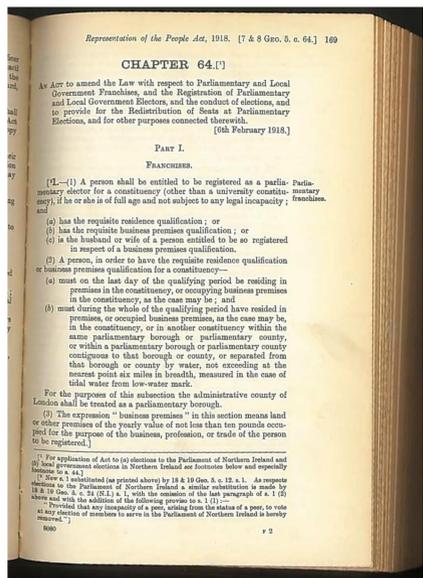


Votes for Women

First page of the **1918 Parliamentary Act** giving the vote to women in a parliamentary election for the first time.



10th June 1917. A public meeting under the auspices of the Whitehaven Labour Party was held in the town hall in Whitehaven this evening. The following resolution was submitted: *This meeting sends joyful congratulations to the democrats of Russia and calls upon the Governments of Great Britain and of every country, neutral and belligerent alike, to follow the Russian example by establishing industrial freedom, freedom of speech and the Press, the abolition of social, religious, and national distinctions, an immediate amnesty for political and religious offences and universal suffrage.*



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The militant Suffragettes began a campaign of smashing windows with hammers and stones, chaining themselves to railings, attacking art treasures, and arson.

In 1908, the WSPU adopted the colour scheme of purple, white and green.

Timeline

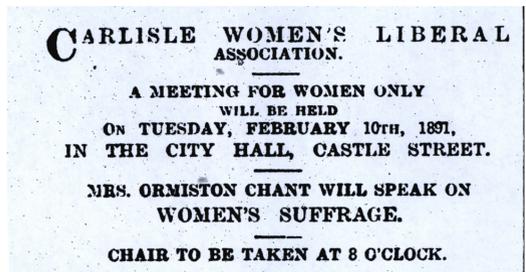
- 1868 First ever public meeting on women's suffrage held in Manchester.
- 1870 First Women's Suffrage bill rejected by Parliament.
- 1897 National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies formed.
- 1903 Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) formed.
- 1905 Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney are imprisoned for interrupting a meeting of the Liberal Party.
- 1906 First women's march to lobby Parliament organised by the WSPU.
- 1907 Women's Freedom League (WFL) formed after a disagreement within the WSPU.
- 1909 Agitation increases including window breaking and the first hunger strike by Marion Dunlop. Forced feeding of other hunger strikers follows.
- 1913 'Cat and Mouse' Act introduced, to allow the discharge of hunger-striking suffragettes from prisons.
- 1913 Emily Davison killed at the Epsom Derby.
- 1914 Outbreak of World War 1. Militant activities suspended.
- 1918 Representation of the People Act gives votes to women over the age of 30 who are also householders, the wives of householders, owners of property worth more than £5 or university graduates.**
- 1919 Lady Astor becomes the first female MP
- 1928 The Equal Franchise Act grants the vote to all women over the ages of 21.

The key role played by women in the Great War convinced many men that women should be given the vote.



Women ambulance drivers. On 30th June 1917 the Carlisle Journal reported that Daisy Waddell of Warwick Bridge, who was recuperating in a French hospital after being severely wounded and having one leg amputated, had been decorated with the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star by the French General Ditte. The citation said that she had worked devotedly with the continual transportation of the wounded.

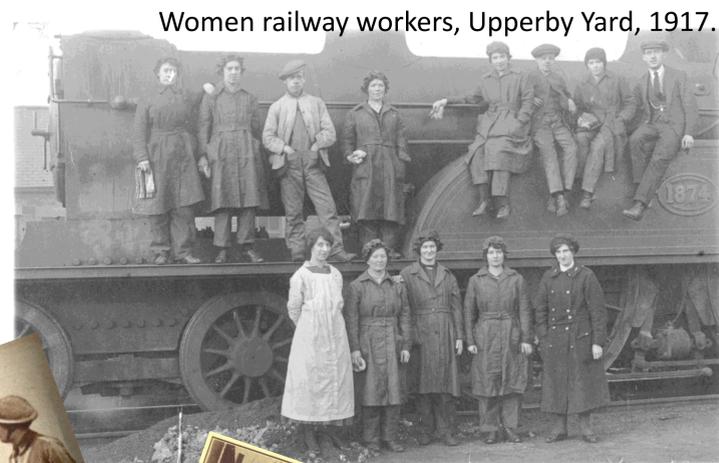
26th April 1917. A meeting was held this evening in the Richmond Hall, Fisher Street, Carlisle, in support of electoral reform. The Mayor said that *"it would be a crying shame if the women who had made good so splendidly during the last few years were to be debarred from the selection of the men who would have to rule the State after the war."*
[Cheers] The suffrage of women must come."



Notice in the *Carlisle Express and Examiner* 7th February 1891



Rosalind Howard, Countess of Carlisle (1845-1921). A promoter of women's political rights and of temperance reform. Whilst condemning the Suffragettes' violence she said of herself: *"fanatics have done a lot of the world's work and I don't mind being classified with the fanatics"*.



Women railway workers, Upperby Yard, 1917.



Women munition workers, East Cumberland Shell Factory, Strand Road, Carlisle.