



**Soroptimist  
International  
Edinburgh  
news  
notes  
anecdotes**

**SIEnna 219 2023**

**SIE President's Message**

It was a pleasure to welcome everyone back to our first club meeting after the summer on the 13<sup>th</sup>, with an almost full house - as many of us gathering at the Youth Hostel as online. It was also lovely to be able to welcome a prospective new member who joined in from Peebles.

It has been a busy summer of entertainment with many Soroptimists visiting Edinburgh as part of their travels that included the Dublin Convention. I would like particularly to thank Anna and Pat for their considerable efforts in planning and meeting our visitors.

It is definitely Autumn now in Scotland and the start of the new season sees us actively involved in a range of ongoing initiatives and thinking ahead to other possibilities. These include:

- Our first open/friendship meeting at the end of the month (hybrid)
- Developing our partnership projects e.g. women's' conversation groups with The Welcoming and Creative Kids Challenge with UNHouse Scotland
- Considering taking part in the Phoenix Pledge Project as part of the 16 days of activism/Orange the World campaign

Thinking slightly longer term, there is an opportunity to make a bid for an event to be

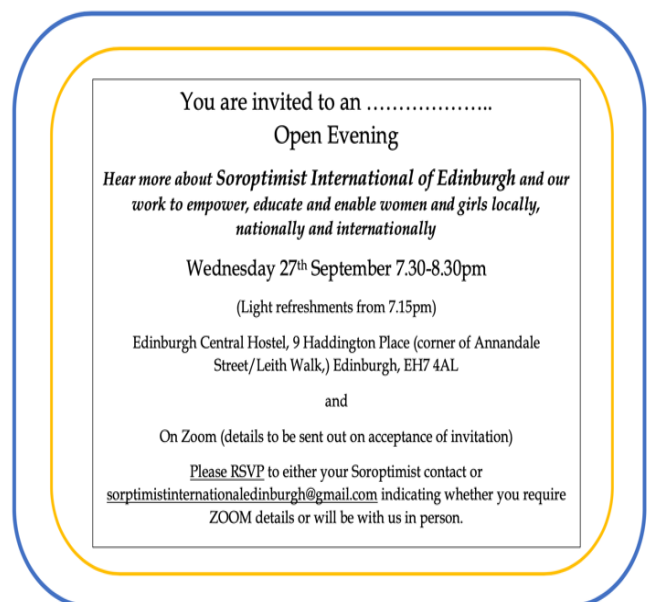
held at the Edinburgh Futures Institute (Edinburgh University) as it launches in the New Year. The EFI have a call out for proposals for innovative and public facing events with two broad themes, the future of education and learning and imagination and creativity. Perhaps we might propose an event focused on the SDGs and linked to the Creative Kids Challenge? All to be discussed on October 11<sup>th</sup>!

At the same time, we are being asked to consider changes in the wider organisation to a) improve communications; b) reduce bureaucracy and c) modernise. There are consultations regarding both Scotland South Regions' future and the structure and organisation of SIGBI that we will be responding to in October.

So – all go from the outset....!

I look forward to the Open evening and hope that it will attract interest from not only Soroptimist friends but also folk who may just be curious about what Soroptimists do!

Liz  
President 2023 – 2024



[Soroptimistinternedinburgh@gmail.com](mailto:Soroptimistinternedinburgh@gmail.com)

## Minutes of SIE Business Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Correspondence:

Special Domestic Abuse Courts - sent by Gilly O'Rourke UKPAC 22/06/2023  
and request for SI members who are magistrates 30/08/2023  
Newsletter from Sioux Falls - sent by Clephane 04/07/2023  
Newsletter from Riverside - sent by Anna 04/07/2023  
Court advocacy service for domestic violence - sent by Alison 05/07/2023  
Future of Scotland South Region - sent by Liz 06/07/2023  
SIGBI Club Mailings - sent by Christine 07/07/2023, 08/08/2023, 23/08/2023  
Linda Norgrove Foundation Walk - sent by Nikki 19/07/2023  
Evening News article about SIE tapestry panel - sent by Chris 02/08/2023  
UNA Fundraising appeal - sent by Gari 05/08/2023 list them in 2 separate  
Petition re Ovarian Cancer screening - sent by Anna 04/08/2023  
SIGBI Soroptimists in the news - sent by Chris 08/08/2023  
SIGBI Minutes of Belfast General Meeting - sent by Chris 08/08/2023  
Request for suggestions for SIE speakers - sent by Alison 12/08/2023  
Sequoia Sempervirens in memory of MyintSu - sent by Liz 22/08/2023  
Various emails about Orange cafe  
Various emails about visiting Soroptimists  
SIGBI Club Mailing - sent by Chris 23/08/2023  
Thea's report from Ghana (3S recipient) - sent by Marjory  
UN House fundraising appeal - sent by Gari 21/08/2023  
Newsletter from Friendship Link Riverside - sent by Anna 03/09/2023  
Sequoia Sempervirens in memory of MyintSu - various emails between President Liz and members  
SI Scotland South AGM notice - sent by Liz 05/09/2023  
Silver sentiments jewellery - sent by Chris 08/09/2023  
SIGBI mailing - sent by Chris 08/09/2023  
Misogyny Bill chaser - sent by Liz 08/09/2023  
Thanks re UN House fundraiser on 2<sup>nd</sup> September - sent by Gari 05/09/2023

**Chair** President Liz

**Welcome** to visitor on Zoom, Judith, Peebles

**Soroptimist** Vision and Mission - read by Nikki

**Apologies** (Marjory) - Irene, Gari

**Minutes** of last meeting June 14th 2023 - proposed by Dorothy, seconded by Nikki

**Matters** arising not covered by agenda  
Redwood to be planted in London Road Gardens in memory of Myint Su. Date for a ceremony will be confirmed. Myint Su's family will be invited. They have confirmed the wording for the plaque.

### Key topics

#### 1. Open evening (membership)

Open evening on 27<sup>th</sup> September; Nikki has sent invitations to SIE members and Region members asking them to bring a friend and to notify Anna re attendees. UN House Scotland interns will be invited

Hal Osler, Lib Dem MSP has been invited by Liz

Pat has been approached about the evening by Yasmin of SI Crewe

New member Elaine will attend with a friend

Alanya (UN House Scotland) will talk about our partnership with UN House Scotland

Pat will talk about international opportunities at the UN

Liz and Nikki will talk about local advocacy and action

Next year we could open up to other women's groups via International Women's Day (IWD) contacts

#### 2. Proposals for changes to arrangements for SI South region

There is a problem in recruiting executive officers e.g. secretary, chair, treasurer

Clubs have already adapted some strategies e.g. a club taking the lead on meetings - SIE did this at last September 2022 Region AGM, working with Scotland North eg on membership, Region PA sharing chair

Nikki has attended a working group - 3 options

1) Join with Scotland North but they are still consulting with members and SI Scotland South are some months further down the road.

2) Temporary task based teams eg arrange AGM, focus on events, activities, PA

3) combine 1 and 2 - there is a strong core of 3 people to oversee but not be executive - need functions PA, secretary, treasurer for admin. More people are involved but shared responsibility.

Issues raised: We could only meet for an annual AGM.

We could disband the Region but we might lose our Scottish voice at SIGBI

What would happen to the 3S Trust as we need trustees?

Reps could carry on with No 63, benevolent fund.

Nikki will attend a meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September when the 3S executive meet

There is an interim review deadline of January 2024

Option 3 is similar to the Eclub model

**The club voted unanimously in favour of option 3**

### **3. Orange the World - 16 days of activism and Orange cafes – future plans**

16 days of activism in November - we could partner with eg Rape Crisis, Womens Aid

Orange cafes have taken off in other clubs.

Discussion of effective locations for posters and postcards - women's hostel, Kids Love Clothes, public toilets

The new postcard has details of helpful contacts

Judith asked what the campaign is aimed at - raising awareness, signposting people?

Aim at older women eg Womens Rural Institute, Women's Institute?

Liz said that a UN House Scotland intern sponsors the Phoenix Pledge which has open discussion about gender based violence and its impact and then makes a pledge to action

**Liz to explore and email further information**

### **4. SIGBI request for declaration re copyright**

This has been resolved - members give general permission - don't need to repeat at eg every photoshoot - see below under GDPR

**5. SIGBI modernisation consultation – process** Irene has been requested to look at this paper and feedback.

**Discussion at October business meeting. Nikki to attend a meeting on the subject.**

**Updates:**

- **Programme Action**

**Region PA group** meet every 6 weeks with rotating chair and minute taker

**Misogyny Bill** - in the Scottish Government Parliamentary programme 2023 - 24

**SOHTIS** – 1000 scarves weaving project - Anna's niece has produced a woven piece as has Winifred. Nikki and Liz to complete and send in by 30.09.23

**Creative Kids Challenge** - a potential partnership with UN House - to feature at 27<sup>th</sup> September meeting

**The Welcoming** conversation group - part of Scottish Refugee Council - there is a mixed English conversation group - Nikki and Liz are in discussion about a women only group perhaps linked to Orange cafe

**Kids Love Clothes** - Lindsey conveyed a plea for donations and will check whether assistance is needed

- **Treasurer** Dorothy reported donations of £30 to SI Maribor for their 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, £209.43 to SI Europe for the Turkey earthquake appeal, and £500 for the memorial tree for Myint Su.

Easy fundraising money of £54.00 has been received

- **3S Fund** Alison to contact Thea, 3S recipient re speaking at a future meeting – date to be confirmed

- **Programme** Alison to investigate art college project on growing linen.

Anna suggested Lorraine, a quilter who kindly met our American soroptimist visitor, to speak about Japanese embroidery

- **GDPR, general update and e - club planning** Nikki reported no progress with eclub - to attract younger members - invite UN interns to 27th September meeting

Membership booklet needs updating - update GDPR consent form and continuing permission for photos and sharing email addresses. Nikki to progress.

### **AOCB**

SI Kirkcaldy 70th celebrations - post meeting suggestion that we give them a birthday donation – to be agreed

SI Kirkintilloch suggestion of friendship link - discuss at October business meeting

Scotland South AGM on 30th September -  
Nikki, Lindsey, Edith, Liz to attend  
Orange cafes - omit 25th September,  
25th October Red Cockerel cafe,  
25th November Scottish Parliament  
Pat will attend SIGBI Conference in London  
3rd to 4th November

SIGBI 2024 conference is in Edinburgh  
Francisca has gained a WHO nomination for  
her film. Francisca from Zimbabwe was the  
first black professor at Edinburgh University.  
Liz to send congratulations on behalf of the  
club.

Linda Norgrove Foundation has asked for help  
regarding 20 young Afghani women to finish  
their medical studies in Scotland. We are asked  
to contact our MPs and MSPs to expedite this.  
We have received a standard letter to help with  
this. Winifred suggested practical help with  
accommodation, shopping, living in Scotland  
and also via charities when we are shopping.  
Judith suggested members offering help to get  
familiar with Edinburgh.

All to take a look at the information and send a  
letter to MPs. Liz to circulate info to SISS and  
the PA reps. Nikki to circulate to Gari for  
onward distribution to UNHouse Scotland  
teams.

Slenna deadline - send items to Gari by  
23rd September

Date of next meetings: Open evening 27<sup>th</sup>  
September 7.15pm; Business meeting



**Remembrance Day  
Sunday November 12th  
George Square  
Glasgow.**

**Join us at the parade!  
Meet at George St/John St,  
behind City Chambers, by  
9:50 AM. Soroptimists,  
wear your sashes, and  
poppies are welcome.  
Let's make this a special  
day together!**

**Community and  
heritage**

Meet at: George St/John St

Sunday, November 12th  
2023

Time: NO LATER THAN 9:50 AM

**Come and join us!**

From UNA Glasgow to all Soroptimists  
We are thrilled to extend an invitation to you  
for the parade for Remembrance Day 2023. It  
promises to be an unforgettable day filled with  
pride, camaraderie and a strong sense of  
community.

Meeting Point: Please assemble at the  
Junction of George St/John St, on the left side  
behind City Chambers – NO LATER THAN 9:50.

Reception: After the parade, we will be  
welcomed into the City Chambers. It's an  
excellent opportunity to connect with fellow  
participants and revel in the sense of unity.

Soroptimists are encouraged to wear their  
sashes proudly, showcasing our commitment  
to positively impacting our community.

This parade promises to be a truly great  
experience, and your presence will make it  
even more special. Feel free to invite your  
family and friends to share in this memorable  
day.



## LET'S CELEBRATE TRUE ORIGIN

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More info and product list from

[info@trueorigin.org.uk](mailto:info@trueorigin.org.uk)



**Summer Visitors 2023 to SIEdinburgh!**  
We have had 5 Soroptimist visitors over the summer, writes Anna:  
Firstly Darlene and Matt from Vancouver, Canada. Darlene set up SI Free Chatline 25 years ago.



Darlene was delighted to see the First Nation Totem Pole in the Museum before its recent return to Canada. Darlene and Matt joined members at Loch Fyne Restaurant at Newhaven. They were on a cruise around the UK, before going to the Dublin Convention

After the Dublin Convention Pat lent Karen a Soroptimist from SI Geelong

Australia, a suitable sized suitcase for her tour in Scotland! Pat met Karen before and after her tour. Karen gave us lots of ideas from her club in SI Geelong



President Liz met Clare from SI Perth, Australia at the Dublin Convention. Clare joined us for the Orange Cafe at the Book Festival. Clare had given us a few contacts of women who might be interested in SI. Clare lives between Australia and Yorkshire, England

Then Pat arranged to meet Rodica, her daughter and granddaughter Antonia from Brasou, Romania at the Astoria Caledonian Hotel along with Edith and myself. Rodica has a project to keep the exquisite embroidered Blouses Continuing. We later saw a PowerPoint Presentation of the exquisite embroidered blouses made by Romanian women. The granddaughter is starting boarding school at Dollar Academy for a year.

Then we met Judy and her friend Paula from SI Sedro-Woolley in the North Western Region of America. Judy is a quilter. Christine arranged for Lorraine (a quilter from Edinburgh) to join Lindsey, Clephane and me at the Red Squirrel cafe. Judy and Paula were then doing a tour from Glasgow. Anna