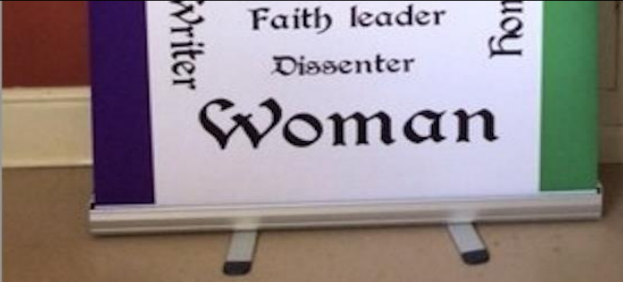
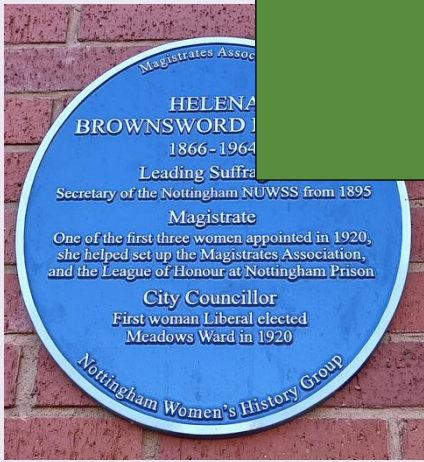


# NOTTINGHAM WOMEN'S HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER ISSUE 17 AUTUMN/WINTER 2024



Magistrates Association  
**1920-2020**  
**100 Years of Women Magistrates**  
After the passing of the Sex Disqualification Removal Act on 23rd December 1919 women were able to be Magistrates  
On 20th July 1920 the first women appointed in Nottingham sitting at the Guildhall in Burton Street were  
**Helena Brownsword Dowson 1866-1964**  
**Mary Ball 1866-1946**  
**Caroline Harper 1863-1937**  
Nottingham Women's History Group

# Chair's Welcome Autumn/Winter 2024

We hope you all managed to find some sun over the past few months and have charged your batteries for the coming season. Personally, I love autumn and can't resist collecting the conkers from the trees in my road. There's something about their rich glossy brown sheen that I find irresistible.

Nottingham Women's History Group had a successful summer season, with three different walks: Poverty, Prosperity and Politics in May led by Mo Cooper; Highfields and Campus Women in June and September led by Miriam Jackson; and Women Authors in July led by Ro Edlin-White. We've continued working with primary schools to deliver lessons about the suffrage movement in general and Helen Kirkpatrick Watts in particular (any excuse to dress up!) and as if that wasn't enough, we were busy hosting and providing talks. In June, Val Wood gave an excellent talk about the Feminist Archive now lodged at Nottingham University's Manuscripts and Special Collections (we do hope you managed to catch the exhibition in the Weston Gallery), and Bromley House again generously hosted us for an event in September about Mary Bailey, lace runner and poet. We also provided talks for groups as diverse as WI meetings, Rotary Clubs, independent living centres and even a book group.

Best of all, we published *Nottingham Herstory: 50 Remarkable Women*, which does what it says on the cover: it tells the

stories of 50 remarkable Nottinghamshire women from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. If you haven't already got a copy, you can find it at Five Leaves bookshop, and The Bookcase at Lowdham for the paltry sum of £5. Or you can email us at [nottmwomenshistory@gmail.com](mailto:nottmwomenshistory@gmail.com)

We have also enjoyed collaborating with Rachel Carter on the *Standing in this Place* project. We shared a talk about the project, lacemaking and Nottingham women abolitionists at Nottingham Central Library in September, and we are eagerly looking forward to the installation of the statue in the Broadmarsh Green Heart, currently scheduled for January 2025. Meanwhile, the associated *Speak Her Name* exhibition will continue at the Library till the 31<sup>st</sup> October, and there will be a film about the statue and the project at Broadway Cinema on 1<sup>st</sup> December – see also **Dates for your Diary** below.

But we don't rest on our laurels! We have an exciting programme lined up for autumn-winter 2024-2025. The first event will be our AGM on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October when Mo Cooper will tell the story of Miss Morrison and her School of Dance, followed a month later by Karen Winyard's talk filling in the gaps of Mary Bailey's life on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November. In the New Year we will return on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025 with a talk by Nicola Webb who will tell the story of Mary Anne Sharpe, a maid in the Chaworth-Musters household. See **Dates for your Diary** section for further details.

We are planning more walks and talks for 2025 and we also hope to have two more blue plaques to women by the end of the year. Plus, look out for NWHG International Women's Day Collaborations around 8th March 2025. Watch this space, as they say!

Sian Trafford

# The Kiss-in at Hyson Green Asda

One of the many unexpected joys of archiving the living, for me, has been hearing the stories of brave and imaginative campaigning that I knew nothing about even though I have (slightly obsessively) read local and national newspapers almost since I first learnt to read.

The first one was the beauty contest at The Palais where two local activists got through to the final and unfurled a wrapover skirt to reveal a Women's Liberation banner accompanied by leaflets and shouting from supporters in the audience. This was two months after the 'famous' 1970 'Miss World' demonstration in London. Another was the Lincoln Women's Action Group 'for women only' calendar featuring male 'models' which made national and international news after local printers refused to print it.

A few months ago, I interviewed another local activist for the Feminist Archive at Nottingham University. Amongst her inspiring life story was a very local action; a 'Kiss-in' at Asda, Hyson Green.

Judi Juno had been living with her son and teaching in a small village in Derbyshire, a place she loved. Such was the hostility from some people when it became known she was having an affair with the wife, not the husband (which was implied to be acceptable) of a recently separated local couple, she felt she had no alternative but to leave. She ended up re-locating to Nottingham having found an incredibly welcoming community when she went to a disco in the Lesbian Centre (then part of The Women's Centre on Chaucer Street).



Judi holding a pink placard by the right lion on Market Square. Courtesy of University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections.

In Judi's own words:

*... but I remember the first time going to one of those, I just sat in the middle and thought, Oh my God — I'm surrounded by lesbians. Well, they weren't all lesbians. Anyway, loved it. And met loads of women. I mean I remember going to the Forest Tavern, which is on Mansfield Road. And the minute I stepped through the door, everybody turned round and one woman came to me and said, 'you're new here, aren't you?' and I said 'yeah' and they went, 'well come on in, let me introduce you...*

Judi and her 10-year-old son got a house in Forest Fields,

*... and we heard about this thing that happened at the Asda. A couple of young women had been kissing in Asda and had been thrown out by the management. We're not having that sort here type of thing. Anyway, the community heard about it and it all went out around town — everybody was like invited to come at a certain time and come to Asda and we would like have a kiss-in. But I remember saying to my son, do you think we should go? 'Cause you know I don't really know anybody — He was about 10 or 11, he was very political at that age. He was really into it all and he was like yes, we definitely should go. I said, well supposing nobody comes, he said 'Oh*

*well we'll go shopping then. It'll be alright'. So off we went. We got down the road and — one of those magical moments because there was a queue of lesbians and gay men going all the way down the road round the corner all the way down Gregory Boulevard. There was just hundreds it felt like —Anyway, it was fantastic. We all filed in and we all mingled with the shoppers. The thing was, they were going to blow the whistle and you had to turn to the nearest person of the same gender and kiss them, so we did. And I turned to this, I turned around and there was this woman that I really fancied. Oh, died and gone to heaven — Well you know you had to do your duty. So that was wonderful and I just thought, wow, this is the place to be. And then I started going to Greenham 'cause women I knew were at Greenham...*

Judi's story is longer and includes more details of her activism and her career of which this is just a very small part. I have included one of the photos digitised for the archive which shows her holding a pink placard in front of the right lion on market Square.

I've tried to use mainly Judi's words in this account, taken from the transcript of her oral history interview (stored at The Feminist Archive (East Midlands) along with 44 more interviews, 33 boxes of archive materials donated by 40 women, 11 gb of digital materials, magazines and newsletters and 2 fascinating, as yet uncatalogued, boxes from the 1970's that someone brought to my house last week.

These can all be accessed, by prior appointment, in the Manuscripts and Special Collections Reading Room, King's Meadow Campus University of Nottingham. +44(0)1159514565  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections)

Thanks to another brilliant local archive, The Sparrow's Nest, I was subsequently able to find this account, photo and advert for a celebration disco.

*The kiss-in ... clearly took both shoppers and staff by surprise with a medley of chants including "We're here, we're queer and we're not going shopping". The action, which lasted 15 minutes, culminated in the presentation of a letter to the manager from the lesbian and gay communities of Nottingham. The demands included an unqualified apology from the store and a promise not to discriminate against lesbian and gay shoppers expressing affection in the future.*

They were, at that point, waiting for a response from Asda's head office ...  
 Tina Pamplin

Issue No.20  
 December 1991

**OUT RIGHT** FREE  
 Gay Freesheet for the East Midlands

**IT ASDA BE OUTRAGE!**

Over 100 angry lesbians and gay men occupied a Nottingham supermarket last month and held a 'kiss in' in protest against the expulsion of a lesbian couple for kissing in the store.

The 'Kiss-in', organised by Nottingham Outrage, took place in the ASDA supermarket in Hyson Green, Nottingham and clearly took both shoppers and staff by surprise with a medley of chants including "We're here, we're queer and we're not going shopping" echoing round store.

The action, which lasted 15 minutes, culminated in the presentation of a letter to the Manager from the lesbian and gay communities of Nottingham. The demands included an unqualified apology from the store and a promise not to discriminate against lesbians and gay shoppers expressing affection in future.

OUTRIGHT spoke to the Store Manager, Mr. Adams, who apologised for being fed up when our reporter first called. He said he was unable to comment but said that everything had been passed to their head office in Leeds. We contacted their Leeds head office but their public relations person as 'unavailable' at the time.

continued on back page



**ABSEILERS DROP IN ON LEICESTER SHOPPERS**

Twenty three volunteers in fancy dress surprised Leicester shoppers on World Aids Day as they abseiled with HIV and AIDS in the county. None had abseiled before and there were a few queasy lummies before the event, but all it was a novel way of drawing public attention.

Large crowds of six hundred or more gathered in the street below and the 90 strong team of LASS (Leicestershire AIDS Support Services) hours, without accident or mishap.

continued on back page

**It ASDA Be OUTRAGE!**  
*continued from front page*

Simon Wright, a spokesperson from the new Nottingham Outrage group said: "Our first action has been a huge success. The BBC estimated 100 demonstrators but we lost count. The huge turnout shows the strength of feeling on this issue and our commitment to defend the people of our communities. We are waiting for a response from ASDA before planning our next move."

(Outrage meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 8.30pm Forest Tavern, Mansfield Road, Nottingham).

**OUTRAGE! BENEFIT**

*Celebrate the time we kicked ASDA's arse! From shopping to bopping, OUTRAGE! does it better!*

**Eight till Late at the Yorker, Mansfield Road, Nottingham on Wednesday 11th December. £2/£1**

# The Anti-Slavery Work of Ann Taylor Gilbert

NWHG joined the sculptor Rachel Carter in the Central Library on 7th September for her talk about the work she has been doing over the last few years leading to the creation of a statue of two women.

One figure is an enslaved Caribbean cotton picker, the other is a poorly paid Nottingham lace worker – they were both part of lace production so popular in Victorian England. The statue is currently being cast and will hopefully be installed sometime in November.

As part of this project Rachel speculated on what anti-slavery activity among women there might have been in Nottingham. I was aware that Ann Taylor Gilbert (1782-1866) was listed on our database as a poet, literary critic and anti-slavery campaigner; but I knew nothing more, and so started digging.

In *Women Against Slavery: The British Campaigns, 1780 – 1870*, by Clare Midgley I found that Ann was active in 1833 as part of the Nottingham Female Anti-Slavery Society. She organised the collection of over 15,000 signatures from women in Nottingham for the National Women's Petition.

The petition was an initiative by women such as Anne Knight from the Chelmsford Ladies Anti-Slavery Society and Marie Tothill from Staines. It was organised by the London society resulting in 187,157 signatures being collected from women in just 10 days.

In Nottingham, as part of this national initiative, Ann had petitions placed in all of the chapels and after only 18 hours of vigorous canvassing, including going

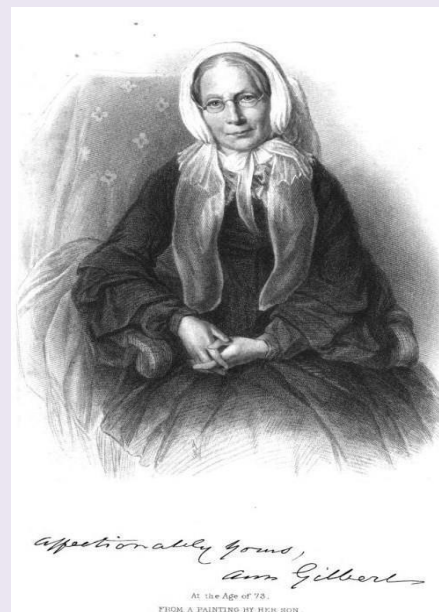
around people's houses, Ann and others succeeded in getting three times more female signatures than were collected from men over a much lengthier period. We know this from a letter dated 10th May 1833 and written by Ann to Mary Ann Rawson of Sheffield. The letter is held in the John Rylands Library in Manchester.

That so many women's names were collected also indicates there was popular female support, including from the working classes. To have achieved 15,000 women's signatures in just a few days suggests that there was already active opposition to slavery.

Their participation in this national women's petition reveals that Ann, and the women of Nottingham, were part of a broader movement. Indeed, this women's petition was the largest anti-slavery petition ever presented to parliament.

For more details about Ann Gilbert see her profile on our website [www.nottinghamwomenshistory.org.uk/notablewomen/anngilbert](http://www.nottinghamwomenshistory.org.uk/notablewomen/anngilbert)

Miriam Jackson



Painting of Mrs Ann Gilbert (née Taylor) at age 73 By Josiah Gilbert - *Autobiography and other memorials of Mrs. Gilbert* edited by Josiah Gilbert. Published by Henry S. King & Co. 1874, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=117421959>

# 50 Remarkable Nottingham Women

## A review from a grateful reader

The previous newsletter (issue 16, Spring 2024) from the 'Nottingham Women's History Group' (NWHG) contained enticing news of their forthcoming book entitled '50 Remarkable Nottingham Women'. This aptly named 'Nottingham Herstory' tells of female activists, campaigners, pioneers, radicals, 'Sheros', and visionaries. Now the group is very pleased to announce publication and availability via Five Leaves Bookshop, The Bookcase in Lowdham or direct from NWHG.

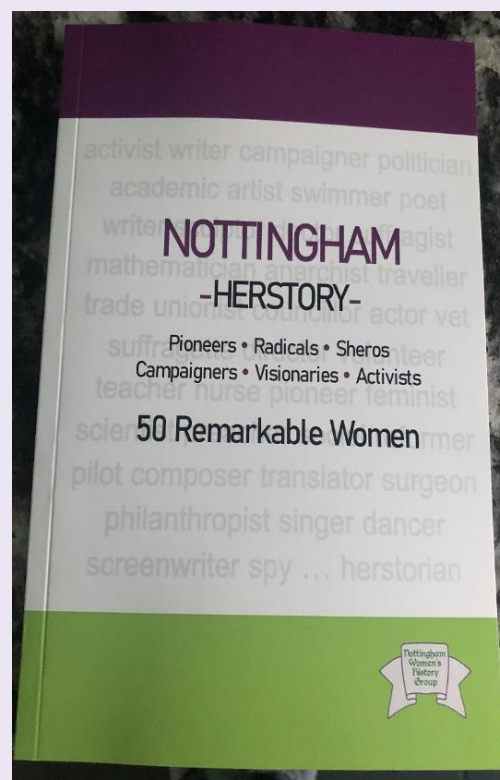
A small price it is to pay (£5) for this celebration of the lives of 50 women. Each of whom were either born, lived, and/or worked in the great city of Nottingham or wider Nottinghamshire environs. Most important, is that this book features women who were truly remarkable in their many and varied achievements.

Structurally, you can delve into this informative tome as you prefer: lucky her (open at any page), pick her (choose a name), start her (begin at the beginning); date her (choose an era). Any reading route that you choose will lead you on to insights about these fabulous women.

Like me, you may learn anew about many of these women. For instance, going back five centuries, the first female Quaker preacher (Elizabeth Hooton) was Nottinghamshire born, and her home (the aptly named 'Quaker House') can still be seen on Mansfield Road, Skegby in Nottinghamshire.

As we go through the ages, we finish right up to date with Valentine Nashipae Resiato Kyoto (1984-2023), a campaigner for anti-female genital mutilation (FGM). When the latter studied for her business Masters, she discovered 200 cases recorded of FGM in Nottingham, and organised the first FGM conference in that city.

You may also come across other women in this book that you know a little about, e.g., Ada Lovelace, Florence Boot, Laura Knight. But therein lies extra value from a thorough re-reading. For instance, Ms. Lovelace the 'pioneering computer scientist' was not only a mathematician, but I also learnt of her capacity for original thought - that a 'machine might mimic human creativity'. Florence Boot was not only Mrs Jesse Boot (Boots the Chemist), she was, in the United Kingdom, the first woman director and is proclaimed as a 'visionary businesswoman'. Then we learn more about Dame Laura Knight, another first - as a woman artist who was recognised as a Dame.



This book stimulates us beyond just reading about these remarkable women. We learn about their works and the environments created and inhabited by them. Thus, we find out that we can visit the burial ground of Ada in Hucknall; Florence Nightingale Hall at University of Nottingham; a plaque marks where Dame Laura lived in Noel Street, Nottingham, and we can view some of her works at Nottingham Castle.

Besides those four women already mentioned there are 46 others to review to recognise and celebrate the wealth of Nottinghamshire 'Sheros'. You will also receive a bonus as one entry (10.) contains not one woman but three, i.e. 'The Guilford Sisters' who were social reformers from the mid C19th.

Which brings me to mention another theme of this book that reveals, besides the women achievers of Nottingham, that this city and this county is large in its achievements – because of the push by those women and many others.

Another element of this book that I enjoyed were the images contained, including photographs of some of these women and the occasional book cover. I considered these added an extra feature to stimulate the imagination, what they looked like, how they dressed, and in reference to a work produced. From eras where pictures were less prevalent than today and thus, more precious because of that.

I certainly appreciated the vast amount of research that had been developed for this book to substantiate facts. Written sources are cited and images credited, so those of a mind to follow up can do so with ease. As a study, this book of 'Nottingham Herstory' contains worthy data, and is an informative read for students and scholars. However, the big issue is the inspirational read this book offers for all.

This book is an amazing journey that provokes any woman and man to realise the economic and social value of our assets — remarkable women of Nottingham across many centuries.

Linzi J Kemp

## Highfields and University of Nottingham Campus Women Walk

I led this walk for the first time on June 19th. This was a lovely evening and an enjoyable walk with a mix of known and unknown women featured.

I was delighted to see the Helena Dowson Auditorium which I knew nothing about despite having compiled our booklet about her, *A Tribute to Life*, and installing a blue plaque to her on the Justice Centre in the city.



The highlight for everyone was when we visited the Monica Partridge Building. I hadn't known that this building could be accessed by visitors until I was organising the walk, but the staff there were very welcoming. We spent some twenty minutes or so wandering around

their Trailblazing Women exhibition which introduced some unknown women and gave information on others such as Professor Monica Partridge herself.

She was Professor of Slavonic Studies and the first and only woman to have a Nottingham University building named after her. So, if you are having a wander around the campus, don't forget to pop in the Monica Partridge Building.

Miriam Jackson

## A Great Adventure Muriel Hine 1874-1949

I was chasing a quite different author in Nottingham University Archives when Muriel Hine's name caught my eye – just one book, *Wild Rye* - a happy accident and a most enjoyable one.



Muriel Hine, image courtesy of Nottingham Local Studies Library

During the inter-war years, Muriel was a prolific author of popular fiction, including a handful of semi-autobiographical novels based on her

early life in Nottingham, which she calls 'Lacingham.'

Muriel was the daughter of architect George Thomas Hine, who designed Mapperley Hospital and went on to become 'the' architect for innovative institutional care in the early 1900s. His papa was the more famous T. C. Hine, responsible for so many fine buildings in Nottingham. The George Hines lived in Wollaton when Muriel was small, but George lost a lot of money through an unwise investment and the family, now extremely hard-up, moved into town.

Hine Senior provided them with 73, Raleigh Street, a semi-detached house adjacent to All Saints Church in Radford. Modest, by Hine standards, 'Simla Villa' still retains the style and dignity one would expect at his hand.

In 1939, Muriel wrote *A Great Adventure*, which covers this period. Although it carries the usual disclaimer that all characters "are entirely imaginary and have no relation to any living person," this is barely true. Perhaps, since all her immediate family had died, she felt able to "tell it how it was." George Henty is an architect in his father's business, with an expensive passion for hunting. His wife Frances is unimaginative, jealous, and embarrassed by her eccentric in-laws at 'Oxford House' (the T. C. Hine home on the corner of Oxford St. and Regent St.). Worst of all, she believes reading to be a waste of time:

*A coal fell into the grate, startling her, and she glanced at her husband, who had not stirred, deep in his book. Reading could be a drug, she decided, above all, to a Henty. Grandmamma would lie on the sofa absorbed in a novel, ignoring the fact that the china needed washing and petals were falling from the flowers...* (p 190)

Grandmamma Hine, a kind, romantic, Irishwoman, was dearly loved by Muriel and also takes a key role in *Wild Rye*.



Frances spoils her son Roy but is harsh with Gina (Muriel), quick to stamp out any kind of imaginative activity as 'untruths' and allows her no time to herself. The children are tossed back and forth between their self-absorbed parents and left largely to governesses. It is only after their father loses his money and they move to 'Ivanhoe Street' that Gina is allowed to attend the Girls' High School where she is encouraged to excel by her headmistress, Miss Ironside. She begins to write for publication and forms a close alliance with her Aunt Aggie (Annie Hine), an ardent suffragist, who negotiates lessons for her at the School of Art, in spite of her mother's disapproval.

Eventually Henty wins a contract to build a huge new psychiatric hospital, breaks away from the family firm, and sets up on his own in London, as did George Hine. Although written some forty years later, *A Great Adventure* creates a vivid picture of the Nottingham of the period with all its social innuendoes.



Muriel Hine By Photographer not named. - The Bookman, New York, v.40 (October 1914)<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.32044094024551&seq=1&view=thumb>, Public Domain,<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=152743701>

Muriel explored the 'woman question' in many of her books, even toying with female utopias, as in *The Island Forbidden to Man* (1946), in which the embittered Sybil Mappin buys an island off the Scottish coast as a refuge for similarly aggrieved and damaged women. They hold out for a decade but it all backfires when WW2 erupts and the outside world intrudes.

Another Lacingham book, *Wild Rye* (1931), concerns the trials of seventeen-year-old Jenny Rorke, despatched by her unscrupulous father to live off the good will of her maternal grandparents, the Dales. Once again, we see Muriel's own grandparents, cast as a successful lawyer and his Irish wife. Jenny becomes friends with Susanna Ryott, the doctor's daughter, a forward-thinking young woman who believes passionately in gender equality. However, when Susanna's artist brother, Thad, who has been living with his model in Paris, comes home he and Jenny are instantly attracted to one other. He persuades her to become his mistress and they become engaged, but Jenny's beautiful, spoilt, cousin Linda sets her cap at him and she and Thad run away together leaving Jenny 'ruined' and desolate.

When the scandal comes to light Mr Dale suffers a stroke and Mrs Dale dies of a heart attack, leaving Jenny at the mercy of her cruel, sanctimonious Aunt Effie. The book ends with Jenny listening to Aunt Effie sorting through Grandma Dale's clothes for the 'fallen women' at the local Refuge (a real institution in Nottingham), realising that she would be reckoned one of them if anyone knew the whole truth. All that remains for her is to "revolt against the world... holding on to the chance of revenge."

Hine obviously had a sequel in mind, because in *Jenny Rorke* the following year, she rescues her heroine and gives her a new, satisfying, life as companion to an American woman running a vineyard in Italy; but the past will inevitably catch up with her, offering an opportunity for sweet revenge - should she choose to take it.

The changing experience of women can be observed through more than forty years of Hine's fiction: by the Second World War, her heroines have matured into strong, independent, self-determined women like Joyce Poynter and her friends in *A Prodigal Daughter* (1942), one of her last novels.

Muriel married cricketer and businessman, Sidney William Coxon, whose sister Ethel was also an author. They moved in literary circles and lived in a fashionable part of Chelsea from about 1922 until Muriel's death in 1949. She continued to write best-selling fiction (at least thirty-three novels), plays and even song lyrics, to the end of her life. All her books are out of print, I think, and scarce in public libraries, but they are easily and cheaply available on [abebooks.uk](http://abebooks.uk).

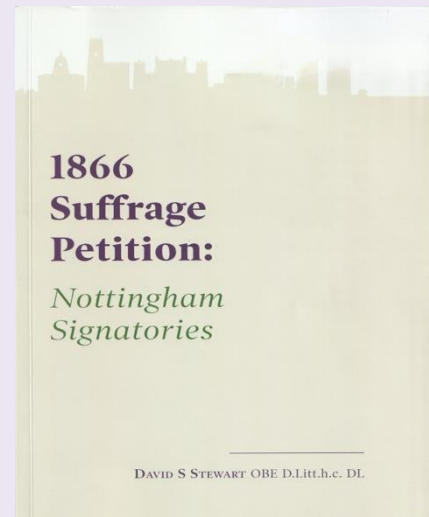
©Rowena Edlin-White

A version of this article first appeared in *The Southwell Folio*, Spring 2014.

## 1866 Suffrage Petition: Nottingham Signatories

We were intrigued when someone from Australia emailed with a correction to this research regarding a link to Kate Middleton's paternal family. And yes, it is that Kate Middleton, Princess of Wales!

David Stewart did the original research into the women who signed the first national suffrage petition and, in the section on Mrs H. Turner (Catherine), includes details of the Martineau family.



Harriet Martineau, Catherine's cousin, was someone she visited in the Lake District and helped look after in the late 1850s. Elizabeth Martineau, Harriet's elder sister, is listed as married to Dr. Alfred Higginson of Liverpool when in fact she married Dr. Thomas Michael Greenhow whose daughter was Frances Elizabeth Greenhow. She, in turn, married a Francis Lupton and they had a daughter, Frances Lupton, who co-founded Leeds Girls High School and is the great-great-great grandmother of Kate Middleton.

Tenuous I know, but it's great to know that the NWHG website is being read (and corrected) all over the world!

Miriam Jackson

# A New Sculpture for Mansfield

The Nottinghamshire Mining Museum based in Mansfield has hit its £30,000 target to enable production of a model of an interactive sculpture telling the story of coal mining in Nottinghamshire.

The Museum, run entirely by volunteers, wants the sculpture to not only recall and commemorate miners but also reflect the experiences of women and families. The Museum's current exhibition about women in the 1984/85 strike clearly demonstrates the strong role women have played.

As a result of her growing reputation for empathetic representations of women, sculptor Rachel Carter has been commissioned to work with the Museum to develop ideas for the sculpture.

Money already donated from local charities and individuals, has enabled volunteers to work alongside Rachel with 150 children in 5 events in 3 schools and adults and children at community events in Mansfield and Ollerton.

With a donation from the UK Government Prosperity Fund of £14,100 added to the funding already raised, the Museum is able to commission Rachel to create the model which will then be the focus for fundraising for a full-sized sculpture.

The aim is to locate the final sculpture in Berry Hill Park, which was acquired in the 1920s with subscriptions to the miners' Welfare Fund and is now run by Mansfield Council.

Diana Meale

# Plaque Attack

NWHG is committed to seeing more plaques to women installed around Nottingham. We'd shortlisted the first three to work on – Rose Fyleman, Ann Gilbert and Dr. Sarah Gray – from a much longer list, and began the work of finding out who owned the buildings in question. It is not as easy as it sounds.

So, we were delighted when someone got in touch to say they would like to work with us to put up a plaque to Constance Penswick Smith who had lived and worked in their house on Regent Street. Constance was the founder of a movement to revive Mothering Sunday.

Having read our brief profile on the website and done a bit more research themselves, the building's owners invited us to meet them. It seemed that all that stood in the way was the plaque wording and raising the money.

However, just before we embarked on this next stage, we thought it would be prudent to double-check the original sources, census returns, electoral registers and trade directories. Sadly, we couldn't actually place her at the house in question. We think the original information came from a celebratory booklet published in the early 2000s by All Saint's Church, Coddington, where Constance's father had been the vicar.

Naturally, we were bitterly disappointed, but on the plus side we now know so much more about Constance and the movement she founded including where she actually lived: at both 4-6 Regent Street, a Girls Friendly Society (GFS) Hostel; and 25 Regent Street, architect TC Hine's old house, which was both the headquarters for the movement campaigning to revive Mothering Sunday and a nursing home run by Ellen Porter who had been the Superintendent at the GFS hostel.

But all is not lost! We now know that Margaret Stote Glen Bott OBE lived at the house in question for about 25 years and with all her achievements – first surgeon at the Women’s Hospital, gynaecologist, magistrate, city councillor and county badminton player – we still have a new blue plaque in our sights.

Please watch out for our crowdfunding appeal.

Miriam Jackson

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**When:** Saturday 12 October 2024  
**What:** NWHG AGM/ Mo Cooper’s talk about Miss Morrison’s School of Dance  
**Where:** International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FN. Start at 2pm

**When:** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
**What:** “From Riches to Rags” Karen Winyard will talk about Mary Bailey’s life and her family’s struggle with poverty  
**Where:** International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FN Start at 2pm

**When:** Sunday 1st December 2024  
**What:** Standing in this Place  
Film Screening  
<https://www.standinginthisplace.co.uk/events/standing-in-this-place-film-screening>  
**Where:** Broadway Cinema, 14-18 Broad Street, Nottingham NG1 3AL

**When:** Saturday 18th January 2025  
**What:** Nicola Webb will talk about the life of Mary Anne Sharpe, a maid in the Chaworth-Musters household  
**Where:** International Community Centre 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FN Start at 2pm

**When:** Saturday 8th February 2025  
**What:** A second chance to hear “From Riches to Rags”, Karen Winyard’s talk about the poet, Mary Bailey. Followed by a look at the sources used to research the talk.

**Where:** Lenton Grove, University of Nottingham

**When:** March dates tbc  
**What:** NWHG International Women’s Day Collaborations  
**Where:** tbc

**NWHG ask for a £5 donation for each event.**

For more information and updates contact us:

Website: [www.nottinghamwomenshistory.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamwomenshistory.org.uk)

Email: [nottmwomenshistory@gmail.com](mailto:nottmwomenshistory@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NottinghamWomensHistoryGroup/>

Twitter: @NottsWomensHist

NWHG makes all reasonable effort to trace owners of the images included in the newsletter. If anyone has an objection, please contact us. We will give full accreditation as requested or remove the image.

Key to cover images from top left:

- Suffragette banner, courtesy of Sian Trafford
- NWHG banner, courtesy of Sian Trafford
- Plaque & juniper tree in the Arboretum commemorating Helen Kirkpatrick Watts, courtesy of Sian Trafford
- Caroline Dexter, Bloomerite and journalist, courtesy of Rowena Edlin-White
- Florence Paton sculpture by Hilary Cartmel, Rest Garden, Carlton Hill, courtesy of Sian Trafford
- Eileen White opening for Midlands v Australia, Trent Bridge 1951, courtesy of Rowena Edlin-White
- Plaque commemorating Women Magistrates, courtesy of Sian Trafford
- Plaque commemorating Helena Brownsword Dowson, courtesy of Sian Trafford