

## Hilary Clavering

Hilary joined Soroptimist Sunderland in November 1973 and held ALL positions at Club: Region (DU): Federation & International levels. Including Trustee SIGBI Benevolent Fund and Treasurer of Number 63 and Share Registrar of Number 63 for 25+ years.

From 1995 to 1997 she was International Treasurer serving with President Patsy Daniels, when there were only 2 Officers on the International Board, the strap line was born in those two years of: 'Global Voice for Women' and is still used today. During that two-year term Hilary helped to set up the first 'Electronic Programme Focus Report Form', introducing computerised accounting system to head office of Soroptimist International in Cambridge.



Hilary has worked tirelessly for Soroptimism for the last 47 years and still holds an Officers' position in her Club. In 2012 Hilary was awarded Honorary Life Membership of SIGBI.

Professional Career: Leaving school Hilary joined a large High Street Bank and worked on Decimalisation and Computerisation. In 1972 in the days before equality, Banks did not encourage married women who wished to have a career, she then joined a large legal practice as Practice Manager introducing Computerisation for the onset of VAT in 1973. She had a long and varied career until retiring at age 73 to concentrate on her garden and outside interests.

Voluntary Work in the Community: Away from Soroptimism Hilary has worked for many years as a Trustee to two Almshouses in the City of Sunderland, both registered Charities.

- Woodcock and Elizabeth Bowes Maritime Almshouses in Gorse Road
- Jane Gibson Almshouses situated adjacent to the Sunderland Minster

Almshouses are for people who have little financial resources and need help with housing. Both Trusts had criteria which was outdated but have been redrawn to help find residents who need help and are in different circumstances to the criteria when they were first allocated.

In addition, Hilary is a committee member on the local Cancer Research UK Committee, who work on a local basis to raise money for the main organisation to raise awareness and to fund raise.

In 2007 she was appointed as a Non-executive Director with Sunderland Primary Care Trust until it ceased in 2011

Hobbies and Interests: Her hobbies are mainly gardening in her large garden and walking, not heavy walking just local walking at the coast or in the countryside. She enjoys cooking and since retirement she has done more.

### Ask Hilary why she became a Soroptimist

She joined Soroptimist International of Sunderland in November 1973. Introduced by a work colleague. Her professional life was extremely busy, becoming more involved and committed within Soroptimism. Attending Divisional Union Meetings (Region), this she found fascinating and her whole life became Soroptimism.

SI. of Sunderland and the Region of Northern England are very proud of the dedication, enthusiasm and continuing commitment that Hilary has shown to our organisation. She is always open to new ideas but values our vision and mission and works tirelessly to promote our programme work as well as encouraging new members to understand and play as active a role as they can.