

## **NOMINATION for 100 4 100**

### **Dr Mary Buchanan – Honorary Member SI Medway and Maidstone**

Mary joined SI Maidstone in 1967 as a young GP, was Club President 1973–74 and Regional President - South Eastern Divisional Union 1977–78.

Over last five decades she has been involved at local, regional, national, and international level.

**1991** - elected International Coordinator for Health - included representation at WHO. Mary chaired President Thelma de Leeuw's international convention in Nottingham.

**1995** - appointed International Liaison for Quadrennial Project, SIAM, 'Soroptimist International Aids Mediation'; working with national Thai Organisation, PDA, this addressed AIDS Education and Alternatives to Prostitution for Northern Thai Women. Building on the pilot project in one village, quickly expanded to 10. Education of girls was key, plus training in alternatives to joining commercial sex industry through schemes like fish farming; chicken raising; hairdressing; weaving, aided by a village bank. By end of year 1, not one young woman had left the village to join the commercial sex industry. In 1997 Mary was involved in a successful application to UK National Lottery for £73k. This enabled further development into 13 villages along with establishing an endowment fund of £600k for SIAM. Now at least 19 villages are involved, and scholarships continue. Mary led tours of Soroptimists to the project.

At the start 90 young women from the area had gone to work in the sex industry in one year. At the end of the four-year project, the number was just nine.

As a Soroptimist, Mary has seen and met people she otherwise would not have met, travelled to parts of the world that she could only have dreamed of, and got to know a wealth of people especially women, who have shared their lives and experiences with her.

**2002** - as Europa Donna (European Breast Cancer Coalition) Co-chair of 3<sup>rd</sup> European Breast Cancer Conference in Barcelona a chance encounter with a senior cancer researcher from Kent, conceived the idea for Kent Cancer Trust. Clinicians and scientific research specialists developed this to focus on issues to relieve suffering of cancer patients and improve provision of cancer care in Kent. The Trust's role is to liaise with Kent universities and other seats of learning to sponsor and support relevant MSc and PhD students researching cancer issues, which can be related to cancer patients in hospitals in Kent. At the University of Kent, Mary is involved in the selection and mentoring of these MSc and PhD students and continues as Chair of Trustees. She remains strongly associated with Europa Donna, and was the second President.

Mary is an Emeritus Member of American Association of Clinical Oncologists, a Life Member of BMA, and Life Fellow of Royal Society of Medicine. Within Kent, she also served for 30 years on Board of Visitors of East Sutton Park, Women's Prison.

**2004** - Mary was made a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary Club of London for medical charity work. She received a second award in 2015.

**2020** - on 24 January Mary was admitted as a Freeman of the City of London.