

Dorothy Cartwright MBE

Dorothy Cartwright, known to us as 'Dot', is a truly local lady, born and brought up in Ince village, where she still lives in her childhood home with husband George. She has two children and three grandchildren, and is now a very proud great grandma to Noah.

In 2006 Dot was honoured with the MBE for services to the Crown Court, where she spent the majority of her working life. Beginning in the Lord Chancellor's department, later renamed Her Majesty's Court Service, she served for thirty years. Her role was as supporting usher at the Crown Courts on the North Wales and Chester Circuit. She has worked with the Police Family Protection Team and NSPCC, setting up best practice to protect children attending court to give evidence. She was instrumental in introducing the system of video link for children and vulnerable adults. She was active in training police officers in court procedures to ensure a secure experience for witnesses attending court.



Dot has been a member of SI Ellesmere Port and District for 35 years and is very well known to our region's members as she has always been a regular attender at Region Meetings and SIGBI Conferences. She served as Region Rep at Federation for two years and Region Membership Officer for four years. She was Region President in 1996-1997.

At club level she has served as Programme Action Officer and has been our club Secretary for many years. Dot has been President of our club three times and all members agreed that it was only fitting that she should lead us again as President in Soroptimist International's hundredth year. All members, whether new or established, look to Dot for guidance and advice, and she is generally considered 'the fount of all Soroptimist knowledge'. She is the glue that holds our club together.

It would be impossible to list all the work Dot has been involved in as a Soroptimist, so I will outline one particular project that Dot has spearheaded since 2004 and which continues to this day. After the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004, SI Ellesmere Port was made aware of the plight of two orphaned children, Delini and Budhini. The club decided to assist in paying towards the girls' education and when they had reached adulthood, we joined with our Friendship Link SI Colombo to support three preschools in the area which were struggling financially.

Dot was so involved with this project that she travelled to Colombo with her daughter and two of her grandchildren to meet Delini and Budhini, taking cases full of educational equipment for the preschools. In 2011, mainly due to Dot's dedicated work, our club was delighted to receive the Programme Focus Objective 7 Award 'Meet the needs of women and girls during and after armed conflict and disaster'.

When not engaged in Soroptimist activities, Dot's other love (apart from husband George!) is live theatre. She has been involved with the Ellesmere Port Pantomime Company since 1976, giving amateur actors, children and adults, the opportunity to 'tread the boards'. She is the current Chair of the Pantomime Company, working hard to ensure the continuance of this important local institution. Dot always makes sure that the Pantomime Company donates tickets to local charities for children and adults, including the local Women's Refuge.

Dorothy epitomises the essence of Soroptimism; she is dedicated to the organisation and its aim to improve the lives of women and girls across the world.