

THE ROLE OF LOCAL ACTIONS IN THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

1866 - IPSWICH

Sixteen women from Ipswich sign the first ever petition asking Parliament for women's right to vote.

1871 – IPSWICH

An Ipswich committee of the London Society for Women's Suffrage is formed.

MAR 1908 – IPSWICH

Millicent Fawcett addresses a meeting at Ipswich Lecture Hall. Mr. H.H. Stansfield appeals for support for the Men's Suffrage League.

28 MAY 1909 – IPSWICH

Hortense Lane resists paying tax to campaign for the vote. Her goods are seized and auctioned to pay her tax bill, bringing further attention to the national campaign.

OCT 1908 – IPSWICH

Sylvia Pankhurst (WSPU) addresses a meeting in Ipswich. She faces clear opposition from the audience.

MAY 1909 – IPSWICH

Constance Andrews opens an Ipswich branch of the WFL.

JULY 1909 – IPSWICH

Andrews organises a 'Green, White and Gold' Fair to highlight the countries where women already have the vote and conditions faced by women in Holloway Prison.

7 JUNE 1866 – NATIONAL

John Stuart Mill MP presents the first mass women's suffrage petition to Parliament. It contains over 1500 signatures.

1903 - 1905 – NATIONAL

The Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) is formed. By 1905 it would adopt the motto; 'Deeds not Words' and follow a more militant campaign.

1908 – 1909 – NATIONAL

The WSPU use tactics such as smashing windows, tying themselves to railings and hunger striking.

1897 – NATIONAL

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) is formed. It focuses on peaceful campaign methods and becomes led by Millicent Fawcett (from Aldeburgh).

1907 – NATIONAL

1-in-5 suffragettes leave the WSPU to join the newly formed Women's Freedom League (WFL). The WFL oppose the use of violence.

OCT 1909 – NATIONAL

The Women's Tax Resistance League (WTRL) is formed. Their slogan is 'No Vote, No tax'.

References:

Women's Suffrage Timeline: <https://www.bl.uk/votes-for-women/articles/womens-suffrage-timeline>

Bounds, Joy. 'A Song of Their Own: The Fight for Votes for Women in Ipswich', 2014.



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2 APR 1911 – IPSWICH

Approximately twenty five people spend all night at the Old Museum Rooms to boycott the census, using the slogan of 'No vote, No census'.

28 APR 1914 – FELIXSTOWE

Hilda Birkett and Florence Tunks (WSPU) set fire to the Bath Hotel in Felixstowe. They use the slogan 'No vote means war'.

1910 – IPSWICH

Grace Roe opens an Ipswich branch of the WSPU.

20 APR 1911 – IPSWICH

Andrews is imprisoned for not paying tax or settling her bill in the 'No vote, No tax' campaign. She is met from prison to much celebration.

MAY 1914 – IPSWICH

Birkett and Tunks hunger strike whilst in prison for their arson attack, and are force-fed. The actions of the authorities rally local support for women's suffrage.

1911 – NATIONAL

The WFL and WSPU agree that if Prime Minister Asquith does not address women's suffrage in the King's Speech on 5 February, they will boycott the upcoming census.

JUNE 1913 – NATIONAL

Emily Davison (WSPU) is killed after she tries to attach a suffrage banner to the King's horse at the Epsom Derby.

FEB 1918 – NATIONAL

The Representation of the People's Act is passed. It allows women over the age of 30 to vote if they are married to or a member of the Local Government Register.

MAR 1912 – NATIONAL

The Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Bill is introduced and defeated by 222 votes to 218.

SEP 1914 – 1918 - NATIONAL

The First World War brings a suspension to suffrage actions, with women urged to support the war effort.

References:

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