



**Soroptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

SIEnna 195 January 2021

New Year Greetings from the President Team

Even if the year is moving on at speed - good wishes for 2021.

As we begin the centenary year of Soroptimist International in a situation of uncertainty, let's hope that we can celebrate and look back to the commitment and vision of our founders with appreciation and thanks. They must have set out with optimism and enthusiasm, and as we look forward, we must do the same.

The UN General Assembly has declared 2021 as the International Year of Peace and Trust – in the hope of mobilising international efforts to promote peace and trust among nations.

This obviously is in complete accord with the objects of Soroptimism. And something that the world is currently badly in need of. We may be acutely aware of the difficulties we are facing here at present, but we can't forget our sister soroptimists in even more troubled parts of the world.

In many communities it is through the patient work of women that harmony is achieved and often that is because of access to education - also one of our aims.

The legacy of political upheaval and its consequences, such as occupation, was brought home to me several years ago when I was working in Eastern Europe. One student told me that she had not been able to look anyone in the eye until, during the course of her studies, she slowly learned to trust her fellow students. Previous experience had taught her that virtually no-one could be trusted. Anyone could be an informer. You didn't even look directly at the person at the till.

For various reasons, that feeling will hold true in some places today. And there is no sense of security in such a situation. The signing of the treaty banning nuclear weapons may reassure some, but we still need to campaign for peace.

There is a proverb along the lines that 'she who has health has hope' so with the arrival of vaccinations, let's hope we can soon meet each other again, even in very small groups, and carry on the work of our forebears.

SIE Business Meeting held on 13th January 2021 on Zoom

Present: Anna (in the Chair) + Patricia, Edith, Nikki, Pat, Myint Su, Clephane, Gari, Dorothy, Marjory, Christine, Lindsey, Kathleen, Alison. Anna welcomed everyone to our first Business Meeting of 2021 and in our Centenary year.

3S Candidate: Presentation from Fionn from Queensferry High School requesting support for her Project Trust assignment in Nepal starting in August 2021 for 12 months. Fionn shared with us the skills she hoped to make use of during her assignment – Music (Piano, Singing, Accordion), Drama (annually produces a local play) and her experience volunteering with a local Youth Group and Research Group (Lost Soldiers in WW2). She selected Project Trust because she has realised how important teachers are to developing children and inspiring them to love learning and Project Trust ensure that all their volunteers are sent to locations where there is no real provision for teaching locally. Her project will involve her and another Project Trust assignee teaching primary and secondary age group in a rural Nepalese community where she will stay with a local family. Fionn is hoping she will be able to make learning more engaging by using expressive art techniques, help work against inequality by educating the boys and the girls of their potential and how to overcome obstacles, teach English and leadership and inspire them to enjoy learning to lead them to a brighter future. She hopes that on her return she will be able to share her experience of the Nepalese culture and build long term relationships between Scotland and the Nepalese village. Fionn is 1/3 of the way toward her fundraising target of £6950 and because of the pandemic she has had to find innovative ways of raising funds which she says in itself has helped her develop new skills!

Myint Su offered to help her make a connection with some old friends that live in Kathmandu that she may want to pick up with when she is there.

ACTION: all members agreed to support Fionn's application for 3S funding and Marjory will progress the application. Anna gave her permission for her 'virtual' sign off.

Soroptimist Vision & Mission – read by Pat

Apologies for absence were received from 9 members: Liz, Trish, Irene, Carolyn, Isabel, Morag, Mary, Hilary, Winifred

News of members:

Isabel – waiting for her planned operation after having her pacemaker fitted before Christmas. Irene – is doing ok but frustrated re her restricted mobility. She relies on phone calls and letters and a number of members are maintaining contact. Morag sends greetings to the club and says she really appreciates the phone calls from members, she has had her COVID jab and she is hoping to prepare a message for a future edition of SIEnna. We have been notified of the death of past members Mary Haggart and Sheila Desson (condolence card sent)

Seasons greetings have been received from Sally and our friendship links at Sioux Falls, Kiev and California.

Minutes of the last Meeting – Accepted. No matters arising.

Correspondence: Christine – Nothing to report.

Press & Publicity : Christine – Nothing to report

Treasurer's Report: Myint Su – Minimal activity at present. Any donations members wish to make to the International Presidents Appeal (Road to Equality) [International President's Appeal – December 10th | SIGBI](#) can be sent in cash to Myint Su or paid into the SIE account. If making a bank transfer please quote **IPA and your name** in order for ease of reconciliation idc. Donations via this route will not attract Gift Aid – if you wish to add Gift Aid please make your donation direct through SIGBI website. (link above) **ACTION:** Myint Su will email members with the SIE Bank Account details

No. 63 AGM: Myint Su, Nikki and Edith will all be attending the AGM on 23/1/21. As Treasurer Myint Su will be able to cast any votes on behalf of the club. The club were asked to indicate their decision re the following items –

Minutes of last AGM – Accepted and no matters arising

Any questions to be raised re the Accounts? – no points to be raised. Nikki summarized the position from her perspective that whilst there had been a loss in the year to September 2020 it was not surprising in view of the impact of the pandemic on the hospitality industry. The company asset position looks reasonable and the Directors continue to consider the business as a ‘going concern’ and the Auditors endorsed this in their review. Nikki will ask about occupancy levels in 2020.

Vote on appointment of Auditors Kreston Reeves – Agreed

Vote on nominations for Board Directors – 2 Directors remain in situ as appointed last year for 2 years: 2 Directors seek re-election and there are 5 new nominees. Board can have between 5 and 9 Directors. All Nominees accepted.

Action to be taken for any business raised at the meeting or between now and the meeting- it was agreed that Myint Su, Nikki and Edith would discuss any business and the club gave authority to Myint Su to vote on their behalf.

Programme Action:Lindsey – Cranston Street – thankyou to all members who donated gifts, toiletries and hand sanitizer. All were handed over on 12/12/20 and Cranston Street were extremely grateful. Lindsey had arranged for an article and picture to appear in the Evening News. We also received an e’Christmas Card from the staff and ladies.

Kids Love Clothes- minimal activity although Lindsey had hoped a few of us may be able to assist at the end of the month.

Smalls for All - Region project. Also impacted by COVID - lots of donations but unable to get to store to sort and dispatch.

Marie Curie - annual ‘Daffodil’ collection cancelled but website is accepting any donations that people are able to make

On -Going Programme Action activity whilst we ‘stay at home’ email sent to all members with a suggestion for a ‘stayathome’ project. .Between us to identify 100 women that are living, have ‘made a difference’ in their lifetime and are connected to Scotland. We would require you to write a paragraph or two on the person you have identified and send to Lindsey – you can use information that’s in the Public domain. Names so far: Ann Budge, Chair of Heart of Midlothian Football Club: Sharon White first woman CEO of John Lewis: Christina McAnea the new General Secretary of Unison and first female appointment: a choir mistress awarded the BEM in the New Years Honours list. No final decision yet on what we will do with this information (it could be influenced by how many we get) but suggestion was made that we would at least publish them on our SIE Centenary webpage.

SI Centenary Celebrations

Region Playing Card Project: Anna – still progressing and on track for March 2021. _

Tree Planting: Lindsey – We have confirmed to our contact in Edinburgh City Council our commitment to plant an Orchard and Silver Birch Trees at the primary school in Niddrie. An invoice will be presented to Myint Su for payment idc. It is unlikely that planting will happen this spring in view of COVID and school closures however it does give us time to consider preparation of a short leaflet to explain why we are doing this, the benefit to the environment and a bit about Soroptimists.

Any volunteers to help produce the leaflet? NOTE: A decision was made (and supported by all members present) at the end of the Speaker meeting on 9/12/20 for us to fully finance the planting of the trees as per the estimate provided by Edinburgh City Council - £689 with the funds coming from the club Legacy Fund

15 Fruit Trees @£35 each total	£525
20 Native Whips-Saplings total	£ 24
Stakes, tubes and ties total	£140

	£689

Fundraising – Anna. Any suggestions that can be done whilst in lockdown? For 3S fund (as previous years) Collect 20p’s in a smartie

tube OR make an equivalent donation – ACTION: donations to be sent to Myint Su or transferred to SIE bank account by the end of February. Please annotate any donations **3S and your name**

Programme: Trish/Alison/Nikki – Friendship Groups Evening – 27th January: agreed to have a collective Friendship evening on Zoom: Dorothy has compiled a quiz for us all to participate in. If anyone else has any other ideas for a fun evening then please let Nikki know by **24th January**. Please bring along your favourite beverage (hot or cold or even room temperature!) and a pen and paper. Finalising Speaker for **February** – speakers from UN House on the subject of Climate Change. Investigating possible speakers for **March** hopefully on the subject of Modern Slavery

Membership: Anna – interest expressed by a local nurse which Anna is following up. We have also been approached by a Soroptimist from Strasbourg whose daughter, Olivia, has recently arrived in Edinburgh to study Business Studies for a term. Clephane and Anna have both been in touch and we hope to invite her to the Friendship Evening in January.

Regional Representative: Myint Su – next meeting is in February

SIGBI Website: Pat – SIE Nominees for the Region our Playing Card Project have been

added to our website: Successful Facebook campaign on 16 Days of Activism with our facebook page receiving 2000 hits (up from

300) Patricia did a great job re- posting the 'orange button badge' to her contacts. To promote SIE (Editor note: with very little effort!) please 'share' our Facebook page with your contacts, and ask them to 'like' the page – which will increase awareness, generate greater circulation and get more hits.

SIEnna – next edition due circa 25/1/21. **Any copy to be sent to Nikki and Gari by 20/1/21**. Clephane will speak with Morag to see if she needs any assistance in producing her message for SIEnna – she will then seek appropriate support from the club members if required.

AOCB – Patricia was asked to book the Region Zoom facility for our Business and our Speaker meetings for the next few months as we are unsure as to when we will be able to meet face to face again. We can cancel the booking if we don't need it.

Date of next Business Meeting: 10th February 2021 Zoom meeting at 7.30. Attendees to join at 7.20pm.

Snippets from Soroptimists ! Some New Year Thoughts from Christine
Christmas Cards -I can't find any supermarkets that are recycling cards.I have put them in card recycling except for the glittery cards which can't be recycled.
Telephone Scam-My friends and I have received calls on our landline claiming to be from BT Open Reach saying that we have problems with our Broadband. A friend recommends saying that she has no computer!
Ryman recycling-Ryman office supplier at Shandwick Place has recycling boxes for pens and for printer cartridges.
Witches of Scotland-A campaign for a legal pardon and a national monument for the thousands of women who were convicted of witchcraft and executed in Scotland. www.witchesofscotland.com
A recommendation from Myint Su
I just happened to put on the TV yesterday (4/1/21) as I sat down to lunch and heard the words 'Saughton Park' and so went on to watch instead of going to the programme I wanted, and I'm so glad I did, as it was so interesting to learn about how Saughton Park revived after a neglect of many years. Do go and catch up on BBC iPlayer. (Beechgrove Repotted) It certainly will get my vote for our annual donations come April and our AGM.

Behind the scenes of the Treasurer

PURPOSE AND ROLE : To administer and oversee the financial affairs of the Club and carry out the duties of an Officer, working to promote the Vision and Mission of Soroptimist International.

KEY TASKS :

1. Work out annual membership subs : (meeting room rental+ SIGBI capitation fees + SSR dues + Regalia insurance + SIGBI website maintenance + United Nations membership divided by number of paying members, rounded up to the nearest £10)
2. March/April - issue requests for payment of subscriptions to paying members.
3. Issue membership cards to members for current year.
4. Maintain Royal Bank of Scotland current account and list of signatories; amend where necessary (Nationwide Building Society account was wound up in 2020). Keep log of all income and outgoings.
5. Book meeting room dates (currently at Scottish Youth Hostel)
6. Pay for - Bills
Annual returns
Hall rental
Regalia insurance (usually together with the SSR dues invoice)
United Nations membership and SIGBI website maintenance (usually in January).
Various donations as they crop up (e.g. speakers' charities, one-off donations)
7. Order or pay for membership and other related badges.
8. Bank donations and other cheques and raffle and Hippo monies periodically.

9. End of March – prepare financial statement (and handover bank statements, receipts, cheque and pay-in book) for examiner and to present to AGM.

10. Disburse all fundraising monies as instructed by the club; send cheques for donations such as to 3S Fund, Diamond Education Grant, International President's Appeal).

[Note :I took over as Treasurer from Ishbel in April 2018, just after SIE's 90th birthday. I have to say that I was very glad that I wasn't treasurer the year before as Ishbel had to deal with quite complicated accounts that year, with donations and refunds due to the shortcomings of the venue where the celebrations were held. I was grateful to her that she stayed on to help deal with the spilling over of transactions from the previous year on to the new financial year beginning April 2018. I never had much to do with figures, but one lives and learns as they say!

Specifications for CLUB TREASURER - 23 November 2012 (Latest Version)
Extract from SIGBI Governing Documents:
Specifications for CLUB TREASURER - 23 November 2012 (Latest Version)

Thank you Myint Su for all the work you do as Treasurer for our Club!



Modern Slavery - Information from the Cross Party Group on Human Trafficking

Wednesday 27 January at 6pm

Paul Rigby will give a presentation on a piece of research on Piloting Devolved Decision Making for Child Victims of Modern Slavery. *via Zoom.*

Dr Rigby is a Lecturer in Social Work at the University of Stirling with a practice background in criminal justice social work, including a secondment to the Scottish Government Getting Best Results team. He sits on the National Child Sexual Exploitation Working Group. As usual, the presentation will be followed by Q&A/open discussion. All welcome!!

To join the meeting click the link below:

27/1/21 at 18:00 Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/94388414133>

Meeting ID: 943 8841 4133

Some News from SIGBI 22 January 2021 New—SIGBI Facemasks

These will be in stock from early February 2021. Pre-order now.

The SIGBI Face Mask has an adjustable nose clip which is designed to secure the face mask around your nose and also for anyone who wears glasses. This will help to prevent your glasses steaming up.

Description: 3 Layer Adjustable nose clip mask with seams

Front Fabric: 100% Polyester woven fabric

Back Lining fabric: 100% Cotton gauze in white

Accessories: comfortable elastic strap, Micro rubber buckles to adjust strap length

Features: Anti-dust, washable, re-usable, foldable and very comfortable to wear. Priced at just £5.00 plus P&P Shop online – www.sigbishop.com

SIGBI's Centenary Conference in Llandudno 2021

Due to the uncertainties associated with the Pandemic it has been decided that our Conference this year will, once again, be a virtual one.

We had originally planned, for the first time since 1975, to host this special Conference in the beautiful coastal resort of Llandudno, Wales's top seaside town. But, we are Soroptimists and we can adapt! We will therefore bring Llandudno to you, so that you can enjoy it from the comfort of your homes. We remain hopeful that a core team of us will be present at Venue Cymru, in their new light and bright studio location on the second floor. The Conference Committee have been busy planning a Conference 'with a difference' to enthuse and excite our members and we hope that much of this can still be delivered from our online Conference Platform. Read more on the Conference website:

□ [Llandudno 2021 Conference Website](https://sigbi.org/llandudno2021) (<https://sigbi.org/llandudno2021>)

Linknet Mentoring is a Scottish charity helping minority ethnic communities in Edinburgh, the Lothians, Scottish Borders and Fife. The aim is to support disadvantaged ethnic minorities in achieving their goal; studies, careers. It involves various programs within mentoring; from education to employment. Education is the one in highest demand.

Mentoring means a meeting discussing and supporting whatever area preferred by your mentee once a week for about an hour. Because of current restrictions with COVID 19, most mentoring happens mainly online nowadays. All mentees express genuine and deep gratitude. In the beginning, I asked to support females—a volunteering experience I find most rewarding. Patricia If you want further information you can contact Afaf : linknet2@linknetmentoring.com

SI Edinburgh on the internet

SI Edinburgh has a web site with a number of pages about us and our activities which can be found at <https://sigbi.org/edinburgh/>

Unfortunately, if you are starting from scratch it isn't always easy to find us with the new SIGBI website format and SIGBI puts a lot of information on all club websites such as their Twitter feed. However, we seem to get plenty of enquiries from individuals and organisations wishing to speak to us or ask for funds so it is obviously possible to find us if you are persistent!

I have been web mistress for some time now, with assistance from Carolyn McVey and now joined by Patricia Cacho. This means we have the passwords to be able to get to the platform behind the front of our website and add new material or delete what is no longer

needed. SIGBI provides us with the basic format into which we put our information for a small annual fee.

Recently I have added a new page to the website about the SI Centenary and am adding information about past members of our club. When I have time I will also try to add information about the club's history. If you have any suggestions for information to be added I should be happy to hear from you. Although I try to keep the information on the website up to date I don't always spot what is needed so if you see anything which needs changing please don't hesitate to let me know. Also if you have any ideas for new pages or new information about our activities please send them on to me or Patricia.
Pat Black

Recycling

Just a quick reminder that I am still collecting used postage stamps. If by any chance you saved the stamps from all those Christmas cards it may be possible to pop them in an envelope and post them to me. Once I have collected a substantial amount (usually about a kilo's worth) I then post them off to Breast Cancer Research . Pat Black



Soroptimist Friendship Links -an opportunity to build friendships across the globe, share insights and information and learn first-hand about different cultures.

Friendship is fundamental pillar of Soroptimism and our international spread provides us with many opportunities to make new friends and learn. To help facilitate building friendships and connections between clubs (locally and internationally) and make it easier to make introductions, Soroptimist International has the Friendship Link 'framework' – not rocket science and in many cases not required when genuine friendships are established between individual Soroptimists at eg conference which then develop into their own clubs connecting. However the 'framework' does enable unconnected clubs to connect, build a relationship, learn about, and with, each other, and the work we do, find ways to support a local project and perhaps even work on a joint project.

Hot off the Press! Quick update on No 63 AGM.

It was a very positive meeting with honest and constructive reporting from all Directors on the state of play for No.63 during a very challenging year for the hospitality industry. Both the Directors and the appointed Auditors confirmed the viability of No 63 as an on-going business whilst ever we have sufficient

IN SIE we are fortunate to have established a number of Friendship Links over the years and we remain in contact with the clubs through our designated 'correspondents' - many thanks to those who maintain contact and keep us connected through newsletters, seasonal greetings and general updates.

Additional thanks to Irene our Friendship Link co-ordinator who keeps SI HQ up to date with our friendship link work! We plan to have a few more detailed updates from our correspondents in future editions of SIEnna – watch this space! And be ready to ask questions, get curious and make suggestions as to how we might work together in the future.

SI Caldwell, Idaho, USA: Irene
SI Cockermouth, England: Pat Black

SI Kiev, Ukraine: Winifred
SI Madurai, India: Myint Su

SI Riverside, California, USA: Trish
SI Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA: Irene

cash assets we can use to cover any operational losses. It was evident from the reports (available on the No, 63 website – Shareholder section, selected from the bottom of the page – we can provide the password for anyone interested in reading the very positive reports) that the Directors and staff had done everything possible to minimise losses and costs and maximise grants, insurance claims etc to ensure No 63

can be maintained. Ann Garvie (Chairperson) ended the meeting by stating on behalf of the Board 'we will protect and we will deliver No 63 as it was and as it should be'

How can we help ? In early 2020 the Platinum Appeal was launched to raise funds to finance the refurbishment and upgrade of No 63. This was set aside in view of the pandemic but will be relaunched as soon as is it is practical and commercially sensible. Hopefully in our Centenary Year!

In the meantime the [500 Club - Number 63](#) continues to operate and generate much needed funds. Members pay £13 per annum and are entered into a monthly draw to win £50. The money collected enables the 500 Club to donate up to £3000 per annum to No 63. To do this we need only 500 subscribers! Currently we have 200 !!!! If you think you can help in this way and sign up, then please click on the above link and complete the form!

The Report on Adolescent Mental Health

is now available through SISSRegion and UNHouse Scotland
www.unhscotland.org.uk



Programme of SIE Club meetings 2021

All meetings commence at 7.30 and are currently being held on Zoom.

A Zoom meeting invitation will be sent circa 2 days before the meeting to enable you to join from 7.20pm.

27 January Joint Friendship Group and social evening

10 February Business Meeting

24 February Speaker – UNHS Speaker, Verena on the Climate Crisis: What must we do?

10 March Business Meeting

24 March Speaker - tbc

14 April Business Meeting

28 April – SI Edinburgh AGM