



**Soroptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes**

anecdotes

SIEnna 205 February 2022

Where did that month go! I can't believe I am doing the introduction to February's SIEnna already.

The good news is that there must be lots going on for the time to fly so quickly, which indicates we are all gradually getting back to (near) normal activity. It has also been quite noticeable the volume of email and on-line requests that have been highlighted to members, to support specific causes and campaigns – many of which require a quick turnaround. This does seem to be the direction 'life' is heading and I would encourage us all to keep our eyes on our in boxes and give timely and due consideration to requests for support/opinion. As a non-political/non-religious organisation we do need to be cognisant of who and what we support collectively but there are Club and Region members who can give us guidance – we just need to ask. Of course, anyone can support any cause on an individual basis. We may feel we are a single voice but all those single voices add up to a powerful message!

More and more members seem to be successfully getting away on holiday, whether that be internationally or locally and I hope that you are all able to make plans for a well deserved break and change of scenery sooner, or later, in the year.



And finally, Liz and I would like to thank you for the vote of confidence you showed in us, to continue to lead the Club over the next 3 years. It has certainly given us a focus and longer term outlook!!! And we hope you will all find a role (or two!) in the Club, that you can make work for you and help keep the positive momentum and good work of our fabulous club going.

I look forward to seeing you all 'virtually' in March and hope that we can return to our hybrid meeting model, and as many as possible of us getting together in person, from April. In the meantime, stay safe.

President Nikki

From Marjory-trip to Saughton Gardens

I have been back to Saughton Gardens and found that our 90th Anniversary plant is flourishing. It has put on a lot of growth as the photograph below shows. Since things are opening up again I think that we should start planning an event to install a commemorative plaque. Everything was put on hold with Covid 19, but I could now contact the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society to organise the plaque. Saughton Gardens Bistro is fully open during the day and I expect that in the summer months it will also be open in the evening.



SIE Business Meeting held on 9 February 2022 (on Zoom)

Present: President Nikki (in the Chair) + Liz, Lindsey, Anna, Clephane, Gari, Marjory, Alison, Edith, Pat, Kathleen, Trish (P), and Dorothy plus Eva M (SI Dunfermline)

Soroptimist Vision & Mission – read by Alison.

Apologies for absence were received from 7 members: Irene, Morag, Trish M, Patricia, Myint Su, Christine and Winifred.

News of members Both Irene and Carolyn (now a member of SI Kirkintilloch) send best wishes.

Minutes of last Meeting 12 January 2022 – Accepted (proposed by Clephane and seconded by Liz). There were no matters arising.

Actions: Marjory's report re 3S is covered later.

Nikki confirmed that she had completed and returned the SIGBI voting forms..

Correspondence: Everything has already been circulated to members by email.

Treasurer's Report: Myint Su is on holiday but had indicated that there was nothing to report.

Programme Action: Lindsey

Lindsey had circulated a report in advance of the meeting. She highlighted the following:

- A team will visit Kids Love Clothes on 15 February to do more sorting.
- Some members have volunteered to collect for Marie Curie and will be doing so on 5 March.
- Recycling etc – opportunities for club collections are limited until we meet face-to-face but Lindsey mentioned some suggestions in her report.
- International Women's Day – Tuesday 8 March. There may be something at Holyrood that day – if

so, Lindsey will circulate any information she receives. Pat reported that Scottish Women's Convention was holding an event at Holyrood on Saturday 5 March. Liz and Gari expressed interest and Pat will send them details.

(ACTIONS: Lindsey to circulate any details re 8 March event; and Pat to send SWC info to Liz and Gari) Also, to celebrate IWD, a request has been received from SIGBI for a short video or photo plus one sentence from any Soroptimist who experienced working on the front line during the pandemic, or directly helping with support required. Responses required by 25/2/22 – check out SIGBI Facebook (PR & Marketing post re IWD) or ask Nikki for the details.

Anna asked if it would be possible to get an article put together for the Scotsman on International Women's Day as she has a contact there and is hopeful of getting something published. Pat mentioned that she had already been contacted by that person for an article on her international activities. It was agreed that Anna should contact Margaret M (SI Scotland South) to ask if she would be willing to write something.

(ACTION: Anna to contact Margaret M)

Liz gave an update on Afghanistan. There is still a lot of need for support for women and girls there. Clephane indicated that she understood there were already some Afghan refugees in Edinburgh. There is a need for women-only projects, for Syrian as well as Afghan refugees. It was noted that there was likely to be a city-wide meeting for groups interested in helping with refugees but it was emphasized that PVG clearance for individuals involved would be essential. It was agreed that we would need to wait until the meeting but be prepared to get involved where appropriate, eg helping with English.

A lobbying email drawn up by Nikki, with input from Pat and Liz, will be made available to members in due course.

Clephane drew attention to the “Together with Refugees – Show Your Heart” campaign led by the Together with Refugees Coalition. (Following the meeting she circulated details to members by email)

Membership: Anna

Anna expressed her pleasure that Eva had joined our meeting this evening and apologised for the connection problems Eva had experienced on 23 January. Anna indicated that she would keep in touch with Francisca.

Anna reported that she had signed up to attend a SIGBI membership webinar in April.

Programme: Alison

- 23 February 2022 – Dr Kay Richmond (SIGBI) will talk on Programme Action changes.
- 23 March 2022 – Morag Smith will talk on Glasgow Women’s Library
- 25 May 2022 – May East from UN House Scotland will speak on Gender, Climate and Cities.

Communication: SIEnna - Items for inclusion to Gari by 18 February 2022, please.

3S Fund: Marjory

Marjory reported that Thea’s application had been approved in principle and that she would be given £500 should her project be confirmed. Marjory also reported that she had heard from Fionn, who had gone to Senegal with Project Trust in November 2021. Members may access her very interesting blogs on: <https://yenalinsenegal.wordpress.com/>

Scotland South: Nikki

President Nikki indicated that members’ views had been requested as to whether or not there was any interest in attending a Scotland South lunch. A few members

present indicated some interest, depending on the venue and the speaker (if any).

Keeping SIE Alive and Kicking: Nikki

President Nikki referred to her article in January SIEnna and reminded members of the need to fill certain roles. She noted that Lindsey reaches the end of her term as Programme Action Officer in April. Alison will check as to whether or not the same applies to Myint Su as Region Representative.

Nikki also referred to her recent email in which she had proposed that, if members were agreeable, she would remain in office as President and Liz as President Elect for a further year. In 2023 Liz would take over as President and would then be willing to do 2 years in that office. Nikki emphasised that this should not be seen as a precedent for future office-holders. All comments made were supportive of the proposal.

Report from No. 63 AGM: Nikki

President Nikki reported that the new team of management and staff were very positive, despite the problems that they had encountered following flood damage in autumn 2021. Once she receives it, she will send a link to the No. 63 video.

Nikki noted that a minimum share-holding level has been set and asked any member who holds less than 10 No. 63 shares to contact her. [Form-of-Nomination-of-Shares-Word-version.docx \(live.com\)](#)

Nikki also mentioned that a form has been drawn up to enable share-holding members to indicate their wishes for transfer of their shares on death.

Finally, Nikki reminded members of the 500 Club and asked anyone interested to look at the No. 63 website. [Support Us - Number 63](#)

SIE meetings in March 2022

There was some discussion on whether or not face-to-face meetings should be resumed in March. It was agreed, however, to continue on Zoom for the March meetings but to aim to return to the Youth Hostel in April for hybrid meetings (i.e. face-to-face with

Zoom option), subject to investigation of how the sound might be improved.

Meeting 26 January 2022 – speaker SIGBI President Cathy Cotteridge

It was agreed that this had been a very interesting and positive session. Thanks were expressed to Pat and Alison for making the necessary arrangements.

AOCB:

Syrian refugee family: Gari updated us re the Syrian family who visited SIE. They are keen to use their skills and have made an offer to bake for events/groups or to provide graphic design (poster, leaflet design) support for any groups that might find that useful. The

suggestion is that payment would be made to support the family if anyone took up the offer. Please consider the offer and share with contacts. It was suggested that we might ask them to bake Baklavas for our AGM.

Request for accommodation: Anna, Edith and Liz have offered to help with accommodation for Jeannie Digby-Smith (S.I. Weybridge), who is a member of a choir which will be performing at the Fringe. Information on the performances will be circulated to members.

Date of next meeting : 23 February 2022 at 7:30pm on Zoom.

Date of next Business Meeting: 9 March 2022 on Zoom.

The Scottish Love in Action Book cafe on the 5th March has been cancelled, but will be back in 2023
There is an ongoing book quiz.
There is a concert in aid of SLA in the evening of the 5th March at 7 pm for 7.30 pm
In Greenbank Parish Church
Aquillo Wind Quintet cost of a ticket £8

See website for further details and other events.
www.SLA-India.org The Scottish based charity Empowers vulnerable children in India.
They particularly support vulnerable girls with a Voice for girls programme.

Dates of next SIE Meetings

23 February 2022	Speaker Dr Kay Richmond. SIGBI PA Convener. SIGBI PA Plans for the Future
9 March 2022	Business
23 March 2022	Speaker Morag Smith. Glasgow Women's Library. Glasgow Women's Library
13 April 2022	Business
27 April 2022.	Annual General Meeting
11 May 2022	Business
25 May 2022	Speaker. May East. UN House Scotland Cities, Gender and Climate
8 June 2022	Business
22 June 2022	Social Evening

FRIENDSHIP LINKS

Soroptimist International of Sioux Falls Investing in Dreams

Five Sioux Falls middle school students were recognized in a ceremony at the Multi-

Cultural Center for their winning essays marking Human Rights Day.

Because of inclement weather, we were not able to attend. Over the next few issues, these essays can be read in our newsletter.

The essay topic was “Living Together Without Discrimination”. Hundreds of area 7th and 8th graders participated.

Call to Conference will have transitional bylaws, procedures, the slate of officers and budget. Look for it toward the end of February.

Mary Relaxing at Lincoln Conference 2015 International Women’s Day March 8 is International ‘Women’s Day.

Since 1911, it’s been a day of education, empowerment and action. Its purpose has

been to promote gender equality. It is a world wide celebration of women’s achievement. Below are some of the ways you can show your support.

Write a thank you letter to a women that inspires you.

Write yourself a love note - telling yourself your good points.

Support women-owned businesses.

Donate to help a cause that supports women.

Watch a document or movie that explores women’s issues.



Kids Love Clothes – Soroptimists Sorting

This is a photo of our SI Edinburgh ‘happy smiling team’ at KLCs – all smiling behind the masks, really!!!

We did a good 2 1/2 hours out at Ratho on Tuesday 15th – Anna, Dorothy, Edith and Lindsey and managed to sort a good number of the donated bin bags!

Lindsey

Fairness for small-holder food producers in the Global South

At JTS we are really excited for the upcoming Fairtrade Fortnight, and we would like to share details for some interesting events you can take part in over the coming weeks!

We hope that these ‘Farmers on the Front Line’ online sessions will be of interest to you and look forward to seeing you there.

(JTS - Scotland's leading fair trade importer, distributor and educator. Their ambition remains to ensure that small-holder food producers in the Global South receive fair recompense for the wonderful foodstuffs they produce.....)

FARMERS ON THE FRONTLINE



Farmers on the Frontline

Join us at the Farmers on the Frontline Fairtrade event, where you'll be able to hear personal insights into the experiences of farmers working with us, and a variety of other leading Fairtrade businesses. Cafe Direct, Divine Chocolate UK Liberation Foods Traidcraft Exchange Zaytoun CIC

Register in advance for this webinar: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/W_N_f-8kVEAhQ86ULClaxBpJyQ

Feb 23, 2022 01:00 PM

Everyday is a school day - a thought and suggestion about SNIPPING! From Myint Su



Snipping Tool

I don't know how many of us use this tool which I have found very useful – the Snipping Tool that comes with Windows on PCs. I expect there will be an equivalent tool on Apple devices. It allows you to copy any part of your screen or document or picture or photo if you need it for a presentation. I'm sure from time to time, we've come across something we would like to share with the

club and if it is something from the web or SIGBI News Briefing, using the Snipping Tool is an easy way of copy and paste.

Below is an example of what I have done with the an extract from a recent SIGBI news briefing.

As described in the extract, anyone of us could write a constructive piece (to contribute to the new letters page) on, for example, the way forward with Soroptimism or a programme action project and who knows – we might make it into print?

Myint Su

[Soroptimist News 2022—Introduction of Letters page](#)



Do you have a burning issue you want to share, or a question to ask? We are inviting you to write a letter to Soroptimist News. Start your letter with "Dear SIGBI" and end it with your name and Club.

There are a few simple guidelines:

- Don't make it a personal letter of complaint—there are other avenues for these
- Do make suggestions about what you think SIGBI should be doing on a certain issue
- Do ask questions about what SIGBI is doing on a certain issue
- Do be positive and make it interesting reading for non-Soroptimists.
- Your letter should cover one point only.

Letters will be reviewed to make sure they are appropriate, and where an answer is requested we will endeavour to provide one in the same issue of the magazine. Letters not included in one issue may be considered for a future issue.

And a quick message sent on from Christine – Don't Panic ! – anyone looking for our Soroptimist Bench in Princes Street Gardens – it has moved (I assume by authorised persons ! 😊) and it now proudly stands in line with the Ross Bandstand and the statue of Wojtek the bear. Nikki