

**ptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

SIEnna 243 April 2026



**STANDING UP
for Women and Girls**

**Minutes of SI Edinburgh business
meeting
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.”**

**SI Edinburgh Business Meeting of 8th April
2026**

Apologies - Gari, Irene, Judith, Liz.

Chair - Nikki

**Minutes of business meeting of 11th
March.**

Matters arising

Lindsey has arranged 16th April for members to help sort donations at Kids Love Clothes (KLC), a charity which supplies good quality outfits to children in need.

Joint project SI Perth (Australia): Anna and Liz will meet online with Clare L of SI Perth 9/4/26
CORRECTION SIEdinburgh 100th anniversary is December 2027 not 2026.

Minutes of last meeting accepted - Proposed by Anna and seconded by Dorothy.

**Planning Ahead
100th anniversary**

Lindsey, Nikki, Pat and Sue to discuss responses to the survey of options on ways to celebrate which was sent to members. This group will present their findings back to the Club with a headline timeline of key activities. We will then need a group to drive the

fulfilment forward. We need to identify an 'Ambassador' to front the celebrations.

**Scotland South Region 90th celebrations
on 27th June 2026.**

ACTION Let Dorothy know of attendance and pay £45.00 to SIE account.

It was agreed the SI Edinburgh presentation and display, to be finalised by the end of May.

The 10 minutes presentation will be a talk or video with the possible theme of activities across 100 years of SI Edinburgh to acknowledge our centenary in 2027. Alison, Elaine, Liz, Nikki and Sue to help present.

Lindsey has photos from SIE 90th celebrations in 2017

ACTION send any other photos (eg any photos about the Art School Award and ongoing activities) to Elena who will save them to the Google drive This is the link to the Google drive so members can see what has already been saved.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_IgpzD6-kFQkelWij9xmgOZqOxmcmSHn?usp=share_link

Elena also offered to create some visuals for the display on the theme of The Orange Cafes (which started in Edinburgh and have now gone Global)

ACTION Nikki, Elena and Liz to look at what could be used in a presentation.

AGM club structure

Dorothy has agreed to continue as Treasurer and Christine as Secretary.

ACTION send nominations for President to Alison by 18th April.

Agreed that in the absence of a President we would continue with the 2025-26 system, sharing the chairing of 2 to 4 meetings by various members.

ACTION members to inform Nikki if they are prepared to take a turn in chairing meetings.

ACTION Alison to chair the AGM.

**SIGBI conference in Cardiff is on the 30th
to the 31st October. – details on SIGBI Hub**

Treasurer – Dorothy

The accounts have been examined and the Annual Accounts prepared for the AGM. Myint Su's shares in Number 63 have been transferred to SIE.

Membership - Anna

Prospective member Katy C can't join at the moment due to work commitments but will keep it touch.

Anna will send information on Orange Cafes to prospective members.

ACTION please delete Vicki W's details from any mailing lists, as she is to become an Associate member of SIGBI

Anna regularly attends Region membership meetings on Zoom.

SI Paisley has closed and SI Easter Ross and SI Crieff are a concern

SI Dunfermline is strong and has a presence eg at supermarkets handing out items such as the business card sized cards about domestic abuse.

SI Perth are also strong.

SIE will have a stall at the Grange Fair on Saturday 9th May - 12:00 to 16:00.

ACTION Anna - Check on SIGBI Public Liability insurance. Nikki – review and update Risk Assessment Log

Elaine suggested that we have a corkboard to show our activities. ACTION - use Elena's posters.

Programme Action (PA)

Smalls for All. ACTION to bring packs of pants to the AGM and other meetings up to the end of June. The items will be collected and donated at the 90th Celebrations

Lindsey has completed **Programme Focus (PF) forms**. One to be completed for Beach Clean undertaken by Sue.

Art School Award - Alison met Colette the Art School tutor to draw up revised & simplified criteria.

ACTION Alison to complete a PF form about the Art School Award. Short listed candidates to give a presentation to the Club on Wednesday 20th May****This means the second meeting date in May has been changed from 27th May to 20th May**

ACTION An SIE member to join Alison and Liz at the judging on 25th May to choose the winner. Alison has been invited to the preview of the degree show on Thursday the 28th May.

16 Days of Action highlighting Violence against Women (VAWG).

Angela Voulgari (the City of Edinburgh Council lead on VAWG) is leading meetings and activities up to the 16 Days. Judith and Sue are our representatives and Sue attended

a recent meeting where it was noted that the statue 'Knife Angel' made of knives handed in during a knife amnesty will be in the Kirkgate in Leith in September to launch discussions on knife crime eg in schools. There will also be other eg posters/banners representing other occurrences of VAWG eg women killed by femicide.

Orange Cafes - the next Café is on Saturday 25th April at 11am in Patina cafe near the tram stop before the Gyle Centre. Christine Jardine has been invited to attend. The manager is happy for us to display information.



STANDING UP
for Women and Girls

Programme - Alison.

Future speakers will be scheduled from Septemebr

Pat and Elena (plus Rhys a UNHS intern) to talk about the Convention on the Status of Women

Gari's daughter Catriona may talk About Barefoot College Latin America where women from remote offgrid indigenous communities are training to become solar engineers.

Gari to speak about United Nations Association (UNA) and UN House Scotland.

AOCB

Liz has forwarded to members a letter from Victim Support Scotland asking for Soroptimist survivors of sexual assault and crime to give input to the first review of a website.

ACTION if relevant, to respond directly to the Victim Support contact.

SIEnna - send contributions to Clephane and Gari by Friday 17th April. Anna commented that she had received good feedback on the last Sienna and on Elena's report.

Friendship Link -Lindsey

The president of SI Maribor in Slovenia sent greetings with information from a most active club.

Benevolent Fund - Anna the Scotland South Region representative met the Scotland North Region representative and the Secretary to discuss a presentation at the 90th celebrations.

No 63 hotel AGM - Nikki The building is listed and old and has roof and other problems which make it costly to repair. To raise funds there is a Go Fund Me page on Facebook and a 500 club where members pay £12.00 a year with a monthly draw of 2x £50.00. (please ask Nikki for a form if you wish to participate in the 500 Club) A loan or remortgaging has been suggested. There will be an EGM in the near future. **ACTION** If anyone wishes to support or be part of the Board of Directors to contact the Chair, Sue Edgar.

Friendship afternoon Elaine has invited members to a friendship tea on Tuesday 14th April at 2pm

Key Collection – please can someone volunteer to pick up the meeting room key for 20th May – to be picked up from Words & Actions, before 4pm on the day.



A few of the team from S I Edinburgh sorting the recent donations at the warehouse of Kids Love Clothes on Thursday - Yes, still a little chilly so jackets still on!

Meeting Date	Meeting Type
13 May 2026	Business Meeting
20 May 2026	Speaker Meeting
10 June 2026	Business Meeting
27 June 2026	SISS 90 th Celebration
9 September 2026	Business Meeting
23 September 2026	Speaker Meeting
14 October 2026	Business Meeting
28 October 2026	Speaker Meeting
11 November 2026	Business Meeting
25 November 2026	Speaker Meeting
9 December 2026	Social Evening
13 January 2027	Business Meeting
27 January 2027	Speaker Meeting
10 February 2027	Business Meeting
24 February 2027	Speaker Meeting
10 March 2027	Business Meeting
24 March 2027	Speaker Meeting
14 April 2027	Business Meeting
28 April 2027	AGM

Don't forget!!!
Who is Chairing it?
Orange cafe on 25th April@11.00
Cafe Patina
3 Airborne Place
1 New Park Square
Edinburgh Park
EH2 9GR
Nearest tram station
Edinburgh Central not Edinburgh Park
 9th May 2026 12-4.30
 We have booked a stall at the Grange Fair
 Newington Library/ Fountainhall Road
 Anna

Greetings from Riverside, Friendship Link



News from UNAScotland:



We're delighted to invite you to an online event. **"Technology and AI: Navigating Misinformation Beyond COP30"**

Join us as we navigate the complexities of technology, AI and misinformation in the climate space.

Hosted by the UNA Scotland Beyond COP team, this event aims to bring together participants from around the world to **discuss the impact of technology and AI on the climate landscape, including the consequences of misinformation.**

Presenters are **Elizabeth Njoroge**, a Regional IT Service Manager for Africa at the Gates Foundation, **Roberta Pierfederici**, a Policy Fellow at the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics (LSE) and **Dr Lluís de Nadal Alsina**, Lecturer in Media, Culture and Society at the University of Glasgow and co-lead of the Interdisciplinary Research Network on Information Integrity.

Title: *Technology and AI: Navigating Misinformation Beyond COP30*

Date: Thursday, 23 April

Time: 1 pm BST

Location: Zoom (link below)



[Click here to reserve a spot](#)

We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a captivating event.

Magali

Parliamentary Engagement Officer at United Nations Association Scotland,

SIE research for 90th Anniversary

Elena, Nikki and Liz wish to produce a video containing interviews with SIE members.

The interviews (think of it like a quick chat!) will only take between 30 seconds to 1 minute per person, so we ask you to please stay for

about 5-10 minutes after the AGM (if you are attending in person) to be interviewed.

Otherwise, Elena will also be able to do interviews at the **Orange Café on April 25th**, or arrange a time to meet online via Zoom.

We ask all members to participate but if anyone is uncomfortable being in the video or wants to opt out for any reason that is also fine, just let us know in advance.

It would also be great if you could wear something Orange for the recording!

Interview Questions:

When and why did you become a Soroptimist?

What is your favourite memory from being a Soroptimist and why?

How have your contributions/actions made an impact?

How would you like to see our projects evolve in Edinburgh and beyond?

How do you see Soroptimism in Edinburgh in the future?

What does Soroptimism mean to you? What has it meant throughout the years? Why have you stayed?

Is there anything you would like to add?

Elena looks forward to hearing your stories, views, and memories!

The selection of clothes at Kids Love Clothes continues for one SIE member!! Edith, thank you!

