

Anne Ainsworth

SI Cambridge

Anne was born in Norfolk and went to school at Notre Dame in Norwich. She left school at 16, as at the time the only career they could offer her if she stayed on to do A levels and went to University was teaching, and she knew that was not for her. She decided to follow her parents into the Civil Service and chose the Inland Revenue, starting as a Tax Officer in Norwich. Anne progressed up the ranks with promotions and in-house training and ended up as a commissioned and fully trained Inspector of Taxes.

During this time she was proposed as a member of SI Norwich by her father's boss and a friend of her mother-in-law. She had no choice and has never regretted her decision.

Following a relocation of her husband's research station, she followed him to Cambridgeshire and became the deputy District Inspector for Huntingdon, and also stood in as District Inspector in other offices in the region when required.

In 1986 she became disillusioned with the job, which was becoming more that of a policeman rather than helping the public to pay the correct amount of tax, and she took the opportunity to leave and join in partnership with a Chartered Accountant specialising in tax matters, and together they built up a comfortable practice. The job was incredibly varied: one day discussing tax planning with a millionaire and the next sorting out a carrier bag of papers from a small trader who had never heard of bookkeeping. Sadly, her business partner died in 2014 and Anne continued the practice on her own until her very recent retirement.

During this time Anne also progressed in her Soroptimist life. She has always regarded herself as a "back room girl", supporting Presidents in their duties but not seeking presidential office herself, although she managed to be President of SI Cambridge 4 times. She was very interested in Programme Action and served as Programme Action Officer for the Region for several years, arranging speakers and events in conjunction with Regional Meetings, and also conference, to whet the appetite of members for Programme Action.

Anne developed a love for Africa and has been a supporter of CAMFED, which provides education for girls in Zimbabwe and other African countries. Anne's other great love is motor racing. After competing in rallies in the 1960's, Anne switched to organisation and ended up as a Steward at motor race meetings, adjudicating on appeals and objections and driving standards. As light relief, and as a publicity occasion, she arranged for the Club to marshal on a Classic Car rally – members still remember this.

In view of her accountancy background she was in demand as a Treasurer, and served her Club, the Region and the Federation in this position for several years. During her time as Federation Treasurer she was privileged to travel on several occasions with the President, visiting overseas Clubs and



projects in Africa. She also visited Conferences in other Federations and thus gained a deeper knowledge of Soroptimism and how it works. Whilst she was Federation Treasurer she acted as advisor to the SIGBI Board for 6 years and had the privilege of attending Board Meetings.

In 2003 Anne was appointed International Treasurer, a post she much enjoyed, and she worked hard to get Soroptimist International on a sound financial footing. In her spare time she acted as Treasurer to the International Conference in Nottingham in 1991 and Federation Conferences in Birmingham, Durban in South Africa (very different) and Bournemouth. She also served on the committee of the Newcastle conference.

One of the highlights for Anne as a Soroptimist was when she was made an Honorary Member of the Federation in 2005, a rare honour.