SI BOOTLE founded in July 1938

***Founder members***

**Vashti E. Murray JP** (affectionately known as Nell)

Profession: Pharmacist

First female pharmacist in the town of Bootle, Lancashire.

Being the only female in a male profession, customers would enter the shop and ask if the chemist was ‘free’, to ask for advice or with personal health questions. Vashti would reply “He is very busy, but I will go into the back and ask him for you”. She would return to the shop counter with the advice or the answer to the customer’s question. Customers went away very happy. But why didn’t anyone ask why they didn’t see ‘him’? Most probably because Vashti had a male assistant – and people assumed he was the chemist.

Bootle President 1953-54; 1970-71.

**Doris Rutherford**

Profession: Builder

At that time the only female builder in Bootle or, to our knowledge, in Merseyside. She had her own business; her builder’s yard was in the area near Marsh Lane.

Bootle President 1962-63

**Dorothy Scattergood**

Profession: Senior Housing Officer for Bootle County Borough

As you can imagine during the war and post-war years this was an extremely taxing position to hold, especially being a female in a male-dominated profession.

Bootle President 1945-46

# *Having been chartered in 1938, and with the outbreak of war in 1939, these Founder Members took the momentous decision to continue with ‘business as usual’ as the records of the club illustrate. We owe a great deal of gratitude to these women.*

**Pauline Birkett**

Profession: Education Administrator working in Bootle’s schools’ section.

Joined Bootle Club in 1962. In 1971 she became the (then) youngest-ever President of the South Lancashire Divisional Union (now Region). Pauline was photographed with her successor ‘record breaking’ president, Victoria Smerdon, in 2014.

Bootle President 1968-69; 1983-84 and 1998-99

**Eileen Burridge**

Profession: Senior Road Traffic Accident Officer, Bootle.

Specifically took road traffic safety education (‘Green Cross Code’) into schools. Her ‘alter ego’ training tool was a large squirrel called Tufty. Consequently wherever she went, even when shopping, she was recognised; children’s voices were raised in “there’s Mrs Tufty”. She always gave her time to stop and speak to them.

Bootle President 1974-75

**Rene Parker**

Profession: founder of WRVS section in Bootle at King George VI centre in Bootle

Bootle President 1980-81

**Mrs. Dorothy Wilson**

Profession: Home Economics teacher at St.Vincent’s School for the Blind

Joined Bootle Club in 1971. Dorothy was a gentlewoman, quiet in speech and a stickler for protocol, so was always addressed as ‘Mrs’ as a courtesy to her. She was very involved with her Soroptimism, the Women’s Institute and her church. Extremely active in her pursuits, and when asked how she found the time to support so many activities her reply would be “I would rather wear out than rust”. She was still a member when she reached her 100th birthday, before eventually retiring to a nursing home. Her valued contribution was greatly missed.

**Jacque Emery**

Profession: Senior Schools Adviser for P.E (Sefton MBC Education Department)

Joined Bootle Club in 1990 until her work required her to move south. She returned in 1999 until her work again caused her to move, and she transferred to SI Canterbury. Started Young Musician of the Year competition in Bootle: this continued for many years.

Bootle President 2002-03

**Judith Briscoe, JP**

Profession: Senior Librarian in Lancashire County, then Sefton MBC, specialising on work with children and young people.

Joined Bootle Club in 1970. She was excellent in debate, and she steered conversations many times along the right path. She was instrumental in posing an amendment to a motion on breast cancer being debated at the 1999 Federation Conference in Dublin. This added the words ‘and men’ to the motion – men also suffer with breast cancer. In spite of some fierce opposition the amendment was carried. We were extremely proud of her. She was an active member until becoming ill; but she continues her membership with the club, and we keep her updated on all club matters.

Bootle President 1976-77, 1988-89, 2003-04

**Pat Martin, JP**

Guide captain, Trefoil guild member, church warden, JP, eternal treasurer - Pat has contributed so much to the community along with her husband. She continues to work tirelessly for the welfare of her community and Soroptimist projects.