



WALKING WITH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SUFFRAGETTES



Six heritage trails tracing the
women's suffrage movement
in and around the Chilterns

COLIN CARTWRIGHT & ANDREW CLARK



INTRODUCTION

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of women first winning the vote. This booklet celebrates not only the guts and imagination of the women (and men) who campaigned for this, but also our right to vote and to political protest. These six trails trace the relatively unknown history of the women's suffrage movement in Buckinghamshire. Significant events include: the prison protests in Aylesbury (April 1912); the fire-bombing of Saunderton Station (March 1913); the march of the National Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage through the county (July 1913).

Produced with the help of Andrew Clark of 'Chesham Walkers are Welcome', these trails aim to engage a wide audience, from the occasional walker to the passionate hiker; from the local or family historian to the interested ordinary citizen. Four of the trails are shorter town trails, two are longer and cross-country. Each of these trails start and finish at public transport hubs. Five of the six are circular, the sixth, linear.



To obtain copies of each trail in pdf format, please visit either www.chilternsonb.org/walks-rides-leaflets.html, or www.chesham.gov.uk/Walks/Chesham_Walks.aspx. If you have questions or comments about these trails, or further information about women's suffrage in the county, please contact: colin@chesham4fairtrade.co.uk.

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Colin Cartwright and Andrew Clark, March 2012

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ABBREVIATIONS

NUWSS: National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, – founded in 1897 by Millicent Fawcett. The largest group. Law-abiding. Ultimately five branches: Mid-Bucks, Wycombe, Beaconsfield, Gerrards Cross and Buckingham.

WSPU: Women's Social & Political Union – founded in 1903 by the Pankhursts. Used law-breaking tactics. One branch: Chesham.

WFL: Women's Freedom League – a split from the WSPU in 1907, led by Charlotte Despard. One branch: Marlow.

WTRL: Women's Tax Resistance League – formed in 1909 with a figure from Buckinghamshire history as their hero: John Hampden.

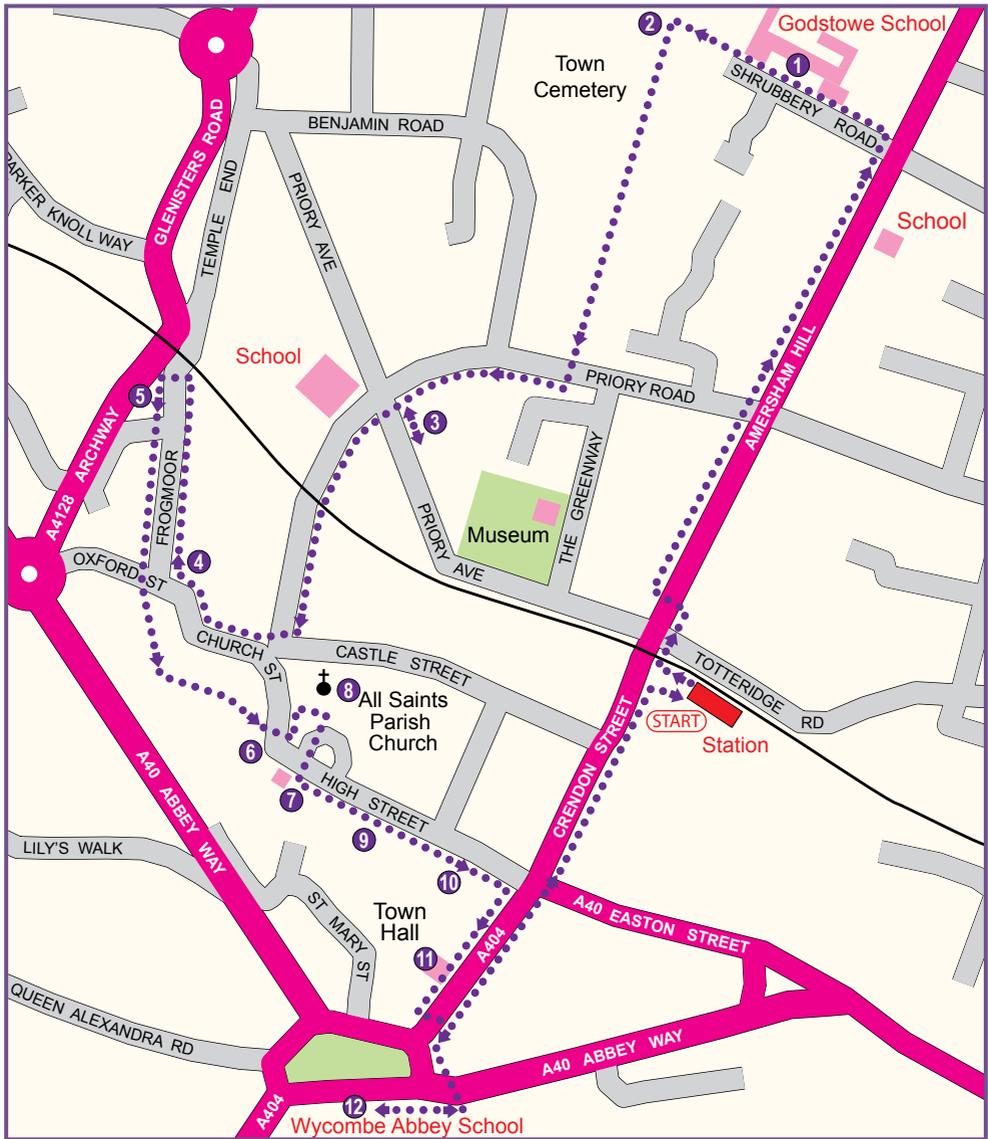
Photo: Miss Frances Dove, first woman Councillor in Buckinghamshire, in a procession with her fellow councillors (courtesy of Wycombe Abbey School)

Cover photo: Suffragettes in the market square just before their march to Aylesbury Prison, April 1912 (from the Buckinghamshire Museum collections).

Walking with Buckinghamshire Suffragettes*

Note: Most campaigners in Buckinghamshire were not 'suffragettes', but 'suffragists' – ie. they did not engage in the law-breaking tactics of their more militant cousins in the WSPU and the WFL.

High Wycombe Trail 2.4 MILES - EASY WITH ONE STEEP CLIMB



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ROUTE DESCRIPTION Starting point: High Wycombe Railway Station

Turn right out of the station and proceed up Amersham Hill. Take the pedestrian crossing just beyond Totteridge Road and then continue uphill as far as Shrubbery Road. Turn left and further along is the main entrance to Godstowe School (1).

Continue along Shrubbery Road and go through the gate ahead into the cemetery and take the steps down to the main crossing path (2). Miss Frances Dove (C1 Con, no.425) and Miss Marie Christie (E Con, private no. 49) are buried here (see nos. 3 & 5). By prior arrangement,

staff at the cemetery gatehouse can help to locate these graves. Visit <http://www.galaxypix.com/Sally/Losttheplot/> for a helpful introduction to the cemetery.

Turn left all the way along the path to exit at Priory Road. Turn right and follow it down to the junction with Priory Avenue. Go left along to 5 Priory Avenue (3).

Return to Priory Road, left and down to the bottom of Priory Road and turn right into Church Street which sweeps right into Frogmoor (4).

Go all the way along to the viaduct (5).

Return to the entrance to Frogmoor and go down the small alleyway opposite, Bull Lane. At the end turn left along White Hart Street all the way to the Guildhall (6 & 7).

From here, go a few paces into Church Street

and then right to All Saints Parish Church – contact the church or visit the website to check opening times 01494 527526, allsaintshighwycombe.org (8).

Go straight ahead from the south porch entrance, past the old market building and turn left to go along the High Street in the direction of the station, noting no. 39 on the right hand pavement (9).

Go past Corporation Road on the left (10).

Turn right into Queen Victoria Road and walk to the end, passing the Town Hall (11).

Cross the road, turn right and use the subway underneath Abbey Way. Take the right hand exit and then walk along the pavement to the entrance of Wycombe Abbey School (12).

Return to the High Street and then proceed up Crendon Street to the Railway Station.

HIGH WYCOMBE HISTORIC SITES

① **Godstowe School:** Mrs May Scott was first Headteacher at Godstowe from its foundation in 1900, having worked with Miss Frances Dove at Wycombe Abbey School. Mrs Scott, her daughters and several of her colleagues at the school, including Mrs Berney and Eliza Parker, a cook, often gave their support to women's suffrage meetings. Several events were held at the school. Mrs Berney became Secretary of the local NUWSS branch. Mrs Scott addressed a meeting in Marlow in March 1911 and spoke about tax resistance. She knew tax resister, Mrs Sargent Florence, a member of the Marlow WFL branch. In July 1913, Godstowe's grounds housed the caravans and stabled the horses of the suffragist pilgrims (see no. 4 below and the *Princes Risborough trail*).

② **Wycombe Town Cemetery:** from here Hughenden Manor is visible, home of Benjamin Disraeli, MP. Disraeli was a lone voice in favour of women's suffrage in the Commons as early as 1848.

③ There is a slate plaque to mark the fact that Miss Dove lived here, **5 Priory Avenue**. Miss Dove was prime mover behind the formation of

a Wycombe branch of the NUWSS. She started campaigning for the vote in 1899, three years after she established Wycombe Abbey School. Miss Dove was the first female town councillor for Bucks in 1907 and was prevented from becoming Mayor the following year, going on to be awarded the DBE.



Wycombe Abbey School, 1898,
courtesy of Wycombe Abbey School

④ **Frogmoor:** this was the scene of the worst disturbances over women's suffrage in Bucks, following the arrival of a band of pilgrims here in July 1913. This was part of a national pilgrimage for women's suffrage,

which converged on the capital from many different directions that summer. Having been welcomed at West Wycombe, the reception at High Wycombe was openly hostile and the planned meeting at Frogmoor had to be abandoned. The hopelessly outnumbered police only regained order around 11pm, having charged a group of trouble-makers in Corporation Street.

5 **Clock House:** this is the original building for Wycombe High School. Opened in 1901 with 18 pupils and Miss Marie Christie as the Headteacher. A science teacher at the school, Miss Mary Bowers, went on a women's suffrage march in London in June 1908, wearing her graduate gown. Miss Christie took part in several suffrage events and supported the controversial award of war bonuses to women teachers in 1916, before her death the following year.

6 Site of local women's suffrage office: **no. 1, end of White Hart Street**, opposite the Guildhall, opened in November 1912. The sisters, Misses G and K Coyle, were responsible for overseeing the office.

7 **The Guildhall:** venue for many women's suffrage campaign meetings. Miss Charlotte Despard, leader of the WFL, had to abandon a meeting here in 1907, due to repeated disruption. The meeting was re-convened in the Speed Hall. In 1908, Mrs Fawcett and Lady Knightley of Fawsley, leaders of the NUWSS, addressed a ticketed meeting here, when Miss Dove talked of her long-standing belief in gaining votes for women.

8 **All Saints Parish Church:** Miss Dove was a regular worshipper here. She unveiled a window in 1933, which shows heroines of the Christian faith through the centuries.

9 **Tudor House, no. 39 High Street:** Dr Fleck's house, where Mrs Katherine Harley, the overall organiser of the NUWSS pilgrimage, sought refuge from a pursuing mob. Following an appeal by Dr Fleck, Mrs Harley spoke to the crowd about 'Votes for Women' from this doorstep.

10 End of **Corporation Street** & site of **Davenport/Vernon's Garage, 31-32 High**



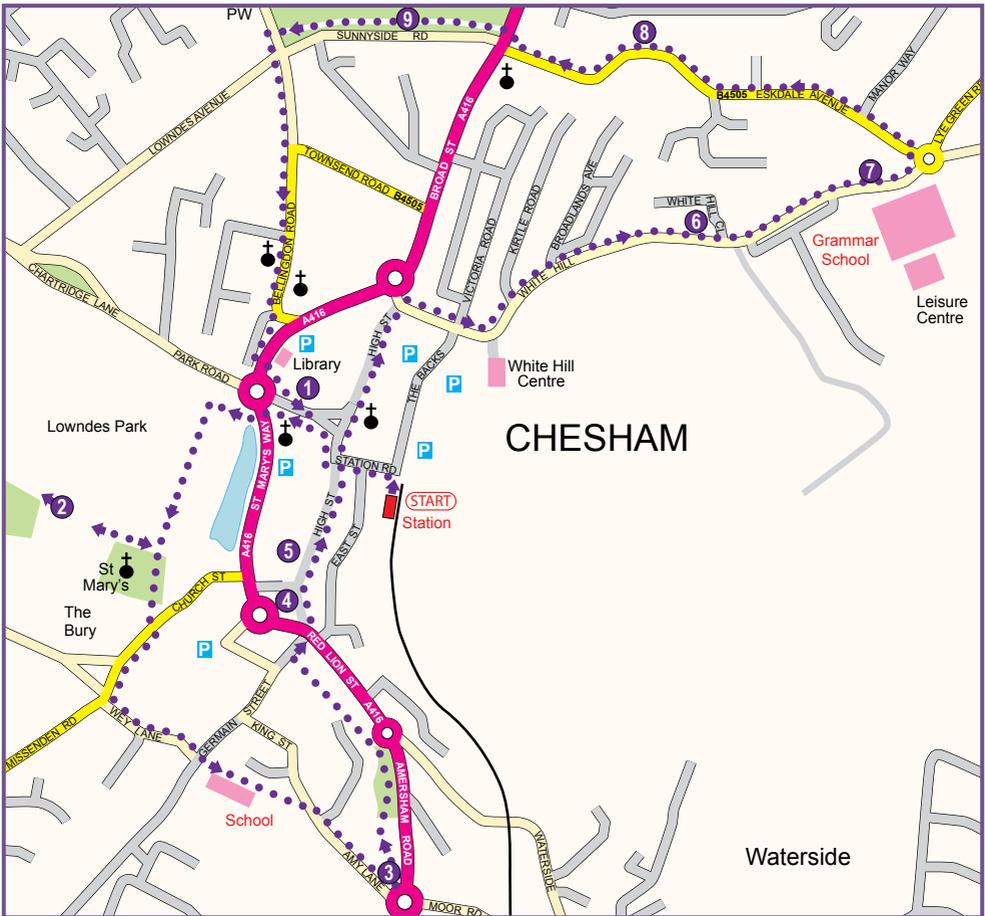
The Dove Window, All Saints Parish Church

Street. Some of the pilgrim's cars were left here overnight, so the premises were pelted with stones and the crowd tried to gain entrance. The following morning, while some pilgrims were worshipping at the parish church, others held an open-air meeting at the end of Corporation Street, before proceeding together up Amersham Hill on the next stage of their journey to London.

11 **Town Hall:** Along Queen Victoria Road is a plaque featuring the name of Councillor Daniel Clarke. He was a member of Union Street Baptist Church and President of the town's Young Helpers League. In 1914, Mr Clarke organised an evening for young people, from local Methodist, Baptist and Congregational churches. They heard well-known suffragist speaker Mrs Ethel Snowden give a talk on 'Peeps at Parliament through a Women's Eyes'.

12 **Wycombe Abbey School:** Founded by Miss Dove in 1896, a number of important women's suffrage meetings were here, with the earliest public meeting perhaps in 1904. Miss Dove also hosted a reception for seventy representatives from twenty nations attending the International Suffrage Conference, held in London in 1909. A re-launch for the local NUWSS branch took place here in 1912.

Chesham Trail 3.3 MILES - EASY WITH ONE STEEP CLIMB



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ROUTE DESCRIPTION Starting point: Chesham Station

Ahead out of Chesham Station and left downhill, along the left-hand pavement of Station Road. Right into High Street at the bottom, staying on the pedestrianised part. Before reaching the war memorial turn left and stand outside Broadway Baptist Church (1).

Continue in the same direction out of town, crossing the car park, the pedestrian crossing over St Mary's Way dual carriageway and follow the path up the hill to the park toilets. Turn left to follow the main avenue (*Rue des Houilles*) through the park.

At the end, before going through the gate is the start of an ungraded extension to the

trail, heading up the hill towards Chartridge Conference Centre (2).

Through the iron gate, follow the path with St Mary's to the right and the Rectory to the left, through another gate into Church Street. Cross the road and turn right. Turn left at the Queens Head pub into Wey Lane. Past the allotments, cross the road into the New Footpath beside Thomas Harding School. At the end of this path, cross Amy Lane and turn right, following the left-hand pavement to reach the roundabout (3).

Turn left and immediately left through a break in the wall to follow the Chess Valley walk

through Water Meades Garden until you reach Germain Street. Right and across the pedestrian crossing over Red Lion Street into the Market Square (4).

Follow the High Street, passing the George and Dragon pub on the left (5).

Continue along High Street, past Station Road, until the bottom of White Hill. Over the pedestrian crossing and turn right up hill along the left hand pavement all the way to the top by White Hill House (6).

Keep following this road on this side to opposite Chesham Grammar School (7).

Continue and go left at the mini-roundabout, down Eskdale Avenue. Some way down, on the

right of the road, as road sweeps to the left is no. 72 (8).

At the bottom of Eskdale Avenue go over Broad Street using the crossing on the left and turn right to arrive at the entrance to Chesham Cemetery. Follow the main path along the bottom to see two particular graves (9) *Mrs Annie Brooksbank is the 4th grave on the left between the path and the boundary wall. Mrs Louisa Matilda Page's gravestone is 40 paces further, on the right, second row, next to a cross with a dove on it.* Continue along this main path, turning left out of the other gates into Bellingdon Road. Follow this to the end, taking the subway under St Mary's Way and then back to the Broadway and the Station.

CHESHAM HISTORIC SITES

4 Chesham Broadway: a party of suffragettes held the first open-air meeting here in Chesham, in August 1909. Their local contact was Chesham suffragette, Mrs Emily Brandon (see no. 8). Several women's suffrage meetings were held here, in Chesham Co-operative's Equity Hall. (*The Equity Hall was behind the left-hand semi-circular window on the first floor of Broadway Court, opposite the church.*) At a meeting at the Corn Exchange in 1913, the minister of Broadway Baptist Church, Rev JH Brooksbank, declared that he had long been in favour of giving votes for women.

2 Chartridge Conference Centre: formerly Chartridge Lodge, country home of the Franklin family. Mrs Franklin was on the local Board of Education and joined the Jewish League for Women's Suffrage in 1912. Her son, Hugh, became a supporter of suffragette militancy, was imprisoned three times, and force-fed repeatedly. He gained national newspaper coverage when he fled from re-imprisonment to the Continent in 1913.

3 Site of Amy Mill House: home of the Chesham WSPU Branch Secretary, Miss KA Williams. She wrote a letter to the Town Council in 1913, urging them to support a suffrage meeting at the Corn Exchange, campaigning against White Slave Traffic (prostitution).

4 Market Square: site of the Corn Exchange/old Town Hall (*opposite Chesham Museum*).

5 Liberty's original shop (next to the George & Dragon pub, in the direction of the Broadway). Arthur Lasenby Liberty was elected Vice-President of the Amersham and District branch of the National League Opposing Women's Suffrage in January 1913.

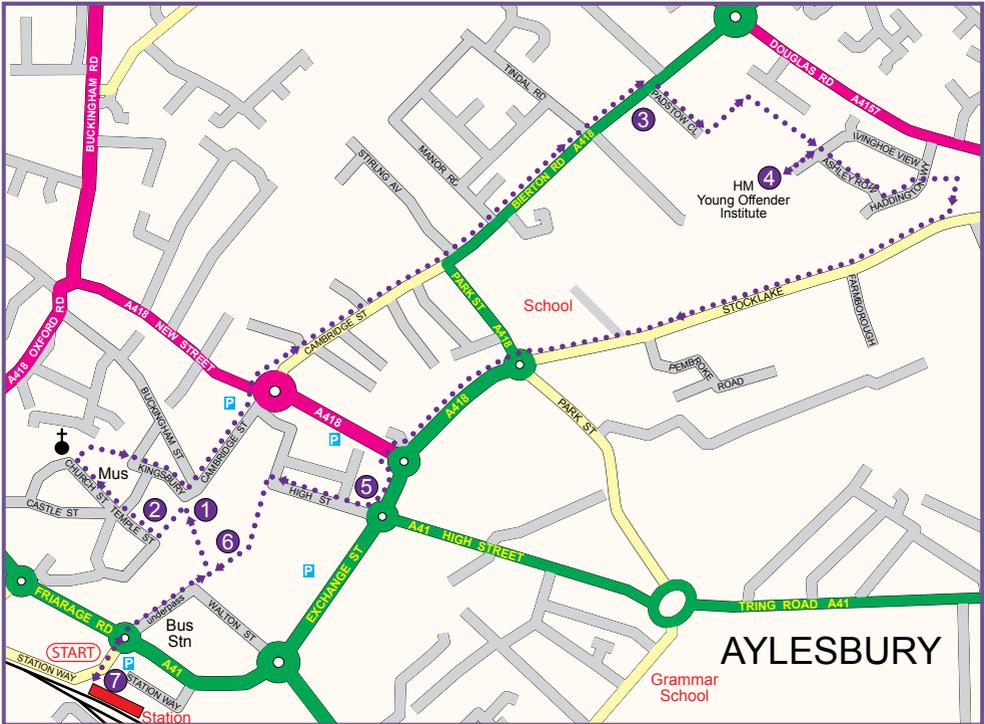
6 White Hill House: home of Lady Susan Trueman. She was a prominent local 'anti-suffragist' and was President of the Amersham branch of the NLOWS.

7 'Lyndhurst': home of Mrs Louisa Page, member of the Church League for Women's Suffrage and the Women's Co-operative Guild.

8 'Bankside' no. 72 Eskdale Avenue: home of Mrs Emily Brandon, driving force behind the founding of the Chesham WSPU branch. She took part in a suffragette demonstration in London in November 1911. She was arrested for obstruction and imprisoned for a week, rather than pay the five shillings fine.

9 Chesham Cemetery: the grave of Mrs Annie Brooksbank, President of Chesham's Baptist Women's League, which she said aimed for, 'the enfranchisement of Baptist women' (see no.1). Also the grave of Mrs Louisa Matilda Page (see no.7).

Aylesbury trail 3 MILES - EASY



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ROUTE DESCRIPTION *Starting point: Aylesbury Railway Station*

From the entrance turn right up the hill to Friarage Road. Cross, walk through the bus station into Market Square and to the John Hampden statue at top right hand corner (1). Walk along the top side of the Square into Market Street and then right to the Aylesbury Literary Club in Temple Street (2). Continue ahead into Church Street and take the footpath to the right between the churchyard and the old County Museum. Turn right down Pebble Lane, straight ahead through Kingsbury and then left along Cambridge Street. Stay straight ahead across two roundabouts and then onwards as it becomes Bieron Road. Further along on the right is Aylesbury Prison (3). To the left of the entrance is the staff car park. Go down towards the metal gate and take the concrete path on the left at the end. Follow the

prison wall around the next corner and then straight ahead into Ivinghoe View. Turn right and walk to the end of the cul-de-sac (4). Return, take the first right into Ashley Row and at the bottom left into Haddington Way. Further along on the right is the Haddington Way Play Space. Go through it into the next field and turn immediately right on the footpath to Stocklake. Turn right and follow this road to the third roundabout. Turn right up the High Street stopping at the junction opposite Railway Street (5). Continue up the High Street towards the centre and take the pedestrian way on the left signposted to the County Hall and follow it back into the Market Square. Continue ahead past the County Court buildings (6). Then back to the railway station (7).

AYLESBURY HISTORIC SITES

① **Market Square:** scene of Aylesbury's first suffragette open-air meeting in 1909, addressing a crowd of 200 people. A local newsagents agreed to a trial of selling 'Votes for Women' in the town. This was also the scene of a protest, organised by the WTRL, about the treatment of 28 suffragette prisoners in Aylesbury Prison in April 1912 (see cover photo). Led by a band, around 100 people marched from here to the prison, followed by a good-natured crowd. On their return to the square, the mood changed and missiles were hurled, speakers heckled and there were attempts to rush the platforms near the lions. A quieter protest occurred here in June the same year, when women from the WTRL, placed a wreath at the unveiling of the statue of John Hampden, to honour the example of four local women who joined John Hampden's 1635 tax protest: Mrs Westall and widows Bampton, Goodchild and Temple (see *Wendover trail*).

② **Aylesbury Literary Institute:** in November 1911, the Church League for Women's Suffrage organised a two week mission to the town. This included a launch meeting addressed by Australian suffragette, Muriel Matters, at the Literary Institute, Temple Street. Miss Matters had gained national notoriety by being the first woman to address the chamber of the House of Commons in 1908, after she chained herself to the grille of the Ladies' Gallery.



John Hampden statue,
Aylesbury

The next year, she hired an airship to drop leaflets over the capital.

③ **Aylesbury Prison:** most of the 28 suffragette prisoners were able to secretly start a hunger strike. Five prisoners were released early on health grounds, having initially been force fed. On their march around the prison, their fellow suffragettes sang the 'Women's Marseillaise'. One of the lines of the song was, '*Our comrades, bravely daring, through prison bars have led the way*'.

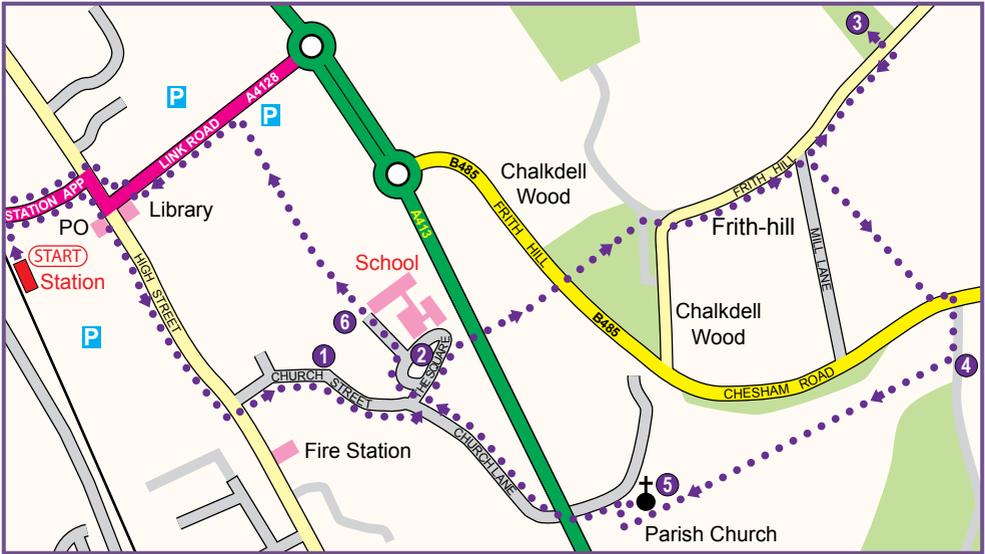
④ One of the marchers, Mrs Elizabeth Wilks of Clapton, wrote: '*At the back of the prison our friends waved handkerchiefs and towels ... though we were two fields off the noise was terrific and the cattle rushed up and down the field wildly*'.

⑤ Site of **Aylesbury Co-operative Hall** (on the High Street between Railway Street and Aylesbury ring road). Labour MP, Ramsay Macdonald, and his wife, Margaret, spoke here in 1907 about votes for women. There was a strong labour and trade union movement in the town, pressing for nothing less than adult suffrage. In October 1913, the Mid-Bucks NUWSS branch organised two meetings, one at the Co-operative Hall, another at the White Hart Hotel, where Miss Mason, regional organiser addressed a meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen. The two meetings saw 50 people become 'Friends of Women Suffrage'.

⑥ **County Court:** Miss Elizabeth Annie Bell, from London, was convicted of breaking a window at Aylesbury Prison during the April 1912 march and sentenced to two months in prison. She told the court she wished she had smashed more windows.

⑦ **Aylesbury Station:** Sylvia Pankhurst was refused permission to hold a meeting in the market square, the day after the disturbances of April 1912. Having been escorted by mounted police to the station, Miss Pankhurst and two fellow campaigners, attempted to address the crowds from their railway carriage, just before they returned to London.

Great Missenden Trail 2.2 MILES – EASY WITH ONE STEEP CLIMB



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ROUTE DESCRIPTION *Starting point: Great Missenden Railway Station*

Left out of station, then right down Station Approach. At bottom, right along High Street past the Roald Dahl Museum. Turn left into Church Street – ‘The Old House’ (1) is further down on the left.

Continue along street, past Oldham Hall and school (2).

Take path through tunnel under main road. After a 2nd underpass, path climbs steeply to a lane at top. Right and then left to meet Frith Hill. Cross over road and go left along pavement. 400 metres along is a house on left called ‘Bocken’ (3).

Return on same path back towards Missenden, but turn left on a track to right of Frith Hill Cottage. After a few steps go through footpath gate on left, cross field to bottom left hand

corner and through two more gates hidden behind a tree. Cross next field again to bottom left hand corner, to go over stile into a lay-by. At far left of lay-by cross main road to enter lane leading to Rookwood Cottage. Continue for about 200 metres to a stile on right with a view across the valley (4).

Over stile and follow path downhill ending at gate to the rear of St. Peter and St. Paul’s Church (5). Inside, left of the church entrance is Lady Chapel with brass wall plaque to Dame Alice Warmington (see 1). Left out of church, down lane, over bridge to bottom of hill and straight across towards Oldham Hall.

Take Buryfield Lane to left of hall and go straight on past Recreation Ground (6) to reach Link Road. Here, left to High Street, then right and immediately left to return to start.

GREAT MISSENDEN HISTORIC SITES

1 ‘The Old House’: home of Lady Alice Daisy Warmington. She hosted a Women’s Liberal Association meeting in September 1910, which was addressed by Mrs Bertrand Russell on the question of ‘Votes for Women’.

2 Oldham Hall and the School: several suffrage meetings were held in these buildings, including one addressed by the Australian suffragette, Miss Muriel Matters in March 1912, then living near Wycombe. There was a

debate between suffragists and anti-suffragists at the 'Public Hall' in Missenden in October 1912, attended by the Earl of Buckinghamshire. Lady Balfour and Miss Matters spoke in favour, Miss Gladys Pott against.

③ **'Bocken':** house of artist and sculptor, Catherine Courtauld. During her time at the house Catherine produced posters and postcards for the suffrage cause. She became Secretary of the Mid-Bucks branch of the NUWSS.

④ On the other side of the valley, in a house called **'Sonamarg'** on Windsor Lane, Little Kingshil, lived Mrs Alice Pilley. Her 'commodious motor home' (garage) served as the venue for a suffrage meeting in the summer of 1913. Shortly afterwards, Mrs Pilley used her car to pick up the Courtauld sisters and together they

joined the NUWSS pilgrimage into London.

⑤ There is a brass memorial to Lady Warming in the Lady Chapel of **St Peter and St Paul Parish Church**. A letter of tribute to her, written by Mrs Louisa Page (see *Chesham trail*) mentions her work against the White Slave Trade (prostitution) and other '*reforms which she had so much at heart*'.

⑥ **Recreation Ground:** this is probably the site of the first open air 'Votes for Women' meeting in Missenden, in September 1910. A small party of women, including Miss Katherine Raleigh from Uxbridge, spoke here. An anonymous person in an adjoining garden (possibly the Old House) opened the door through their rear garden wall and offered the speakers wooden boxes to stand on.



Princes Risborough Trail 12 MILES - STRENUOUS WITH TWO STEEP HILLS (please turn over for map)

PRINCES RISBOROUGH HISTORIC SITES

① On July 22nd 1913, a group of around 50 women arrived in Princes Risborough. They were on a national pilgrimage, organised by the NUWSS to highlight popular support for 'Votes for Women'. Some had come all the way from Carlisle, aiming to join a monster rally in Hyde Park. Travelling through Oxford and Thame, they came by caravan, car, bicycle and horse, as well as on foot. The group were met by 18 representatives of the Mid-Bucks NUWSS branch. After a well-received meeting in the market square then lunch at **The George and Dragon**, they started off towards West Wycombe. (*This trail shadows the route taken by the 1913 pilgrims: A4010/A40*).

② The pilgrims passed **Saunderton Station**, burned down by suffragettes in March 1913. The suffragettes used the cover of darkness and left the message, 'Burning to get the vote'.

③ **'The Caves', West Wycombe:** the party of pilgrims dined near here, at the British School, while local supporters had a tea provided at the

Black Boy pub (*'Black Boy Cottage' is in one of the yards off the High Street, beyond the George and Dragon*).



Saunderton Station waiting room, which features a heritage display

④ **The George and Dragon:** after a meeting under the village clock, the women mustered in the George and Dragon yard, before the march into High Wycombe. They had a roll-call and fell in behind the Wycombe Town Band.

5 West Wycombe Elementary School:

a small, advanced party was greeted here by local supporters, including Mrs Helen Ensor (see no.6). They addressed a crowd, including a party of schoolchildren. (see *Wycombe SWOP website, ref: RHW24487*). The school's Headteacher, Mr George Holland, was sympathetic to the women's cause.

6 **The Beacon, Heathfield Road:** the house of Mrs Helen Ensor. Originally from Manchester, she moved south with her husband's business and a growing family. Shortly after the hostile reception to the pilgrims in High Wycombe, a

small cottage was burned down in Sands, near to Mrs Ensor's house.

7 All along West Wycombe Road, the crowds grew more numerous and more hostile. **Frogmoor** was where the pilgrims planned to hold a meeting in High Wycombe (see *the Wycombe trail*). This had to be abandoned amidst riotous scenes. The next day, passing through Hazlemere, Penn, Beaconsfield, Gerrards Cross, Denham and Uxbridge, they joined up with the other pilgrims at Hyde Park rally on Saturday 26th July, estimated to number around 100,000.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION *Starting point: Princes Risborough Railway Station*

Take Station Approach to Station Road. Cross, turn right and then left along Manor Park Avenue. Continue ahead into Church Street and on to Market Square. Turn right into the High Street, pausing at the George and Dragon pub (1). Continue and then right into Bell Street. Walk along, as it becomes Wycombe Road, for about one mile.

Turn right along Upper Icknield Way, go over the crossroads and up the hill to Ridgeway Lodge. Take the Ridgeway path half right across the field, cross two railway lines and go through a golf course to reach a driveway and then a lane.

Turn left along it and take path on right opposite Pound Farm. Follow it ahead past farm buildings and then to the left hand edge of a field. Go straight ahead over next field to a lane. Take path opposite, continue in same direction and in next field bear half right up to a hedgerow. Go through and then left along field edge to a lane. Walk down it and just before the bridge turn left to Saunderton Station (2). *(A heritage display in the station waiting room is usually open during weekday peak times. To arrange to see the room, contact saundertonrug@gmail.com).*

Return to the lane and turn right up for about third of a mile. Take the driveway on the left to Nobles Farm. Stay in the same direction all the way to Saint Lawrence's Church and its

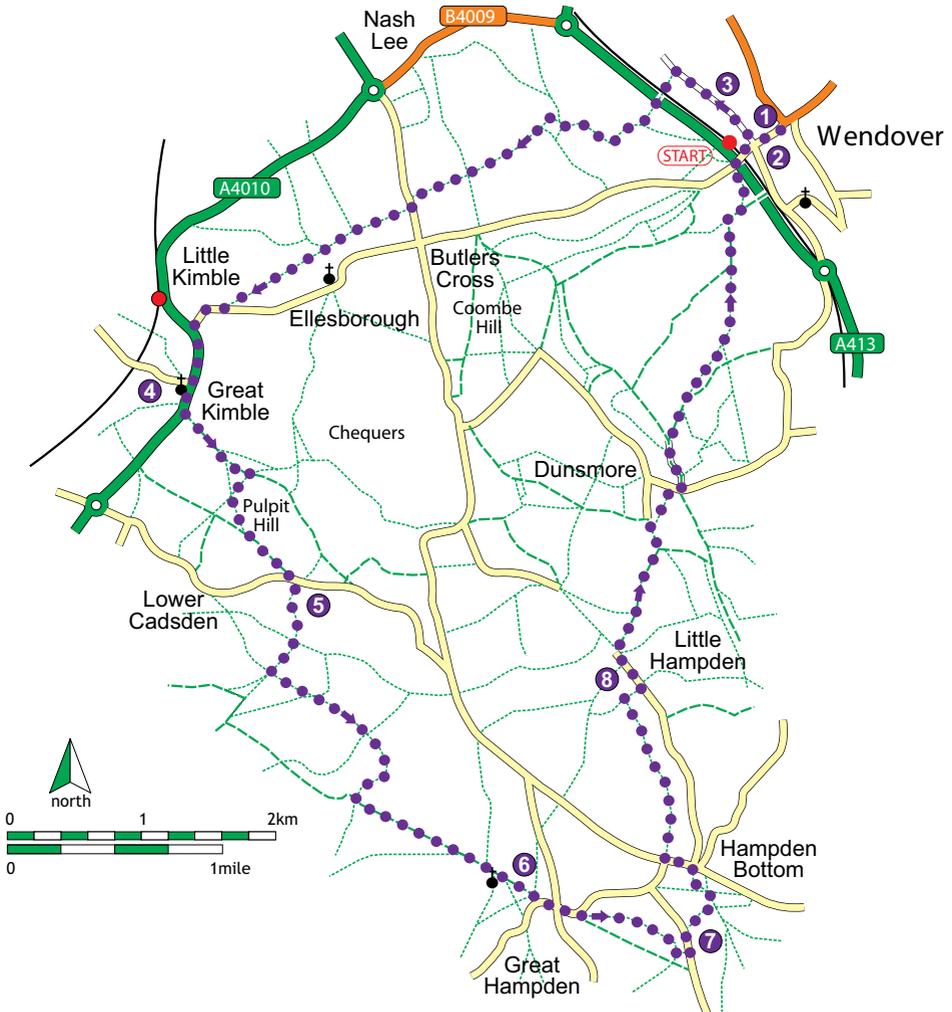
Golden Ball. Go left through the churchyard to the Mausoleum and stay in the same direction down to a lane. Turn right to reach the Hellfire Caves (3). Return back up the road and then right down Church Lane to exit into the High Street.

Turn right along the High Street to the George and Dragon pub on the left (4).

Continue along High Street and at the end turn right up Church Lane to the old Elementary School (5). Return to High Street, turn right along Oxford Road and then left up Toweridge Lane. Near the top stay ahead and then follow around to the left. Just before an entrance to a field take the path on the left to enter Sands Nature Reserve. Stay in same direction, go past houses on right to reach Heathfield Road. Turn right along it for a short distance to reach The Beacon on the right (6). Return to the joining point and go right along Oaksey Dene. Cross over the next road and, at the railings, go left to join Grove Road. Turn right into Toweridge Lane and then left down Chapel Lane to West Wycombe Road.

Turn right along it for 1.5 miles. At the major roundabout cross to Oxford Street, then into Frogmoor (7). Continue past Frogmoor into Church Street and then straight ahead into Castle Street. At the end turn left up Crendon Street to the railway station.

Wendover Trail 12.5 MILES – STRENUOUS WITH TWO STEEP CLIMBS



ROUTE DESCRIPTION Starting point: Wendover Railway Station

Go right out of station and up to Pound Street. Turn left, over Dobbins Lane and past the War Memorial to the crossing. Cross and left down to the Red Lion pub (1).

Back up to the War Memorial on the same side of the road as the Red Lion (2).

Cross the road, turn left then right down Dobbins Lane. over Chiltern Road and stop at no.34 and no. 36 (3).

Continue to end and take the wide path

on the left before Bridleways. Follow Aylesbury Ring footpath (sign of the duck on the roundel) all the way to a road at far side of Ellesborough. Turn right to meet A4010 main road. Turn left up hill to reach St Nicholas Church, Great Kimble (4). Cross the main road and turn right. Turn left uphill just before the lay-by.

Near to top turn right (3) on Ridgeway and follow as it contours around the hill. Just past a

bench, turn left and follow path to a car park. Walk left up the road and take bridleway to the right just before Longdown Farm (5).

Just before bridleway joins a path from the right turn left uphill into the Hampden Estate. Follow this path all the way to Solinger Farm. Turn right down lane, at the bottom right over a stile and then immediately left. Stay on path through the woods to meet a disused stile by Grim's Ditch. Turn left and walk parallel to it. Path becomes a farm track and as it swings right continue ahead to Hampden House (6).

Take the gravel driveway to the road. Keep ahead and over the crossroads. At bend, ignore the bridleway on the right and cross stile just after. Follow footpath all the way to a lane. Turn left down lane and the Hampden monument is on the right (7). Take path to left, across a field and down the side of a

wood. Turn left at crossing path and in the next wood left again to a road. Turn left along it and then right on a path opposite Glade Road. Follow this path all the way to Warren Cottage.

Turn right to a lane (8) and then left up to a parking area. Take the bridleway at the top end to a second set of fencing on left. Follow it as bends around to left and halfway along take path on the right up to a stile. Cross and climb half left uphill to a lane. Turn right to Dunsmore. Just past the pond, turn left and follow lane to the end where it becomes a bridleway. Straight on at the first fork and left downhill at a second. Path swings left uphill to meet a crossing path. Turn left and follow all the way to a lane. Turn right and then take stile on left. Cross field and go under transmission cables to exit at a stile at right hand end. Continue ahead to road. Turn right back to the station.

WENDOVER HISTORIC SITES

① **Wendover High Street** – last house before Great Lane was '**Chestnut Cottage**', home of Mrs Florence Hamilton. Belonging to the WTRL, Mrs Hamilton refused to pay her taxes as a protest. **The Red Lion** pub was the venue for the selling of Mrs Hamilton's distrained goods in 1911 & 1912, arranged by Mr Mead.

② **No. 27 High Street, Bosworth House:** home of Mr FJ Mead, land surveyor, tax collector. He became a suffragist, declaring his support for giving votes to women who already had the municipal vote, at an Aylesbury meeting, November 1911. Mrs Mead hosted suffrage meetings at their house.

③ **No. 34 Dobbins Lane:** home of Mrs Katie Sichel, secretary of the Mid-Bucks NUWSS branch, before Miss Catherine Courtauld took over (see Missenden trail). **No. 36, 'Coniston House'** was previously St Teresa's Holiday Home for Girls, the venue for some annual meetings of Mid-Bucks suffragists. Miss Solomon was matron of the home.

④ **St Nicholas' Church, Great Kimble:** a roadside sign depicts the 1635 protest of local MP, John Hampden, against the attempt of King Charles I to raise Ship Money without

reference to Parliament. Hampden's stand against 'taxation without representation' was seen by the WTRL as prefiguring their own (see *Aylesbury trail*).

⑤ **Longdown Farm:** a group of suffragettes stayed here in the summers of 1908 and 1909. They distributed literature, visited homes and laid plans. By 1909 they organised meetings in Chesham, Great Kimble, Aylesbury and Wycombe. One of the group, Mrs Caprina Fahey was a London masseuse, recruited by the WSPU in June 1908.

⑥ **Hampden House:** home of 'The Patriot', John Hampden, lionised by the Victorians as a defender of democracy against tyranny. Well-known author and renowned anti-suffragist, Mrs Humphry (Mary) Ward, lived here in the summer of 1889, while writing one of her novels. She lived in the Chilterns for many years ('*Stocks*', *Aldbury*).

⑦ **John Hampden Monument:** commemorating original tax resister.

⑧ **Little Hampden:** country home of Lina Eckstein, medieval scholar and member of the Women's Franchise League.



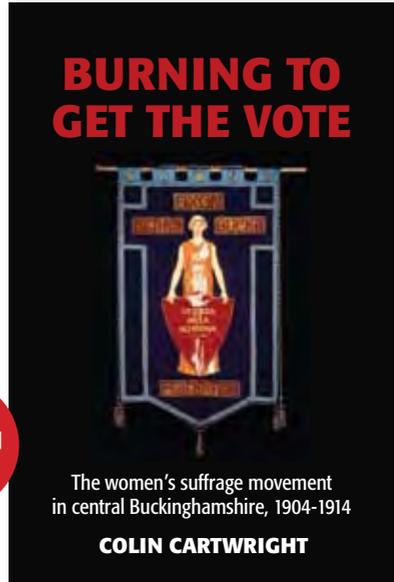
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The women's suffrage movement in central Buckinghamshire, 1904-1914

COLIN CARTWRIGHT

NUWSS banner image: from the Women's Library / Mary Evans



Rev. Colin Cartwright is a Baptist minister who has lived in the Chilterns since 2000. Being an amateur local historian, photographer, keen cyclist and dog-walker has been particularly helpful in writing this heritage trail booklet and *'Burning to Get the Vote'*. A supportive family, church and friends have been invaluable too.

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