

# Hi, I'm Sue

---

## Who is a woman that inspires you?

My mother has inspired me over the years and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to her. England was at war and at the age of eighteen my mom received her call up papers. She was only given two postings during her time in the Women's Royal Air Force. Sadly, a few weeks on, she received news that her father had collapsed and passed away. Following his death, she was granted leave to attend his funeral. The irony of life, you could say. After the repatriation, my mother volunteered to help prisoners of war returning home to be reunited with their families. She did enjoy her time in the WRAF, and one of the reasons was because she received three meals a day and she had never known that. She thought herself lucky if she got one decent meal a day. Money and food was scarce back then. My mother entered the WRAF as a young girl but left as a young independent woman. This woman had firsthand experience of what it was like to live in difficult times, but continued to stay strong and keep striving forward. She worked hard all her life to provide for her family, giving each of her five children the tools to deal with the difficulties that life has a habit of throwing at you when you least expect it.

## What has changed since you started at Guy Carpenter?

When I first started work in 1969 office life was very different than it is today. There were no computers or photocopiers. We did not have drink machines – they employed ladies to service hot drinks from large urns. Only the senior staff were given biscuits with their morning coffee and afternoon tea. Back then, only the men were awarded a Christmas bonus, whereas the women were given a £25 gift voucher. The senior positions were held by men and it was extremely hard for a female to gain recognition of any kind. I am pleased that this is no longer the case today and most women are given the same opportunities as men.

## What advice do you have for those starting their career?

You can't look back later on in life and say 'if only' I had done this or 'if only' I had done that. Only you that can make it happen. Never give up, keep going even when you come up against a hurdle. Find a way to work through the problem and never be afraid to ask for help or guidance on your journey to fulfilling your aspirations. Take full advantage of the learning tools available to you.

**#BalanceforBetter, #HerStory, #WomensHistoryMonth**

