

Jean M Clarke MBE 1928-2010

Jean Clarke was a member of the Reigate and District club for many years until her death in 2010. She was a valued and energetic member of the club, supportive of all members and all projects. Jean was club President in 1984-5 during the club's 21st anniversary year. During the year she welcomed the Southern Region Grant of Friendship recipient, Liz Stewart, from New Zealand. Jean was active as the club's Press Officer. When convenor of the membership committee, Jean arranged a survey of members' satisfaction with all aspects of the club. This prompted a number of changes and showed Jean's commitment to people, which was evidenced so strongly in her career. With her husband Ron, Jean hosted club committee meetings and social occasions in her beautiful house and garden.



Jean was enthusiastically committed to her profession, working in public and school libraries before her move to the library at St Thomas' Hospital in 1960, and a distinguished career as a hospital librarian. Jean was very active in the development of hospital library services, contributing to many publications including '**Hospital Libraries: recommended standards for libraries in hospitals**'. She contributed papers as a speaker at conferences as well as to the organisation of these conferences. Jean played a key role in the development of bibliotherapy (or reading therapy), using books with patients to help them recover, and she was a main contributor to '**Guidelines for library provision in the health service: a consultative document**' (1978).

In 1969 Jean moved to the international stage, becoming secretary and then chair of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), Libraries in Hospitals subsection. She travelled abroad to give lectures in her specialism and contributed to the IFLA 'Guidelines' for library development through the world. Jean's outstanding achievements led to the award in 1986 of the MBE. She had contributed to many journals and books including joint authorship of '**Hospital Libraries and Community Care**,' and joint editorship of '**Reading Therapy**'. Jean edited, and largely wrote the 4th and 5th editions of '**Reading for the Visually Handicapped**'.

During Jean's service and management, library services St Thomas' were seen as a centre of excellence, and by the time of her retirement in 1988 she had become District Librarian for West Lambeth Health Authority, responsible for libraries at South Western Hospital and at Tooting Bec Psychiatric Hospital, as well as St Thomas'.

In addition to her commitments as a Soroptimist and Librarian, Jean was active in the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Associations, the National Trust and her local Methodist church. Both in her professional activities, as a Soroptimist and all aspects of her life Jean was notable for her personal kindness, her encouragement of others and her care for people.