



## INTERVIEW WITH DOROTHY, VOLUNTEER AT THE NHS THRIFT STORE



### WHEN DID YOU START WORKING AT THE THRIFT STORE?

When asked how long Dorothy had been volunteering at the Thrift Store, she told us that it had been sometime in 1998 because “I was still working when Princess Diana died and that was September 1997, so I think it was around January 1998.

### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE THRIFT STORE AS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION?

I chose the Thrift Store because John and I have always had dogs and when I was growing up, we always had cats. That is why. And when I went into the store to do a bit shopping, the ladies were always very friendly, and I thought to myself that I would like to volunteer. I couldn't stay at home and do housework! :-)”

### CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR EARLY DAYS AT THE STORE?

“When I started, I would come to the store on Monday and Thursday and 6 of us would sort the clothes and the pricing and display. Then we would bring the clothes up to the top of the stairs, leave them there and the girls upstairs would take them into the shop. I used to love doing the front window – that was fun. We would come up from the basement to put the household items on display. The store was open everyday, and they had 2 people to do the cash. There were quite a few volunteers at that time.”

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### DID ANY RESPONSIBILITIES CHANGE OVER THE YEARS?

“My responsibilities as a sorter have not changed much over the years except now, we don't have one team doing the sorting as there are different sorters per shift now. Instead of everything being individually priced as we are now, and because of the amount of – we would categorize them – pants \$4.00 etc. and then it came back to individually pricing because of the amount of donations we now receive. But I think one of the biggest giggles was when we moved to Covert Street, we did all our sorting downstairs and we would have to stand on the pallets because the basement would flood and the thing was “Ahh don't drop it on the floor!” I worked with Gwen who was a war bride and was very easy to work with.”

### IF ANYONE IS CONSIDERING VOLUNTEERING WITH THE SHELTER OR IN THIS CASE, THE THRIFT STORE ANY WORDS OF WISDOM?

“Just have fun with it – especially the sorting. It's just like Christmas - you never know what you are going to get! And remember, you are doing this for a good cause. Where would the little animals be if there weren't people like us. I've always liked the people I work with, and the customers are always fun to interact with as well. You come in, you have a good time and you don't have to stay home and do housework!!”

Thanks so much Dorothy for all your years at the NHS Thrift Shop, keeping us on our toes and most of all for that fantastic sense of humour and that smile!!

Interviewer:  
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