

Joan Mafina Jones

Police Superintendent

Joan Jones was born on 19 June 1933 in Treherbert, Rhondda, South Wales. Her father, having been unemployed for two years during the recession, brought his family to Coventry in 1937.

During the war Joan was evacuated twice to South Wales and attended six schools before reaching Stoke Park Grammar School for Girls in 1943.

Following a course at Coventry Technical College, she worked in various offices before joining the Police Force in 1956. She rose through the ranks, progressing to Superintendent in charge of Sutton Coldfield Police Station in 1979, retiring in 1984.

When Joan joined the police force in 1956 there were only eleven women in a women's department, with one Sergeant and one Inspector. A policewoman's salary was 90% of a man's and policewomen were not allowed to be attached to any departments such as Special Branch, CID, Traffic, Aliens, Found Property, Administration, Training, or Prosecution. The chief remit was women and children, offences by and against them.

Joan Jones was a Soroptimist for many years and served as President of SI Coventry in 1984-5. She was one of the first women to achieve the rank of Police Superintendent.

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