

**Soroptimist  
International  
Edinburgh  
news  
notes  
anecdotes**

Issue 188

April 2020



We are delighted to offer our congratulations to a new Federation, **Soroptimist International Africa**. All Clubs in Africa were balloted, and overwhelmingly approved the creation of the 5th Federation of Soroptimist International.

The postponed Africa Conference has been rescheduled for 12-15 November 2020 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast and the new Federation will be chartered then.

*(extract from SIGBI News Briefing 3 April 2020)*

We look forward to hearing of the work of the different clubs in this our 5<sup>th</sup> Federation. We are truly international. *Ed.*

Reading some of the history of the club from old documents.

What did I find?!

*Ed.*

***“Temporary Arrangements***

“Until such time as new arrangements are in place, please send any items for SIEnna to Edith Elliot, 337 3313 or email [edith.elliott@ukgateway.net](mailto:edith.elliott@ukgateway.net) Information and articles will be forwarded as appropriate.”

copied from SIEnna 35, April 2003

How long ago was that!?

Gari and Nikki – I am eternally grateful to you both.

*Ed.*



*Does temporary equate with seventeen?*

This is a long time, yet sometimes seems short. Why this difference? I’ve no idea. Perhaps it depends on who you ask?

I have learnt a lot over the period – about Soroptimism and how much has been achieved, about how much SI Edinburgh has done recently in working together and sharing duties when our numbers are depleted and how much I have learnt, with your help, about some aspects of new technology.

The last few years have been such that I feel I have to stand down from editing this newsletter. Gari and Nikki have agreed to share this exercise, confirmed at the AGM.

Thank you very much to you all for your support and providing articles. Please continue to support Gari and Nikki.

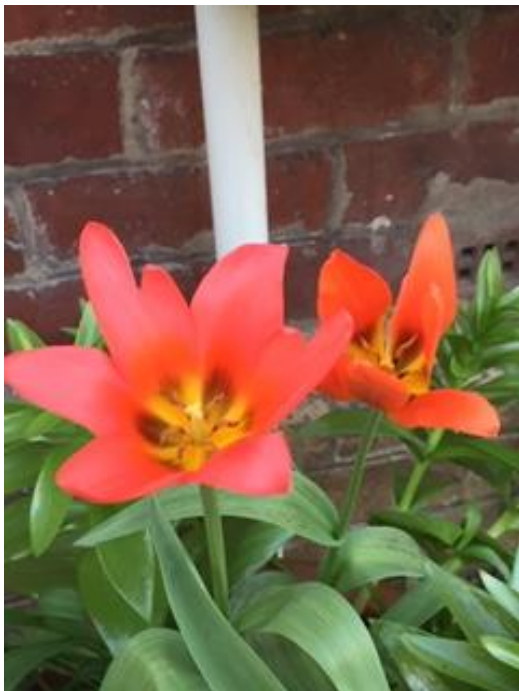
*Edith*

## A Fun Question

Carolyn's question last month. Do you know this flower?



Carolyn's answer this month.  
**TULIP**



Carolyn writes:

“Yes I had a few answers and the answer is a 🌷 tulip. (not all were correct). I wanted to share the twisted bud phenomenon. Thanks to Cleo for the photograph. The bulbs are in a large pot at the front door together with some fritillary crown imperials. I am hoping they are as spectacular as last year. If they are, I'll send a picture for next month.”

The twisted bud does look interesting and the flowering tulip is lovely. Thank you for sharing it with us, Carolyn. *Ed.*

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## SI Sioux Falls

Our Friendship Link club in Sioux Falls has sent warm Easter greetings. At their last meeting they handed out their “*Live Your Dream*” award to a young single mother with a charming son. She is studying to become a social worker or counsellor.

The April meeting was to be held via Zoom. Carol, our correspondent, and her husband are scanning the club business meeting minutes from the 90s and before so that everything will be on ‘cloud’.

*Irene,*  
*Friendship Link Correspondent*

## **SIE Business Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 on Skype**

**Present:** Gari (in the Chair) + Anna, Pat Black, Christine, Patricia, Nikki, Clephane, Edith. Gari welcomed everyone to this 'virtual' meeting and thanked everyone for trying the new approach.

Edith was able to clarify that there was no stipulation within our protocols re a quorum. We were therefore able to proceed with the meeting.

**Apologies** for absence were received from 8 members: Trish, Winifred, Alison, Kathleen, Carolyn, Marjory, Lindsey (available on the phone if needed), Isabel.

**Minutes of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020:** were agreed as accurate and no matters arising.

### **News of members:**

Irene and Dorothy have completed 40 years of Service and Christine had forwarded on to them their long service certificates. CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO DOROTHY AND IRENE FOR THEIR UNSTINTING SERVICE.

Clephane had reached out to Aurora and Nassim. Both are doing OK albeit Nassim is in isolation at the moment.

Clephane had also spoken with Isabel and she is OK.

Christine had been in touch with Morag (sent on the Magazine) and she seems to be fine

**Treasurer's Report** – no report submitted for this meeting. Myint Su has confirmed the up to date annual report will be submitted for the AGM. She has been in contact with Taru Vaatainen, the independent examiner.

**Programme Action** – Lindsey had provided an up to date report in readiness for the AGM. ACTION: she will be asked to email any immediate/urgent information. (Nikki)

**Membership** – Anna confirmed that she had not heard from the potential member who was moving to North Berwick in March. (Her move may have been delayed in view of the current COVID19 situation). Anna has followed up with an email.

Laura (member who has moved to London) has been invited by Pat to attend the AGM (as it is a virtual meeting) plus we are checking if she will continue her membership in SIE, locally in London or become an Associate member. We await a reply.

Clarification was provided that Dorothea Christiana is now an associate member.

### **Correspondence** – Christine confirmed

- Irene checking for updates from our Friendship Links so we can then update SIGBI.
- We have not had any further correspondence re the Dunfermline Anniversary Dinner and whether it is going ahead. We have assumed not but ACTION Christine will follow up and confirm.

Cont./over

**AOB**

**Subscriptions** - Pat led a discussion on any impact on this year’s subscriptions of the reduced cost of our meeting venue (we haven’t used the venue in view of the renovations and now the COVID 19 lockdown) **DECISION** : that a recommendation is made to the Treasurer that this year’s subs are maintained at their existing level and any resultant surplus to be used to build up a small reserve in the club funds for future use/years. (Raised by Pat/ seconded by Nikki and attendees in agreement) **ACTION** – update Myint Su and request update at AGM (Gari)

**Date of next Meeting: AGM 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 at 7.30pm on Skype.**

**Preparation for AGM**

- All documents have been sent out (3 emailings from Edith)
- Treasurer’s Report to be circulated prior to AGM
- Confirmation that all positions other than President / Vice President have been filled. Agreement has been reached between a number of members to cover the President duties between them for the year.
- Clarification provided by Edith that Myint Su was elected for 3 years and has served 2 so no need for re-election.
- A final version of the officers and representatives list will be circulated prior to the AGM
- Pat raised the question of whether we are in a position to make any donations this year (decision can be made at the AGM) Pat specifically mentioned SIGBI Benevolent Fund which is likely to be utilised more to support members in the current COVID 19 situation. **ACTION** – ask Myint Su what we have available for donations and then email members to consider any potential recipients in readiness for discussion at AGM. (Gari)

**Post Meeting Note:** Date of next Business Meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 7.30pm on Skype.

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## 40 years of service



Congratulations to Dorothy and Irene on 40 years of membership of Soroptimist International – all of that as members of the Edinburgh club.

Both have served on various committees, held different offices and have represented the club at numerous gatherings.



## Dates for Your Diary

### 2020

May 13 Business Meeting via Skype.

Other dates will depend on the situation regarding the current pandemic.

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## Nassim up-dates Clephane on her whereabouts

“Mainly because of our kids, we've come to the decision to interrupt our stay in Edinburgh and return to Austria for a while.

“Then we'll see how the situation develops. We will keep our flat. It's our plan to come back to Scotland and get re-started. So, fingers-crossed ....

“My best regards to all ladies from SI Edinburgh. I really hope to see you soon!

Take care and stay sane,

“Nassim” 15/4/20

Items for SIEnna 189 should be sent to the editors by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

### SI Edinburgh web address:

[www.sigbi.org/edinburgh](http://www.sigbi.org/edinburgh)