



**Soroptimist  
International  
Edinburgh  
news  
notes  
anecdotes**

**SIEnna 229 October 2024  
President's Message**

It was a pleasure to meet and welcome Susi to our recent business meeting. It was, as always, a very packed agenda!



Our plans are well underway for the 16 days of activism focus of the Orange the World campaign between November 25<sup>th</sup> and December 10<sup>th</sup>.

This year we are really pleased that we will be able to support the Equally Safe, Violence Against Women group at Edinburgh City Council in their campaign as SIE are now represented on that group. The campaign will have as its focus [RespectHerSpace](#) This is an initiative to highlight the need for women and girls to feel that spaces are safe for them when they are out and about.

We are taking the campaign to shops in one area of the city whom we hope will be willing to “orange” their shop windows, put up a poster or two and/or have some postcards listing the contacts for supportive organisations available for customers. A huge thank you already to the Dominion cinema

who have agreed to support our awareness raising and to floodlight their building orange. It is hoped that the City Chambers building and possibly a couple of others in Edinburgh will also be lit up.

At this time last year the world was once again feeling the impact of another humanitarian tragedy. One year on, we are, tragically, not in a better place. I came upon a message from UNA – UK which was not only a call to action but a reminder of the necessity for global collaboration in the face of not only “man – made” but also climate related humanitarian disasters. A reminder that is so pertinent now. Together we have a strong voice. There is as they say, “more that unites us, than divides us”. Let’s keep talking loudly about what we do, what we can achieve together and the positive impact that it has on the lives of women and girls. Liz



[Catch up with a coffee | Kimpton Charlotte Square](#)  
SI Edinburgh will be welcoming SIGBI Conference attendees at a pre-conference coffee gathering to be held on **Friday 1st November from 10am** in The Garden, the Kimpton Hotel, Charlotte Square.  
  
We are looking forward to welcoming you to our City, to meeting up with old friends and making new ones. We would love to see you there!

## Minutes of SI Edinburgh Business Meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October

**“Women and girls will achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.”**

Welcome to Susi, prospective member, who is an educator and enthusiastic about education for women and girls.

**Apologies:** Elaine, Gari, Irene, Pat, Kathleen. Thanks to Edith for keeping Irene informed.

**Minutes of Business Meeting of 11 September:** Proposed by Nikki and seconded by Lindsey.

n.b As there is a full agenda, some items will carry over to the next Business Meeting on 13 November.

### Scotland South region meeting feedback and AGM

Agreed to defer decisions about proposed arrangements for running SISS region to Nov meeting. (See note about the region meeting.)

### SIGBI Conference

AGM is on Sunday 3 November. Liz is the voting member. Proposed we abstain as we feel we are not informed enough about the 8 proposed resolutions and how they will achieve the espoused aims of the modernisation agenda. We do wish to take responsibility by making suggestions for future change rather than maintaining the status quo.

n.b Anna noted that SIGBI Federation Councillors were helpful as mentors to clubs and go between with SIGBI - a role it is proposed be removed.

**ACTION** Liz to check with Gina what abstention means. *Post meeting note – feedback from SIGBI is clear that only a “yes” or “no” vote for a resolution will count towards the required 75%. Clubs will be able to*

*abstain but abstentions will not be counted as part of the voting response.*

SI Edinburgh support is welcome for delegates at the Kimpton Hotel for coffee at 10 am. Members are asked to be there at 9 30 and to wear orange.

**ACTION** Nikki to draft email for Chris to send to members in Scotland North and South regions inviting them to join us on the Friday morning and to a debrief on the Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm at the National Portrait Gallery cafe

Discussion on a token for delegates.

**ACTION** Lindsey to work with others to make a token from orange ribbon and present in a basket with an explanatory note about the Orange the World campaign.

Welcome message from Scottish members will be displayed on PowerPoint slide.

Back up stewards for the weekend Nikki, Edith, Anna, Chris, Lindsey and Judith (for Friday only)

**Finance** Dorothy - £172.60 sent to SI Foundation. Accounts 2023 – 2024 have been audited and accepted. Proposed by Nikki and seconded by Anna.

### Programme Action

**Orange the World, 16 Days of Action** - no answer yet from the traders associations of Morningside.

Plan is to link with action that VAWG may undertake re RespectHerSpace once clear what they might do.

Dominion Cinema is most helpful, as in other years they will distribute info on seats and in the bar and will floodlight in orange.

The Churchill Theatre is owned by City of Edinburgh Council (CEC)

**ACTION** Liz has approached the CEC Violence against Women group (VAWG) and asked for help about floodlighting in orange.

**ACTION** Nikki to produce leaflet explaining aims of the 16 Days campaign and how they can help.

Judith advised approaching Waitrose to check whether the campaign may be included within their corporate responsibility.

**ACTION** Initial approach, then a later reminder with materials. Anna and Liz to spearhead using leaflet.

**ACTION** Clephane to give info to the people who design the mural on the Gable end of St Johns.

**LinkNet** - Liz is still involved with her mentee, Dorothy has not yet got a mentee.

**Art Prize** - Alison and Liz are awaiting a date to meet Colette Paterson, Course Director

**Beach Clean at Cramond** - Lindsey reported volunteers look at debris at high tide mark and document what washed up - a decrease in debris.

**Programme speakers:** Thanks to Alison for her work in booking speakers.

23.10 Angela Voulgari of the VAWG/Equally Safe partnership City Council

27.11 Maureen Maguire, Past President

22.1 Mary Morton "Make do and mend"

**Membership:** Victoria has returned to Austria

**Friendship Links** Winifred reported contact with Dnipro is currently limited.

**SIEnna:** Copy to Gari by 18.10.24

**AOCB:**

- Greetings from Carolyn McVey of SI Kirkintilloch. **ACTION** Chris to send her report of the anniversary tea and also the thank you from the club.
- Nikki reports that membership booklet is in progress
- Anna has sent a photo to SIEnna of our meal in the summer with a German Soroptimist.
- Susie expressed thanks for our hospitality.

### **Kirkintilloch at 50!**

My sister Anne and I were guests on Sunday 6th October at SI Kirkintilloch's afternoon tea to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We were made most welcome. The first person I spotted was Carolyn McVey, former member of SI Edinburgh; she looks well.

We heard from club members of their achievements over the decades.

I had previously visited the William Patrick Memorial Library where there was an inspiring exhibition about the club. We were privileged to hear from Provost Gillian Renwick and from MSP Rona McKay. Then we enjoyed a delicious array of savouries and cakes. The come Join Us choir then entertained us with familiar cheerful songs.

I have a personal link to SI Kirkintilloch through Alice McKenzie who was a founder member of SI Kirkintilloch.

Alice was County Librarian when I started my first job as a library assistant; it was most unusual for a woman to have this post.

Of course I addressed her as Mrs McKenzie; it took me and Jenifer McFarlane of SI Paisley who also worked under Alice some years to call her Alice! Alice is remembered at Glasgow Womens Library and fittingly we gifted the Library a cheque to celebrate SI Kirkintilloch's anniversary.

Another founder member of SI Kirkintilloch helped to set up the Abbeyfield House in Lenzie where my late mother passed happy years.

Chris

After Kirkintilloch at 50!

Dear Mary,

Were you the member who mentioned about Romania? One of our members, Sally Lamont went there with books from Edinburgh University Library and fell in love with the country. She now runs a centre in Cluj for disabled people and at the London and the recent Paralympics, Romanian entrants won medals. We have supported Sally over the years.

In sisterhood, Christine

Dear Christine and club members,  
Thank you for joining us to celebrate our 50th Charter Anniversary. I would like to thank you for the kind donation to our Charity Fund which we will pass on to The Glasgow Womens Library. The card was excellent and I was impressed with the creative and appropriate Soroptimist elements incorporated.

Yours in Friendship Mary Club Secretary Kirkintilloch and District

### **Notes from the Region meeting A very full and varied day.....**

#### **Mentors in Violence Prevention**

Presentation from Balwearie High School pupils and teacher on the Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme (MVP), which runs in every High School in Fife.

This programme was initiated by an American school football coach who was concerned about the violent and sexist behaviour and language of pupils; he enabled pupils to be peer mentors.

The Fife pupils use scenarios to help discussion and mentors are not only 'prefect' pupils. Parents were involved at Parents Council and by email, indeed parents are now alerted regarding porn following input from pupils.

#### **SIGBI Conference**

Additional stewards are needed to:- check passes on arrival, distribute programmes on Friday, pass "mics" to attendees.

Coffee in the Kimpton on Friday from 10 am; SI Edinburgh to mingle.

New attendees meet Directors on Friday pm.

Lunch not possible at venue as SIGBI concerned about Natasha's Law.

Past Rector of Edinburgh University to open the conference - she was helped as a refugee by Soroptimists.

#### **Future of Region**

Proposals will be future proofed, keeping in mind any effects of SIGBI decisions; decision on proposal 30<sup>th</sup> November.

A Question & Answer paper will go to clubs.

Region Council = PAMM team plus club reps; meet 3 - 4 times a year.

Coordinator role may be shared.

#### **Region AGM**

need for shadow treasurer as Eileen retires in 2025; ditto for Benevolent Fund trustee as Kay retires in 2025.

#### **SIGBI Modernisation - Ruth Healey**

10% new members, 13% resignations.

SIGBI needs to streamline.

PA agency to raise profile eg Marie Claire article.

Put in Programme Action reports ASAP as they feed to news stories; as only one SIGBI staff members processes PA reports there are delays at SIGBI in uploading them.

Queries re clubs opting in/out of region; Board did not engage with clubs who commented or use their experiences.

Regions could share their experiences  
If a candidate has skills she can be directly on the Board after interview process whether an associate or full member.

Information overload - how do SIGBI check uplift on the Hub?  
Suggestion of professional input re communication.

### House of games quiz

Highly enjoyable finish to the day – much hilarity, thanks to Tina Chapman for organising. The SIE team came nowhere close to winning! Chris & Liz

Former President SI Edinburgh Gari was honored to give a presentation about UNHS to SI Falkirk on 10.10.24



### SI Falkirk

President Sarah invites members and friends to join her for the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Club Function on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 12.30 for 1.00pm in the Grange Manor Hotel.

Cost GBP10

Lunch choices:

Traditional Steak pie

Supreme of chicken with Pancetta, shallot and wild Mushroom Jus

Sweet Pea and Parmesan Risotto (veg or vegan)

Fruit Tart, Mago Sorbet

Sticky Toffee Pudding

For information and to place an order please contact

[Marianne.Pattison@gmail.com](mailto:Marianne.Pattison@gmail.com)



members and friends of the CPG on Human Trafficking,

We are reaching out to let you know that the next CPG meeting will take place Tuesday 29th October at 6 pm via Zoom.

Details of the next meeting and the minutes of the past meeting will be circulated in the next week.

We look forward to seeing you over Zoom later in the month.

### Presentation on the research project: Implementation of Trauma Informed Care for Indigenous Victims of Human Trafficking

Presentation given by Nina Munson, UNHS intern and current graduate student at the University of Edinburgh. The research has been published through Portland State University.

liris Aliska

UNHS Secretariat Team for the CPG on Human Trafficking  
Resident Intern

### Discover

## The Cold War and Scottish society

History and cultures, Science and technology, Scotland

Dovecot Studios

Stitched: Scotland's Embroidered Art  
From 25 October until 18 January 2025, cost £12.00, reduction for NTS members. Features over 80 pieces covering a 200 year period, from National Trust for Scotland properties.



## SIE meeting dates 2024 – 2025

Dates for 2024	Meeting type	Location
Oct 9th	Business	Youth Hostel and Zoom
Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Speaker – Angela Voulgari – VAWG ECC	“
Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>	Orange café – 1100	Edinburgh Futures Institute café
Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup>	SIGBI conference –	Assembly Room
Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	Welcoming gathering 0930	Garden Room, Kimpton Hotel
Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>	SISS debrief 1400	National Portrait Gallery Cafe
Nov 13 th	Business	Youth Hostel and Zoom
Nov 27 th	Speaker – Maureen Maguire -past president S	“
11 Dec business or meal out somewhere	Business	tbc
Dates for 2025		
Jan 8th	Business	Zoom only
Jan 22 <sup>th</sup>	Speaker – Mary Morton – Make do and Mend - sustainability	Zoom only
Feb 12th	Business	Youth Hostel and Zoom
Feb 25 <sup>th</sup> tbc	Orange cafe	tbc
Feb 26 <sup>th</sup> tbc	Speaker - Ailsa Clark on Elsie Inglis	tbc
March 12 th	Business	Youth Hostel and Zoom
March 26 tbc	Speaker - Ailsa Clark on Elsie Inglis	tbc
April 9th AGM	AGM	Youth Hostel and Zoom

**Remembrance Day 10 November in George Square Glasgow 10.30 for parade at 11 and Civic reception.**

Please contact for further details and attendance:  
 bpaterson93rd@hotmail.co.uk



Women in Revolt! Art and Activism in the UK 1970-1990  
 Modern Two

Until 26 January 2025, £4.00 - £14.00 email [hello@unhscotland.org.uk](mailto:hello@unhscotland.org.uk) for details

Includes info on Greenham Common, which President Liz attended.  
 National Museum of Scotland  
 Cold War Scotland, Exhibition Gallery 2  
 Until 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Free.  
 Topics include nuclear power, nuclear weapons, CND, hidden b

