



Soroptimist International Edinburgh news notes anecdotes

SIEnna 199 May 2021

President's Welcome.

Well, here we are effectively, more than half way through Spring with Summer, technically, due to commence in a mere few weeks! It has been great to see the green shoots of my garden foliage coming back after the gardener seemed to hack all my borders back to nothing at the end of last year – I was quite fearful! And it is great to see the green shoots of optimism return to the UK as we finally (fingers crossed) seem to be coming out of lockdown and getting back to doing some things we have missed for so long. We have to remain cautious and slowly does it, but hopefully we are on the upward trajectory. With this in mind I am so looking forward to the possibility of us being able to meet up face to face later in June when we have our 'Coffee, Cake and Chat' evening - it will feel strange (and we will be sensible!) but hopefully it will symbolise the start of our SI Edinburgh 'return to normality' (even if that is a slightly different 'normality')! It was also really fabulous to reflect, at our AGM, on all the work we have done in the past year, despite COVID and the club's determination and resilience has been tremendous. Our first Business meeting of the new SIE year was packed with ideas, information and enthusiasm, and suggestions as to how we can get

involved (Kids Love Clothes - 29th June volunteer names to Lindsey) and build our own knowledge (sign up for Lichfield & Districts online Planet Conference 'Global Challenge, Local Action' (item 2 on this link Invitations | Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI)) We may have had our individual moments of despair over the past 12 months but collectively we can be a force to be reckoned with – onwards and upwards! Nikki

SIE Business Meeting held on zoom 12 May 2021

Present: Nikki (in the Chair) + Clephane, Patricia, Edith, Pat, Myint Su, Anna, Gari, Marjory, Christine, Lindsey, Kathleen, Alison, Liz, Winifred and Dorothy. Nikki welcomed everyone.

Soroptimist Vision & Mission – read by Edith

Apologies for absence were received from 5 members: Trish, Irene, Morag, Mary and Hilary

News of members: Irene is feeling a bit stronger but still has mobility problems.

Minutes of last Meeting 14 April 2021 – Accepted. (proposed by Liz and seconded by Patricia) There were no amendments and no matters arising.

Actions: Christine is following up re the refurbishment of the bench.

Myint Su has submitted the completed form re Scotland South President-Elect.

Nikki and Alison are making arrangements for the May and June speaker meetings.

Correspondence: Christine – Christine thanked Nikki for producing the summary list (included with the agenda) of all emails circulated to all members since the last business meeting. She advised that

she had joined in the SI Perth social evening and would write a report for SIEenna.

Edith joined the SI Kirkintilloch talk re the Great Scottish Tapestry. It is hoped to arrange a visit for SIE members to view the tapestry in its new home, once that is open.

For the benefit of members who joined the club since our involvement with Electric Voice Theatre, it was noted that the members, Francis and Herbie, work with music and dance to inform about women in science. SIE members assisted them at the Fringe in 2018, and they performed at SIE 90th anniversary celebration.

Treasurer's Report: Myint Su – Myint Su thanked members who have already paid their subscriptions. She will remind those who have still to do so. She confirmed the distribution of charity funds that had been agreed at the AGM and noted that once these donations have been made £202 would remain from the £2,000 transferred from the General Fund. It was agreed that this sum should be left in the Charity Fund, in case of any future emergency to which SIE wishes to respond.

Myint Su's proposed basis for calculation of subscriptions for members who join during a club year was agreed. In summary: Full sub. (Apr-June); 75% sub (Jul-Sep); 50% sub (Oct-Dec); 25% sub (Jan-Mar). (Proposed by Dorothy and seconded by Clephane).

Nikki volunteered to join the "Treasury team", which supports Myint Su when required.

Membership : Anna – There have been no membership enquiries. Anna noted that May is SIGBI's Membership Month and suggested that a virtual event for

new members might be considered. She pointed out that SIE membership is down by one on last year. She recommended reading the link in the SIGBI news briefing of 7 May. Nikki asked Lindsey to circulate to all members a copy of the presentation on Programme and Membership recently given to Region. Lindsey did this immediately.

Nikki proposed setting up a small team (Nikki, Liz and Anna) to produce a 3-year plan for Membership. She suggested that plans could then be built in for Programme Action (with Lindsey) and Communication (with Pat). In connection with membership, SIE could aim to hold its Membership Month in September or October. It was agreed as proposed.

Programme Action: Lindsey – Lindsey will summarise the Scotland South PA meeting for SIEenna.

+She advised that SIE is now on SIGBI's "Tree Map".

+She will pursue the possibility of an opportunity for photos/handover of leaflets at the school – possibly a Friday afternoon.

+World Environment Day is 5 June.

+Kids Love Clothes – volunteers wishing to help in sorting clothes on the morning of 29 June or 6 July should contact Lindsey.

+Region playing cards – reminder to anyone wishing to purchase.

+Evening News have accepted articles for publication.

+Various craft ideas mentioned at Region. EDA may accept "Trauma Teddies".

Programme: Trish/Alison – Nikki advised that Ian Archibald will give a talk on Mary Somerville at the meeting on 26 May. ACTION: Nikki will arrange a

meeting with Trish and Alison re planning the future programme.

Scotland South: Myint Su and Pat – no report.

It was confirmed that members had agreed to vote for Margaret Mowat as Federation Consultative Councillor. ACTION: Myint Su will send in the completed form.

Notification was received via Region of vacancies at SIGBI for Designated Safeguarding Officer and HR Liaison and interested members were asked to look at the information in the SIGBI News Briefing dated 7 May.

Nikki indicated that she had been asked to join a small working group for Scotland South, to make recommendations on structure of meetings etc.

The next Scotland South meeting will be held via zoom on 5 June 2021.

UN House Scotland: Patricia – Patricia reported that UN House Scotland had recently issued a spring newsletter, which has been circulated to members. She summarised the activities currently being undertaken. Mention was made of possible involvement at COP26. ACTION: Nikki/Trish/Alison – UN to be one of SIE's meeting topics for next session.

3S: Marjory – Marjory has been in touch with Rebecca Gabriel, who returned from Cambodia in 2020, and hopes to arrange for her to speak at a club meeting in the near future.

Communication: Social media: Pat – Pat has updated the SIE website. She is putting information on the playing cards on Facebook as well as some relevant items from recent SIGBI material.

SIEenna – next edition due circa 26/5/21. Gari will liaise with Clephane and Myint Su. Items for inclusion to Gari by 18/5/21.

Centenary issues: Bench/trees/playing cards all covered under previous headings. No more to report.

AOCB: Regalia – One badge has still not been located. Myint Su has been in touch with Ishbel, who will check once she has finalised her house move.

SIGBI News Brief 7 May 2021 – Nikki drew attention to SI Lichfield & District webinar on climate change, including some consideration of possible local action, to be held on 5 June. A £5 voluntary donation is requested from anyone wishing to participate.

WRVS Benevolent Fund – Nikki advised that she had been contacted by Steven Boyd, secretary of WRVS. He is promoting the WRVS Benevolent Fund, which provides practical/financial support to former volunteers and employees. Any member knowing of anyone who might benefit from this fund is asked to contact: secretary@wrvsbt.org.uk

Date of next meeting : 26 May Zoom meeting at 7.30. Attendees to join at 7.20pm

Date of next Business Meeting: 9 June 2021 Zoom meeting at 7.30. Attendees to join at 7.20pm.

From Anna

I would like to thank members for the sympathy cards, emails and letters on my recent bereavements.

Thanks
Anna

Friendship Links SI Edinburgh

Sioux Falls is on the border between South Dakota and Minnesota. Our Friendship Link Correspondent, Carol, lives in Minneota, Minnesota, a town about 60 miles from Sioux Falls.

As we know the club celebrated its 80th birthday last October. It is a very active one but as personal contact is severely restricted it is difficult to execute any projects. As part of their 80th celebration programme they planned to help support 8 agencies, financially and/or with personal service. They donated money to The Children's Inn, a safe home for victims of domestic abuse – mothers and children. One very successful project which has grown since the Club initiated it, is a free toy lending library, not just for Christmas!

Each year a 'Live Your Dream' award is advertised. It is a grant to assist financially a young woman in education (women who are the sole support for their families). As part of the 80th anniversary plans they are giving a second award and interestingly the second recipient was nominated by the Omaha Nebraska Club. Both Carol and her husband have had their second Covid vaccination but they still wear face masks when they are outside.

Caldwell is in the south-west of Idaho. Like most clubs it has been unable to involve itself in its local community projects. Meetings are being held by Zoom.

Their annual spaghetti fund raising dinner, an open event, was cancelled. However, the community was generous in responding to a request for donations.

Our correspondent, Marlene, caught COVID -19 just before Christmas – a mild infection but she suffered from fatigue and lost her sense of smell and taste. She is recovering slowly but surely.

On a personal note I visited Caldwell in 1995. After attending the SI World Conference in San Francisco I stayed a week with friends in Boise, the capital of Idaho. They drove me to the home of the then correspondent, Lois Johnson, with whom I spent a very memorable day. We joined the Club's lunchtime meeting in an Italian restaurant. I received a warm welcome – so warm that I 'won' their fortnightly raffle. Lois' family drove me around Caldwell and attractive countryside nearby and returned me to my friends in the evening.

Irene Smith

Editorial note - Irene has been corresponding with Sioux Falls for 'about 25 years'. Let's hear from some other Friendship links.

CSW64 and CSW65

With CSW being virtual this year – and probably until at least 2024 – more members could take part. 128 registered this year, instead of the usual limit of 16. The post-event evaluation has underlined how much delegates gained from the experience and, in particular, valued learning about issues and solutions to help their work for SIGBI

Centenary celebrations!

Don't miss the early bird offer! 14th June

<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/members-area/100th-si-birthday-the-big-event/>

Steven Boyd Secretary www.wrvsbt.org.uk

I wanted to contact you to remind your members of the existence of support to the (predominantly) women who were WRVS, WVS or Royal Voluntary Service volunteers or employees.

We provide practical financial help to those volunteers of these organisation when they are finding things tough. We have had services throughout Fife over very many years.

Is there a way to have a conversation about sharing of our website more widely? Can you help?