



Ida Hackett nee Chichlow 1914-2012

Activist, Communist, Women against Pit Closures activist

Born in Warsop Ida's father was a miner who was victimised at Warsop Maine colliery in 1921, and this led to her long association with miners. She began work in 1931 at the Co-op where she became an active trade unionist.

She was elected to the Mansfield May Day committee where she met her husband Ernest they married in 1939 and became a team. In 1938 she joined the Communist party and was a candidate in municipal and general elections and a member of the party's executive in the 1960's – 70's.

She became a key figure in the 1984–5 national miners' strike even though she was over seventy, chairing Notts 'Women against Pit Closures'. Within 6 weeks of the Notts. committee being set up a national committee was formed. She spoke at meetings outside Notts. appealing for support for the miners, traveling all over the country. She co-ordinated all of the support groups eg weekly deliveries of £1500 worth of groceries and vegetables from north London to Nottingham. She wrote in the Morning Star to raise money and support and approx. £4000 a week poured in. Her husband Ernest answered phones etc at home on behalf of Women Against Pit Closures.

In 1984 they celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary and attended a huge 'Food for Victory' event on the Forest. After the strike ended Ida was a key figure in the campaign to reinstate 14 sacked miners and helped their families. Later she campaigned for justice for pensioners and remained alert and active up to her death in 2012.