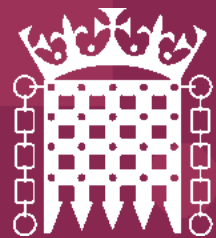


100 Years of women in politics:



The Representation of the People Act, passed on 6 February 1918 gave most women over the age of 30 the right to vote in parliamentary elections for the very first time.

This is a selection of 10 of the many women in British political history, national as well as local who have 'made a difference'.

This pack briefly explains their importance and where to discover more.

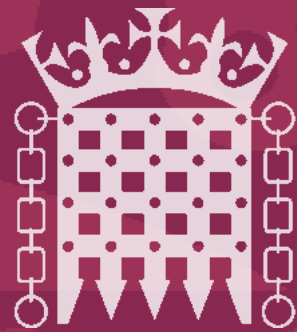
It provides some ideas for developing lesson plans and creative activities. You can also receive guidance and support for your research from the Local History Library **gatesheadlibraries.com**

The development of this material has been made possible by Historic England and Gateshead Council's Library Service.

The material was researched and curated by Anthea Lang, local historian and author. Further copies are available in PDF format from **www.gatesheadlibraries.com**

Each of the pages below has ideas to aid lesson planning or activities and relate to the web-links on the final page to access further information.

By going to **www.womensvotecentenaryfund.co.uk** you will be able to see other projects around the country where the lives of women in British politics are being celebrated in this centenary year.



Alice Mary Wicks (1862-1949)

In November 1920, Mrs Alice Mary Wicks (Independent) was elected to represent the East Central Ward, defeating Peter S Hancock, a Trade Union Clerk, by a majority of 140. In doing so, she became Gateshead's first female councillor.

Her profession was listed as 'Married Woman' although she had in fact been a widow since 1891. She had previously been Mayoress for her uncle Alexander Gillies during his six terms as Mayor between 1900-1909.

Further links:

www.gatesheadlibraries.com

"An Independent woman"

Alice Mary Wicks (1862-1949)

Literacy:

You have just been elected to represent a ward in Gateshead. It has been a very exciting day. What do you think you might feel like and what would you write in your diary before going to bed?

History:

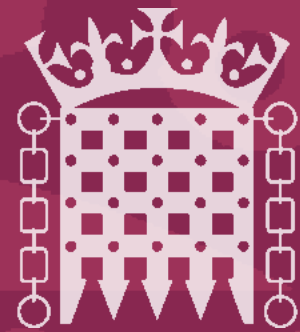
Find out what Gateshead was like in 1920. How big was it and how many councillors were there? What did a councillor do? What do you think it meant to be 'Independent'?

Art and Culture:

Clothing was very different to today. How would an important local lady politician dress?

Links:

1. Tyne and Wear Museums: twmuseums.org.uk
2. The Embroiderers' Guild: <https://embroiderersguild.com>
3. Gateshead Council: gateshead.gov.uk
4. Gateshead Libraries: gatesheadlibraries.com



Dame Annie Maud Burnett (1863–1950)

Elected to Tynemouth Council in 1910, she became the first woman to hold that position in the north of England. She was made a Dame in 1918 for her services during the First World War as President of the Tynemouth War Savings Association.

Later she became the first female Mayor of Tynemouth, serving two terms in 1928–1930. There is a Blue Plaque on her house in Priors Terrace, Tynemouth, where she lived all her life.

Further links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maud_Burnett

"The Trailblazer"

Dame Annie Maud Burnett (1863-1950)

Literacy:

There are many Mayors in history and even some in folktales. Find and share a story about a Mayor.

History:

Why is the role of Mayor important? You can ask the office of the Mayor of Gateshead about the history of Gateshead Mayors or you could arrange for a class visit to meet the Mayor and learn about the robes and the ceremonies.

Art and Culture:

The National Portrait Gallery has many impressive portraits which capture the artist impression of the person. What do you think this painting of Dame Burnett tells us about the woman and her occupation? Make a self-portrait or one of a friend and think about what you would add into the picture.

Links:

3. Gateshead Council:
4. Gateshead Libraries:
5. National Portrait Gallery:

gateshead.gov.uk
gatesheadlibraries.com
npg.org.uk



Margaret Grace Bondfield (1873-1953)

Margaret worked as a shop assistant and was so appalled at the working conditions that she became a member of the Shopworkers' Union and helped found the Women's Labour League (WLL) in 1906.

In 1928 she was one of the first three women to be elected as a Labour MP, first for Northampton and then for Wallsend. A strong supporter of women's suffrage, she became the first woman Cabinet Minister and the first woman Privy Councillor.

Further links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Bondfield

"The first in Cabinet"

Margaret Grace Bondfield (1873-1953)

Literacy:

Imagine you are Margaret Bondfield working as a shop assistant in 1905, the wages are very low and the working conditions are very hard. Write a letter to your best friend explaining what your day is like. What might you be complaining about?

History:

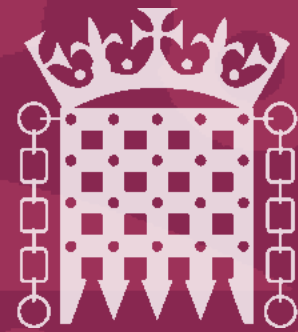
What sort of shops existed in 1900 and what did they sell? What did money look like and how much did basic foods cost in comparison to today? Why not visit Beamish to see how shop workers lived and worked in the early 1900's?

Art and Culture:

The movement for women's suffrage took the colours of white and purple and green and women wore sashes and rosettes to show their support. Why did they do this and what might you make to wear today to show your support for a cause?

Links:

1. Tyne and Wear Museums: twmuseums.org.uk
6. Beamish Open Air Museum: beamish.org.uk
7. Women's Suffrage: <http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/the-fight-for-womens-suffrage>
8. Women's Suffrage: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/higher/history/britsuff/>



Mary Gunn (1883-1959)

Born in Sunderland to poor Irish parents, her first job was as a servant. She was elected to Gateshead Council in 1921 and also served, with her husband on the Board of Guardians (the organisation responsible for poor relief).

Elected an Alderman in 1937, she became Gateshead's first female Mayor in 1942. She was the first woman to chair Gateshead's Labour party and for many years was Chair of the Education Committee.

Further links:

www.gatesheadlibraries.com

"The first to wear the robes"

Mary Gunn (1883-1959)

Literacy:

We know very little about some women except what we can read from the newspaper reports of the time. Imagine you are a reporter and write a piece for the local paper after Mary has been elected as Mayor of Gateshead.

History:

What are Aldermen and why do we have them?

Art and Culture:

Debate is very important in politics, Mary Gunn was Chair of the Education Committee. Create a debating space, choose your speakers and their supporters. Pick a topic relevant to your school or classroom and at the end of the debate vote on whose argument was the best.

Links:

1. Tyne and Wear Museums: twmuseums.org.uk
3. Gateshead Council: gateshead.gov.uk
4. Gateshead Libraries: gatesheadlibraries.com
6. Beamish Open Air Museum: beamish.org.uk
9. National Archives: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/poverty-poor-laws/>
10. The Workhouse in Gateshead: bbc.co.uk › Home › History › British suffrage movement
11. How to debate: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/voices-magazine/how-become-good-debating>



Ellen Cicely Wilkinson (1891-1947)

Manchester-born Ellen was interested in socialism from an early age. A strong supporter of women's suffrage and the trade union movement, she was briefly a member of the Communist Party which led to her being nicknamed 'red' Ellen.

From 1924- 1931, she was Labour MP for Middlesbrough East then, from 1935 until her death in 1947, for Jarrow. She was heavily involved in the Jarrow Crusade and in 1945 became Education Minister in Attlee's first Labour government.

Further links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen_Wilkinson

"A true crusader"

Ellen Cicely Wilkinson (1891-1947)

Literacy:

There is a song about the Jarrow Crusade - you could perform it in your class or write your own.

History:

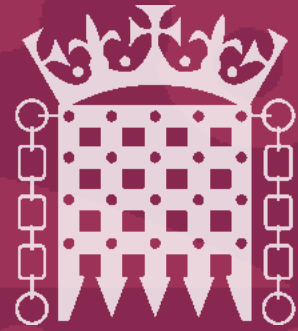
Why did the working people need to be part of a union?

Art and Culture:

There are newspaper pictures of 'red' Ellen speaking to crowds of people in the streets. Look at the clothes they are wearing. What does it tell you about the people who were coming to hear her speak?

Links:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Tyne and Wear Museums: | twmuseums.org.uk |
| 4. Gateshead Libraries: | gatesheadlibraries.com |
| 5. National Portrait Gallery: | npg.org.uk |
| 12. Write your own Song: | sagegateshead.com |
| 13. History of Unions in England | :http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/citizenship/struggle_democracy/trade_unionism.htm |
| 14. Trade Union History: | unionhistory.info > Timeline |
| 15. Political and portrait pictures | gettyimages.co.uk/ |



Dame Irene Ward (1895-1980)

Educated at Newcastle's Church High School, Irene was first elected Conservative MP for Wallsend defeating Margaret Bondfield. She lost her seat in 1945 but was returned as MP for Tynemouth in 1950 - which she held until her retirement in 1974 when aged 79.

A strong supporter of Tyneside industry, she was also a strong advocate for equal pay for women. She was created a life peer as Baroness Ward of North Tyneside in 1975.

Further links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irene_Ward

"The feisty back-bencher"

Dame Irene Ward (1895-1980)

Literacy:

Before every general election the political parties in Britain publish a manifesto explaining their policies and what they stand for and believe in. You can read these on line. Take an issue that you are interested in and write a section for a manifesto that would help other people to understand your opinion.

History:

What sort of Industry was important to Tyneside after the Second World War?

Art and Culture:

The years after the Second World War saw the rise of photography and artists capturing old industries and skills which were in decline and dying out. Take a look at the work of local film makers and photographers for inspiration. What might you take photographs of around your school to show what a future generation what it was like in your school years?

Links:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Tyne and Wear Museums: | twmuseums.org.uk |
| 4. Gateshead Libraries: | gatesheadlibraries.com |
| 16. Labour Party Manifesto: | labour.org.uk/manifesto/ |
| 17. Conservative Party Manifesto: | conservatives.com/manifesto |
| 18. Liberal Party Manifesto: | libdems.org.uk/manifesto |
| 19. Green Party Manifesto: | greenparty.org.uk/green-guarantee/ |
| 20. Industry in the North East: | http://www.northern-heritage.co.uk/books/tyneside/the_real_northern_powerhouse_the_industrial_revolution_in_the_north_east/p-108105 |



Barbara Castle (1910-2002)

Barbara Castle was elected MP for Blackburn in 1945 and remained so until 1979. As Minister for Transport she was responsible for introducing the breathalyser and the compulsory wearing of seatbelts.

Famous for her stance on equal pay for women, she was responsible for the Equal Pay Act of 1970. Following defeat in the 1979 General Election, she was elected MEP for Manchester West and in 1990 became Baroness Castle of Blackburn.

Further links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Castle

“Equal pay for women”

Barbara Castle (1910-2002)

Literacy:

Debate in parliament usually begins with a Green Paper. You can read some information on the latest green paper on Equal Pay for Women. Do you think people should be paid the same amount of money for doing the same job? Write your ideas down in a list and then discuss with your friends. Parliamentary debate is based upon people having different ideas and opinions.

History:

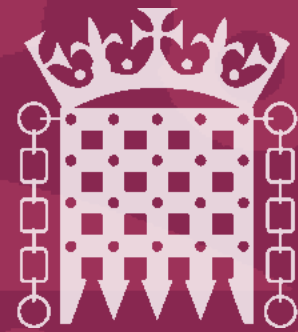
What was the role of the Members of the European Parliament?

Art and Culture:

Write the script for a TV advert to advise people not to 'Drink and Drive', showing the 'new' breathalyser in use

Links:

1. Tyne and Wear Museums: twmuseums.org.uk
4. Gateshead Libraries: gatesheadlibraries.com
11. How to debate: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/voices-magazine/how-become-good-debating>
15. Political and portrait pictures: gettyimages.co.uk/amber-online.com/
21. Archive Film and Photography: <http://film.britishcouncil.org/resources/libraries-and-archives>
22. British Film Archive: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CERT0xNFGo4>
23. 50th Anniversary of the Don't Drink and Drive Campaign: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/en/your-meps/what-do-they-do.html>
24. What MEP's do?: <https://www.base-uk.org/sites/default/files/news/07-08/discriminationreview.pdf>
25. Green Paper on Equal Pay for Women:



Margaret Thatcher (1925–2013)

Margaret Thatcher, a grocer's daughter from Grantham, became Conservative MP for Finchley in 1959 and entered the Cabinet in 1970 as Education Secretary. In 1975, she became the Conservative Party's first female leader.

She became Great Britain's first female Prime Minister in 1979 and resigned in 1990 as Britain's longest serving Prime Minister for over 150 years. She was appointed to the House of Lords in 1992, becoming Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven.

Further links:

<https://www.margaretthatcher.org/essential/biography.asp>

"The Iron Lady"

Margaret Thatcher (1925-2013)

Literacy:

Parliamentary debate is captured and published by Hansard. You can read a parliamentary speech on education by following the link below.

History:

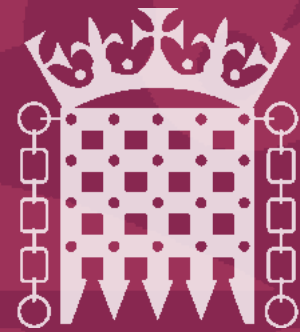
Why does Great Britain have a Prime Minister? What do they do?

Art and Culture:

The House of Lords is an ancient institution in British Politics and throughout history Lords have been portrayed in plays, film, books, songs, operas and in galleries and museums. Listen to the music and read the lyrics of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Iolanthe' and note how they make gentle fun of the Peers.

Links:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Tyne and Wear Museums: | twmuseums.org.uk |
| 4. Gateshead Libraries: | gatesheadlibraries.com |
| 15. Political and portrait pictures: | gettyimages.co.uk/ |
| 26. Hansard, Mrs Thatcher 5/11/1971: | http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/
commons/1971/nov/05/education |
| 27. History of British Prime Ministers: | bbc.co.uk/history/british/pm_and_pol_tl_01.shtml |
| 28. Lyrics and story of Iolanthe | gsarchive.net/iolanthe/iolib.pdf |



Marjorie 'Mo' Mowlam (1949-2005)

Mo Mowlam was elected MP for Redcar in 1987. She joined the Shadow Cabinet under John Smith as Secretary of State for Heritage, served under Tony Blair as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and oversaw the signing of the historic Good Friday Peace Agreement in 1998.

For a number of years she suffered from a brain tumour and resigned her seat in 2001 but remained active in politics until her death in 2005.

Further links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mo_Mowlam

"The peace maker"

Marjorie 'Mo' Mowlam (1949-2005)

Literacy:

Local buildings or pieces of major engineering, often have important people invited to open them and are then recorded on a commemorative plaque. 'Mo' Mowlam was chosen to set the stone for the Gateshead Millennium Bridge. Choose someone you admire and compose the words for a plaque in their honour. Where would you choose to put your plaque and why?

History:

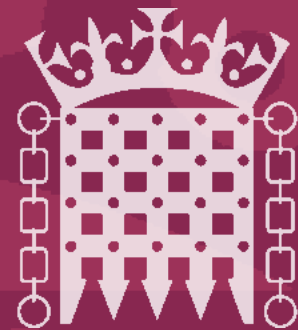
Look at an old map of the British Isles from the 18th century and compare it with a map from today, note the differences. Locate places you might know or have been to.

Art and Culture:

Songs have been a very important part of Northern Irish History and record many of the major events in the troubles. You can search a National Archive for songs that tell stories. Use 'FARNE' to find local North East Songs.

Links:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Tyne and Wear Museums: | twmuseums.org.uk |
| 4. Gateshead Libraries: | gatesheadlibraries.com |
| 9. National Archives: | http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/poverty-poor-laws/gettyimages.co.uk/ |
| 15. Political and portrait pictures: | bbc.co.uk/history/british/pm_and_pol_tl_01.shtml |
| 29. Northern Irish History: | http://www.librariesni.org.uk/Libraries/Pages/Belfast-Central-Library.aspx |
| 30. Northern Ireland Musical Archive: | folknortheast.com/ |
| 31. Folk Songs North East FARNE: | http://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/mo-is-honoured-by-geordies-1491135 |
| 32. Commemorative plaque for Gateshead Millennium Bridge: | http://maps.nls.uk/ |
| 33. Maps of the British Isles: | |



Chinyelu Susan 'Chi' Onwurah (1965-)

Born in Wallsend, Chi graduated from Imperial College London with a degree in electrical engineering and became head of Telecoms technology at OFCOM. She was elected MP for Newcastle upon Tyne Central in 2010.

She is a strong campaigner against gender stereotyping and is currently Shadow Minister for Industrial Strategy, Science and Innovation. She is Newcastle's first black MP.

Further links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chi_Onwurah

"A first for Newcastle"

Chinyelu Susan 'Chi' Onwurah (1965-)

Literacy:

Our culture and our learning has been enhanced by people with backgrounds from all over the world. Discover some amazing stories about women whose families have different cultures or religious backgrounds.

History:

The North East is famous in history for electrical engineering with pioneers, inventors and innovators. Why not visit Cragside House, which was the first house in the world to be lit by hydro-electricity. Or visit the Mining Institute and learn more about inspiring engineers.

Art and Culture:

What do you think the next generation of mobile telephones might look like and what will they do? Design one for yourself

Links:

1. Tyne and Wear Museums:

twmuseums.org.uk

4. Gateshead Libraries:

gatesheadlibraries.com

9. National Archives:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/poverty-poor-laws/>

34. Great Women you should know about:

bbc.co.uk/newsround/41433196

35. Pioneering electrical engineering:

mininginstitute.org.uk/

36. The history of the telephone:

thoughtco.com

Index of useful links.....

There is always Wikipedia.....

1. **Tyne and Wear Museums:** twmuseums.org.uk
2. **The Embroiderers' Guild:** <https://embroiderersguild.com>
3. **Gateshead Council:** gateshead.gov.uk
4. **Gateshead Libraries:** gatesheadlibraries.com
5. **National Portrait Gallery:** npg.org.uk
6. **Beamish Open Air Museum:** beamish.org.uk
7. **Women's Suffrage:** <http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/the-fight-for-womens-suffrage>
8. **Women's Suffrage:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/higher/history/britsuff/>
9. **National Archives:** <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/poverty-poor-laws/workhouses.org.uk/Gateshead/>
10. **The Workhouse in Gateshead:** <https://www.britishcouncil.org/voices-magazine/how-become-good-debating>
11. **How to debate:** sagegateshead.com
12. **Write your own Song:** http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/citizenship/struggle_democracy/trade_unionism.htm
13. **History of Unions in England:** <http://www.unionhistory.info/timeline/timeline.php>
14. **Trade Union History:** <http://www.gettyimages.co.uk/>
15. **Political and portrait pictures:** labour.org.uk/manifesto/
16. **Labour Party Manifesto:** conservatives.com/manifesto
17. **Conservative Party Manifesto:** libdems.org.uk/manifesto
18. **Liberal Party Manifesto:** greenparty.org.uk/green-guarantee/
19. **Green Party Manifesto:** <http://www.northern-heritage.co.uk/books/tyneside/the-real-northern-powerhouse-the-industrial-revolution-in-the-north-east/p-108105>
20. **Industry in the North East:** amber-online.com/
21. **Archive Film and Photography:** <http://film.britishcouncil.org/resources/libraries-and-archives>
22. **British Film Archive:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CERT0xNFGo4>
23. **50th Anniversary of the Don't Drink and Drive Campaign:** <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/en/your-meps/what-do-they-do.html>
24. **What MEP's do?:** <https://www.base-uk.org/sites/default/files/news/07-08/discriminationreview.pdf>
25. **Green Paper on Equal Pay for Women:** <http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1971/nov/05/education>
26. **Hansard, Mrs Thatcher 5/11/1971:** bbc.co.uk/history/british/pm_and_pol_tl_01.shtml
27. **History of British Prime Ministers:** gsarchive.net/iolanthe/iolib.pdf
28. **Lyrics and story of Iolanthe:** bbc.co.uk/history/troubles
29. **Northern Irish History:** <http://www.librariesni.org.uk/Libraries/Pages/Belfast-Central-Library.aspx>
30. **Northern Ireland Musical Archive:** folknortheast.com/
31. **Folk Songs North East FARNE:** <http://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/mo-is-honoured-by-geordies-1491135>
32. **Commemorative plaque for Gateshead Millennium Bridge:** <http://maps.nls.uk/>
33. **Maps of the British Isles:** bbc.co.uk/newsround/41433196
34. **Great Women you should know about:** mininginstitute.org.uk/
35. **Pioneering electrical engineering:** thoughtco.com
36. **The history of the telephone:**

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It was researched and curated by
Anthea Lang, local historian and author.

www.gatesheadlibraries.com

