

Florence Reid (1915-2009)

Florence Reid became a member of SI Kirkcaldy in 1956 and remained a committed, enthusiastic member until she died in 2009, one month after her 94th birthday.

She was a role model/pioneer in her profession, and carried out work paid or unpaid, which has positively and measurably transformed the lives of women and girls

Florence was an Area Speech Therapist for Fife Education Authority when Speech Therapy was in its infancy, Fife being the first local authority to provide Speech Therapy for children. She gave a talk to the club about her work in October 1955, and members appear to have been impressed by Florence's talk and by the lady herself, as she was invited to join the club, which she did in 1956. She went on to serve on most committees in the club, becoming President in 1969.



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In the community, Florence gave many hours of her time serving on the committees of both Age Concern and Crossroads, which provides support for Carers, for numerous years. She represented SI Kirkcaldy on these committees and kept the club updated on the organisations' activities. Through her work with Crossroads in particular, Florence made a difference to women as they comprised the vast majority of carers they supported. Florence was also a Friendship Link correspondent with an Australian SI club for a short time. In 1996 she was made an Honorary member of Kirkcaldy club for her 40 years' service, and in 2006 she was proud to receive a SIGBI long service Award for 50 years' service.

Scotland South Region made Florence an Honorary member in the millennium year for her loyal attendance at Region meetings, also recognising her service as the Region Representative for Age Concern and as a former Representative of the Federation Benevolent Fund. Florence enjoyed attending Region meetings and giving her reports, which she did without ever referring to notes, even in her 90's.

After retirement Florence began to enjoy foreign holidays and attended Federation Conferences and the International Convention in Turkey in 1983. In 1988, along with three other Kirkcaldy Soroptimists, Florence visited the Friendship Link club on Vashon Island, near Seattle, USA.

Florence's attendance at club meetings was excellent, and she was an enthusiastic and active member. Even in her later years she was always open to new ideas, and new ways of doing things, and was very supportive of the club. During the last three years of her life she was unable to attend meetings due to failing health, but she maintained her interest in the club right up to the end. Florence had a wonderful sense of fun and always enjoyed a party, organising lunches on her own birthday and stipulating everyone had to wear bright clothes to her funeral.

Florence was a very generous person both with her money and with her time, and Club Presidents have commented how helpful and supportive Florence was to them when they were feeling their way in a new role. Florence Reid was the epitome of a 'good Soroptimist' – enthusiastic, kind, keen to serve the community, reliable and supportive. Above all, Florence enjoyed life and the company of her fellow Soroptimists for whom she was a positive role model.