

Hello from the SIE NewsDesk!

We hope you are all keeping safe and well and having time to enjoy being outside, even when it is dreich. This little Newsletter gives a brief update on a few items of note – activities accomplished and activities to attend.

The most important item must be, where will we be meeting in September? After much careful deliberation, the Club Presidents have decided that it would be unwise to return to the SYH for these first two meetings. Not only is there the problem of the pandemic, but there are roadworks all the way down Leith Walk. During the next few weeks, the Presidents will be making inquiries about the viability of using the SYH and/or other venues. So both September meetings will be held on Skype. We all realise that this is not ideal as some members cannot join virtual meetings. So, to help with this problem, perhaps one or two members could arrange to join up with a non internet member in their home and share the experience of a skype meeting! We can discuss this within the Friendship Groups.

Bright Past Brilliant Future – celebrating 100 years of Soroptimism

We hope members have had plenty of time to study SIGBI's suggestion of tree planting to mark Soroptimist International's Centenary in 2021 (summary below for those that haven't had a chance). We are free to do whatever we like but tree planting seems to capture the moment. A number of you have responded positively to this idea but it would be great to hear the views of ALL members:

- Would you be supportive of an initiative linked to planting trees?
- What would you like to see happen (any ideas)?
- How should we fund it?

We could join forces with Scotland South Region and we hope to hear more from them very soon but in the meantime it would be great to get your views so we can move on from there! (Please let Lindsey, Clephane or Anna know)



SIGBI Centenary Tree Planting Project - Plant trees for a Brilliant

Future #PlantTrees Following in the footsteps of our first Soroptimists, who lobbied to save the great Redwoods and established 'The Redwood Grove' in California, and in line with our Programme area - Planet, the Centenary Tree Planting Project hopes to energise Soroptimist across the Federation to 'Plant Trees for a Brilliant Future'.

<https://sigbi.org/soroptimistcentenary2021/a-brilliant/planting-trees-for-a-brilliant-future/>

What better way to celebrate the first centenary of Soroptimists, to raise the profile of our Organisation and to help the environment.

SIGBI are encouraging individuals, clubs and Regions to get involved and organise their own local initiatives and have provided information sheets to support projects – big and small ! eg Organisations to contact for help and ideas, how and where to apply for funding if you have access to land and permission to plant, how to find 'free trees' plus information on what trees to plant – all can be found on the SIGBI website

SIGBI Conference 2020 – goes 'virtual'

Belfast 2020 30-31 October 2020

Pleased to confirm that the Belfast Conference will go ahead but with a difference – this year the 86th Federation Conference will be a virtual conference. It will take place over 2 days, Friday 30 and Saturday 31 October 2020.

The organising committee have said "We know that a lot of Members have embraced the virtual world of meetings since lockdown, so we look forward to as many of you as possible being able to enjoy this new experience" President Isobel Smith has made a video to explain the new format <https://youtu.be/3fXVISQmU3I>

Registration is now OPEN and more information is available on the SIGBI website (Log on to the Members area using your Surname and your Membership Number: Home Page: scroll down and on right hand side, click on SIGBI Conference 'Belfast 2020')

Club Visit to Saughton Park 22 July

Our Club visit to Saughton Park on Wednesday 22 July was, well, a rather wet outing but the members who braved the rain came to admire our shrub – the Loquat – now doing rather well in the gardens behind the greenhouses. We 'social distanced' over our coffee break, some ladies buying coffee and a muffin from the Bistro and some having brought their own 'elevensies', making use of the shelter of the refurbished bandstand. The Saughton gardens are well worth a visit as the long borders of herbaceous flowers were nothing short of gorgeous! Our thanks to Marjory for her input in getting us our spot in the garden and here's hoping our shrub will eventually grow into a small tree!



Our support to Cranston Just to let you all know that Lindsey has delivered a small bag of useful items for the Covid 19 emergency - including hand sanitizers, face masks and soaps and half a dozen re-usable home made masks.

