



Lockdown History: Votes for Women

Sisters of Mersey is a free app which can be downloaded on Apple and Android devices. It covers the history of the women of Merseyside. You can also find out more about our project here: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/humanities-and-social-sciences/research/projects/sisters-of-mersey/>

Fact File

During the early twentieth century, women still did not have the right to vote in Parliamentary elections. This meant that they could not vote for MPs or help decide who got to be Prime Minister. Some women protested for the right to vote. Some of these women broke the law with their protests. They were known as suffragettes, and they were often sent to prison. Other women campaigned for the vote using lawful means. They were known as suffragists.

In 1918, women over 30 who met certain property restrictions were given the right to vote.

Quick Quiz

Use the Sisters of Mersey app to find the answers to the following questions. Tip: You can use the 'List of Sites' to find the answers more quickly.

When was the Liverpool Women's Suffrage Society set up?

Was the Liverpool Women's Suffrage Society a militant (suffragette) or non-militant (suffragist) organisation?

What organisation did Lydia Allen Booth become president of in 1898?

What other organisations was Lydia Allen Booth involved in?

Get Thinking! Suffragettes in Merseyside

Edith Rigby

Read the 'Edith Rigby, Liverpool Exchange Building' entry on the Sisters of Mersey app.

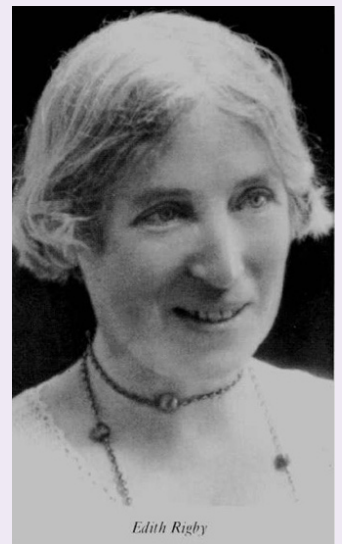
You can also watch two short videos about Edith here:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/history/blog/2018/suffragette-edith-rigby/>

Rigby was a member of a particular feminist union. What was the name of this union?

What crime did Edith Rigby commit on 5th July 1913?

Why did Edith commit this crime?



What do you think about Edith's 9-month prison sentence?

Find out more about Sisters of Mersey here: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/humanities-and-social-sciences/research/projects/sisters-of-mersey/>

Lady Constance Lytton



Lady Constance Lytton

Find the sisters of Mersey app entry for 'Lady Constance Lytton, Walton Gaol'. You can also watch a short video about suffragette hunger strikes and Constance Lytton's prison experience here:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/history/blog/2018/suffragette-force-feeding/>

Why was suffragette Lady Constance Lytton sent to prison in 1910?

Why did Lady Constance Lytton tell the authorities that she was a working-class woman called Jane Warton?

What was her treatment like in Walton Gaol?

Not all of the women who campaigned for the right to vote got in trouble with the law. Other women, known as suffragists, campaigned for the right to vote using lawful means. An example of one of these women is Eleanor Rathbone, who you can find out more about on the Sisters of Mersey app.

Do you think you would have been a suffragette, like Edith Rigby and Constance Lytton, or a suffragist, like Eleanor Rathbone?

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