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International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

SIEnna 231 January 2025

President's Message

I send a very warm welcome to 2025 to all Edinburgh Soroptimists and our friendship groups and friends everywhere. We appreciate our collaborative involvement in all we collectively are doing. As we learnt at the November SIGBI Conference in Edinburgh, there is much happening within our SI community in Scotland, in the UK and beyond.

There is absolutely no doubt that 2025 will be another year of changes and potential challenges for our dynamic planet.

Through our advocacy and action we will continue to try to make a positive difference in both small and larger ways lives of women and girls worldwide either as an individual club or working collaboratively with others,



We ended the year with a jolly dinner out at the Canopy restaurant which is part of the Edinburgh Futures Institute. It really was a great evening with delicious food, superb services and delightful company!



SI Edinburgh Christmas social at the Canopy Kitchen and Courtyard in the Edinburgh Futures Institute 11 December 2024

We kick started our New Year with an extensive and constructive discussion at the 8th January business meeting about our involvement in the prevention of violence against women and girls. The conversation is to be continued so that we can shape and agree the focus of our actions for this year. The high-profile events continue to attract extensive comment and media coverage but it is vital that we remember that those form only a small percentage of the abuse that is happening and that the vast majority of abuse (in person and on line) is carried out by a relative or someone well known to the family.

We are a growing club! It is fantastic that Susi and Sue will be joining us. We look forward to having you on board and to working with you on our various projects.

The New Year is a time for a refresh and new initiatives. I look forward to our discussions and creative ideas about taking longstanding projects forward and embarking on new ventures.

President Liz

Minutes of SI Edinburgh Business Meeting Wednesday 8th January 2025

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.”**

Welcome back to all and to Susi and Sue (prospective members) – hope you are all recharged ready for another year of action!

Apologies: Irene, Kathleen, Chris

Minutes of business meeting of 13th November 2024: No matters arising .

Minutes proposed by Dorothy and seconded by Anna.

1. Programme Action

16 Days of Activism – Orange the World : Liz thanked everyone involved for their amazing activity to promote the 16 days across retailers in Bruntsfield and Morningside, libraries across the City and promotion across Social Media. Pat did a fantastic job posting interesting and powerful information every day during the campaign. There is definitely more conversations, and greater visibility of ending Violence Against Women, taking place at all levels. We must carry on raising this awareness and pushing for action! Potential focus for club for this year.

ACTION: 1) to make the work done on populating social media worthwhile, all members are asked to check posts eg on Facebook, and then ‘like’, ‘comment’ and/or ‘share’. This will help promote all our campaigns and will raise awareness of the organisation. 2) Liz to send out email asking for volunteers to form a small sub group to define what action WE can take to keep this on important agendas. 3) Nikki to follow up on current status of the proposed Misogyny Bill in the Scottish

Parliament 4)Gari to gather any intelligence on the Cross Party Group ‘Men’s violence against women and children’ and see how we can support/participate.

Scotland South Region Project : looking at how we can collectively support women victims of violence, going through the Court process. Liz is part of group and will keep us posted.

Domestic Homicide Update (Judith) : statistics available for 2022/2023. Judith also referred to an excellent article in The Guardian which shared the output from them profiling every woman killed by a man in 2024. ACTION Judith to share statistics slide and Guardian article

Orange Café – Parliament Café, 11 am 25th February 2025. Wear Orange!

‘The Welcoming’ : Thanks to Elaine for representing us and attending their recent AGM. There was a request for volunteers to help with the weekly Conversation Café’s. A rota was suggested to reduce member commitment to say once per month. ACTION Elaine to check with The Welcoming if a rota covering 3-4 weeks each month would be acceptable. (Elaine, Sue and Liz volunteered for the Rota.) ACTION anymore members interested in volunteering to let Elaine know

Art Prize : Alison shared the background and purpose of the Art Prize.

ACTION Alison contacts Art College to understand their plans for this years Prize.

SIGBI PA Project : Project on Travel Safety was flagged at 2024 Conference. No further information yet but hope to get details at PA Zoom meeting on 18/1/25.

2. Scotland South Region Update

Meeting on 30/11/24 -focus was evolving the Regional Operating Model and planning activity for 2025. The plan is to

hold 3 meetings in 2025 – one Zoom (March? Around International Women's Day?), one face to face (June? With activity and perhaps focus on Programme Action activity for Region) and one to include AGM (September with short AGM and some activity/engagement) ACTION

1) Clubs to consider co-ordinating one of these meetings and let Regional Admin Team know. 2) members to consider suggestions for activity/themes for the meetings – please feel free to be creative! And let Regional Admin Team know.

Nikki also explained the new role within the Region of 'Co-ordinator' to be part of the new Regional Management Team. ACTION Anyone interested in role to let Nikki know by 25th January. .

3. Friendship Links

Clephane has made contact with a member from Los Angeles saying we were thinking of them during the recent difficult times.

Lindsey confirmed we had received a Christmas card from SI Maribor in Slovenia.

Pat shared best wishes for 2025 from Cockermouth

Request for a link from South Perth Australia. Their member Claire, a friend of Judith, who visits the UK regularly, and a number of us have met, had taken the concept of Orange Café's back to Australia, and her Club were keen to establish a friendship link with us and hopefully share in more common interests. Agreed by all Club members present. Liz will be the link from Edinburgh.

ACTION Nikki to formally establish the link through SIGBI. Liz will let Claire know to do the same with their Federation.

4. Programme: 22/1 -Reuse and Recycle – Mary Morton 'Make do and Mend' ZOOM ONLY

26/2 – no meeting. Replaced with Orange Café on 25/2 @ 11am , Parliament Café

26/3 -Ailsa Clark talking about Elsie Inglis

ACTION Dorothy to cancel room booking with Central Youth Hostel for 26/2

5. Membership

Anna confirmed that Susi and Sue were both in the process of joining. Excellent news – welcome to Susi and Sue.

6. Finance

No activity to report other than receipt of Easy Fundraising proceeds (which increases our income with little effort from members/friends) ACTION Nikki to share details and how to sign up in next edition of SIEnna

7. Sienna deadline for copy 17th January 2025

8. AOCB

SI Edinburgh Club Officers from end April 2025 – we need to consider how we will cover the President role for 2025/2026. Options – 1 volunteer, 1-3 volunteers to job share, split the year into 4 or 8 periods and one member lead for that period (either one or two months) - or any other ideas! ACTION members to consider any other options and volunteering to play their part to cover the President role.

Meeting place – Elaine/Liz had made enquiries of 'Words and Action for Peace' community space at Ratcliffe Terrace. They have the technology for hybrid meetings and speaker presentations. There is also parking in the streets nearby. The cost would be £30 per meeting but if making a commitment for more than one meeting , then the cost would be £30 for

the month (ie £15 per meeting for the months we have two meetings).

Gari also mentioned she had made enquiries about The Royal Scots Club (includes facilities for light supper) and was awaiting details.

ACTION Liz to make further enquiries with Words and Action for Peace and bring details to next Business Meeting.

9. Dates of forthcoming meetings

January 22nd speaker meeting, ZOOM ONLY – Mary Morton ‘Make do and Mend’

February 12th business meeting

February 25th 11am – Orange Café Parliament Café

February 26th - NO MEETING

March 12th – business meeting

March 26th – speaker meeting – Ailsa Clark on Elsie Inglis

April 9th – business meeting

April 23rd Annual General Meeting



Elaine and Clephane in the cafe of the Edinburgh Futures Institute October 2024

Easyfundraising

Through this initiative there are many popular companies offering to donate a percentage of your online spend (no extra cost to yourself!) and if you set it up right, every time you click on your favourite site (**John Lewis, Sainsbury, Tesco, JD Sports, Amazon, M & S etc etc**) it will automatically remind you to request the donation.

Click on Link below then select 'support a cause'. Now Search Cause – type in Soroptimist International Edinburgh (or any other organisation you would prefer to support) and click when the organisation is found. Select Soroptimist International Edinburgh from the options available and it will take you to a page that will give you the option to 'sign up and support'.

Click on this button and simply follow the sign-up instructions.

You should also see a 'set donation reminder' in the top right hand corner (not always visible if signing on through Phone or Tablet. It is visible if signing on through your laptop/desktop). Click on that and it will ensure that when you click on the website of any participating retailer you will automatically be asked if you want a donation to be made. There is also an Easy Fundraising App you can install for easy access.

You are all set!

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SAVE THE DATE

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS.

SI Dunfermline are celebrating 75 years this year. We are planning a weekend with a dinner at the Carnegie Conference Centre in Dunfermline on Saturday 10th May 2025. Please save this date in your diary to join us in our celebrations. More details will follow at a later date.