

## **DOROTHY CLARK MBE**

Dorothy Clark, now in her 90th year, is a truly exceptional person with outstanding attributes, which render her worthy of recognition as one of the most inspirational and high achieving women of the past century.

Relentless in her pursuit of excellence, Dorothy has inspired change and enriched the lives of many worldwide. Dorothy attended Sir William Perkins's School in Chertsey, gained a Teaching Diploma at Phillippa Fawcett College and an MA at Southampton University. She is a Fellow of The Royal Society of Arts. Later followed the Award of MBE for outstanding service to education.

Dorothy has given distinguished service to Education and the Community, spanning 65 years, holding a variety of teaching posts, ranging from Class Teacher to Head Teacher, and served as Inspector of Schools for both Surrey County Council and Ofsted. She served, voluntarily, as Chairman of Governors at Burhill School for over 20 years.



A vibrant 'Ladies who Lunch' Club has been just one of Dorothy's outstanding community successes.

A long-term member of World Education Fellowship, Dorothy participated in conferences in USA, Japan, Australia, India, Holland, Scotland and England. Dorothy was also a member of The Central Bureau, selecting British teachers for the US / UK Teacher Exchange Programme.

Deeply committed to the principles of Soroptimist International, Dorothy has travelled the world extensively, furthering International Goodwill and Understanding, with particular emphasis on transforming the lives of women and girls.

Since becoming a founder member of SI Elmbridge in 1978, and subsequently an Honorary Member, Dorothy has held office as President Southern England and Education Adviser to the Federation, and has encouraged exchange visits overseas with America, Barbados, Denmark, Norway, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, England, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka has played a significant part in Dorothy's dedication to her fellow human beings. In Sri Lanka with her family in 2004 at the time of the tsunami, Dorothy committed herself to the ongoing support of two sisters, aged 7 and 13, orphaned by the disaster. This she achieved with the aid of friends from all corners of the world, and the girls have both reached their goals, finishing university, and the older sister is now married with a baby.

Dorothy's story is testament to her inexhaustible energy, versatility and zest for life. Her responses to the challenges of adversity have been greatly impressive, as on the two occasions mentioned here. Firstly when her dear son, Charles, was lost at sea, she took on the mantle of running his pub in Norfolk for two years. Secondly, whilst suffering cancer, she took to the stage as a fashion model, fund-raising for Breast Cancer Care.

Dorothy has a keen sense of family values and is proudly supported by her husband Dennis, a Soroptimister, property developer, former local councillor and philanthropist, by their daughter Sally, a Head Teacher, and by her husband David and granddaughter Claire.

Dorothy Clark is a legend of this century.