

**Soroptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

SIEnna 206 March 2022

SIE President's Message

The sun is shining very brightly and the air is crisp and fresh (10degrees here in Fife – positively tropical!) – it feels like Spring has finally sprung. The daffodils in the park and the tulips in garden tubs signal new life, re-emergence and hope, and it's feeling more positive.

The message circulated by Pat recently from our fellow Soroptimists working with the Ukrainian refugees on the Polish border was heart warming in such horrendous times – a glimmer of hope and a brilliant example of true, on-the-ground humanitarian support and exceptional networking through the Soroptimist family.

I am sure that this is one of many beautiful stories as the world rallies to do what they can. But I truly hope that the cause of the suffering and displacement is soon ended and that peace can return to Ukraine and its people.

Nikki

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

Present: President Nikki(in the Chair) + Lindsey, Christine, Clephane, Myint Su, Marjory, Edith, Alison, Pat,

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Kathleen, Winifred, Trish (P) and Dorothy

Soroptimist Vision & Mission – read by Trish (P).

Apologies for absence were received from 7 members: Irene, Morag, Trish M, Patricia, Anna, Liz, and Gari.

News of members

Myint Su has been given boxes of lotions and wipes by Morag for donation to a suitable organisation. It was suggested that these would be welcomed by Age UK.

President Nikki reported that she had received a message from Irene, who sounded well.

Clephane noted that Jane Green, a former member and one of the tapestry stitchers, died last week.

Minutes of last Meeting 8 February 2022 – Accepted (proposed by Alison and seconded by Lindsey). There were no matters arising.

Actions:

International Women's Day actions were completed.

Myint Su has come to the end of her term as Scotland South representative.

President Nikki and Myint Su visited ECYH re the sound system.

Carried over: Has Anna contacted Margaret Mowat re an article for the Scotsman?

No. 63 video has not yet been received by President Nikki.

Correspondence:

Everything has already been circulated to members by email.

Treasurer's Report:

Myint Su suggested keeping the SIE annual subscription for 2022/23 at £120, which is what it was for 2021/22.

President Nikki referred to the update on Benmore that Myint Su had circulated recently and thanked Myint Su for getting SIE involved in this project.

Programme Action:

Lindsey had circulated a report in advance of the meeting. She highlighted the following from the Scotland South PA meeting:

- “Stitches for Survival” panel is available for display, if required.**
- Around 900 trees have been planted by clubs in Scotland South.**
- Clubs have been supporting the DEC appeal for Ukraine.**
- Posters have been produced aimed at people who have been trafficked, and alerting them to sources of help. These are not yet available but members were asked to think where they could be used, eg toilet doors, Clephane's church porch.**
- 16 days of activism – it is hoped to get some ideas together in advance.**

Membership :

Anna is on holiday, but has been continuing to make contact with prospective members. Anna, Edith and Lindsey recently met with Cat M, who attended the last speaker meeting.

Key updates: Nikki

Support for Ukraine

Pat reported on her contacts with Soroptimists in Ukraine and Poland and highlighted the work that Polish Soroptimists have been doing to support refugees. She indicated that SI Europe have an Emergency Relief Fund, which is accepting donations to help fund these efforts. Pat noted that DEC and other charities have asked people to send cash rather than goods.

Myint Su advised that SIE has over £600 that has not already been earmarked for charities this year, disregarding the amount left unallocated from 2020/21. It was agreed that SIE would send £500 now to SI Europe Emergency Relief Fund (ACTION: Myint Su to make the transfer of £500 to SI Europe).

Other ways to help include: donations of goods to St Andrews Ukrainian Catholic Church in Edinburgh or Edinburgh Clothing Store. But it was suggested that it would be best to check that goods could be accepted before delivering them; and lobbying. (ACTION: President Nikki will email members with links to template letters and petitions aimed at changing the UK Government approach to refugees).

Region fees: Members voted in favour of keeping the Scotland South fees for 2022/23 at the same level as for 2021/22.

(ACTION: President Nikki to respond to Scotland South).

Safeguarding:

Marianne (SI Falkirk) is Scotland South Safeguarding Officer. SIE is required to appoint a Safeguarding Representative. It was agreed that Liz should be asked to take this on, in view of her experience. However, in

the event that she feels already over-committed, Christine offered to be the recipient of any safeguarding information that is to be passed on. This can be reviewed in due course. (ACTION: President Nikki to discuss with Liz).

Saughton Garden visit:

Re the plant that was donated by SIE to celebrate our 90th anniversary, Marjory reported that she will discuss with RCHS the commemorative plaque being provided by them. It was agreed to hold a summer social evening, including a visit to the Garden Bistro, once the plaque is ready and the bistro is open in the evenings. (ACTION: Marjory will check re the plaque and the bistro's summer opening hours and report back).

AGM Alison will issue the first notices this month. Roles to be filled are: Programme Action Officer, Minute Secretary and Scotland South Representative. President Nikki indicated that she would be willing to take on the role of Minute Secretary once she demits office as President and so the person taking on this role at the AGM would need to do just one year in the role. (ACTION: Alison to issue notices; members to consider volunteering).

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

Scotland South: Nikki

The next Region meeting will be held on 19 March 2022 at 2pm on Zoom. The speaker will be Miriam Adcock of Zero Waste Scotland. Christine has already emailed members with the Zoom link.

Press and Publicity

Lindsey was congratulated on getting the item re Kids Love Clothes into the Evening News.

Friendship Links

Clephane has emailed members a copy of the SI Sioux Falls newsletter.

SIE meetings in April 2022

It is hoped to resume meetings at ECYH in April, with a Zoom option. As indicated earlier, President Nikki and Myint Su have been investigating how to improve the sound and it is hoped that this will be effective.

AOCB:

SI Nottingham: Edith reported that she had recently met with a member of SI Nottingham, her former club, who passed on good wishes to SIE.

Date of next meeting : 23 March 2022 at 7:30pm on Zoom. (Speaker: Morag Smith from Glasgow Women's Library)

Date of next Business Meeting: 13 April 2022 face-to-face at ECYH and on Zoom.

Story from Gdańsk accommodation emergency place for refugees from Ukraine:

Today Sisters from Gdańsk have visited one of accomodation emergency places in Gdańsk organised for our friends from Ukraine .

The refugees spend 1-2 nights there after their arrival from their homeland. Here they are directed to other houses, shelters where they can stay for a longer time if necessary.- these are usually private houses of Gdańsk citizens, hotels, hostels, tourists centers and similar refuges throughout our Gdansk province. Unfortunately there are pretty few such places available at the moment, since thousands of refugees have already arrived. Though it may be just

the beginning of the migration process. So far nearly 2 million people from Ukraine have come to Poland.

During our stay at the place a little girl aged 7 came to us and gave us the letter she had written herself. Thanks to this girl we got to know her Mother, Grandmother and 5 year old brother. We learned that her hometown Ochtyrka had been completely ruined and they have no place to return to. Her Mother and Grandma are psychologists and had worked professionally before this horrible assault started. They are determined to find a new safe place to live.

After the beginning of this cruel war her mother was engaged in helping soldiers, just cooking meals for them. The last days before escape the found shelter in the cellar. Finally they managed to run away from the town under bomb attacks. It took them 3 days to get to Polish border.

They dreamed about going to a small town in Germany where they would find safety and peace. They got tickets

to Berlin and they were determined to go there without any address and destination.

And here a wonderful story begins. We made an urgent call to SI club in Witten and our friends managed to find an apartment for this family. Our Soroptimist sister from SI Club Witten will meet them at the station, take them to their new place and help them start a new stage of their life.

The Soroptimists from Witten will get engaged in all necessary activities including training courses, school and finding jobs.

Cooperation makes sense, We can do much more TOGETHER.

You can support our activity.

Konto EUR : IBAN
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kod BIC BREXPLWMBK
kod SWIFT BREXPLWMBK
Goal - UKRAINA

#StopWar,
#StandUpForWomanInZoneZone,
#Friendship, #Solidarity

Friendship Links

Irene continues with Caldwell.

Clephane continues with Sioux Falls

From SI Caldwell, Idaho. 20-2-22

Hello sister Soroptimists.

We met on the 10th of February and had a business meeting and then made valentine cards and frosted sugar cookies to share. It was fun to share a meal and be together.

We've only been having one meeting a month.

We did give out a \$3000 and 2 awards of \$1500, a total of \$6000 for Live Your Dream winners.

We also give out smaller donations to local groups like Salvation Army, Scouts and several women's shelters. I am working on the Dream it Be It program

We have not done anything for 2 years because of the pandemic and hope to

do a couple of programs at a local high school.

We have not had a conference for 3 years now.

I hope you are staying well. The covid cases are going down here now and most everything is open with events being held now more often.

I read you had some bad weather and winds in UK.

In April I am going to our region conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Three of us will fly to it.

I hope all is well there. Our snow is gone and hopefully spring will soon arrive.

Dates of next SIE Meetings

23 March 2022	Speaker Morag Smith. 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

Myint Su Collecting for Marie Curie

