

# Celebrating the Vote for Women, 1918-1928

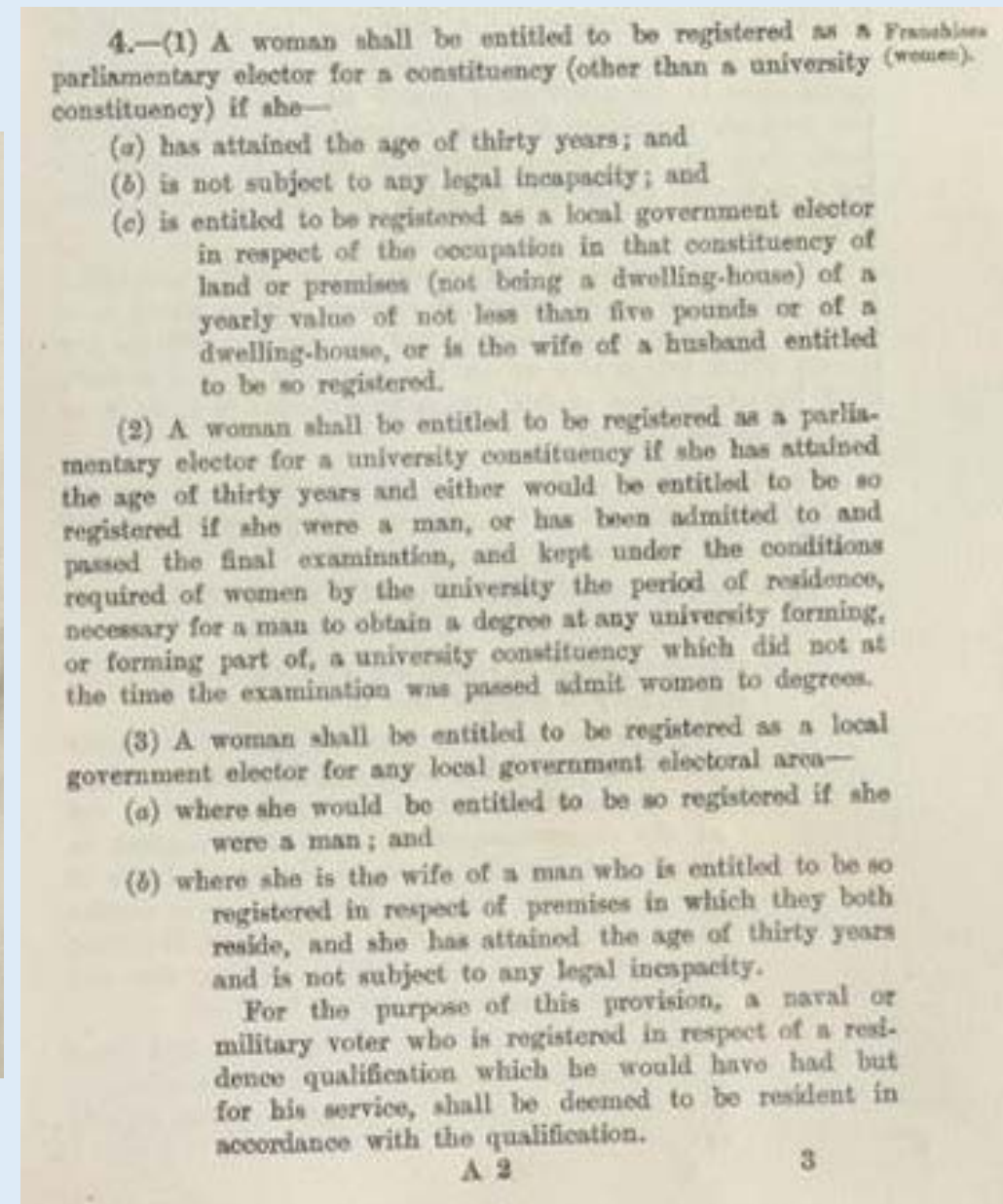
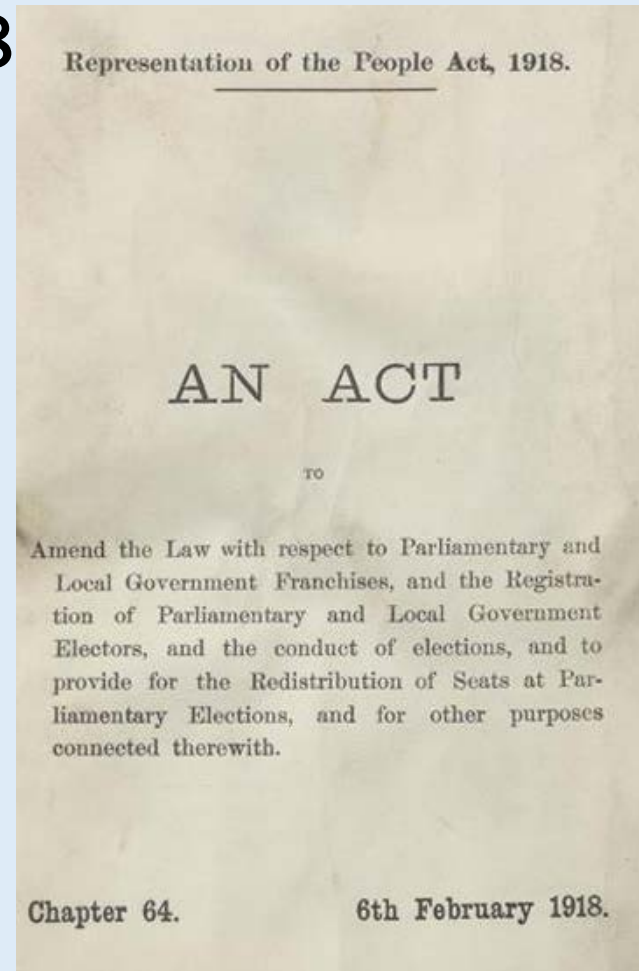
Siân Fox, Community Events Officer



# Representation of the People Act, 1918

6<sup>th</sup> February 1918

- The Act granted the vote to women over the age of 30 who met a property qualification.
- Although 8.5 million women met this criteria, it only represented 40% of the total population of women in the UK.



# First women elected to Parliament



Constance Markievicz,  
Countess Markievicz,  
MP

Elected 1918

4<sup>th</sup> February 1868 –  
15<sup>th</sup> July 1927

Image from -  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constance\\_Markievicz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constance_Markievicz)



Nancy Astor,  
Viscountess Astor,  
MP

Elected 1919

19<sup>th</sup> May 1879 -  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 1964

Image from -  
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/438115869977807553/>

# Changes to policy 1918-1928

- Registration of nurses, midwives & maternity homes
- Affiliation orders for the maintenance of illegitimate children
- A Legitimacy Act to help protect single mothers and their children
- Acts which improved the legal position of married and divorced women
- More leniency to those found guilty of infanticide
- Public Health measures put in place
- Pensions for widows, orphans & the elderly
- The age of consent was raised
- Sales of intoxicating liquor limited
- Women appointed to the Police and Civil Service

# Image of women



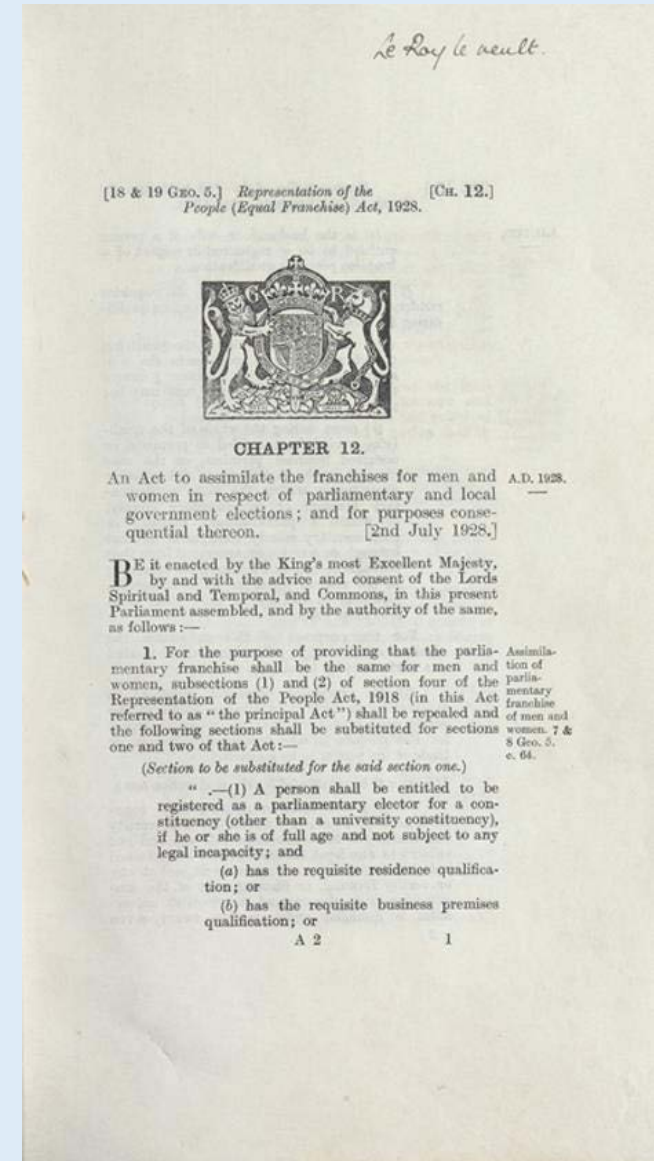
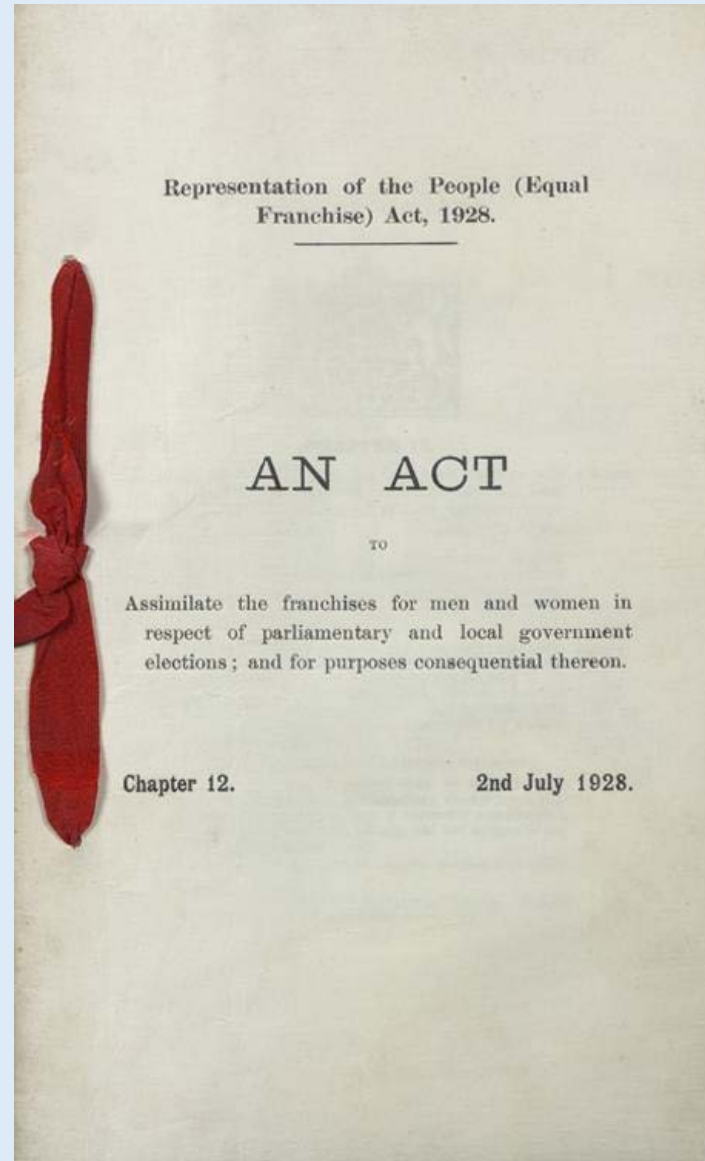
Image credit - <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-4857206/Colourised-images-1920s-flapper-girls-new-light.html>



Image credit - <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2287998/Rare-photographs-1920s-life-Britains-important-industrial-firms-time-sitting-untouched-boxes-local-library.html>

# Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1928

- The Equal Franchise Act of 1928 granted equal voting rights to women and men. As a result, both men and women could vote at the age of 21.
- This act increased the number of women eligible to vote to 15 million.



# International Women's Day

## 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> March



More information available -

<http://www.beamish.org.uk/events/international-womens-day/>



**Any questions?**

If you'd like to get in touch or are a member of another group that would be interested in hearing about our plans then please pass on my details

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