



The extension of suffrage

A virtual museum by
Katya purcell

Welcome to the museum of suffragists

The museum of suffragists tells you about everything that women and men fought for at a time where some people thought that the government was not being fair about who could get to vote. You will also find out about the leaders of some of the suffragettes groups, and how they dealt with it.



What was all the fuss about?



Many women, and a few men, found it very unfair that women could not vote in parliament, especially for the women who did not have a husband, so had no one who could vote even living in their house. Because of this, some people decided to start groups which only women were allowed in, and they would protest in streets near to them, and far away from them. In the end, women would do anything to get their voices heard, some went to great extremes like putting themselves or others in danger...

The Peterloo massacre



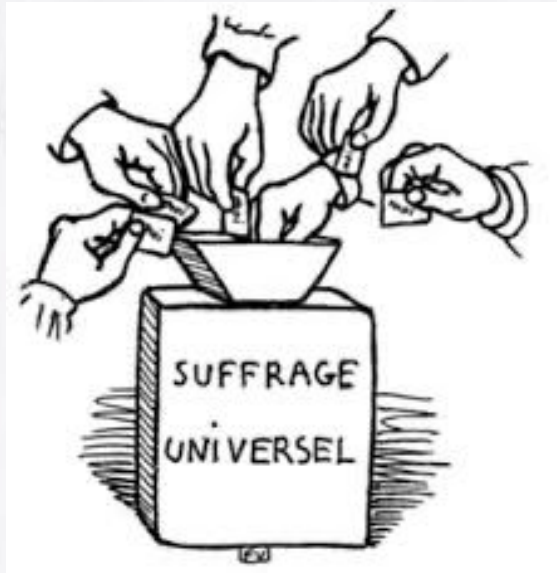
On a sunny August day in 1819, 60,000 men, women and children gathered at Saint Peter's Fields in Manchester to have a peaceful protest about equality for voting in Parliament. Lots of families brought picnics to share with their family and their children. No one was expecting this lovely day to turn into a gruesome battle where 15 people were killed, and over 600 people were injured. Little did the families know, there were magistrates watching from a window nearby, who sent in the Yeomanry as they thought the town would be torn up. They pulled their swords out and people started running for their lives, whilst many others couldn't. The Yeomanry were not charged for any deaths or injuries that they caused that day however, leaders and speakers like Henry Hunt were arrested and spent a few years in jail.

Who was at Peterloo?

Most of the people who turned up at saint peters fields that day, were cotton mill workers who wanted liberty and control of their rights.



The extension of male suffrage



In 1884, the biggest change to male suffrage was made, when the government decided that two thirds of men could now vote. Why did this change? It changed because the government believed that working men were peaceful and educated and would be grateful for their vote. They also thought that if all working men could vote, then their wives would be able to have some sort of say in it, and it would be a household decision and women wouldn't need their own vote anymore.

WSPU

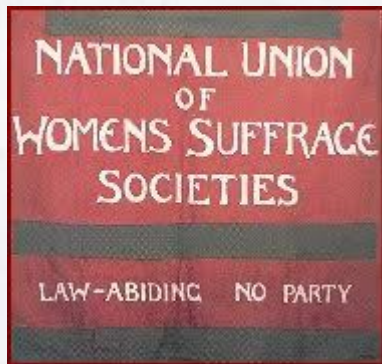


DEEDS
NOT
WORDS



The WSPU group was set up by Emmeline Pankhurst and her two daughters. It was an all womans group, so no men were allowed to be a part of it. The group fought for womens voting rights, and they would have done anything just to get their voices heard. They ended up setting off bombs, and they set fires to buildings. They had a signiture flag and slogan which anyone around england could recognise, it said “deeds not words” and those words were placed upn a green and purple flag.

The situation by 1914



By 1914, many women had been encouraged and inspired to take part in the movement because of how much publicity had been made over it, which helped campaigns. However, not everything was good, the WSPU became very violent, and went on hunger strike, which resulted in them being forcibly fed, and the NUWSS had gained over 100,000 members. In 1918 the government finally gave women the ability to vote in parliament because they had proved that they were capable, from their hard work in the war effort.