

 **Free event commemorates the campaign for women’s votes in Bristol**

M Shed is hosting a day of free events to commemorate Bristol’s part in the campaign for women’s right to vote on Saturday 30 June, 10am - 4.30pm.

The event is organised in partnership with the West of England and South Wales Women’s History Network (WESWWHN), University of Bristol, University of the West of England (UWE Bristol), Bristol Libraries and the Diversity Trust.

Everyone is welcome at the free, drop in event which will include:-

* A screening of the film *Make More Noise: Suffragettes in Silent Film*
* A performance of the one act comedy *How the Vote was Won*, written by Cicely Hamilton and Christopher St John in 1909

• A series of talks:

* An introduction to Bristol and the women’s suffrage campaign by Professor Emerita June Hannam and Lucienne Boyce
* Annie Kenney and her team of Bristol suffragettes by Lyndsey Jenkins
* The forgotten campaign for adult suffrage by Professor Emerita Karen Hunt
* Indian “Suffragettes” by Sumita Mukherjee
* A short suffrage walk led by Lucienne Boyce
* Craft activities for children provided by Children’s Scrapstore
* Exhibitions on women’s suffrage in Bristol and the West Country by WESWWHN and Bristol Libraries, and on suffrage drama by Dr Rebecca D’Monte
* ‘Voting Booth’ – an exhibition space designed to look like a voting booth – provided by Dreadnought South West, where you can hear stories about women’s activism in the South West.

The day will be rounded off by a panel event looking at what women have achieved since obtaining the vote and considering what has yet to be done. The panel will be chaired by Laura Rawlings from BBC Radio Bristol, with panellists Thangam Debbonaire MP, Councillor Asher Craig, Eleanor Vowles of Bristol Women’s Voice, Sumita Mukherjee from the University of Bristol, and Cheryl Morgan from the Diversity Trust.

Councillor Asher Craig, Deputy Mayor of Bristol and Cabinet Member for Communities, said: “*It’s important we commemorate this centenary year and remember those formative steps that secured the votes for some women on the road to greater gender equality for all. This year of celebration is to reflect back on the effort and sacrifice of many over the years in securing women’s rights and to gather that momentum to push on into the 21st century. I look forward to taking part during the day and supporting the education of a new generation of equal rights campaigners*.”

Anyone who is unable to make it down to M Shed can tune into BCfm Radio 93.2fm, which will be broadcasting interviews and news of the events as they happen.

The event has been made possible by the generous support of the Regional History Centre at UWE Bristol, the Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust, and Government Equalities Office funding secured in a bid led by Bristol Women’s Voice.

Further information can be found at bristolmuseums.org.uk/m-shed or http://weswwomenshistorynetwork.co.uk.

**Notes to Editors**

**Further information**

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**M Shed**

Housed within a 1950s dockside transit shed, M Shed is a free, exciting and innovative museum for Bristol telling the story of the city through the stories of people who helped shape it. Rich collections of objects, art and archives bring these stories to life in three galleries: Bristol Places, Bristol People and Bristol Life. Visitors can ride M Shed's largest exhibits - the cranes, trains and boats from Easter to October and the gallery on the second floor displays temporary exhibitions throughout the year. [www.bristolmuseums.org.uk](http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk)

**West of England and South Wales Women’s History Network**

The West of England and South Wales Women’s History Network was set up in 1993 and exists to encourage research and interest in women’s history and gender history. All are welcome to join or attend its events. Website: <http://weswwomenshistorynetwork.co.uk>

**The Diversity Trust**

The Diversity Trust works to influence social change to achieve a fairer and safer society. Website: <http://www.diversitytrust.org.uk/>

**UWE Bristol Regional History Centre**

The Regional History Centre, University of the West of England promotes research about the history of Britain’s South Western counties and in the understanding of regionalism as a dynamic force in the shaping of the domestic and international past. <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/cahe/research/regionalhistorycentre.aspx>

**Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust**

The Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust was founded in 1980 by Norman Melburn and named for his friend and fellow Marxist, the lawyer Barry Amiel. Since Norman Melburn’s death in 1991, both men have been commemorated in the name of the Trust. Website: <http://www.amielandmelburn.org.uk/>

**Dreadnought South West**

Dreadnought South West’s Rebellious Sounds Archive is a Heritage Lottery Funded project that seeks to explore the ways in which women in the South West have continued to contribute to activism, in all its forms, over the past 100 years. Made possible by National Lottery players, the project focuses on creating the very first community archive of stories of women’s activism. Website: <http://dreadnoughtsouthwest.org.uk/rebellious-sounds/>

**Speakers**

Professor Emerita June Hannam is chair and treasurer of WESWWN. Her publications include Isabella Ford (1989); (with Karen Hunt) Socialist Women: Britain 1880s-1920s (2002); and Feminism (2011). Recent publications on Bristol include Bristol Independent Labour Party: Men, Women and the Opposition to War (Bristol Radical Pamphleteer, 2014) and chapters in Madge Dresser ed. Women and the City: Bristol 1373-2000 (2016).

Lucienne Boyce is an award-winning historical novelist and women’s suffrage historian, and the author of The Bristol Suffragettes (2013).

Lyndsey Jenkins is a biographer and historian based at Wolfson College, Oxford, currently researching the lives of the Kenney sisters, and author of Lady Constance Lytton, Suffragette, Martyr which was shortlisted for the Slightly Foxed/Biographer’s Club Biography Prize and Sunday Times Biography of the Year.

Karen Hunt is Professor Emerita of Modern British History, Keele University. Her books include Equivocal Feminists (1996), Socialist Women (2002, with June Hannam), and Staffordshire’s War (2017) which looks at women on the WW1 home front.

Sumita Mukherjee is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Bristol and author of Indian Suffragettes, which was published in April 2018.

Dr Rebecca D’Monte is Senior Lecturer at the School of Film and Journalism, the University of the West of England.