

## **Sarah Barker Merrick nee Babbs 1869-1933**

### **Secretary Hucknall NUWSS branch, Headteacher**

Sarah was born in Derby moving to Hucknall as a young teacher at Beardall Infant School. After 2 years training she became a headteacher of Morton Infant school near Tibshelf.

In 1894 she married Joseph William Merrick also a teacher and they lived in Walsall and Upper Broughton before moving to The Knoll on Beardall Street in Hucknall. She was very active in public life and very supportive of women's suffrage joining several demonstrations in London. In 1910 Helena Dowson held a suffrage meeting in Hucknall and by 1913 Sarah is running the local branch of NUWSS above a teashop in the High Street.

Sarah was also secretary to the British Women's Temperance Society and was a Labour Party candidate for the Basford Board of Guardians, of which she became the first woman member. She fought strongly in this position for better conditions for the poor. She also stood as a Labour County Councillor but wasn't successful. It is interesting to note that her husband was a prominent Liberal.

Sarah was also for many years associated with the Adult School movement being both president and secretary of the Hucknall Woman's Branch for a time and Minute Secretary of the County. She died aged 65 at Vernon Lodge Nursing home on Waverley Street in Nottingham and is buried in Hucknall.