

Carwen Wynne Howells

SI Haverfordwest & District

Carwen was born in Cardiff and grew up in the city before moving to Narberth in Pembrokeshire, Educated at Tasker's School in Haverfordwest, she returned to Cardiff to study at the Welsh School of Pharmacy, University of Wales, graduating with a B.Pharm Hons in 1972. She qualified as a Pharmacist at King's College Hospital, London in 1973. She spent 23 years working in the NHS in England and Wales before joining the Senior Civil Service in 1996, on her appointment as Chief Pharmaceutical Adviser to the Welsh Government and Chief Pharmacist for the NHS in Wales, the first woman to be appointed to such a position in the UK. She was made a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (FRPharmS) in 1993 for distinction in the profession of Pharmacy, awarded the Guild of Hospital Pharmacists Silver Medal for services to the profession in Wales and awarded a Fellowship of the Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique (FFIP) in 2019 for leadership in the profession globally .

Carwen was invited to join SI Haverfordwest & District in 1984 and remains an active member of that Club though she was 'adopted' by SI Barry & District and SI Cardiff whilst her work base was in Cardiff and often drops in when back in the city. She has held numerous positions at all levels within the Organisation and served as Federation President 2008-2009. Following her tenure on the Board of Soroptimist International she became the Procedural Consultant to International Presidents Alice Wells and Ann Garvie (2011- 2015). She currently serves as Board Administrator and Director of Number 63 (Soroptimist) Limited.

She considers herself fortunate to have been able to visit and experience the programme work undertaken by Soroptimists in a number of countries and to see that women, working together, really can make a difference to their local communities. One of the things that has given her most pleasure was when her Club asked her to serve a second term as Club President for the Club's 50th Anniversary in 2012 , she admits she enjoyed it far more second time around! She was also delighted when the Region of Wales South made her an Honorary Member in 2015, that was a very special moment .

Past International President Yvonne Simpson said: "Carwen is modest, reliable, hardworking and supportive with a delightful sense of humour. She has an astute mind and freely shares her knowledge and skills. She utilised her knowledge to make progress, working with what we had authority to do, rather than using it as a block". Helen Murdoch, member of Soroptimist International Wales South said "it is fantastic to have Carwen as a member of SI Wales South. Even though she has reached such high positions within the organisation (SIGBI and SI), she is still very much a 'local' and very active Soroptimist and is always willing to give advice and share her experience and expertise."

Pat Barker B.E.M from SI Haverfordwest said: "Members of our club have long been grateful to Carwen for her insight into all Soroptimist matters. Her involvement at national level and travels worldwide developed her great experience and encyclopedic knowledge of SI which she has been more than happy to share with club members. Carwen has a great sense of fun, taking part in all kinds of social activities associated with the club including ringing hand bells, taking part in sketches and reciting Albert monologues. She is a greatly valued member of SI Haverfordwest".



Carwen continues to maintain an active interest in her profession at the international level and is involved with FIPs campaign for championing women in global pharmacy. She has represented the United Kingdom Joint Committee for Women (UKJCW) on the Board of the European Women's Lobby and served as a member of its Policy Board. She has served as a Trustee of the Women's Equality Network Wales (WEN Wales) and also as a Trustee of the Haven Wolverhampton one of the UK's largest charities dealing with the effects of domestic violence.

She splits her time between Pembrokeshire and Cardiff, enjoys walking, music, pilates and reading and is still attempting to learn Greek.