

For further reading, visit the Women Make History pages at the website address below. For more insight into women's history contact Glasgow Women's Library to find out when our two hour guided walks take place. You can also download our maps and audio tours from our website.

About Glasgow Women's Library

Glasgow Women's Library is no ordinary library. It is the only Accredited Museum dedicated to women's history in the UK, and also designated Recognised Collection of National Significance. A place for browsing, borrowing and being inspired, GWL is welcoming, free and open to all, with programmes of events and activities that offer something for everyone: from film screenings to literacy support; from talks to supported volunteering opportunities; and from exhibitions to workshops.

About Women Make History

Women Make History is GWL's women's history project. Volunteers research and deliver pioneering Women's Heritage Walking tours in Glasgow and produce related maps and audio tours. Other activities include talks, workshops, recording the histories of living heroines, exhibition curation, tour guiding, training and ongoing women's history detective work. For more details contact GWL.

How to get involved

Glasgow's women's history is still largely hidden from the general public. There are many ways to get involved to address this. Why not join our women's history detective or tour guide teams? You may have information you think could be added to this tour or suggestions of how it could be improved. If so, we want to hear from you.

You can also support GWL by becoming a Friend. This is an invaluable way of ensuring that our work is sustainable for future generations. Visit friends.womenslibrary.org.uk to become a Friend.

Contact us

To find out more about GWL, Women Make History, our guided tour dates and maps and audio tours of other routes please visit our website: www.womenslibrary.org.uk, or email us at info@womenslibrary.org.uk

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SUFFRAGETTE CITY WEST

Scotland featured prominently in the campaign for women's voting rights. Early women suffragists, many veterans of the anti-slavery campaign, tirelessly petitioned and lectured around Scotland in drawing rooms and meeting halls.

This walking trail is approximately 6km and will take 90 minutes to two hours at an easy pace. Buses depart near stops **(5)**, **(10)** and **(15)** for the city centre, if you wish to tackle it in sections. Underground stations are indicated but do not have lifts. Addresses listed are original, so follow directions rather than modern street numbering.

Begin on the west side of Renfield St between West Regent St and Bath Lane, facing the blonde sandstone building opposite.

The first Scottish petition for women's suffrage was presented to parliament in 1867, and by 1870 a Glasgow branch of the **National Society for Women's Suffrage** had formed. By necessity, members worked closely with male allies who could petition parliament on their behalf. From those roots grew the **Glasgow and West of Scotland Association for Women's Suffrage (GWSAWS)**, founded 1902. The Association met at the **Scottish Council for Women's Trades** located within the **Victoria Buildings, 58 Renfield St (1)**. The GWSAWS

soon affiliated with the **National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS)**. Though founder **Jessie Greig** was former President of Glasgow Women's Liberal Association, meetings had a male chair. In 1909 they opened a shop at this address, and met every Saturday for 'discussion, practice in speaking and debate'. They lost some founder members to the militant **Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU)**, but a few, including socialist shipping heiress **Janie Allan**, retained membership of both organisations. The Association wound down in 1933, but former members continued to meet at Glasgow University's Queen Margaret Union until the 1960s.

Walk north up Renfield St then left into Bath St. Continue to the junction with West Campbell St, where a Hilton hotel now stands.

The women-only **WSPU**, founded in Manchester in 1903 by **Emmeline Pankhurst** and daughters, was dedicated to 'deeds, not words'. Their militant followers, many working-class, were

WSPU members, 1912 (L-R) Helen Crawford, Janet Barrowman, Margaret McPhun, Mrs A Wilson, Frances McPhun, Nancy John, Annie Swan © Museum of London. Anna Munro © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection. WFL Suffrage Centre, The Vote, 10 Dec 1910 © British Library Board. WFL Suffrage Centre © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection.



belittled in the press as diminutive 'suffragettes' but embraced the name as a badge of honour. A Glasgow branch of the WSPU formed in 1906, and the short-lived Scottish Council helmed by **Helen 'The Chieftainess' Fraser** opened its HQ in 1908 in the now-demolished **Cockburn Buildings, 141 Bath St (2)**. After the Pankhursts encouraged stone-throwing, Fraser resigned saying, 'You don't use violence, you use reason to get the vote', and joined the **NUWSS** – an example of the way in which membership of militant and constitutional organisations flowed in both directions. Her resignation ended the brief existence of an autonomous Scottish WSPU; thereafter Scottish branches came under the control of the national organisation.

Cross right into West Campbell St and left onto Sauchiehall St. After emerging from the pedestrian precinct, stay on the north side.

Just over Dalhousie St, a dark brick building now occupies the row where the **Women's Freedom League (WFL)** opened their **Suffrage Centre, 302 Sauchiehall St (3)**. In 1907 WSPU organisers **Teresa Billington-Greig** and **Charlotte Despard** broke away to form the more democratic WFL; **Anna Munro** followed to become Secretary of its Scottish Council. The WFL engaged in non-violent civil disobedience such as withholding taxes – 'No taxation without representation!' – and resisting the census. Their first office was **30 Gordon St**; in 1909 they moved here. The Suffrage Centre had an 'artistic hall' which served as tearoom, meeting place, lending library and shop. The shop showcased embroidery,

marquetry and china by lady artists, some of whom likely studied at the nearby **School of Art (GSA)**.

At the end of the block, turn right to climb Scott St, then turn right into Renfrew St to the GSA, currently under reconstruction following the 2018 fire.

Many staff and students at **Glasgow School of Art (4)** were involved in the movement. **Jessie Newbery**, founder of GSA's embroidery department, was a GWSAWS then WSPU member whose work used suffrage colours of green, white and violet. Student **Daisy McGlashan's** embroidered dress likewise displays her allegiance to the cause. The department became a production line for suffrage banners. Newbery's successor **Ann Macbeth** was a WSPU member who endured solitary confinement and force-feeding. She donated a 'friendship quilt' to the WSPU's Grand Suffrage Bazaar, embroidered with the signatures of 80 Holloway hunger-strikers.

Descend via Scott St, and continue along the north side of Sauchiehall St to reach a yellow truck sculpture extending over a doorway.

On 28–30 April 1910, the WSPU held a **Grand Suffrage Bazaar** at **Charing Cross Halls (5)**, now the Garage nightclub, as part of a citywide Scottish Exhibition. The **WSPU shop** was three doors west in the same row, at **no. 502 (6)**. The bazaar stalls presented traditional feminine arts such as baking and



15

6/6A

Glasgow Botanic Gardens

14

13

Great Western Rd

12

Cresswell St

Hillhead Subway

Byres Rd

University Ave

University Pl

11

4/4A

Kelvinbridge Subway

10

Kelvingrove

Kelvin Way

La Belle Pl

Clifton St

8

9

Now part of the Mitchell Library, this facade is all that survives of **St Andrew's Halls (7)**, a venue used throughout the campaign. In 1882, suffragists at the **Scottish National Demonstration of Women** reflected on 12 years of struggle, during which time they had achieved the town council and school board franchise, access to higher education, and for married women, the right to own property. In 1909, American WSPU member **Alice Paul** was apprehended after hiding overnight on the roof to disrupt a speech by the Earl of Crewe. By 1914, **Emmeline Pankhurst** had to be smuggled into a public meeting here in a laundry basket, a fugitive under the **Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health Act**, commonly known as the **Cat and Mouse Act**. This allowed for the early

millinery alongside radical performance. Former prisoners played themselves in a cramped replica cell, demonstrating the harsh conditions suffragettes endured compared with male political prisoners. The **Actresses Franchise League** enacted plays such as *How the Vote Was Won*, and satirical 'cartoons in model' lampooned cabinet ministers. Souvenir suffragette china with an angel and thistle motif could be had, and Ann Macbeth's Holloway quilt was sold and converted into a procession banner.

Continue to the traffic lights, then cross via an island to the south pavement. Continue along Sauchiehall St, which crosses over a motorway. Turn left into Granville St, to the back of the Mitchell Library.



4

Embroidered dress, c.1900, by Daisy Agnes McGlashan, Glasgow School of Art, NMC/432. Holloway quilt, 1910 © Museum of London. Grand Suffrage Bazaar teapot, 1910 © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection. Caro Jolly (L) and Georgina Brackenbury (M) in 'cell', Scots Pictorial 7 May 1910, by permission Glasgow City Archives and Special Collections. Dorothea Chalmers Smith's hunger strike medal, 1913 © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection.



5



release then re-arrest of hunger-strikers once they had regained their health. Surrounded by a cordon of redoubtable women who made up her 'Scotch bodyguard', Pankhurst was nonetheless swiftly re-arrested amid riotous scenes as police laid about women and male supporters alike with batons. The general public was disgusted by the **'Battle of Glasgow'**, being of the opinion that the police brutality would radicalise moderates. Indeed, the Glasgow WSPU increased its membership by over 100 in the following days.

Return and cross Sauchiehall St to continue on the north side. Turn right at Clifton St.

The cream building on the corner of Clifton St and La Belle Place was once **the Queen's Rooms (8)**. On 20 April 1918, several suffrage societies assembled here to celebrate the passing of the **Representation of the People Act** which extended the franchise to women over 30 with property qualifications. Earlier that

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

Granville St

Sauchiehall St

Bath St

W. Regent St

W. Campbell St

Renfield St

3, 4/4A



9



10



11



Force-feeding illustrated in *The Suffragette* by E Sylvia Pankhurst, 1911, openlibrary.org
 Suffrage oak planting, *Daily Record*, 22 April 1918. Image © Trinity Mirror, courtesy British Library Board.
 Mrs Graham Moffat, and Graham Moffat, 1914, by Cowan Dobson, by permission National Galleries of Scotland © Estate of the artist.

day, they had witnessed **Louisa Lumsden** plant a commemorative oak sapling in Kelvingrove. Chair **Frances Melville** remarked that, since women would bring new life into politics, 'it was most appropriate to plant in commemoration a living, growing thing'. Though storm-damaged, the oak survives today.

Continue on Clifton St then left into Park Gardens to the final house in the terrace.

In 1913, after the women's suffrage question was again blocked in parliament, the WSPU campaign stepped up in Scotland. Violence remained symbolic however, with orders that 'not a cat or a canary (...) be killed'. On 24 July 1913, **Dorothea Chalmers Smith** and **Ethel Moorhead** were caught with fire-raising materials at unoccupied **6 Park Gardens (9)**, having gained entry posing as prospective buyers. After sentencing, the women went on hunger strike in Duke St Prison, before discharge under the Cat and Mouse Act. A year later Moorhead was rearrested in the Borders following a similar plot and imprisoned in Edinburgh, where she became the first woman to be force-fed in a Scottish prison.

Enter Kelvingrove Park via the gate ahead. Follow the map to navigate to the northernmost exit on Kelvin Way. Go over the pedestrian crossing to pay your respects to the **Suffrage Oak (10)** opposite, marked with a plaque. Turn right then follow the pavement round into University Avenue. Fork left into University

Place. Stop at a small car park halfway down on your right, opposite the School of Mathematics and Statistics.

Actress **Maggie Moffat** and playwright husband **Graham** lived in a tenement here, formerly **15 University Avenue (11)**. In 1907, Maggie was arrested during a WSPU deputation to the House of Commons, one of the first Scotswomen imprisoned for the cause. On her release from Holloway, Graham formed the **Glasgow Men's League for Women's Suffrage** for 'those poor brave things, the husbands and brothers of active suffragettes', and wrote plays in support of the cause.

Continue to the end then turn right into Byres Rd. Walk for several blocks, turning right at Cresswell St. Stop just past Burgh Lane, where a neoclassical extension to the Western Baths now stands.

Chess-playing sisters **Ellison Scotland Gibb** and **Margaret Skirving Gibb** lived at now-demolished **Elliot House, 40 Elliot St (12)**, later Cresswell St. Descendants of William Skirving (c. 1745–96), a martyr for the cause of universal suffrage, they participated in the 1911 census boycott. **Ellison** was imprisoned several times for militant actions, and personally admonished Churchill from an adjoining train compartment for his failure to grant women the vote. In 1914, **Margaret** slashed Thomas Carlyle's portrait with a meat cleaver in the National Portrait Gallery to protest Emmeline Pankhurst's arrest.

Return to continue along Byres Rd, then cross the busy junction with Great Western Rd diagonally. Follow Queen Margaret Drive to the park entrance just beyond the glasshouse.

The sandstone villa opposite was purchased by philanthropist **Isabella Elder** to house **Queen Margaret College (13)**, opened 1883 to provide higher education for women. It was incorporated into Glasgow University in 1892, but retained its exclusive female status until courses merged in 1935. The College had its own suffrage society and publication, *Jus Suffragii Alumnae*. Numerous members of the movement were educated here, notably **Marion Gilchrist**, a founding member of GWSAWS and the first woman to receive a medical degree in Scotland. During WW1, QMC alumnae served in the NUWSS-funded **Scottish Women's Hospitals** in Europe, and are commemorated in Glasgow University's Roll of Honour.

Enter the Botanic Gardens and follow the path round to the front of the glasshouse.

On 24 January 1914, two bombs exploded at **Kibble Palace (14)**, damaging 27 panes of glass. Suffragettes were immediately blamed but while the 'evidence' convinced the press (high-heeled footprints, a woman's veil, a champagne bottle, cake) no literature was found and nobody charged. **Helen Crawford** was questioned but denied involvement. A WSPU member close to the Pankhursts, she resigned in response to their pro-war stance, and subsequently founded

the **Women's Peace Crusade**. All suffrage organisations suspended militancy during WW1, instead mobilising their members to alleviate the war's impact at home, particularly on women. Their efforts gained the respect of opponents who could now soften their stance on women's suffrage without losing face.

Follow the map to exit the Botanic Gardens on Great Western Road. Go right then cross Kirklee Road at traffic lights to the pillar box engraved ER VII for King Edward VII **(15)**.

The West Glasgow activists named so far on our trail were middle or upper-class: our final stop celebrates a working-class suffragette. In 1913, acid was poured into postboxes in Kirklee as part of the WSPU guerrilla campaign against government property. **Jessie Stephen** worked in service nearby and participated in several attacks, unsuspected in her maid's uniform. A teenage activist, she organised fellow servants into a union, canvassing at the 'back doors of big houses, getting the girls to join'. Jessie was finally granted equal voting rights in 1928, as were all women over 21. Later in life she stood for Labour in Portsmouth, wrote a *Glasgow Herald* column, established a secretarial agency, was elected to Bristol city council and gained an MBE for trade union work. The trajectory of her extraordinary life, from saboteur to elected official, exemplifies Louisa Lumsden's words as she planted the suffrage oak: 'The vote is the door to everything, and the door is open.'



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Margaret Gibb in Holloway, 1914 © Museum of London. Detail, 1911 Gibb family census (644/1233/4) © Crown, National Records of Scotland. Queen Margaret College medical students, 1892/3 (Marion Gilchrist, 3rd row, 4th left), University of Glasgow Archives & Special Collections. *Jus Suffragii Alumnae*, 1909, University of Glasgow Archives & Special Collections. Jessie Stephen and WFL Portsmouth, *The Vote*, 31 October 1924 © British Library Board.



13



15

