Celebrating the Vote for Women, 1918-1928

Siân Fox, Community Events Officer



Representation of the People Act, 1918

6th 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.

Representation of the People Act, 1918.

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Amend the Law with respect to Parliamentary and Local Government Franchises, and the Registration of Parliamentary and Local Government Electors, and the conduct of elections, and to provide for the Redistribution of Seats at Parliamentary Elections, and for other purposes connected therewith.

Chapter 64.

6th February 1918.

- 4.—(1) A woman shall be entitled to be registered as a Franchises parliamentary elector for a constituency (other than a university (women). constituency) if she—
 - (a) has attained the age of thirty years; and
 - (b) is not subject to any legal incapacity; and
 - (c) is entitled to be registered as a local government elector in respect of the occupation in that constituency of land or premises (not being a dwelling-house) of a yearly value of not less than five pounds or of a dwelling-house, or is the wife of a husband entitled to be so registered.
- (2) A woman shall be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector for a university constituency if she has attained the age of thirty years and either would be entitled to be so registered if she were a man, or has been admitted to and passed the final examination, and kept under the conditions required of women by the university the period of residence, necessary for a man to obtain a degree at any university forming, or forming part of, a university constituency which did not at the time the examination was passed admit women to degrees.
- (3) A woman shall be entitled to be registered as a local government elector for any local government electoral area—
 - (a) where she would be entitled to be so registered if she were a man; and
 - (b) where she is the wife of a man who is entitled to be so registered in respect of premises in which they both reside, and she has attained the age of thirty years and is not subject to any legal incapacity.

For the purpose of this provision, a naval or military voter who is registered in respect of a residence qualification which he would have had but for his service, shall be deemed to be resident in accordance with the qualification.

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First women elected to Parliament



Constance Markievicz,
Countess Markievicz,
MP

Elected 1918

4th February 1868 – 15th July 1927



Nancy Astor, Viscountess Astor, MP

Elected 1919

19th May 1879 - 2nd May 1964

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

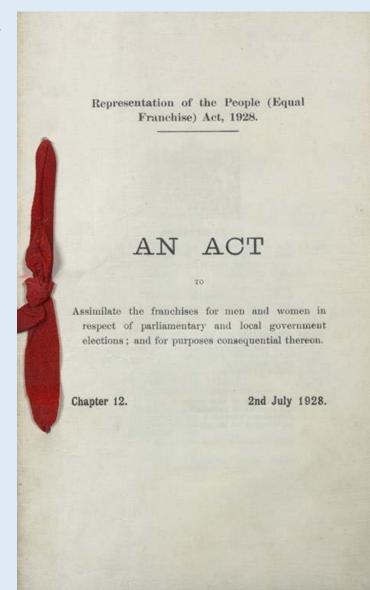


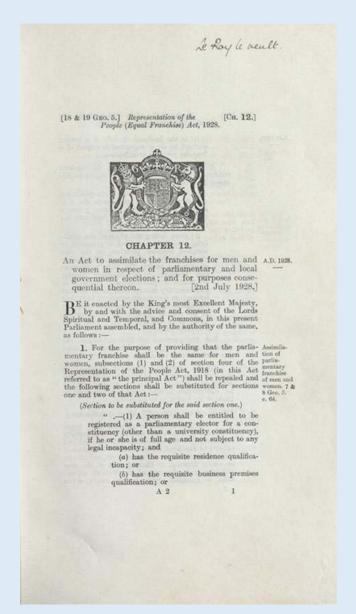


Image credit - http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-4857206/Colourised-images-1920s-flapper-girls-new-light.html

Image credit - http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2287998/Rare-photographs-1920s-life-Britains-importantindustrial-firms-time-sitting-untouched-boxes-local-library.html Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act, 2nd 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.





More information and image from - http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/electionsvoting/womenvote/case-study-the-right-to-vote/the-right-to-vote/birmingham-and-the-equal-franchise/1928-equal-franchise-act/

International Women's Day 8th & 10th 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

sianfox@beamish.org.uk / 0191 370 4320

