

Soroptimist

International Edinburgh news notes anecdotes

SIEnna 209 June 2022

SIE President's Message

It is always a great feeling and sense of achievement when a task is completed! And it feels as if we have finalised a few things over the last month – really important projects and activities that have rolled on for multiple reasons, most notably the pandemic!

Castleview Primary School Orchard – Lindsey and I finally had the go ahead to visit the school, meet some of the pupils and to hand over the final batch of information leaflets that had been produced to explain the establishment of the Orchard and SI Edinburgh's involvement (Please see later a lovely report on our visit)

Saughton Gardens SI Edinburghs commemorative plaque – Marjory is virtually minutes away from finalising the design for the plaque to sign post the plant donation we made to Saughton Gardens back in 2017 to celebrate our 90th Anniversary. The donation was an Eriobotrya Japonica which has bloomed and established itself extremely well. The expectation is that we will have the plaque available for our summer outing to the Gardens on 25th June.

Club Regalia and Paraphernalia !! – we have been extremely fortunate to have accumulated amazing pieces of regalia and beautiful gifts from friendship links and associated clubs during our 95 years.

These have been dispersed amongst members without us having a comprehensive list of all the items. Well, after a collective, concerted effort by many members we are almost there with a final accurate record of all the clubs 'belongings' and who has possession! Not an easy task but very worthwhile – thanks to all involved! We hope to display a lot of the items and their history as part of our 95th celebrations later in the year.

So as we all head into our summer break (and hopefully good weather and holidays!) we can all feel a great sense of satisfaction of a number of jobs well done, those above signed off and finalised, and creating space for new projects come the autumn.

Have a great summer everyone and here's to many more 'completed' projects during 2022/2023!

SIE Business Meeting held on 8 June 2022 at 7.30pm (at ECHS and on Zoom)

Present: Nikki was in the Chair, Myint Su, Winifred, Gari, Liz, Pat Black, Christine, Lindsey, Kathleen, Edith, Marjory, Anna,

Alison, Clephane and Dorothy

Soroptimist Vision & Mission: read by Kathleen

Apologies for absence were received from members Morag, Irene and Patricia

News of members Edith went to visit Irene on Sunday, where they went and enjoyed the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street Party, which was being held in her street in Murrayfield.

Minutes of last Business Meeting 11 May 2022

Actions/Matters Arising:

- Photographs had been taken of those who were wearing orange on 25 May.
- Urge the UK Government to ratify the Istanbul Convention re action on violence against women and domestic violence. Tookits had not yet materialised.
- Remind everyone of Action Day against single use plastics on 16 July.
- Gari agreed to include the relevant dates in the next edition of SIEnna.
- It was reported that there was little pressure in the courts on Mondays from women who had been arrested over the week-end, so collecting provisions for them would be unnecessary.
- Pat B would add the articles in the local Press about her on the Club's Facebook page.
- The Syrian delicacies, which had been arranged for the meeting at the end of May, did not materialise. Perhaps they could be arranged for another meeting.

Lindsey proposed adopting the Minutes and Clephane seconded

Correspondence:

All of it had been circulated to members in advance via email.

Treasurer's Report:

Myint Su reported that she had paid the honorarium to the speakers from the last meeting, to enable them to buy "Model UN", a book, which had been produced by the UN. It was agreed to increase the amount paid to speakers as an honorarium from £20 to £30.

She also reported that she had given the Hostel a list of next year's meeting dates. However, there is some doubt about whether the Hostel Meeting room would be available to the Club from February 2023, which may mean that the Club may have to find another venue.

Programme Action:

Liz noted that Nikki and Lindsey had visited Castleview Primary School that morning, where the Club had sponsored trees to be planted to create a school orchard. Photographs of their visit had already been circulated to members via e mail.

She reported that there had been a regional PA Meeting on 2 May. Other themes were Recycling and Women leaving Custody. The forthcoming Misogyny Bill, which is going through Holyrood, might be a subject for advocacy, but this has to be discussed with the Club's Advocacy Group.

Membership:

Anna reported that Marianne was resigning her membership from the Club, as she has had to give up her work and return home to Tanzania for family reasons. Anna hoped that she might re-join on her return to the UK. She also reported that Patricia C is no longer an official member. SIGBI would now have to be updated; 19 full, 1 linked and 2 honorary members.

She proposed to invite prospective members to the Summer Social event at Saughton Park on 25 June.

She also stated that Maureen Maguire, International President of SI, wants to set up a Young Persons' Forum, of which more details are awaited.

She reported that SIGBI are advertising for a Commonwealth Connections' ambassador which may be a good source for Maureen's Young Persons Forum. There is also a webinar on 22 June on how to start an eClub. Nikki agreed to attend, thinking that this might be something which could be done with UN House.

Ballots for SIGBI

Pat Black reported that SIGBI are finding it difficult to fill leadership roles involving strategic leadership of SIGBI. She reported that there is intensive training and ex-

directors mentor new leaders and besides self-development is part of being a Soroptimist. The Club agreed to the 5 nominations for the 5 vacancies. Pat officially recorded a potential conflict of interest if she were to vote as she had been involved in the interviewing of some of the candidates. Pat abstained from the voting.

Key updates/ Points for Discussion/

Decisions:

It was reported that the Public Policy Exchange would be running a webinar on Ukrainian refugees in the UK. This would enable interested parties to discuss the problems/hurdles, which would have to be overcome in trying to help them. It would also be discussing safeguarding. It was unclear whether there would be anything of particular relevance to the Scottish situation. Winifred K volunteered to participate on the Club's behalf and it was agreed that her fee (£99) should be paid from the Club's Legacy fund.

Reports by exception/as required:

Clephane reported that she thoroughly enjoyed the Syrian meal, which was held at St. Peter's Church on 14 May with the charity, Building Bridges as the sponsor.

Programme:

Alison explained that she and Nikki would be meeting sometime in early July to discuss the programme for next year. In the meantime, she asked for any member who had any ideas/suggestions for speakers to contact her.

Representative Updates:

Scotland South:

There was a report on the recent meeting, which was held on 28 May. The venue at Strathclyde University was agreed to be excellent. There were 3 speakers, Pat Black, Agnes Tolmie from the Scottish Womens' Convention and Christine McKelvie MSP. It was reported that the Misogyny Bill is currently going through Holyrood. It was explained that Hate Crime applies to minorities and as women are not a minority group this Bill did not apply, hence more support for a Misogyny Bill. On You Tube

Lady Helena Kennedy explained that hitherto it had been very difficult to prove Misogyny as a criminal offence but she reckoned that there are 6 – 10 areas, where it could be. If successful, Scotland could be the first country in the world, where misogyny would be a crime. SIGBI is supporting the Bill.

Links that may be of interest to the members

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x88q9v2>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/misogyny-human-rights-issue/>

It was reported that SI West Lothian has now closed.

SI Edinburgh was given a certificate for volunteering from Scotland South, which was presented to Nikki.

Nikki reminded that the Club that it may have to host a Scotland South meeting. She asked members to have a big think about a suitable venue in Edinburgh, which would be available on a Saturday, and to email her with any suggestions by 22nd June

UNA Edinburgh and UNHS

Gari circulated details about a round table discussion that UN House Scotland is holding on Human Rights and Child Poverty, on 13 June. She is hoping for a representative from the Scottish Government to describe what action it is taking on child poverty. She reminded members that it is a human right not to live in poverty.

She also said that on 15 June there would be a Model UN for Highland schools via Zoom.

3S

Marjory reported that Thea had been given a cheque to go to Ghana instead of China. She also reported that Kirsty, who was due to go to Chile in 2020, had had her trip cancelled so she had gone to university instead. Project Trust will keep her cheque from the 3S Trust, along with all her other funds raised, until she is 25. It cannot repay the 3S Trust this money: if she does not use it, it will be used to fund a delegate from an area where it is difficult to raise sufficient funds.

Communication:



BELFAST 2022 CLIMATE FOR CHANGE

SIEnna:

Gari asked for material to be included in the next edition of SIEnna to be with her by 17 June.

Social Media:

Pat said that she would put Lindsey's PA Report on the visit to Castleview School on Facebook. She asked members to wear orange on 25 June – orange day.

Press & Publicity:

Lindsey said that she would try to submit a report of that morning's visit to Castleview Primary School into the "Evening News".

Friendship Links: Any Updates

Anna reported that she had communicated with SI Riverside having taken over from Trish.

AOCB:

The SIGBI Conference would be held from 27 -29 October 2022 in Belfast.

It was agreed to gather together all of the Club's regalia and gifts for a display at the 95th anniversary. Alison explained that she had been updating the list of who holds what in the way of Club Officer brooches for insurance purposes. She added that, in addition Edith and Lindsey had compiled a list last year of all of the gifts which had been given to the Club, which were held in various members' homes, and Alison had been checking and updating it for the record

Date of next business meeting: 14 September 2022 face-to-face at ECHS and on Zoom.

Visit to Castleview Primary School Orchard

Nikki and Lindsey managed a rather rainy visit to Castleview Primary School this month to meet up with some of the pupils of Primary 5 with their teacher, Kirsten.

The tree in the orchard was gifted by SI Edinburgh to mark the centenary of Soroptimist International and was planted

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in March 2021 by Richard Darke and his team from the Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust but pandemics and primary schools do not do well together and it wasn't until the risk from Covid had diminished somewhat that the school was willing to agree on a visit. Kirsten had helped facilitate the planting so it was especially good to meet with her and her pupils who were delighted to point out to Nikki that the trees had certainly grown!

The planting area was chosen as there had been little use for the elevated piece of land at the rear of the school and is surrounded by strong netting – an entrance gate is to be added shortly and a beehive is proposed with the whole area being turned in a wild flower meadow! We hope that within the next year or so, pupils will see some pretty apple blossom in the spring with the promise of fruit in the autumn!

**Belfast Conference 27-29 October 2022—
More details**

The following information has been added to the Belfast 2022 Conference Website. Each item in the list is linked to the relevant page on the website:

- The full Conference Programme
- Special offers for delegates from Visit Belfast

Don't forget, if your Club has items to promote, you can apply for a stand in the Exhibition Area:

- Exhibition Stands

Register now and enjoy our first face-to-face Conference in 3 years. Don't miss this opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones

SIGBI Ltd General Meeting 2022 – FAO CLUB SECRETARY – FOR INFORMATION/ACTION

The Board of SIGBI Ltd hereby gives notice of SIGBI Limited's General Meeting (GM) to be held on Friday, 28 October 2022 at 15.45 hrs.

Letter to Convene SIGBI Limited's General Meeting:

<https://sigbi.org/members/files/GENERAL-MEETING-2022-Letter-to-Convene-SIGBI-Limiteds-General-Meeting-2022-Final-Version-14-June-2022.pdf>

SI AGM

SI President Maureen Maguire is delighted to invite all Soroptimists to join the 2022 Annual General Meeting of Soroptimist International. The meeting is being held by Zoom, you will need to register to attend.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

'Last night a musical saved my life'

Venue 209 The Emerald Theatre at Greenside at Nicholson Square.

August 15th-20th at 18.40 pm for 50 minutes

Cost adult £12

Concession £10.

Discount for a party of 10.

Jeanie from SI Croydon and her husband Eric are performing in the show.

Dates of Interest

24th June to 3rd July - Fleurs de Villes FEMMES, St James Quarter

25th June Summer outing to Saughton Gardens - wear something orange

25th of each month - support for the Unite campaign Orange the World - wear something orange

16th July SIGBI day of action - focus on climate crisis - reduce use of single use plastic

24th Sept to 2nd Oct - "Big Green Week"

27th to 29th October - Belfast Conference

December - club's 95th anniversary

SIE meeting dates at the Youth Hostel 2022:

14th & 28th September

12th & 26th October

9th & 23rd November

14th December

From June 24 to July 3 St James Quarter will host Fleurs de Villes FEMME, a floral celebration of 15 remarkable women including Mary Queen of Scots.

Edinburgh florists will base their designs on an inspirational photograph or portrait. Doorways will be decorated, there will be floral demonstrations and a pop-up flower shop.

Find more details on the website.

The Somerville Connexion

Cheryl Frances-Hoad Something More Than Mortal 2016 Songs & Stories from The Somerville Connexion

live performance by Frances M Lynch & electric voice theatre

Mary Somerville (1780-1872)

"Queen of the Sciences"

In 1834, [Mary Somerville's](#) book "*On the Connexion of the Physical Sciences*" exploded onto the cultural stage of Western Europe. For the first time, Somerville described the interdependence of astronomy, physics, chemistry, geology and mathematics and explained the latest scientific thinking of the day in language directed to her "country-women".

7.30pm Sunday 24th July 2022
Stroud Green Festival
Holy Trinity Church Gardens (or Hall if
wet) Granville Road, London, N4 4EL

Music by Women Composers including

Words by mathematician Ada Lovelace
(1815 – 1852)

Eliza Flower (1803 – 1846) “Rebecca’s
Hymn”

Words by Sir Walter Scott (1771 – 1832)

Lynne Plowman Seven Dark Lines 2016

Words by Mary Somerville (1780-1872)

<https://francesmlynch.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8eeedd13dba47c32db02f4a4e&id=e69fd8ad92&e=27e66d2fe2>



Pat Black (l) and Christina McKelvie (r)

Our Update on the W7 from Pat Black!

"The G7 Summit meeting of Global Leaders, led by the Chancellor of Germany, is due to start next week, 26 June 2022.

I am fortunate to be one of the Advisors to the G7 through the Women (W) 7 group. We have worked hard over the last few months to produce strong recommendations to the world's most influential people on issues affecting Women.

In our own countries we have been advocating with our own Governments, and I was fortunate enough to be able to present our W7 demands to Scottish Minister for Equalities, Christina McKelvie at the recent SI Scotland South meeting."