Soroptimist International Great Britain & Ireland

"I'm helping women and girls all over the world" *****

friends and have fun"



"I want to make life

better for women and

girls"



"We enable girls to reach their full potential"

"I want to contribute to my local community"





Ask Me Why I'm A Soroptimist

Join today www.sigbi.org



Forgotten Women of Wakefield



Awarded a blue plaque in 2019 and had a building named after her in 2020

FLORENCE BEAUMONT (1876-1929)

CIVIC SOCIES

SUFFRAGE LEADER WHO FOUNDED THE WAKEFIELD BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES IN 1910 LIVED HERE AS A CHILD, SHE WENT ON TO BECOME THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

> COMMEMORATED HERE BY SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF WAKEFIELD IN THEIR 85TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

> > 2019

THE WEST RIDING REGISTRY OF DEEDS WAS OPENED IN WAKEFIELD, AS ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL OF THE RIDING, IN 1704 AND MOVED TO THIS ADDRESS IN 1932, REMAINING UNTIL 2016 WHEN IT MOVED TO THE NEW WEST YORKSHIRE HISTORY CENTRE. THE BUILDING WAS OFFICIALLY RE-OPENED IN 2020 AFTER EXTENSIVE REFURBISHMENT BY WAKEFIELD COLLEGE AND IS NOW NAMED AFTER WAKEFIELD-BORN SUFFRAGE LEADER FLORENCE BEAUMONT (1876-1929) 2020

CIVIC SOCIE

What were women not allowed to do in 1876?

- Fight in a war
- Keep money that they earned
- •Go to university
- Become a doctor
- •Vote



Suffragettes

In 1903, the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU – the Suffragettes) was formed, led by Emmeline Pankhurst. It was run by Mrs Pankhurst and her daughter Christabel.

The Suffragettes believed in civil disobedience. They:

- disrupted Parliament
- chained themselves to railings
- broke windows
- burned down churches
- held huge marches and demonstrations
- attacked politicians
- set post-boxes on fire
- slashed paintings
- went on hunger strike when arrested
- Emily Davison threw herself under the king's horse in the 1913 Derby race. In 1913,
- The Suffragettes, however, had **not** won the vote by 1914

1910 – Wakefield Women's Suffrage Society



1913 – March from Newcastle to London



Womens' right to vote

When Britain went to the polls on 14 December 1918, it was a milestone moment. For the first time, women were among the voters in a General Election. In total, 8.5 million of them were eligible to ballot - and at last have their say in the future running of the country.



2028 – 100 years of votes for women

But still not everyone had a voice. The Representation of the People Act, passed on February 6 a century ago, gave women the vote, providing only that they were over the age of 30 and either they or their husband met a property qualification. It was not until a decade later, with the passing of the 1928 Equal Franchise Act that women were given equal voting rights with men - and all those over the age of 21 could at last take to the polls.

Democracy in action

- What do you want to change in the world?
- What can you do and who can help you?
- What would it say on your blue plaque?

