

MARGARET SHARP, BARONESS SHARP OF GUILDFORD

Born 21st November 1938. is a Liberal Democrat member of the House of Lords. She was educated at Tonbridge Grammar School and Newnham College Cambridge, where she gained a BA in 1960.

She had a successful career as an economist before entering the House of Lords. Sharp's work encompassed both academic and public service, starting in the civil service, followed by a long spell at the London School of Economics, a short spell back in Public Service with the national Economic Development Office in the late 1970s and, since the early 1980s, with the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex. She retired from the University of Sussex in 1999, but retains a visiting fellowship.

She was leader of the Liberal Democrats Higher and Further Education Policy Group and spokesperson for Education and Training.

In respect of the Industry she has:

1. In 2003 with BPEC and Chris Sneath as Chair of the Plumbing and Heating Industry Alliance she became involved in a project to introduce "Big Books" for Primary School children key stage 1 for 5 to 7 year olds (Mr Peter Plumber rescues Mum and Dad from a flood) and key stage 2 for 7 to 11 year olds (Hanif the Plumber explains to Hannah and Thomas how central heating in our homes relates to the subjects they are learning at school).
2. In the same year she helped and assisted with a Studycard project to some 5000 Secondary Schools. This encouraged youngsters to devise their own school project involving some form of heating and plumbing activity, such as calculating the reduction in power needed if a house was insulated or addressing energy efficiencies in their school. The project carried a prize of £1500 for the school and £250 worth of book tokens for the winner. Both winners were girls!
3. She has become involved in the "Conservation of Decorative Plumbing Leadwork Training" and attended the inaugural meeting in February 2012 chaired by PM Chris Sneath, and organised by Assistant Peter Rumley and is hosting the special reception on this subject in the House of Lords in May of this year.
4. In September 2011, she hosted the Worshipful Company of Plumbers reception at the House of Lords to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of being granted their Charter in 1611 by King James 1st.

CS March 2013.