

## Dorothy Howes, SI East London

Dorothy Howes has been a member of SI East London for over 30 years. She is a living history book. A fount of knowledge about SI East London's former members and the club's history, she is generous in sharing her knowledge.

Dorothy was invited to join SI East London in 1987. At that time she had heard the name 'Sorooptimist' mentioned but no one was able to tell her much about them. One weekend by chance she met Dr Margaret Adamson (retired Chief Medical Officer for the then London Borough of Barking). Dr Adamson asked Dorothy about her work and then suddenly said 'Why are you not a Sorooptimist?' That was the start of Dorothy's Sorooptimist journey.



Being "accepted" into a Sorooptimist club was very different in the 1980s than today. Although she had been invited to join, she still had to wait almost 6 months before being accepted and initially attended social engagements to meet the members. In those days the names and details of prospective members were "tabled" at a club business meeting before a decision was taken to invite a member to join. Dorothy says "I obviously met the right professional criteria, and duly found myself being inducted into SI East London in May 1987." Having been accepted as a member of SI East London, she was tasked with "dealing with" formal invitations to other Sorooptimist clubs' and organisations' lunches, dinners and meetings.

Since those early days, Dorothy has been enormously active as a Sorooptimist. She has been Club President twice (1993-1994 and 2008-2009), Club Secretary, Executive Committee Secretary, Programme Action Officer, Membership Officer, Social and Fundraising Officer and Club Representative to Region. Dorothy was London Anglia Region's President 1996-1997. Following that she was the Region's representative to Federation (SIGBI) and 1999 to 2003 was the Councillor for London and Eastern representing clubs in 3 Regions - London Anglia, London Chilterns and Southern England. Among her varied roles, she was a member of the Federation PR, Marketing and Development Committee, spent "a wonderful year" 1998-1999 as Federation Representative on the Board of No 63 and was also on the 2000 SIGBI Cardiff Conference organising committee.

Dorothy Howes has had a full professional life and worked for 52 years as a journalist. She started her career as a 'lady reporter' in Selkirk in 1959. Moving to London (Ilford) in 1962, Dorothy then worked for a news agency which supplied the national press with news from East London and south and mid-Essex. Dorothy found herself reporting for the Evening Standard, the Times and the Daily Mirror as well as other prestigious titles. She reported on a wide range of topics, from the east London dockers on the Isle of Dogs to the new building of the University of Essex. In 1968 Dorothy joined the media department of Barnardo's, working initially as a journalist and press officer and later as an information officer until she retired in 2011.

She remains a valued member of SI East London.