

Mrs Catherine Carmichael Sharp MBE 1917-1995

President SI Dunfermline 1974

Catherine was born in 1917 and educated at Dunfermline High School and Cranley School in Edinburgh. She attended Edinburgh University, gaining a Bachelor of Commerce, also winning the Accounting Medal.

Joining the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAFS) in World War Two, Catherine was based and worked in radar at RAF Burifa Hill, near Dunnett Head, the most northerly point of the UK mainland. This was where she met her husband, a Canadian Air Force Flight Lieutenant, Douglas Sharp. She went to Canada in 1947 on the Queen Mary, one of the 'war brides' ship, with their first child. Following the death of her husband in an accident, she and her young daughter and two sons moved back to her home town of Dunfermline in 1953.

Catherine was one of the first women to become a life trustee of Carnegie Dunfermline and Hero Trust Funds in 1957, becoming the first woman to preside in their board room at their office in Abbey Park House in Dunfermline. In 1987 she accepted the role of Chairman of Carnegie UK Trust, the first woman so to do. When Catherine died in 1995 her family were very touched by the presence at her funeral of a member of the Carnegie family.

Catherine served at the Dunfermline Centre of the British Red Cross and chaired the Dunfermline Committee for Cancer Research. She was a J.P. Catherine was active on the Fife Valuation Appeals Committee and the Dunfermline District Social Security Appeals Tribunal.

She was also a member of Dunfermline Female Beneficent Society and the Dunfermline Branch of the Children's League.

Catherine was fondly known as 'Mrs Dunfermline' for all the voluntary work she undertook.

Catherine was President of SI Dunfermline in 1974, when her nominated charity supported work in heart diseases. It was well known that she loved her 'chain gang' lunches.

In 1985 Catherine was presented with her M.B.E. by the Queen at Holyrood.

She was noted for her gift on never forgetting a face and remembering where she had met them. She had a great sense of humour, a strict code of etiquette and a very receptive mind. Her daughter Rosemary, also a Soroptimist, comments that she was a brilliant mum and supported her children through life and university and worshipped her 8 grandchildren!

A great soroptimist in the widest sense!

