



## **Constance Mabel Jeans 1899-1984**

### **Olympic swimmer**

Connie dived into Nottingham Portland baths on 11 October 1919 and set a new All England best time in the 220 yards freestyle with a time of 3.04.0 which is celebrated in a plaque at the Portland Centre.

Her swimming career started before WW1 when she won the Midland District 100 Yards Freestyle in 1913. She repeated her victory throughout the war years until 1919, by which time she held all the British records from 150 yards to 500 yards. She also set world records in the 200, 400 and 500yard races between 1915 and 1919. She won 12 national titles and was one of four swimming sisters who represented Nottingham Ladies Swimming Club, training at the Portland Baths.

Her achievements are also acknowledged by the 'Jeans Trophy' which is awarded to the fastest female senior swimmer in the 100m Backstroke at the Swim England National Winter Championships (25m). Connie also competed in the 1920 & 1924 Olympics competing in 100, 300 and 400 freestyles events and the 4 x 100 freestyle relay.

She was the **first** Nottingham woman to gain an Olympic medal winning 2 silver medals in the relays and coming 4<sup>th</sup> in the individual events. She was also the inaugural ladies long distance swimming champion in 1920 and had hoped to swim the channel in 1927 but weather conditions prevented it. Connie never married and worked as a schoolteacher and became headmistress of Sneinton Dale Secondary School in the 1950s.