

## Pat Sloman (1927-2004)

Pat Sloman, affectionately known as the 'Duchess of Dorchester', joined SI Bournemouth in 1965. In 1970, Pat transferred to SI Poole and remained a member until her death in 2004, aged 77. She was Club President from April 1975-76.

Pat also filled a role higher in Soroptimism, being the International Programme Co-ordinator from 1983-87. This work included a visit to Senegal where she used her journalistic skills and, with Evelyn Caron from SIE, made a film for the SI Quadrennial Appeal about the lack of water. Pat championed the cause of the Senegalese people, and the film '**Water for Senegal**' helped the project to raise a considerable sum of money for \$555,000 for the project partnered with UNICEF.



The Senegal Project was aimed at providing clean water in six regions in Senegal, contributing not only to the improved health of children and mothers, but also generating economic and educational activities. Local Senegalese Soroptimists acted as liaisons with the local community by encouraging participation in the planning, construction and maintenance of the project as well as educating the community. In particular women and children were provided with learning on the basic principles of health, sanitation and nutrition and management and marketing seminars were run to help with income generating activities.

Pat was a journalist and then a TV presenter – the first female news presenter on BBC South. She worked as women's page editor on *the Bournemouth Echo* in 1965 before going into television, eventually becoming a familiar face on *Home At 4.30* and *Day by Day*.

Pat was a strong and dynamic person. She held a number of roles including that of public affairs director for Dorset. Later, she would become a trustee with Poole Arts Centre and was on the executive board of UNICEF UK.