

## JUNE ROSEMARY WILSON LLB 1929-2015

June Wilson was born in Liverpool in 1929 but was later moved out of the city to escape the bombing. In 1947, she was articled to her father's firm of solicitors in St. Helens and despite working during the day, she achieved a first-class degree in Law from Liverpool University in 1952. Once admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in 1953, June joined her sister Barbara as a partner in a solicitors' practice previously established by her grandfather and father. At the time it was believed to be the only solely female practice in the country – a remarkable achievement at the time! June continued to practise following her marriage in 1955 and the birth of her sons, finally retiring in 1989.

In 1955, June joined SI St. Helens with the category of Solicitor and her priorities became her family, her law career and her membership of the Club. The aims and objects of Soroptimism were woven into June's very being and she was passionate about the advancement of the status of women and girls and their active participation in decision making at all levels of society. She became Club President in 1962 and went on to hold the offices of Regional President, Great Britain and Ireland Federation Treasurer and in 1987, Treasurer for Soroptimist International. In recognition of these achievements, June was made an Honorary member of the South Lancashire Region.

June was very much a people person. She gave support and encouragement to Club members and encouraged them to go further in Soroptimism than they thought possible. She was loving, kind and generous but non-judgemental with a wonderful sense of humour. In the midst of any Club arguments, June would calmly rise to make a point that sorted the matter out and was greatly respected for her sound logic and wide experience.

As a Soroptimist, June travelled the world, including visiting St. Helens' twin Club Apapa in Nigeria. She attended a number of Royal Garden Parties, and in 2007 she met HRH Princess Anne (a speaker at the Glasgow SI Conference) who was staggered to learn that she had been a Soroptimist for over 50 years.

Other interests included cars and golf which June played to a high standard, becoming Lady Captain at Ormskirk Golf Club in 1979. She also served on committees at Formby Ladies Golf Club where she contributed her legal and accountancy skills. She was also a good bridge player and an enthusiastic and knowledgeable gardener.

June demonstrated real concern for the well-being of her local community and gave her time tirelessly to Meals on Wheels in Ormskirk and to representing SI St. Helens on the inaugural committee which established Crossroads for Carers in St. Helens.

June became ill in 2014 and subsequently became virtually housebound. She died peacefully on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015 aged 86, still as 'sharp as a tack'.

