



SIEnna 192 September 2020

A huge HELLO from editors Nikki and Gari as we continue our new session!!

Welcome to September's SIEnna which, this edition, focuses on the Business Meeting. This means of record will become even more important as there are some Members who were not able to attend our virtual meeting.

Unfortunately, given social meeting restrictions, it appears that our Club meetings will be held on skype or zoom for some time to come.

We discussed various options regarding the return to SYH and these are noted in the Minutes.

Also noted below is the exciting news of new Member Liz joining another recent new member Patricia. Both are very welcome and will be supported as they become 'old hands', like the rest of us!

We are pleased to announce a new section, 'Behind the scenes of' which gives a fascinating insight into the background work of one of SIE leads. This month's subject is our Membership lead – so, below, please read of the work of Anna and applaud with us her dedication to our Values, Mission and Goals.

So without further delay, we send this edition as a reminder of what we discussed in early September and our hopes for SIE activities in the weeks and months to come.

SIE Business Meeting held on 9th September 2020 on Skype

Present : Anna (in the Chair)+ Gari, Pat Black, Patricia, Nikki, Clephane, Edith, Dorothy, Myint Su, Lindsey, Kathleen. Marjory & Alison joined by audio.

Anna welcomed everyone to the 4th Business meeting to be held on Skype

including our new member Liz. Anna thanked everyone for making the effort and particularly thanks to Patricia for facilitating the Skype connection so efficiently.

Soroptimist Vision & Mission – read by Kathleen

Pressing Business – Anna initiated a discussion on the option of returning to face to face meetings and specifically at the YHA Edinburgh. When do we wish to return to face to face meetings? Will we return to YHA Edinburgh? What do we do in respect of the rental fees already paid to the YHA Edinburgh for the meetings cancelled earlier in the year (circa 6 meetings)?

Discussions evolved around the main concerns of members reluctant to meeting face to face, accessibility of the meeting location, the risks of meeting at a location with a 'transient' population and any Government and SIGBI guidance on meetings.

Decision: Business Meetings and Speakers meetings to continue virtually until the end of the year. Review to take place in December re reinstating face to face meetings in the new year. In the meantime members are encouraged to a) establish safe meetings within their friendship groups and b) make direct contact with members who have not been able to join the virtual meetings to ensure they remain connected and engaged. The payments already made to YHA Edinburgh are to remain as a credit balance with YHA for the time being and the position reviewed in December.

ACTION :Myint Su to update YHA Edinburgh

New member induction – It was with great pleasure that we were able to welcome Liz as a new member. Anna conducted the standard induction welcome and promised to formally hand Liz her badge at the first face to face

meeting in the new year. Liz will be supported by mentors Anna and Christine. Liz thanked us for the warm welcome and mentioned she had attended the recent Regional Meeting, at which she had learned a lot of new information about the situation in Nepal during the Empowering Girls in Nepal presentation.

Great to have you on board Liz!

Apologies for absence were received from 8 members: Christine, Trish, Winifred, Irene, Carolyn, Isabel, Morag, Mary.

Minutes of the last Meeting – passed

News of members:

Carolyn is currently in hospital in Glasgow (close to her daughter and family) and is doing OK but would be happy to receive any messages or calls from members. Carolyn has indicated that when she is able to leave hospital she is likely to stay near her family in Glasgow so may not return to the Edinburgh area. We will continue to stay in touch. Anna is arranging for a card to be sent on behalf of the club.

Isabel has purchased an iPad and is hoping to start attending the virtual meetings – as one of our oldest members, a great show of flexibility and determination to adapt. Thank you Isabel!

Kathleen has responded to the Regional request to be part of the judging panel for the Poems in Lockdown initiative. Thanks Kathleen.

Past member, Sheila (D) has sold her house in France.

It was great to see Clephane on the call but appreciate she has been quite unwell. Wishing you a full recovery Clephane

Correspondence: Christine – in Christine's absence Anna reminded the club members to update Christine with any changes to Personal Details so that club and Region records can be kept up to date.

Treasurer's Report: Myint Su – report pre-circulated by email 9/9/20
SIE's Nationwide account has been closed (4/8/20) and the money has been transferred to RBS account; trying to get digital banking is still going on, application has been sent

again to RBS headquarters and awaiting a comeback from them.

Donation cheque for £75 was sent to Trussell Trust (acknowledgement received), 2 cheques were sent to Benevolent fund, one for £75 as passed at AGM and another for £50 from the President's Charity Fund (acknowledged by SIGBI).

£60 was donated for Toilet Twinning as per AGM resolution. We have the certificate saying "This tap is twinned with a tippy tap in The Democratic Republic of Congo". It remains for us to decide whose toilet will have this distinction!

£98.07 deposited by Easyfundraising in the last month, bringing the total raised so far this year to £128.13. Thanks to all who signed up. No 63 Share certificates are at present with Nikki for checking.

We must make a decision about SYH meeting dates – do we ask for our money back or leave it as deposit for future meetings. The advantage for making a decision now is that we will have the same very reasonable rate.

SIGBI dues and UNA subscription have been paid; Still awaiting to pay SISSR dues.

Myint Su clarified the slight delay in allocation of funds through the Easy Fundraising scheme no need to ensure retail purchases are completed and not subsequently refunded before the %age benefit is allocated to the charity. She also flagged that our charity fund currently stands at £446 which allows us to make some donations if required plus she highlighted the £4000 held in our accounts following receipt of legacy payments from past members. Dorothy has confirmed that these funds can be distributed at the discretion of the club so (as we are self-funding in respect of running our club each year) we could consider spending some of this fund – possibly to cover any Centenary celebration donation (ie tree planting)

ACTION – to be discussed at a future meeting.

We have received our certificate for our donation for the 'toilet twinning' – agreed that the certificate should be rotated between presidents starting with immediate past president Gari.

No 63 share ownership – Nikki updated the club that she had been working with the No 63 Registrar to reconcile the number of

shares the Club held in their own name. Share certificates held by the Club and Registrar records indicate alignment of 66 shares (duplicate summary certificate issued in 2000) and discrepancy of 11 shares. The Registrar has agreed to recommend to the No 63 Board that their records are updated to reflect the certificates we hold which will result in an official share ownership of 77 (this does leave a discrepancy of 1 to the typed club records from 2006) Decision: club members agreed that formal confirmation of ownership of 77 shares would be acceptable.

Programme Action: Lindsey – (report pre circulated on email dd 8/9/20) Raffle it is proposed to bring back our monthly raffle – but with a difference! The nominated purchaser of the raffle gift – Irene has the current list – would quite simply send a cheque to the treasurer for that month, - no gift purchased, no draw ‘virtually’ or otherwise, just money to the treasurer. We are now quite low in charity funds at present and it would be a good way to start building up some reserves for next year to help with gifts, celebrations for the Centenary etc. We could start with the next meeting and carry on as before lockdown with a cheque being sent on the Business meeting evening.

UPDATE 9/9/20 : discussed and in view of a reasonable balance in the charity account agreed not to start this initiative for the time being.

Kids Love Clothes They are now trying hard to get back to work – there is a list of ‘collectors’ on Facebook/Web Site and Lindsey has been out to the warehouse at Ratho with some donations collected over the summer. Christine would be happy to have a few sorters as the large corporate companies will not be sending teams of employees at this time She has a small team every Wednesday and as, and when, we are asked we could manage a maximum of three inside and still be keeping a good social distance. There is a modern toilet and wash basin for hand washing etc.

There have been two small deliveries to Cranston Street Hostel over the summer – maybe we could collect some small toiletries like hand sanitizer and tissues, soap and little hand lotions.

Perhaps Friendship Groups could make collections over the next few weeks and Lindsey could pick up at a central point –

coffee shop perhaps! Few of us have been away but the supermarkets are well supplied with mini toiletries. Keep Lindsey posted.

Breast Cancer Prevention Scotland are holding their AGM on Sunday 27th September 2020 at 4pm by Zoom. They have now only three members on their committee and are struggling as are many other charities. A link is available to register your interest to attend – happy to send to any Soroptimist – remember the lovely ice-cream we had at Anna’s Christmas party – a result of very happy win in their raffle this times last year!

The Kilt Walk has been postponed as has the Beach Clean by the Marine Conservation Society

16 Days of Activism - again this will return late November/December. Downside is that at Region there is perception that it would be very low on Councils ‘list of things to help with’ - need to get thinking caps on!

TREES – letter sent to Edinburgh City Council asking about planting tree/trees in the city and an acknowledgement received. An e-mail sent shortly after gave directions to their tree website. www.Tree-Time.com

Lindsey asked that members read email information she will be sending out re options for the ‘tree’ initiatives to celebrate our centenary and be ready to discuss at a future meeting.

Programme : Trish/Alison – September speaker – Gari presenting on UN House Scotland. Now we know plans for meeting location for rest of year consideration will be given to relevant speakers who can present ‘virtually’

Regional Representative: Myint Su – attended last meeting and minutes will be circulated as soon as available. Philip Holmes presented a very interesting and humbling talk re the Nepal project.

Lindsey attended the Regional PA meeting – there is a hope to liaise once again with UN House Scotland and run a ‘virtual’ conference on Adolescent Mental Health (14/10/20). The focus could be on the gap of Parental Awareness.

SIGBI Website: Pat – (report pre-circulated on email dd 8/9/20) - attended the SISS meeting (which was excellent), and the

Communications group meeting led by Liz Jamieson. The following were discussed -
The new SIGBI website

- SISS are still awaiting a response from SIGBI about all our queries on the new website.
 - SISS are going to offer guidance on the minimum number of pages each club website should have as well as the sort of content which would be of interest.
 - SISS are paying for an advertising campaign on Facebook for the 16 Days of Activism on Violence against Women and Girls in November/December
 - SISS are thinking of setting up a What's App group for club website administrators
- SISS website - looking at having pages related to the SIGBI Nepal project and possibly the SI Centenary. They are interested in any publicity leaflets individual clubs have. They would also like to know what publicity clubs are doing for the SIGBI Nepal project and how they are fundraising. A number of members took part in the Big Story project and some are involved with the kilt walk.

Past Member Helen Somerville has been accepted for recognition through the SIGBI Centenary initiative #100 Women – bio will appear on SIGBI website.

Looking to establish an SI Edinburgh page for the Centenary to recognise our own members and achievements eg blogs of past members who have been significant contributors to SI, their community, their profession etc. Let Pat or Isabel know names and they will help co-ordinate any research. We may also look to capture the projects we have done through the years and the contribution made through those projects.

Membership: Anna – really pleased to have been able to induct new member Liz tonight. Have followed up again with 4 other potential members with whom we have had an initial contact. Two additional ladies have made contact with us via SIGBI website and Anna has followed up their interest.

Anna attended the Regional Membership meeting – discussion on region project for the Centenary (see below for details)

President Elect -thoughts for 2021 : Nikki - following a request from some members Nikki gave a flavour of her initial thoughts for her

presidential year commencing in 2021. Consideration given to 4 main areas –
Focus/theme for the year:
Programme/Speakers: Fundraising:
Centenary celebrations.

Focus/theme for the year: collective focus we can all rally behind. ‘ **Be the change we want to see**’ – very much a Soroptimist ethos but a real focus, identifying and signposting the changes we would like to see – big, small, global, local, for the community, for the club, for ourselves – and then focus our collective attention on making or influencing that change.

Programme/ Speakers : identify interesting and informative speakers and make the direct connection to what they are speaking about to one of the Soroptimist 5 Ps – Prosperity, Peace, People, Partnership, Planet – so we can remind ourselves of the practicalities of our 5 Ps and help visitors/new members see the connection with what we do on the ground to what are the organisations key areas of focus.

Fundraising : minimise us dipping into our pockets (£) and maximise us dipping into our cupboards, sheds, garages and even our wardrobes – have a collection each month of items we can find at home (or in the homes of our friends and family !) and hand them over for re-use/recycling

Centenary celebrations: in line with the focus/theme for the year can we make/influence/be part of 100 changes !! to celebrate 100 years of Soroptimism ?

.....and finally the bad news and the good news ! The bad news is you all have some homework – identify 2 things that you feel strongly about wanting to change (big, small, global, local, for the community, for the club, for ourselves) with the only stipulation being that it is something we can realistically change or influence. The good news is your homework will be collected in February next year ...so you have 5 months to hand it in !

AOCB - None

Date of next Business Meeting: 14 October. Skype or zoom meeting at 7.30. Attendees to join at 7.20pm.



SI SSR September - Annual General Meeting

Soroptimist International - Nepal project
Speaker was Philip Holmes EGIN – copy available. It was a widely praised presentation and “really gave us all an impassioned understanding of the need to support women and children in Nepal” .

Some Scotland South members managed to complete various distances on the weekend's 'virtual' kilt walk including our 'daughter' club SI Dunfermline. Should any member wish to contribute to the charity Empowering Girls in Nepal, Your donation will help to add to their total and will be topped up by the Hunter Foundation.

<https://edinburghkiltwalk2020.everydayhero.com/uk/helen-16>

Planting a Tree for the SI Centenary

There are various possibilities for SIE to support this Centenary activity.

Planting a tree/s in the City of Edinburgh
Donation to WOODLAND TRUST – woodlandtrust.org.uk

and they also do the planting – however, no more free trees available for autumn
Reforestation Dalry, Scotland – ecologi.com – they plant in lots of other places too

Trees 4 Scotland – trees4scotland – planting near Comrie in Perthshire – they have Teachlach Wood and a Whispering Grove
Ecosia – community@ecosia.org – download FOR FREE their search engine to your computer/tablet and they will plant trees – sadly not listed as planting in the UK

Donation to TREE AID – treeaid.org.uk – plants in Africa to support the Great Green Wall

TREES in Nepal through our charity EGIN – to rebuild woodlands and forests there
FREE TREES

Free trees for Schools and Communities – the Woodland Trust – apply now for delivery in March



Join SIGBI Conference Belfast 2020 – well ‘virtually’ !

For veteran conference goers and newbies alike this year's conference looks absolutely fabulous and you can participate from the comfort of your own sofa, have tea & coffee when and how you want it (without having to queue!) and each night you can sleep in your own bed! There is a fee (£60) but a fraction of normal conference fees and no travel or accommodation expenses.

You will hear top class speakers, enjoy invigorating entertainment and have a chance to hear from our own leaders and fellow members about the work they do across the globe. I cannot recommend it highly enough and having gone through the registration process it is so simple! It will be streamed live on Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon (October 30-31) and (once you've registered) you will be able to 'catch up' on anything you missed until midnight on 1st November.

For more information and access to the registration process see SIGBI News Briefing attached to Christine's email dated 18/9/20 or follow this link

<https://sigbi.org/belfast2020/> (registration is available on the right side of the page)

Behind the scenes of our Membership lead !

Over the summer Anna has responded to a number of membership enquires via SIGBI Website.

>> The enquires through the club website are automatically transferred to the SIGBI website

>> Then Sally from SIGBI HQ emails Christine our club secretary. Christine then shares the details with Anna . It is approximately 48 hours from initial enquires to responding to prospective members. Anna then sends an introductory email, followed by a letter with leaflets. Anna also sends email updates including things such as SIEnna newsletter..

>> Any response is then followed up with an invite to meet with Anna and another Soroptimist at a cafe.

>> Prospective members no longer need to be introduced to club members at a meeting before joining.

>> Further follow up is then dependent on individual circumstances for example:

- Information sent to Sue who was planning to move to North Berwick in March
- Teresa and Ann were invited to and attended the February speaker meeting
- Further information sent to Mary who is an Author
- Grace a nurse and Lynsey a Health Visitor have been emailed and sent letters with leaflets

>> **If any member would like to suggest a potential member Anna would be happy to contact them.**

Anna continues to represent SI Edinburgh at the SI SSR membership meeting.

>> The region project for the SI centenary in 2021 is to have a pack of cards with photographs of notable Soroptimists past and present who have made a contribution to

Soroptimism or to their community from the original 19 clubs of Scotland South.

>> Melanie Brinkley who is the region membership convener is going to do the Art work for it. She has already a printer ready to produce the pack of cards at a reasonable cost. Photos are required by November.

>> If any member would like to help Melanie take this project forward please contact Anna

>> **Does any member wish to suggest a Soroptimist from any of the clubs in Scotland South that are no longer running?**

Many thanks Anna for all the work you put in behind the scenes!

