

Ann Bagnall

SI Bangor Northern Ireland

Ann Bagnall has been a member of Bangor Soroptimists for 38 years. She joined in 1982 because she wanted to make a difference to the lives of under privileged women and girls, and see advancement in the status of women here and throughout the world. Anne has been Club President in 1995-96 and 2016-17. She was Northern Ireland Regional President in 1997-98.

Ann has travelled with her Soroptimist Sisters to Hong Kong, Beijing, St Petersburg and Amsterdam in the advancement of International understanding of the issues women and girls are experiencing in those countries. Ann was keen to see that her International Sisters were helping to create opportunities for women and girls to transform their lives. Ann is driven by the mission of transforming lives through education and empowerment.

Ann began her working career as a State Registered nurse and throughout her life she has continued to make an outstanding contribution to civic society in her community. Together with her husband Robert, they set up Cruse, the first Bereavement Care Service in her home-town of Bangor. For over 30 years the service offered help to bereaved families and women prisoners. Ann was also instrumental in setting up a Home Start organisation supporting young families experiencing difficulties in her local community. The majority were young single mothers with children under the age of five.

Whilst working and rearing her family, Ann started a Girl Guide company amongst the girl boarders of the College where her husband was Chaplain. They took the boarders away on trips and to summer camps. She also studied part time, obtaining a Diploma in Social Studies and a BA Hons Degree from the Open University. Ann proceeded to take a Masters in Social Work and was awarded the Brian Rankin Medal for research.

Ann has held many leading roles in local society – all of which demonstrate her caring nature and her strong desire to help others in need. She has been a role model in her profession displaying high ethical standards.

Ann was the Assistant Director of Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health and was instrumental in setting up Beacon House – a sanctuary where people with mental health problems could go to, and feel a sense of community and belonging and experience the healing power of friendship.

Ann was also a social worker for special schools for seven years and sat on the Adoption Panel for seven years.

She was Assistant Director of Bryson House, Belfast (1987-91) with responsibility for Family Services. Bryson House is a charitable group providing care services aimed at addressing major social issues, for example, poverty, getting the long term unemployed back into work.

Ann believes in Human Rights for all and in her role as non- executive Director of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board (from 1983-89) , she was successful in upholding the rights of a young disabled girl who was unable to speak out for herself.

Ann has been an Executive member of the University of the Third Age since 2017.

Ann looks forward to a Brilliant future for all women and girls, in which they can achieve their individual and collective potential, realise their aspirations and have an equal voice in communities worldwide.

