

**Soroptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

SIEnna 200 June 2021

Welcome message from President Nikki

I start this message with acknowledging the very sad news of the death of our SIGBI President Johanna. I know that all our thoughts will be with her family and friends as they deal with this tragic situation. I have sent a card to the family on behalf of the club. I have also sent a card to Cathy Cottridge, SIGBI President Elect, sending our love and support as she deals with this difficult and unique situation whilst dealing with her own sadness, plus being launched into the role of SIGBI President slightly earlier than expected. It has made me think how important it is to savour every moment and make the best we can of every day.

As we head towards our summer break I am really pleased that we have managed to arrange our first face to face get together for over 12 months. For those that are able to make it I hope you have a lovely evening on Wednesday 23rd and relish the exchange of chatter and friendship again. I hope we can mark this as the start of more normal engagement and it would be great if some of us could meet up in small groups for a coffee/lunch and possibly include some of our members who have not been able to engage with us all over the last 12+months. Please just post an email



SI 100 and SIEnna 200!!

note to all members or contact a couple of members in your locality to set up a time and place and make it happen. A big thank you to Gari who has offered to host a 'Garden Get Together' – and we hope to use that event to officially present the chains and badges of office to the incoming team – our club regalia is amazing and worth a good look at, especially in the company of those that know of some of the history and design concepts. Long may the better weather continue so we can get out and about, savour special moments and make the most of each day – although I am sure or new Orchard at Castleview would still welcome the odd day of rain 😊 Enjoy your summer and I look forward to us all getting back to our hard work again in September.

Nikki

[Sigbi.org/edinburgh](https://sigbi.org/edinburgh)

SIE Business Meeting held on 9 June 2021 on Zoom

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

Soroptimist Vision & Mission – read by Kathleen

Apologies for absence were received from 10 members: Gari, Christine, Myint Su, Alison, Winifred, Trish, Irene, Morag, Mary and Hilary

News of members: Pat reported that Gari had been involved in running a Model UN all day and that it had been excellent. It was agreed that congratulations should be expressed to Gari and her team.

Morag's address has changed to "The Manor" rather than "North Care Manor". All other details are unchanged.

Irene is making progress.

Minutes of last Meeting 12 May 2021 – Accepted, subject to a rewording of the note re the Electric Voice Theatre. (New wording: "... it was noted that the director, Frances Lynch, is a writer and performer who uses performance to inform about women in science...") (proposed by Anna and seconded by Kathleen) There were no matters arising.

Actions: No progress as yet re the programme for 2021/22. Aim is to start in July.

Membership 3-year plan – Anna will set up a virtual meeting to progress. Aim is to build on developments since the Growth Plan was produced,

Correspondence: Christine had highlighted the criteria for an obituary on the SIGBI website. Anna volunteered to produce an item re Isabel for inclusion. ACTION: Anna to submit obituary to selina@sigbi.org

It was noted that the May magazine is on the SIGBI website. Nikki thanked Christine for her help in producing the summary list (included with the agenda) of all emails

circulated to all members since the last business meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Myint Su's report included a proposal to increase the donation to speakers from £20 to £30. This was agreed.

Membership : No report. Edith confirmed that she now has all the information she needs for the updated membership booklet and will be liaising with Myint Su re its production. Clephane has had some email communications with Francesca, the Zimbabwean Soroptimist who is in Edinburgh.

Programme Action: Lindsey.

Lindsey advised about **Stitches for Survival** – a craft project in connection with COP26. Nikki, Liz, Clephane, Lindsey and Dorothy each volunteered to knit a section 20cm by 60cm, to complete a contribution from SIE to a giant scarf. ACTION: Lindsey will contact Region and provide further information to the knitters.

Kids Love Clothes – Lindsey, Liz, Anna and Dorothy have volunteered to help KLC on 29 June.

Plastic Challenge – there was some discussion of the actions that members could take to reduce their use of plastics, and questions about what happens to our local recycling. Nikki suggested that we have a speaker meeting on Recycling, with a view to coming up with some positive actions for members. Websites of interest: **plasticatbay.org** (co-founder was a winner of a Women in Innovation award in 2020), **littoralartproject.com**.

Castleview Primary School – As members will not be able to visit the school this session due to COVID rules, it was agreed that we should send 50 copies of the leaflet to the school now, hoping that the trees and leaflets will be used as an educational resource. More copies will be available, if required, with the rest retained for when we are able to visit the school and for recruitment, membership etc. ACTION: Lindsey will send 50 leaflets to the school.

Programme: Nikki advised that St Peter's Church would not be available for the social evening on 23 June, due to COVID restrictions. As the bistro at Saughton Park closes at 6pm on a Wednesday evening, it was agreed that Nikki would look for a restaurant in Edinburgh that could accommodate a group (split amongst several tables, as necessary) for a meal on the evening of 23 June. Venues suggested were Ciao Roma and Howies. **ACTION:** Nikki will make enquiries and email members.

Scotland South: Pat reported that the Scotland South meeting had been excellent.

Presentations on SDG13 and the planet were made. Anitha Rajarajan (APD Planet), who attended the meeting on zoom, is a member of SI Madurai and Pat has put her in touch with Myint Su to re-energise our friendship link.

A presentation on Safeguarding will be circulated to clubs.

SI 100th anniversary celebration (1-3 October) – early bird registration ends on 14 June. Members may make sponsorship donations with their registration. It was agreed that SIE should make a donation of \$40 to enable a member in a developing country to attend. **ACTION:** Myint Su to arrange the payment.

UN House Scotland: Patricia – Patricia reported that details of a talk on internship at UN House on 10 June had been circulated to members.

3S: Marjory - no report.

Communication

Social media: Pat – No report.

SIEnna – next edition due circa 22/6/21. Gari will liaise with Clephane and Myint Su. Items for inclusion to Gari by 18/6/21, please.

Press & Publicity: Thanks were expressed to Lindsey for the excellent article on Isabel in the Evening News.

Friendship Links: Articles/updates for inclusion in SIEnna would be very welcome.

Centenary issues Nikki reported that SIGBI is looking for information on how clubs have celebrated the centenary. The deadline is 15 June so Nikki suggested that SIE instead focus on our objective of 100 activities of various sorts and submit something to SIGBI later in the year. This was agreed..

AOCB:

SIGBI General Meeting – Nikki reported that this meeting would be held virtually. The first club ballots will be issued in July with a deadline of 10 September so SIE will require to discuss these at our meeting on 8 September. Resolutions that emerge will be circulated following the SIGBI general meeting and will have to be discussed by SIE on 10 November as this is our last business meeting before the return deadline date of 13 December.

Voting for SIGBI vacancies – It was agreed to support Ruth Healey as President Elect (11 votes for; no abstentions or votes against). It was also agreed to support Yvonne Freeman as APD Partnerships (8 votes for YF; with 3 votes for Ayushi Kundu and 1 abstention).

Future meetings: It was noted that both September meetings will be held on Zoom. Arrangements for later meetings will depend on COVID rules etc. Members will be advised in due course. **ACTION:** Patricia to book Zoom for September meetings.

Date of next meeting : 23 June 2021 – possible meal at an Edinburgh restaurant (see Programme above)

Date of next Business Meeting: 8 September 2021 Zoom meeting at 7.30. Attendees to join at 7.20pm.

Castleview Primary School

I managed over to Craigmillar on Sunday with a view to taking a quick photo or two of our little orchard in Castleview Primary School but going by Richard's photos posted on Facebook after planting back in March, I think the orchard is way at the back of the grounds – and they do have quite extensive grounds! This warm but

strong wind, will dry out the ground so hopefully a janitor or groundsman is giving the trees a little drink. I checked out the library at Craigmillar as I will use it now, with booking of course, and as they are a Lateral Flow Test site over the weekend, I went in

and had a test –negative – and I was the only customer! Is there football or something on this weekend? Lindsey

Update from Marjory on our 90th Anniversary Plant at Saughton Garden. Our Eriobotrya Japonica (Loquat) plant is flourishing and has put on a lot of new growth this year. The photographs show the plant on 28 June 2020, when it was looking rather leggy. Hopefully it will soon be possible to have an event at the garden to inaugurate a plaque for the bush.



28 June 2020

Charities we are associated with

International President's Appeal – annual donations from members

3S Fund – donations from members

Cranston Street, Edinburgh – Women's Refuge – toiletries and gifts etc, especially at Christmas.

Kids love Clothes (A) based out at Ratho Mains – sorting of children's donated clothing

Scottish Love in Action (A) – Edinburgh charity for Indian street children – please see their web site **Voice 4 Girls** - empowering girls from disadvantage backgrounds in India to continue their education.

Edinburgh Direct Aid – gifts of clothing, sewing needs etc. as requested – mainly for

Syrian Refugees – they would take Trauma Teddies.

Blythwood Shoebox Appeal – there is no longer 'sorting' of boxes available locally - we could still fill shoe boxes as a club. Web site for 2021 is suggesting they will continue to send boxes to Eastern Europe.

Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal (A) – can collecting about late Feb/March members can choose now to go on-line and pick a store/area and date to suit.

Ovarian Cancer (A) – assistance at their events

Breast Cancer Prevention Scotland – now under a new name – we receive invitations to attend at a Holyrood cross party meeting and their AGM

Marine Conservation Society – Beach Clean (A) hoping to arrange a beach clean this year (2021) or organise our own

Sight Village – possibly only every other year in Edinburgh

Minerva Scientifica – a performing group in entertaining music and science

Mary's Meals – can still support with cash and backpacks

Bridgend Farmhouse – at least ten years ago we supported this in its infancy – go online to see how they have developed – they are very well supported by major donors.

Missing People (A) – one off help at a concert in the Usher Hall at Christmas

A = active or at least a bit of standing, walking etc. Most of these charities are on-going in that an Edinburgh member/s has supported them in some way over the years.

Region Collections

Smalls for All – underwear taken by Region. Nearly new bras, but new only pants - all sizes

Sorting of 'smalls' – charity is in Livingston – can arrange to collect and take across.

Better World Books - books taken to Region to be sold (SI Dunfermline)

Spectacles and jewellery – reused and re-styled - spectacles can go to Specsavers for charity, also others online

Dress for Success - Smart, in fashion, pre-owned ladies clothing (DropPoint.org is similar)

Recycling

Empty printer cartridges – see Ryman for added recycling

Superdrug – blister packs from pills and Vitamins – check your local S/drug has a pharmacy – only the shops with a pharmacist seem to accept them (Terracycle) – discontinued as of May 2021- actually now restarted but still can't find a donation pharmacy in Edinburgh

Ryman – have a recycling box for all types of pens – will accept small batteries (see your favourite Supermarket as well) Also **Printer Cartridges** – envelopes available at Ryman's shop – you will receive a 50p voucher to use against the purchase of a new cartridge.

Recycle4Charity – this is used by **Region** for printer cartridges and the nominated charity is 'Smalls for all'. Perhaps worth looking into for a charity of our choice.

Recycling for good causes – is something similar.

The Recycling factory – box is free – we could collect and send

peopleknowhow.org/reconnect/computer-delivery – take old tech devices and redistributing them to those in need.

JTS – fair trade supplier based in Paisley, sells some of the **Meru** products online.

SISSR Clubs' Charities we may be interested in – **Lendwithcare** microfinancing to poor people in developing countries – or **Microfinance**

UN HOUSE SCOTLAND- We are members of United Nations Association Scotland

Others that might interest the club

SCOTTISH WOMENS ASSEMBLY - **Holyrood in March**

Programme Action Snippets

An interesting idea from the recent SI SSRegion meeting last Saturday was the subject of a craft project aimed at the autumn **COP26** in Glasgow – may not be held 'live' but virtually. The idea came from a group called the **Stitches for Survival**. The aim is to produce a great big 'scarf' – colours involved are the main colours of our planet - blue and green. The web page gives loads of information on the sizing and the choices of knitting, crochet, sewing etc. I will attend the forthcoming PA Region meeting next week and check out whether other clubs in the region are considering making a length or two of this scarf. Of course we are missing Isabel who was always 'up for it' when it came to knitting and sewing but I know we have others in club who are very enterprising and artistic with this sort of project – more to follow (and quickly) - the end of September is not that far away when the length has to be forwarded to join with others.

I have only received one addition to the recycling list – I know you all have your special favourites so please feel free to share – many of you are already good recyclers and just in case you don't know what to do with those old towels in the colour that now longer matches your newly decorated bathroom, I can take them for **Fresh Start**.

Plastic Challenge – I tried this last July and found it almost impossible. But the desire is there and listening to other people, it would seem that if we can all just cut down a little, that would make a significant difference. So refill if you can i.e. the product you choose to refill/reuse the plastic bottle must suit your needs, (I've had good results with hand wash – not so with shampoo), the fishman single wrapped my fish this morning and I put it on an old dinner plate with another plate on top – exactly what my mother did umpteen years ago. I'm pretty sure most of you have moved on to using little net or reuse bags for fruit and veg in the supermarket. But just out of interest, where does all the green bin recycling stuff go in the City of Edinburgh – shall we find out and is some of it being sent overseas? Do we want to litter pick on a seashore or beauty site – **MCS** are leaving us – at the moment – to organise our own thing but to make it meaningful, we should record what we find at the high tide mark – that is to say what has come in with the tide and maybe shouldn't have.

Reminder **Kids Love Clothes** - sorting arranged for Tuesday 29th June out at Ratho – final names please.

And finally **Castleview Primary School** are not too enthusiastic about having a small group of SI Edinburgh members to formally 'hand-over' the tree project this month. It looks as if we should be patient and hopefully it will happen in the autumn. Lindsey

A couple of other environmentally friendly recycling ideas for your consideration:
bikesforrefugees.scot - provide bikes donated in reasonable condition to refugees
Brake the Cycle scheme - Edinburgh City Council - will collect and do up old bikes that are then given away to community/youth/school groups - the bikes are repaired by folk on community pay back orders
freecycle.org - offers and requests of goods for free - all sorts including furniture sometimes Liz

And our Final Note ...

Did the first editor of SIEnna ever dream that we would reach issue number 200? Many thanks to all who have contributed over the years. Please keep the material coming!

**June - Social Hoorah!!
Wednesday 23 June at 7pm**

**at Ciao Roma, 64 South Bridge,
Edinburgh**
