



Caroline Harper 1863-1937

PLG, City Councillor JP & Sheriff of Nottingham

Caroline the daughter of a clergyman, married a surgeon and lived at 5 Regent Street. She was active in the Local Government Association from 1890's campaigning for the political representation of women on civic bodies. In 1910 she became a poor law guardian and in 1918 she became vice chair and then in 1925 became the **first** woman chair of the Board of Guardians. In 1916 she was appointed with Helena Dowson and Mary Ball onto the anti-profiteering committee. She also was a member of the Statutory Committee for Mental Deficiency, and Chair of the ex-service women and War workers Association. In July 1920 she became the **first** woman Conservative City Councillor, elected unopposed for Market ward from 1920-1937- she was also president of the ward's Women's Conservative association a position she held until her death. She was one of the **first** Nottingham woman magistrates in July 1920. She was appointed the **first** woman Sheriff of Nottingham in 1931. She had a personal interest and commitment to the Midwives Association, to mental health and to education – she chaired the Education Committee. Caroline was a keen sportswoman captaining local cricket and golf clubs and at various times chaired the Nottm Ladies swimming club. She was described as displaying inexhaustible energy, showing sympathy and understanding and that her work was characterised by earnestness and efficiency. She died from a heart attack at 1 Lucknow Avenue in Mapperley Park