

AMY KERRISON, 1927-2014

Amy Kerrison, a committed Soroptimist with 44 years' service in South Shields, died in 2014 aged 87.

In 1955 Amy, as a QARANC army nurse, was serving in Hong Kong when she met her future husband, Roger. In 1958 they returned to England and were married. After having two children she returned to work, first as a Health Visitor, and then as a Lecturer in Child Health. Amy continued in that field throughout her working life, and in 1992 she was appointed Chairman of the local Community Health Council.

Amy joined S.I. South Shields in 1970, and throughout her time with the club she held various offices at Club, Region and Federation level.

Amy soon became our Friendship Link Co-ordinator, proceeding to Programme Action Officer and then Club President in 1985/86. As Friendship Link Co-ordinator she made friends with Inglewood, California, and twice visited them. Whilst there she met our founder, Violet Richardson-Ward. Amy also made a link with the Jaeran club in Norway, and joined them for their 25th anniversary in 1999.

At Regional level Amy held the office of Programme Action Officer and was Regional President in 1985/86. In April 1995, as co-ordinator for Project Five O, 'Women Co-operating Internationally in Development', Amy organised a Conference in Durham entitled "For Women in Development". Attending were members of S.I. Northern Region and representatives of the Mother's Union, the Association of Women Graduates, the Voluntary Organisation for the Equal Opportunities Commission, and the Social Welfare Research Unit of Newcastle University. Amy had an article about "Five-O" in "Celebration Jubilee", a booklet produced for the fiftieth anniversary of the Northern Region.

At National level Amy worked on the "Global Voice for Women" involving 124 countries worldwide. One of their projects was 'Limbs for Life' in Angola, Afghanistan and Georgia. In 1986 Amy represented SIGBI at a European Conference in Warsaw on "Child Care and Child Health, Peace to Children" and undertook exchange visits with the National Council of Women in Poland and Hungary.

During the period 2003/07 Amy was the Federation Programme Advisor for Economic and Social Development. Over that period, she attended International Conferences in Istanbul, Melbourne, Nottingham and Sheffield.

In the publication '75 years of SIGBI - Memories of Members' there are two photographs of Amy with our founder President Violet Richardson-Ward and an article, by Amy, of her time with Soroptimists and how things have changed.

In later years, and when her health allowed, Amy still attended and contributed to the club and regional meetings. Amy will be remembered for her lifelong commitment to the ethos of Soroptimism, with respect and affection not only by her own club but by the wider Soroptimist community.

Amy's yellow and blue tie was heavy with her badges representing visits to, from the top, Hawthorne, California; Inglewood; Hawaii; Istanbul; Melbourne; Nottingham, the Yorkshire Rose; Club Past President and Northern Region Past President. (32 words)

