



Great work: Edinburgh Soroptimists at the Grange Fair on Saturday 9 May!!



**90th ANNIVERSARY JOINT EVENT
SCOTLAND SOUTH AND SCOTLAND
NORTH CELEBRATING SUCCESS**

Saturday 27 June 10am-4pm

Carnegie Conference Centre Fife Learning
Campus, Calaiswood Crescent, Dunfermline,
KY11 8SJ

GBP45 includes refreshments, 2 course
lunch, prosecco and cake

9.45 Registration Opens

Morning session chaired by Scotland South
President SI

President SIGBI

White Bibbon Scotland

Raffle Draw and Cheque Presentation

Police Scotland

12.30-1.30 two course lunch

Afternoon session chaired by Scotland North
Presentations from each region on
achievements over the last year

Presentations from Clubs

Survivors Information Space project update
from the working group

Scottish Soroptimists Podcast Launch

Cake and Prosecco

Mini business meeting following AGM 22.04.26

Orange cafe at Cafe Patina - discussion of information to take.

Small posters about online safety to be displayed in the toilet.

Elena will interview members with the aim to form a film to present at the Regional 90th celebration; she interviewed some members after the AGM.

ACTION Elena asks other members to contact her to arrange interviews at other times.

Members will make orange ribbon badges at the cafe.

Nikki to bring perspex stands. Elena to bring posters of Orange Cafes from around the world; these focus on relevant topics regarding violence against women.

Grange Fair - **ACTION** take similar items to the Fair

SI Edinburgh 100th celebration - **ACTION** Nikki to bring list of priorities which members have decided on to the next business meeting on 13th May.

Make display using flip chart or perspex stands; use Elena's posters.

Meetings: Chaired by Alison on May 13th and 20th, chaired by Lindsey on June 10th September 23rd.

SIEnna - Gari is looking to hand over production. **ACTION** at business meeting on 13th May to discuss the way forward for SIEnna as it is vital in maintaining connections with other organisations and in giving prospective members a taste of Soroptimism. Also to bring in a 'shadow' to train up over the year.

Social media: Pat asks for support for her and Liz with the website. Note that SIGBI is in the process of changing the website. Assistance with i)posting data on LinkedIn where much information is exchanged; ii)posting/sharing posts e.g. on Orange Cafes on Facebook. **ACTION** members to volunteer to assist Pat.

Business meeting 13.05.26 Chaired by Alison.

1. Apologies: Elena, Sue, Elaine, Christine, Winifred. All other members were in attendance. Angela joined the meeting online as a guest and was warmly welcomed by the group.

2. Minutes from the last meeting were agreed

3. Matters arising not covered by the agenda: Nikki Celebration of our 100th anniversary. Based on views expressed within the survey, the event will be an afternoon tea, in a private room within a venue such as the members building at the zoo or the Botanic gardens. It will be held on a Saturday in Sept or October 2027. There will be some music, short speeches, cake, tea and coffee and prosecco for the toast. All those connected with the club will be invited along with reps from the region, SIGBI and a civic dignitary. The event will be self-financing and members can bring partners along if they wish. Nikki kindly offered to lead the planning, with Sue and Clephane (after autumn) to assist.

4. Scotland South event: Dorothy advised that eight club members are attending. After a discussion, it was agreed that Gari would host a summer social gathering for our club at her home and invite the interns who will benefit from meeting with women from other professional backgrounds. This will be held on Wednesday 10 June 5.30-7.30pm. Contributions in cake-form are welcome. This will replace the business meeting that will now take place on 24 June.

5. Finance: Dorothy has received all subscriptions except for Liz L who has not responded to attempts to contact her. Dorothy will pay the capitation fees.

6. Membership: Anna reminded all the May is membership month and gave details of the successful and enjoyable event at the recent Grange Fair. She is following up on 10 potential new members. Angela confirmed she had found us via social media. Alison thanked Anna and other members for their support at the event.

7. Programme Action: Liz gave a brief update on the following –

The Art College prize – three candidates will present their work 20 May and the judging will take place on 25 May.

The Sept business meeting we will take a deep dive into the programme action activities to review progress and set priorities.

Engaging with politicians – The meeting with Christine Jardine MSP was very successful and she is keen to keep in touch with us. She offered to host a cross-parliamentary drop-in café as part of the 16 days of activism. All agreed this would be a good opportunity and Liz will follow up to confirm a date.

Next Orange Café – after discussion, we agreed to plan the next one for August, possibly at the Book Festival café. Pat advised that other clubs don't necessarily stick to holding their OCs on the 25th of the month. They schedule them according to what suits and the best place to be. Garden centre cafes might be an option for us to consider.

Survivor Information Scotland Project: we have good representation on the Scottish Government working group. There is some concern that the website is being implemented from a tech perspective, without strong user views about accessibility and safety.

Safe travels on railways project: the report from this work has just been published. Liz will circulate a link when available.

The Knife Angel is coming to Edinburgh (Kirkgate centre on 25 Sept) as a focal point for raising awareness about knife crime. There was some discussion about arranging an Orange Café to coincide with this.

8. Scotland South: All agreed with the proposal for the Region to retain £3500 for training and joint activities; the remaining money to be allocated to clubs, giving us £500.

9. SIEnna: Gari advised it has been a privilege to produce the newsletter and remains committed to this continuing but will be stepping down from editing SIEnna from March 2027. All members confirmed their support for SIEnna continuing as a source of internal information and our outward facing communication platform. Nikki offered to take

the lead for the technical aspects and after discussion, it was agreed that all members would be responsible for providing news/information. We will include SIEnna as a standard agenda item at each business meeting. Gari will draft a proforma / template for ideas about the content.

10. Forthcoming events:

20 May – Art College presentations

25 May judging and decision

28 May presentation of prize

10 June – summer social at Gari's home

24 June – re-scheduled business meeting

27 June – Scotland South 90th celebration in Dunfermline

25 August – Orange Café

31 October SIGBI conference

11. AOCB Anna advised we have two visitors – Teresa Breen and Tessa Feuch

Francesca Mutapi's art is on display at Newington Library

Nikki advised that the request for information from Janet S. to support Isobel Noble's nomination was successful and thanked Clephane for finding the photographs

Friendship links – correction to the previous minute – the link with Perth South is very active. Nikki had previously requested a link with Berlin. Suzi P. is following this up. Alison will collate a new list of contact details for friendship links.

SI Caldwell (Idaho) - Irene keeps in touch by letter.

Cockermouth - Pat has been the link for several years.

SI Kiev - Winifred reports that the club is not functioning at the moment but members are helping others who are worse off.

SI Maribor - Lindsey reports that Maribor is the second largest city in Slovenia. Nada

Sabec sends chatty letters and as she has retired from university work she enjoys visiting Europe. Email nada.sabec@guest.arnes.si.

SI Riverside (S California) - Anna circulates their monthly newsletter.

SI South Perth (Australia) - Liz is the Link.

SI Caldwell (Idaho) - Irene keeps in touch by letter.

SI Edinburgh- membership report 13th May 2026

May is Sigbi membership month

Welcome this evening to Angela K.

This morning I have had email from Sigbi re Grace B. she has been a Soroptimist in Sydney Australia

She has relocated to Kelso in the Borders of Scotland

We have started off well by taking a stall at the Grange Fair last Saturday 9th 2026

Many club members helped in preparations for the Fair. 5 members were in attendance at the Stall. I would like to give a huge thank you to all those members who took some part in making it all happen.

On the day the stewards and volunteers were very helpful in carrying items for us. Another stall holder helped us erect the Region Banner.

Our stall was in the car park outside Newington Library. We were very near the plant stall. When the gates opened at the start of the fair people headed straight for the plant stall.

Over the afternoon the sun came out and we engaged with many women. Many of them would have benefited from the Scottish Government project on survivor information I have the names and emails of 10 women to follow up

New for this year were two young girls going round the stall holders and giving out free snacks with the support of their mother.

2 young girls from Steiner School had recently visited the Great Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels. They spotted the photograph of panel 123 "Votes for Women" on our stall which SI Edinburgh members had stitched. They were doing a project on the Great Tapestry of Scotland

It was a joy to see the children playing games in the closed off street
They were not in a hurry to go home!

Thank you again to all club members who made the stall happen at the Grange Fair
Anna

SI Edinburgh Meetings 2026/7 Chaired by -
Alison on May 13th and 20th,
Lindsey on June 24th
Nikki on September 9th
Elaine on September 23rd.
Sue on October 7th & 21st
Liz on November 11th
Elaine on November 25th
Clephane on January 6th & 20th
Elaine on February 24th
Elaine on March 10th
Alison for the AGM on April 28th

We need volunteers for Business meeting on 10/2; Speaker meeting on 24/3; Business meeting on 14/4

And to conclude our Newsletter, another chance to see Soroptimists at work!

