

## Carole Holdcroft

### Our Carole the Cannock Collector!!

Carole Holdcroft has been a dedicated Soroptimist at SI Cannock & District since November 1986. She was President in 2016/2017, membership chair and Team President twice, Press Officer, Speaker Secretary 10 times and has been our Treasurer for 6 years.

Carole is a great mentor to the newer members of our club, always available to give advice, have a friendly chat at our meetings or on the other end of the phone when we need it. But it is in giving practical help where Carole excels! She looks for useful ways to help those in need. Kathy Coe, founder of The Pathway Project– Action Against Domestic Abuse explains how Carole has been helping her for more than 26 years.

“Carole first contacted me to ask if I could talk to the Soroptimist group about the work we do at Pathway with victims of domestic and sexual abuse. She was so moved by the plight of our service users and the fact that many of them left with nothing, that she started collecting clothing, toiletries and household items to help them.



She has been such a wonderful support to us over the years. When anyone is in need we call in Carole and she has pretty much furnished whole homes for families in need. She has also got to know and support many women and children emotionally as she has provided for their needs. Carole is like an angel. She quietly goes through life making a real difference to families who have little support, no means to start their new life, and no-one to help them. There have been hundreds of families, whose lives have been touched by Carole at a time when they were losing all hope. To have someone do so much to help has kept them going through the worst time in their lives. We all love Carole and she has our gratitude and respect for all that she does”

When talking about their meeting, Carole said ‘I thought, this girl needs some help!’ Her efforts to help the families who came to Pathway in their time of need earned her the nickname, ‘Carole the Cannock Collector’!!!

Keen to ensure that this work will continue, Carole enlists the help of her two granddaughters, educating them on the benefits of giving support to those in need. Carole’s work for Pathway continues to be vital to its success in supporting victims of abuse and she is a Patron of the charity.

In addition, Carole organises our annual Christmas lunch for the homeless of Cannock. She sources the food & marshals her fellow Soroptimists in cooking a three course meal, something she has been doing for over 20 years.

Oprah Winfrey said ‘When ordinary people decide to do extraordinary things they transform their lives and the lives of others around them’. Carole has been doing extraordinary things for 34 years, things that have transformed hundreds of lives.