



Soroptimist International Edinburgh news notes anecdotes

SIEnna 224 March 2024 President's Message

A brief message for this edition of SIEnna as we rapidly, can you believe how rapidly(!) are approaching the end of our Soroptimist year and the AGM.

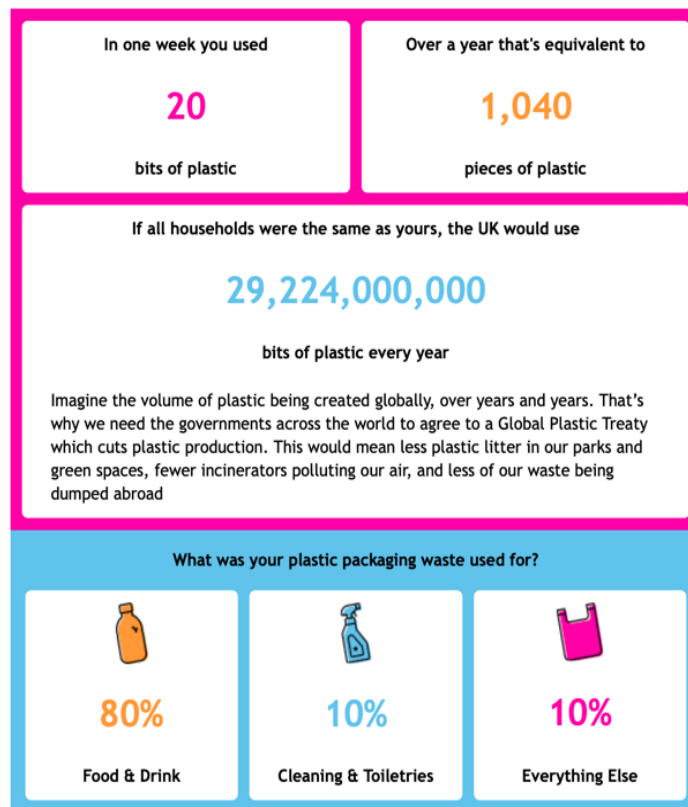
There has been a lot going on and a great deal to talk about! Whether thoughts and reaction to the SIGBI modernisation proposals, the alternative arrangements for running the region, what's happening at the CSW or moving our own club programme of action forwards as well as supporting activities and events being put on by sister clubs. An enormous thanks to everyone for their energy, enthusiasm and ideas.

It has been, quite frankly, extraordinary to me that we have managed to make the hybrid meetings work using our own pretty low-tech equipment at the Youth Hostel. I am aware that there may still be issues with the quality of the sound for those who are attending via the Zoom link but I am sure that we will sort it out!

At the moment, there are two of us who have become familiar with the IT set up but this is not reliable! Both of us may be away at the same time, as will happen on the 27th this month. This, therefore, is a plea to all for others to get to grips with the technology as well. If I can do it – you all

can! Members of the club took part in the BIG Plastic Count for a week. This entailed recording all plastics used and recycled and receiving a "Plastic footprint". This is mine!

LIZ'S PLASTIC FOOTPRINT



All responses will be collated, and we will feedback on the cumulative data when received.

There are a couple of events coming up which may be of interest:- 1) Engender Conference: Primary Prevention of Violence against Women in Policymaking - 28th March 2024, 10 am to 4 pm at COSLA Conference Centre, Edinburgh You can book your free place here using the password: des2024.

2) Perth @ 90

This celebration will be on Saturday 13 April at 12.30 for 1pm at the Royal George Hotel, Tay Street, Perth. Tickets from SI Perth by 5 April.

Minutes of Soroptimist International Edinburgh 13/03/2024

Soroptimist Vision & Mission read by Edith Apologies Elaine, Nikki, Kathleen
Minutes of meeting of 14/02/2024 proposed by Judith and seconded by Winifred

Matters arising - streamlining SIE communications and Judith's piece on Domestic Homicide for SIENNA to be carried over.

Proposed meetings-on Zoom and at Youth Hostel

- 24/03/2024 - speaker Christine Esson from Smart Works which helps women into employment
- 10/04/2024 - AGM
- 24/04/2024 - President Liz suggests a social evening or Orange cafe event - Dorothy to cancel Youth Hostel
- 08/05/2024 - business
- 22/05/2024 – speaker Erin Macleod, on her Art college work
- 25/05/2024 - Orange cafe at 10 45 at Portrait Gallery
- Discussion of June summer outing on Saturday 22/06/2024 to Botanics plus meal - Anna to invite Victoria

Sustainable Art Award - Pat has contributed to money from legacy fund for this award to Edinburgh College of Art final year textile students. Pat commented that the students' work contributes to Soroptimist principles on education, climate change and sustainability. Liz thanked Pat for her generosity which will enable the award to be well established for several years.

Action: Collette Paterson will discuss the criteria for the award with Liz and Alison.

Copyright - see attachment which was sent with meeting notice. Liz emphasised it is best for us to use our own or SI approved material. Liz has a folder on copyright and permissions.

Modernisation proposals - see table which was sent with meeting notice. The

table is what has already been decided. SIGBI will proceed as outlined in the consultation document; the benefits or rationale are not explained. Pat is **very disappointed** at lack of acknowledgement of feedback from members. Is it worth President Liz expressing our disappointment? At SIGBI AGM we can comment on resolutions. Judith asked did SIGBI use any external consultancy re restructuring - no. About 5 years ago an external consultant visited clubs around the UK which was expensive with few results. Pat commented from the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at New York which she is currently attending, and which is very vibrant that many women's organisations are losing members. In contrast SI Europe is gaining clubs especially eclubs.

Action; President Liz to draft a response on behalf of the club saying we recognise the need for change but the current approach appears to exclude members, and asking about the timescale for feedback on the responses to the consultation.

SIGBI Conference - Ruth Healey, SIGBI President has been sent a summary of our responses to the organising committees' questions. At next site visit to ask if SI Edinburgh member can accompany organisers. Request to provide publicity of club's activities. Also Best Practice Awards - SI Edinburgh can put in submission alone or with Region or other clubs, possibly a poster. Possibly one about the Art prize and another about starting the Orange cafes and their spread. A suggestion that we ask for input from the School of Art re our posters. Action: Liz and Alison to investigate.

Region - next meeting 08/06/2024 - in Grangemouth - focus on Programme Action

Help requested for future meetings

AGM 28/09/2024 - volunteers asked to organise

SIGBI Conference - Region social event, perhaps an Orange cafe on the Thursday or Friday

Action: SIE will organise

See meeting email re excellent summary of PA action across the region

Safety cards - Scotland based business cards with details of useful organisations for women- used at Orange cafes - to consider who will benefit most eg Edinburgh College

Action: Judith will speak to an education colleague. Discuss further at meeting on Tuesday 19/03/2024

Programme Action

- Kids Love Clothes - 5 members to help on 09/04/2024
- Big Plastic Count - Anna, Judith, Lindsey, Liz from 11/03/2024 - 17/03/2024
- Orange the world - Zoom meeting - Liz, Anna, Elaine, Judith 19/03/2024
- Collecting for Marie Curie - Anna, Chris, Edith
- Welcoming - Elaine met 4 women and 3 volunteers on 12/03/2024 - focus on poetry writing

Action: Elaine checking Out of the Blue if they have a similar initiative.

President Liz to contact Lydia, a City Council contact re any gap that SI Edinburgh can fill.

UKPAC are putting together questions for MPs prior to General Election which President Liz will distribute once published.

Membership

Eclubs - Gari to discuss with Nikki re bringing together interested people on 15/05/2024 including possibly UN interns. Gari may Host. SI Edinburgh members welcome.

Anna to process Carolina's membership in April

Treasurer - due to reduction in room hires the club agreed to dorothy's recommendation that the sub remains at £130

SIENNA - submissions by Friday 22/03/2024

AOCB

AGM - send nominations especially President Elect to Alison- club may form mini teams eg social media, PA, again for 2024/25

DONM 27 March on zoom

Dates to June	Meeting type	Location
March 27 th	Speaker: Smart Works	Zoom only
April 10	AGM	Youth Hostel and Zoom
April 24	Social/orange café evening	tbc
May 8	Business	Youth Hostel and Zoom
May 22	Speaker: E Macleod Edinburgh College of Art	"
May 25 th	Orange café	National Portrait Gallery
June 8 th	SISS region	Grangemouth
June 12	Business	Youth Hostel and Zoom
June 22 nd	Summer social	Visit to the Botanics and meal

Update from Pat about SI at an International Level

At our last club meeting I mentioned that at the moment I am heavily involved for Soroptimist International at international level. This is with a mixture of meetings and email discussions and contributions to various documents and texts which is all very time consuming but thanks to technology can be done from home.

I am working on the text for the Civil Society 7 Communique which will be presented to the G7 leaders in a couple of month's time. I am commenting on Global Health and Economic Justice paragraphs along with some other Soroptimists. For

the first time we have Soroptimists working on many issues for this communique.

I am also working on the Women, Peace and Security group for the text for the W7 communique to the G7 in May. In both cases the sections I am working on with others will make up a much larger communique seeking reassurance from G7 leaders that they will carry out the actions they have agreed in the past as well as looking at implementing new ways forward.

While this is all happening I am also following the negotiations for the Agreed Conclusions for CSW68 in New York, doing analysis of draft texts produced by Member States and making recommendations to the SI team for changes which can be suggested to delegations. In some cases Soroptimists are sitting in the delegations so we are able to see some changes made. However, there are several days of negotiations to go and we are currently seeing quite a lot of pushback from many Member States. NGOs will continue to press supportive Member States so hopefully we can change the world for many women and girls.

Pat Black



Programme Action

Our Phoenix Pledge /
Orange the World 2024

A small group of us met together on March 19h to explore ideas about how we might move forwards with our Orange the World campaigning this year and what we might wish to try and do for the 16 days of activism.

The following is a summary of our thoughts and brainstorm – all to be

discussed further at the next business meeting of the club in May.

a) Align our actions to key outcomes in Edinburgh's Equally Safe Strategy e.g.

policy and practice adopts a gender lens to address the inequality women and girls experience at different ages and stages of life

women and girls are safe, respected and equal in our communities

women and girls thrive as equal citizens – socially, culturally, economically and politically

Possibly link into Council action in their Prevention Plan.

Consider elder abuse possibly?

Judith to reconnect with Angela Voulgari (VAWG coordinator) to explore and seek possible meeting to think about whether there are areas of focus that we might work on together.

b) Seek information of progress towards Misogyny Act and timescale during this Parliament. Anything that we might do to publicise at this stage? Liz to contact Patrick Down again and possibly write back to Christina McKelvie.

c) Domestic homicide – commemorative bench(es). Bench in Holyrood Park to commemorate Fawziyah Javid - ?? Anna to explore pros and cons with Historic Environments Scotland. (Post meeting thought – engage Queen Camilla or Duchess of Edinburgh to unveil the bench in the (Royal) Park???)

Judith to draft piece for SIEnna about the issues.

d) 16 days

Orange decoration for shop windows in Brunstfield/Stockbridge/Peebles/other. Proved bunting and information posters or packs. Liz to find out if there is a Traders Association for Brunstfield we could

approach. Club to make orange bunting – at meetings, orange cafes etc

e) Vary the location of orange cafes more so that we are reaching different communities across the City.



Domestic homicide update

Numbers of female victims of all solved homicides (not domestic homicides) in Scotland are falling, from around 27 per year in 2008-9 to 19 in 2019-20 and 13 in 2022-23. Partners or ex-partners were the accused perpetrators in around half of cases.

England and Wales have a well-established multi-agency domestic homicide review process. In 2022 the Scottish Government established a taskforce to provide leadership for the development and implementation of a multi-agency domestic homicide and suicide review model for Scotland. The review model aims to learn lessons following a death where abuse is suspected and to ensure a voice is given to those who have died and their family. In 2023 the Scottish Government undertook a period of consultation and subsequently the programme for government 2023-24 includes a commitment to “Consider our wider approach to tackling domestic abuse and work to develop Scotland’s first national multi-agency Domestic Homicide Review model”.

Findings from analysis of 124 DHRs in England and Wales in 2019-20 highlight:

- 80% of the victims were female and 20% were male. For perpetrators, 83% were male and 17% female.

- There were dependent children in 52% of the households where the victim was aged under 60.

- 61% of victims had a vulnerability. Of the vulnerabilities, 34% were mental ill-health, 28% were problem alcohol use and 22% were illicit drug use.

- 46% of the victims had been the target of a perpetrator previously, just under half of perpetrators had previously abused family members and partners.

Key themes from the review include:

- contact: the need for greater contact with victims and recognition that the perpetrator can control the victim’s contacts with agencies.

- assessment: the need to improve risk assessments, carer’s assessments, or mental health assessments.

- records: information can be missing and not shared between agencies.

- support: for staff whose work involved cases of domestic abuse and cases where support for victim was not identified or, where the need for support was identified, but there was no plan to provide it.

- information: the need to improve information sharing between agencies, to hold accurate information and then use it effectively to manage risk.

- risk: the right risk level needs to be identified, with information held by other agencies included.

- referrals: not always made when needed.

- training: the need to update training and make it accessible.

- policy: occasions when action taken was not in line with policy and there were agencies without a domestic abuse policy. Judith