

Edith Anne Lees 1881-1964
Suffragette, Founding member of Nottm branch
of Nat Council of Women.

Edith was born in 1881 at 37 Derby Rd, Nottm. She married John Martin Lees a haberdasher in 1902 and they had 3 children and lived at 8 Ebers Grove and ran a haberdasher's business at 28 – 30 Carlton Street in the City.

Edith became involved in women's suffrage and in her scrapbook there is a newspaper report of a Resolution in favour of women's suffrage passed by Nottm Council from 6 February 1911. There is also a photograph of a production of Cicely Hamilton's 'Pageant of Great Women' performed at the Mechanics Institute in May 1911 with we believe her son John Lees Jnr.

The 1911 census has a return for a John Martin Lees at 8 Ebers Grove with 2 children and a servant – Edith does not appear here or anywhere else on the census so it is likely that she was an evader. On 4th March 1912 she is arrested for wilful damage after breaking windows in London. She gave a false name Annie Baker - her mother's maiden name. She was bound over to keep the peace at Bow St Magistrates Court. She was tried at Kensington on 19th March and appears to have been discharged on 26th. She was pregnant with her 3rd child so this perhaps is why she was discharged. She is on the Roll of Honour of Suffragette Prisoners 1905-1914.

Edith became a founder member of the Nottm branch of the of National Council of Women as did many ex-suffragists and suffragettes seeking to further the cause of women. At a meeting of the 'Nottingham Efficiency Club on 8th December 1920 she speaks on the subject of 'Women in Business' emphasising the benefits to having women in business and saying 'When they have ore lady members of Parliament they will be able to use their influence in the right way.' She died in 1964 aged 82 and is buried in Wilford Hill Cemetery in Nottingham