgh - Membership Officer	
Edith	SI Edinburgh - Interested member	
Liz	SI Glasgow City Growth Plan Lead	
Jenifer	SI Paisley - Membership Officer	
Margaret	SI Falkirk - Membership Officer	
Ellen	SI Kirkcaldy - proxy	
Margaret	SI Glasgow City - IPP SISSR (Notes)	

2. Apologies: There were no apologies submitted.

3. Club Health Check: In preparation for the Region Meeting, Melanie had asked clubs to look at the 'Club Health Check' documentation issued by SIGBI in June. As the documentation had been issued during the summer break, most Clubs had not had an opportunity to consider it in any detail. Discussion of the areas in the Health Check form followed within the group; SI Dunfermline were almost finished compiling a Club Handbook, Jan offered to share the final document, SI Paisley have a small group looking at the Growth Plan, Liz reported that SIGC had implemented an Activity Plan as a way of involving all members in the activities of the Club. There was general agreement that the documentation provided would be useful to Clubs and could be used as part of a 'Club Reflection event' and feed into the Club /Region Growth Plans.

Action: Clubs to schedule time to complete the documentation and forward it to Melanie.

4. Growth Plan: No Club Growth Plan has been finalised in the Clubs represented at the meeting.

Action: All to look at Club Growth Plans in conjunction with the Club Health Check documentation referred to above.

5. Club Membership Numbers:

Most clubs are managing to retain current members although some reported a small number of members leaving the club, reasons unknown. Margaret reported that SI Falkirk have been successful in retaining and recruiting members.

6. SI Centenary:

1) Melanie encouraged Clubs to update their Club 'History Information /Booklets' if they have them. There is a Region Booklet with information about all Clubs which we could update *cont.over/*

In time for the Centenary. Edith and Anna reported that SI Edinburgh wrote a Club History as part of their 90th Birthday celebrations. **Action:** Melanie & Margaret to take this to Region Executive.

2) Melanie suggested that each Club should produce information about 'significant' members. She also suggested that a pack of playing cards (52 cards) could be produced with photographs and information about these women as a memento/souvenir of SI SS Region.

Action: Clubs to forward to Melanie or Region Secretary Marian, an information sheet for any past and present members of their Clubs who have made a significant contribution to Soroptimism, their profession or their community.

Date of Next Meeting: Saturday 7th March 2020, Hillhead Community Centre, Kirkintilloch.

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S O C O

I am currently working with SOCO to provide an annual bursary to cover the living expenses of a girl in Malawi who is training to be a surgeon. She is the first girl in Malawi to do this. Her name is Callistar. Callistar is 18 years old and comes from a rural area. Her parents are small-holder farmers and sending their daughter to university is something far beyond their means. Callistar is a very bright young woman who did exceptionally well in her senior secondary exams, having been an A student throughout her schooling, and now has a place to do a Bachelor of Surgery at the College of Medicine within the University of Malawi. Callistar was inspired by doctors she saw in her childhood and wants to serve her country as a surgeon. Callistar feels that by continuing with her studies, she will be able to demonstrate to other families in her village, the value of educating girls. She is now in her 2nd year having done extremely well academically in her 1st year. I receive reports from time to time on her progress. If anybody would like to go on the mailing list to get news of her, please let me know.

Morag

This month's question: What does S O C O stand for? Answer next month.
Ed.

The exhibitions gallery of the National Library of Scotland on George IV Bridge will feature a curated film of women's experiences spanning the Edwardian era to the Thatcher years.

*Her Century:
Scottish Women on Film.*

Running from June – August

Later in the year the Exhibition

*Petticoats and Pinnacles:
Scotland's pioneering mountain
women*

tells the story of Scots women who overcame social convention to pursue their dreams of travel and exploration."

Thanks to Christine for this information.

SIE Business Meeting held on 12th February 2020 at Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel.

Present: Gari (in the Chair) + eight members, three guests and the speaker. Gari welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Nikki, Dorothy, Morag, Carolyn, Christine, Myint Su and Clephane.

SI Vision and Mission statement: was read by Anna.

Induction of new member: President Gari welcomed Dr Patricia to our club and invested her with her badge. Her mentors are Pat and Anna.

News of Members: Alison announced that she had had a letter from the President of SIGBI congratulating her on 25 years of membership.

Anna reported that, Margaret, a former SI Leith member, is now in care.

Edith reported that Sally, now in Cluj, was well and had sent her best wishes to the club.

Speaker: Gari introduced Catherine who gave a most interesting talk on four women in science:

Dr Winifred Rushforth, psychiatrist 1885-1983;

Victoria Drummond, marine engineer, 1894-1978;

Nora Miller, marine biologist 1898-1994;

Marion Cameron Gray, mathematician, 1902-1979.

Minutes of the Meeting of 11th December: these were approved.

Matters Arising:

Edith reported on the January 2020 AGM of 'Number 63'.

Ann chaired the meeting and welcomed shareholders.

There was a minute's silence in memory of Anne, who, with her husband, ran the 500 Club.

Work continues on the upgrading of the listed building. A chemical toilet replaced five years ago, has been causing considerable noise in certain rooms. This has now been rectified at a cost of about £100,000 – more than a third was to raise the floor and drainage.

Another change planned is to make the entrance to the reception area much more visible. At the moment it is quite a tight corner to get around. So, the reception, bar and TV room will be redesigned. There is much obsolete cabling and for the rewiring to be done Number 63 will possibly be closed for a week.

The neighbouring hotel, the Elizabeth Hotel, has proposed major alterations. These would affect the listed building status of Number 63. Despite objections planning permission has been given for these alterations. But now the hotel is up for sale, so the future is uncertain.

The Platinum Appeal – the main fundraising appeal – has so far been disappointing.

We were encouraged to use and to recommend to others the use of Number 63.

The accounts were presented. I'll just mention two items:

1. Operating profit/(loss) for **2019** £15,914, for **2018** loss (£83, 103).
2. Loss for financial year: for **2019** (£28,612), for **2018** (£83,022).

The accounts were unanimously accepted.

Kreston Reeves was appointed as auditors for a further year.

Cont over/

Election to the Board: both Ann and Kay were re-elected to the Board.

500 Club: Pat reported: there are 220 members at present.

2000 Club: at present 50% of funds go as prizes and 50% as fundraising for Number 63. It was felt that it was not possible to give as much in prizes, so the next course of action will be discussed by SI Plymouth and participants will be informed.

Treasurer’s Report: On behalf of Myint Su, Isabel reported that £150 had been sent to the IPA.

Programme Action: Lindsey had circulated her report but flagged up the Daffodil Appeal, Kids Love Clothes and the 75th anniversary of UN with regard to Climate Change. She asked if we remember the green footsteps of 10 years ago. If we can remember our 10 aspirations we should note what we are doing to fight climate change and bring them to either of the next two meetings. This will enable the subject to be discussed at the next Business meeting on 11th March.

Please see pages 2&3 for Lindsey’s report.

Membership: Anna referred to the induction of Tricia and of our three guests, Dr Theresa, Anna and Elsie who may be interested in membership.

Region Meeting: next meeting on 7th March. Gari, Edith, Tricia, Isabel and Lindsey are interested in attending.

AOCB: Election of Vice President of SIGBI: Members wished to support Catherine Cotteridge. Action: Christine

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 26th February 2020 at the Youth Hostel.

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| Dates for Your Diary | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 2020 | |
| Feb | 26 Dr Liita Cairney
“Women’s menstrual health and
Women’s advancement in business.” |
| Mar | 7 SISSR – Hillhead Community
Centre, Kirkintilloch
11 Business Meeting + 3S Fund
Applicants.
15 SI Paisley 74 th anniversary
Lunch.
25 Speaker Meeting: “Blindness” |
| Apr | 8 Business Meeting
22 AGM |

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| SI Edinburgh web address:
www.sigbi.org/edinburgh |
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| Items for SIEnna 187 should be sent to the editor by Friday 20 th March 2020 |
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