



Soroptimist International Edinburgh news notes anecdotes

SIEnna 226 May 2024 President's Message

Welcome to the first edition of SIEnna in our new financial year.

We start the year with a buzz! New connections have been made with local organisations who share our goals. We will have many opportunities to develop these partnerships and to work together to educate, empower and enable women and girls.

It is fantastic that we have been invited to be send a representative to join the Edinburgh Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) planning group for the 16 days of activism in November. With the additional opportunity to contribute to other groups such as the one looking at women's safety in public spaces. An area that dovetails brilliantly with recent roundtable events organised by the UNHouse Scotland interns that has a focus on Cities for Women.

Equally exciting are the connections we now have with Lydia Markham, Community Coordinator with the Council and Rona Brown, the Chair of the management committee of St Brides Community Centre. Taking forward our ideas to support women's groups across the community, including conversation for

women hoping to improve their English will be made much easier through these links.

A few of us have now also been in touch with LinkNet and are getting set up to be mentors for women new to Edinburgh, with different ethnic heritages, who are seeking help with looking for work/ideas about writing CVs/interview skills or for befriending

It is very exciting that our first art prize will be awarded to the successful Edinburgh College of Art student at the end of this month! We hope that a few of us will be able to be present to award the prize and view her work. We are going to be busy!

If you haven't had a chance yet, it may be of interest to take a look at the latest Global Voice newsletter from SI. It includes descriptions of some new and inspirational initiatives from our sisters in other parts of the world.

<https://mailchi.mp/soroptimistinternational/global-voice-september6247481?e=25af0b1655>

In friendship
Liz

Edinburgh SIGBI Conference 2024

Join us for our Edinburgh Conference 2024 at the Edinburgh Assembly Rooms. The Conference will take place over three days 1-3 November 2024.

Visit the Conference website for full details: www.sigbi.org/edinburgh2024/
We look forward to seeing you there.

Minutes of Soroptimist International
Edinburgh 08/05/2024

Our vision "Women and girls will achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide."

Apologies - Clephane, Dorothy, Irene, Kathleen.

No Matters Arising from previous Business meeting of 13th May 2024.

Proposed by Christine and seconded by Alison

1. Grange Fair on 18/05/2024 from 13 00 - 16 30. Anna, Edith, Elaine, Liz, Nikki will attend over the period. Discussion about provision of leaflets, postcards, sashes, business cards. Orange T shirts to be ordered from SIGBI.

2. Programme Action 2.1 Orange the world - 16 days of action campaign to eliminate violence against women. Suggestion of approach to Bruntsfield Traders' Association re orange bunting on shopfronts in November. Discussion of leaflet to introduce campaign preNovember to traders most of whom are independent. Put advert in local Morningside Messenger? ACTION - Liz to investigate traders and Liz and Nikki to discuss explanatory leaflet. Victoria could possibly help.

2.2 Judith's Teams call with Angel Voulgari, City of Edinburgh (CEC) coordinator of Violence Against Women Group (VAWG). There are several strands:- Working group to look at data. Working group on commercial sex exploitation. Group on 16 Days of Action - SI Edinburgh invited. Women's safety in public places (WSIPP) - of interest to SI Edinburgh?

ACTION Nikki and Gari interested in following up.

Respect the Space Campaign - posters urging men to respect womens' personal space; see video on Knowledge Hub. Possible reaching out to older women. ACTION Working Group on 16 Days of Action - - Judith happy to become involved with support from Elaine and Liz. Judith to follow up on possible SI Edinburgh involvement.

Links to follow up re above :

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/childrenfamilies/equally-safe-edinburgh-committee>

<https://khub.net/group/domesticabuseviolenceagainstwomenworkforcelearninganddevelopment>

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/respectherspace>

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s50336/7.15%20Womens%20Safety%20in%20Public%20Places%20Community%20Improvement%20Partnership%20Progress%20Report.pdf>

2.3 Local organisations concerning women who would benefit from a modest donation.

Sikh Sanjog Sahelyia - mental health in Black and minority ethnic women and refugees.

Feniks - support Eastern European Community Multi Cultural Family Base (MCFB)

ACTION - to consider these organisations re a possible donation.

2.4 Conversation Cafes - Liz and possibly Elaine to meet Lydia, community coordinator with CEC and possibly link to other groups.

2.5 Orange Cafe at 1100 on 25th May at Portrait Gallery.

Discussion on what actions we can do at orange cafes and other future venues.

2.6 LinkNet provide mentors for refugees and asylum seekers. Commitment is 1-2 hours per week for up to 6 months.

ACTION - Dorothy, Liz and Nikki to meet coordinator regarding the process.

2.7 Regional Programme Action meeting - Nikki talked about the spreadsheet of club activities which is a source of useful ideas - on the region website.

2.8 Big Plastic Count - discussion about the result which indicates much single use plastic. ACTION - Proforma letter forwarded to members to email to MPs/MSPs regarding this issue.

2.9 SIGBI Best Practice Awards focus is on service ACTION - should we enter Kids Love Clothes? Possible Region collective entry.

3. Treasurer SI Foundation has acknowledged our donation. Please pay membership if not already done so.

4. Speaker meeting on 22nd May Erin MacLeod of Edinburgh College of Art to talk about her work - in person and on Zoom.

5. Summer outing on 26th June Guided tour of National Museum of Scotland Stores or of the Botanic Gardens - evening meal. ACTION - Lindsey to explore

6. SIGBI Conference Anna, Clephane, Edith, Gari, Nikki indicated they will attend. Discussion on Region social event on Friday 1st November

7. Region Next Region Meeting is on 8th June with no business discussed and 3 speakers and related activities and also collections of eg ink cartridges, pens, bras.

8. Friendship links Friendship Link approach - a member of SI Bangalore will visit Edinburgh on 12th and 13th May. ACTION - Anna and Elaine to meet her.

9. Slenna deadline Friday 17th May. Liz thanked Gari for her work.

10. DONM Speaker meeting 22nd May on Zoom and in person. Business meeting June 12th Zoom and Youth Hostel.

GRANGE FAIR

On a glorious sunny Saturday afternoon, SIE set up a stall at the annual Grange Fair in the Southside of the city. It was an absolutely brilliant idea – many thanks Elaine – and a huge success.



We spoke to many different women, some who had heard of Soroptimism or had relatives who are Soroptimists but many who were unfamiliar. New connections were made and several women expressed an interest in keeping in touch.



Our stall was well situated close to the entrance of the main stallholders and performance area and close to Luca's ice cream pop up van – where sadly the queues were prohibitive! It was suitably decked out in eye – catching orange – to keep up the momentum on raising awareness about the Orange the World campaign.



Many thanks to everyone involved in planning and coming along to the event.
Liz

The Friends of Hugh Miller invite you to a free Public Talk on Sunday 26th May at 14.30 pm at the Library of Mistakes
33A Melville Street Lane
Edinburgh EH3

The speaker is Professor Ralph O'Connor, University of Aberdeen
"Hugh Miller, folklore, and the

Please let Anna know if you are able to attend

SAVE THE DATE! REGION MEETING SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 2024

Dear all, SI Kirkcaldy is hosting the Region Meeting on Saturday 8th June at the Grange Manor Hotel, Grangemouth and I am chairing it. The format will be more like a day conference rather than a business meeting.

We have secured two speakers for the morning session and there will be time for questions and discussion following their talks, before we all have lunch.

The first speaker is Hannah McLaughlan, who some of our Club heard speak in November 2023 at a Reclaim the Night march. Hannah is a survivor of abuse who has waived her anonymity to campaign for better treatment in courts of victims of sexual assault. Our second speaker will be by Zoom from Italy, either Arianna Briganti or Livia Maurizi, from Nove Onlus, an Italian NGO, who our Club heard speak movingly in November 2022 about their work helping women in Afghanistan, and we look forward to hearing an update on that.

We hope to have an interactive session in the afternoon and are working on the content for that. One aim of the day would be for us all to learn from the speakers and from each other. If any Club has a particular project they would like to share

briefly with us all please email or message me and I will fit you into the programme. This could be a new project you are starting or have recently started or one which you have been doing for a while which works well for you. Please don't assume that we all know what everyone else is doing.

Timings for the day are 10am - coffee, tea, pastries, 10:30 – 12:30 morning session, 12:30 – 1:30 soup and sandwich lunch, tea/coffee, 1:30 – 3pm afternoon session. Cost for the day £10. Booking form and programme will follow in due course. Please let Nikki know if you are intending to attend.

Hope to see many of you there. Maureen

President Elect SI Kirkcaldy
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'More inclusive communities - are 20-minute neighbourhoods part of the answer?'

Thursday, 23 May 2024 from 1:30-3:00 PM

Zoom



Urban Crossroads - Where Policy Meets Community

'More inclusive communities - are 20-minute neighbourhoods part of the answer?'

Thursday, 23 May 2024 from 1:30-3:00 PM

Edinburgh University, Charteris Land, St John St, Edinburgh

More inclusive communities - are 20-minute neighbourhoods part of the answer? Thursday 23rd of May at 1:30PM in Charteris Land, St John St, Edinburgh

This is the concluding event of UN House Scotland's **'Urban Crossroads - where policy meets community'** Roundtable series. With a particular focus on inclusiveness, we seek to understand the

opportunities offered by the '20 minute neighbourhood' concept, and also the challenges encountered in different contexts within Scotland. We will hear urban planning specialists and grassroots activists give their perspectives, and then open the discussion up to the room.

Caroline Brown (Director for Scotland at the Royal Town Planning Institute)

Gillian Dick (Spatial Planning Manager at Glasgow City Council),

Ellie Harrison (Artist, author and grassroots activist),

Sandy Robinson (Senior Architect/Urban Designer in the Scottish Government)

+ figures from Scottish politics including **Paul Sweeney** MSP

[Register to attend in-person here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/more-inclusive-communities-are-20-minute-neighborhoods-part-of-the-answer-tickets-877471991347)
(<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/more-inclusive-communities-are-20-minute-neighborhoods-part-of-the-answer-tickets-877471991347>)

[Register to attend online here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/more-inclusive-communities-are-20-minute-neighborhoods-part-of-the-answer-tickets-880492465667)
(<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/more-inclusive-communities-are-20-minute-neighborhoods-part-of-the-answer-tickets-880492465667>)

International Day of Living Together in Peace – 16 May 2024

Living together in peace is a vision of a world where people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs coexist harmoniously. In such a world,

understanding, tolerance, and respect are the foundations of our interactions.

There are some key elements that we as individuals can contribute to create a peaceful coexistence.

Each individual should cultivate a deep respect for others, regardless of their differences. This involves seeking to understand different perspectives, beliefs, and cultures. By embracing diversity and recognizing the inherent worth of every individual, we can foster an environment of mutual respect and understanding.

Peaceful coexistence also entails creating inclusive spaces where everyone feels valued and included. It means creating environments that promote equality, justice, and human rights. It involves addressing social injustices, inequalities, and prejudices that may hinder our ability to live together in harmony.

When we live together in peace, we recognize that our differences are what make us unique and enrich our communities. We celebrate diversity and embrace the opportunity to learn from one another. We understand that everyone deserves equal rights and opportunities, regardless of their race, religion, gender, or any other characteristic.

It is essential to approach others with an open mind and a willingness to listen and learn. Developing empathy allows us to connect with others on a deeper level, understanding their experiences and emotions. By putting ourselves in someone else's shoes, we can foster compassion and build bridges of understanding.

By embodying these principles, Soroptimists can play a significant role in creating a society where living together in peace becomes a reality. We can campaign for peace and bring people together.

Together, Soroptimists can help build a world that values diversity, fosters understanding, and embraces the principles of peace.

Blog by Ivete Hunt, SI Bristol