



Fanny Gladys Roberts is holding the poster

(photo from Museum of London)

## **Fanny Gladys Roberts 1888-1975**

### **Suffragette**

Fanny Gladys was born in Bradford, she is sometimes referred to as Fanny, sometimes Gladys and sometimes as Miss F G Roberts. She had taken a typing course in Bradford and was the Secretary of Bradford WSPU, where she drew caricatures and rhymes on blackboards.

In the summer 1909 she was helping Helen Watts in Nottingham. She was a former solicitor's clerk who lived at 6 Carlton Street – an address also given by Nelly Crocker in an advert for underwear to be sold at a WSPU Christmas Fair. Fanny was imprisoned in 1909 and 1911 for breaking Post Office windows and her name is on an embroidered suffragette handkerchief held in the Sussex museum.

She cannot be found on the 1911 census so may have been an evader. She and Nellie Crocker took over at the Nottingham Office in about mid1911. In 1912 Nelly Crocker and Fanny were both imprisoned for three months in Holloway Prison for breaking windows with hammers at the Post Office on the King's Road Chelsea. They went on hunger strike and were forcibly fed. They returned to Nottingham in June 1912 and were given a celebratory supper.

She then disappears until 1939 when she is recorded as secretary to an Orthopaedic Surgeon Professor Garthorne Robert Girdlestone in Oxfordshire. Fanny Gladys Roberts lived in Oxfordshire with Dorothy Vincent Carey and she died in 1975.

