



### **Alice Dowson 1844-1927**

#### **Activist and Suffragist**

Born to a middle-class family in Cheshire Alice moved to Nottingham on marriage to Benjamin Dowson a solicitor (1870 set up Dowson and in 1874 Dowson and Wright) with whom she had 10 children by the age of 34. They built a large family home Felixstowe – Ben was from Norfolk and the family often holidayed there. Felixstowe was on Clumber Road West in the Park (burnt down in 1960's).

Alice a Liberal, was active in various social and political matters, spending 4 hours in the market place listening to debates re the election in 1866; being active in the campaign to repeal the Contagious Diseases Act and in March 1869 active in campaigning to protect women's property rights and being on a committee working to allow women to be appointed as Poor Law Guardians. In 1870's and 80's she attended various women's suffrage meetings and she became secretary of the Nottingham's branch of Women's Suffrage Society in 1894 though she handed over to her daughter in law Helena Brownsword Dowson - Nellie in 1896 when she was suffering ill health. Felixstowe was also given to Nellie and Will in 1906 when Alice and Ben retired to Overbank, Upper Boughton near Melton Mowbray. Later the extended family rented a property in Salcombe in Devon which they later bought and remained in the family for 100 years+ She also became a PLG. We know a lot about her activities as her granddaughter Alix Meynell, published Alice's diaries 'What Grandmother Said.'