

## Lynn Dunning 1954-2009

Lynn joined SI Ramsbottom in 1985. Her category was that of Drama and English teacher at Woodhey High School, Ramsbottom. She soon became a very prominent member of the club and her excellent ideas, particularly on Programme Action, were inspiring.

Lynn progressed very quickly in the club, eventually becoming President in 1988-1989, and proceeded to lead the club in a groundbreaking project called 'The Health Fair', held at the Town Hall in Bury. This involves many different agencies within the community and proved a considerable hit. The Club had never worked on anything of this scale or ambition before, but with Lynn's guidance, enthusiasm, energy and foresight, this was to prove a blueprint for her many causes locally, nationally and indeed internationally.

Her professional and personal career advanced when she became one of the Deputy Headteachers at the school and she later married Brian Dunning, a fellow Deputy Headteacher at the same school. She was Club President again in 1991-1992. Her Soroptimist career advanced considerably through the region, eventually becoming Regional President of South Lancashire in 1994-1995. In 1998 she became Headteacher of Darwen Vale Secondary School.

Her Soroptimist career continued to flourish and she held several Federation posts before becoming SIGBI Federation President in 2001-2002 and ultimately International President in 2005-2007.

Lynn's determination and vision were unbelievable and her determination to raise awareness resulted in many areas of action, particularly internationally. Bed nets for mosquitos, landmines, and her obsession for obtaining toilets for young women and girls were some of her many ideas, long before they became internationally famous in the media. Everyone will remember 'Loos for Lynn'. This project was taken forward in her memory at the Manchester Conference in 2010 when club members sold toilet rolls and took a collection to add to funds already raised.

Unfortunately she was dogged by ill health, being diagnosed with cancer, but even during her courageous battle with this disease and its treatments for several years, she still continued to give 100%, turning her school from a 'failing' one to an 'outstanding' one and also achieving much in her various roles in Soroptimism. Additionally she was recognised in her county for her outstanding achievements, and was awarded 'Lancashire Woman of the Year' in 2009.

Sadly, Lynn finally succumbed to the illness and died in October 2009 aged 55 years.

She was an absolutely amazing woman and an outstanding Programme Action Ambassador, with thoughts and ideas way beyond the norm for the advancement of women and girls worldwide. The theme for her Federation Conference in Glasgow November 2002 was 'Imagine the Impossible - Create the Reality', demonstrating her philosophy that all things are possible through determination and effort. Lynn will always be remembered with pride, not only by Ramsbottom members but by Soroptimists worldwide.

