

Inspiring women

*The Legacy of the First World War
in South Gloucestershire*

To celebrate the achievements of women in South Gloucestershire over the last 100 years, we are highlighting their stories to illustrate the opportunities that have opened up to women when *The Representation of the People Act of 1918* allowed some women to vote for the first time.

In the words of Millicent Fawcett, president of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies 1867:

“Courage calls to courage everywhere”

Thanks to all those who have contributed to the Inspiring Women project and exhibition.

Inspiring women

*The Legacy of the First World War
in South Gloucestershire*



Georgiana Budgett OBE (1866 - 1944)

Georgiana was born in Winterbourne and was known as the soldiers' 'Fairy Godmother'. Georgiana had heard about the terrible conditions and insufficient food in a German prisoner of war camp. As Secretary of the local Red Cross, Georgiana reportedly inaugurated Red Cross parcels for prisoners of war.

Image: Bristol Library Services, Ref No BLS B248 Vol 1 - 045

Inspiring women

The Legacy of the First World War
in South Gloucestershire



Clarissa Wheeler (née Hobbs) As Company Nursing Sister, she led Parnall's Aircraft's First Aid operation after the Air Raid in Yate on Thursday 27th February 1941. The raid killed 55 people. Clarissa managed to take charge and treat 90 casualties even though she had been buried in the debris.

Image: Bristol Evening Post, 27 February 1941

Inspiring women

in local politics

*'Elsie had her lip hit and it bled. I was hit by potatoes, stones, turf and dust ...
Someone threw a stone as big as a baby's head.'*

Mary Blathwayt describing a National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies rally in Bristol

1918 Representation of the Peoples Act allowed some women the vote for the first time.

1928 All women in Britain gained the vote and electoral equality.

1958 The Life Peerages Act entitled women to sit in the House of Lords.

1979 Margaret Thatcher becomes first women Prime Minister.

2014 Nicola Sturgeon becomes First Minister of Scotland.

Inspiring women

in local politics



Mary Blathwayt (1879 – 1962)

Mary's family were Blathwayts from Dyrham Park, South Gloucestershire. An active member of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), she worked closely with leader, Annie Kenny in the South West. In 1912, when the campaign became violent, she resigned from the WSPU but remained a member of National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. (NUWSS).

© Bath Preservation Society

Inspiring women

in local politics



Gladys Nelson (née Anstee) (1910 – 2008)

Gladys, a Liberal, was a member of Yate Parish Council 1964 – 1973 and Yate Town Council up to 1999, until she was 89. Dedicated to Yate, she was involved with major projects: saving Poole Court; establishing Yate Heritage Centre; the re-opening of Yate Station. Gladys was an active and respected campaigner in the community.

© Gazette Series: Yate and District Heritage Centre

Inspiring women

in local politics



Heather Goddard

Heather was a teacher and a school governor. She was a Conservative District Councillor on 2 Councils for 32 years. At South Gloucestershire Council, Heather was Cabinet member for Communities and Development of Strategic Partnerships and External Affairs. Heather has a real passion to get involved to make a difference to local people.

Cllr Heather Goddard at a turf cutting event in Page Park, Staple Hill. November 2016. © South Gloucestershire Council

Inspiring women

in local politics



Pat Apps

After being a teacher and school governor, Pat became a Labour South Gloucestershire Councillor from 2003 to 2007 and 2011 to 2015. Pat chaired council committees and *Connecting Kingswood* and *The Over 50s Forum*.

Reproduced with permission of Pat Apps

Inspiring women

in local politics



Source © Frenchay Village Museum

Mabel Flux (1897 - 1966)

Mabel went to Frenchay village school, then on to Colston's Girls School. In 1914 she went on a cheese making course at the Country Dairy School, Bristol. She worked in the Women's Land Army in 1914 -18. When her brother, Tom died aged 26 the Mabel and her sister, Kit, were left to run the family farm for most of the war and deliver the milk from the farm's dairy. At the end of the war, Mabel met an Australian soldier, Norman Hedditch, followed him to Australia and they married in Melbourne. Mabel became involved in local politics and served on the Portland Town Council in 1949-64 and was mayor from 1956-60. In 1954 she was made a justice of the peace and in 1960 she was appointed OBE.

Inspiring women

in local politics



Image: With kind permission of Sue Walker

Sue Walker

Sue is married with one child and worked for social services in child protection. A Liberal Councillor with Yate Town Council and South Gloucestershire Council since 1979, she was Chair of both councils. Sue was a driving force behind numerous projects including Yate and District Twinning Association, Men in Sheds and The Dementia Worker post, Yate. Sue has also served with many local organisations, the Baptist Church and Football Club, amongst others. Sue is most proud of offering a home environment where local residents felt able to seek help with their casework and problems.

Inspiring women

in local politics



Image: With kind permission of Erica Williams

Erica Williams

Erica Williams, a Conservative Councillor, was the Chair of South Gloucestershire Council for 2 years until 2017. In addition to her active role as a Councillor, she works tirelessly to assist people in her ward. Erica is also the Chair of the Batch Community Centre where she aims to ensure that this important hub in the local community is managed appropriately, to assist people and overcome their problems in her local ward. She is an inspiration to everyone she meets, with a strength and tenacity that shines through everything she does.

Inspiring women

in local politics



Image: With kind permission of Chris Wilmore

Chris Wilmore

Chris, was a barrister before becoming an academic. Her work, focusing on education for sustainability and engaging young people in change, has won awards, including the International Green Gown 2017, and a fellowship of the EAUC, IEMA and RSA. A Liberal Town Councillor since 1983, her dedication and commitment have been the driving force behind numerous projects like Yate Outdoor Sports Centre, Armadillo Youth Café, Peg Hill Skate and BMX Parks, benefitting our local young people over many years.

Inspiring women

in public service

“As women we must stand up for ourselves, as women we must stand up for each other, as women we must stand up for justice for all” Michelle Obama

1920 The Sex Discrimination Act allowed women access to the legal profession and accountancy.

1941 National Service Act allowed for conscription for women, unmarried 20-30. Up to 43 and married unless with young children.

1975 Sex Discrimination Act made it illegal to discriminate against women at work, education or training.

2015 Bobbie Cheema-Grubb QC became the first Asian women High Court Judge.

2015 Major General Susan Ridge became the 1st female Senior Officer in the British Army.

Inspiring women

in public service



Rosa Rouse

Rosa was a police officer who was transferred from Bristol to Gloucestershire Constabulary in 1927 because she could ride a motorbike. She was stationed for 8 years at Staple Hill from 1928-1936 and dealt with a variety of high profile cases that caught the attention of the local press.

Police Constables, Holland House Cheltenham in 1928.

Rosa Rouse, standing left.

Image © Gloucestershire Police Archives

Inspiring women

in public service



Margaret Bracey

On leaving school at 14, Margaret worked as a hairdresser and a nanny. She then married and became a volunteer for the Royal British Legion. She worked in welfare with service personnel and widows needing help with pensions and the loss of loved ones. She received the British Legion Golden Award and the Poppy Award for her work selling poppies for 75 years. Her voluntary work was recognised by attending the Queens Garden Party. She was a volunteer at the Pop Inn Café and Mayor of Yate when the café opened.

*Image: With the kind permission of
Margaret Bracey (center with glasses)*

Inspiring women

in public service



The Right Reverend Rachel Treweek Bishop of Gloucester

After ordination in 1994, Rachel spent some years in parish ministry. She was appointed as Archdeacon of Northholt and later, Hackney. In 2015, Bishop Rachel was the first female diocesan bishop appointed in the Church of England and the first female bishop in the House of Lords. Her diocese extends across Gloucestershire and includes most of South Gloucestershire.

Image © Diocese of Gloucester

Inspiring women

in public service



Rosie Phillips

Rosie is Founder and CEO of the charity Developing Health & Independence (DHI). Founded in 1999, DHI bridges the gap between homelessness and addiction and turns around the lives of 5,000 people annually. DHI are embedded in South Gloucestershire through running drug and alcohol services since 2005. Rosie is also a trustee of the local CVS.

Image: With kind permission of Joe Rayment, Developing Health and Independence.

Inspiring women

in public service



Amanda Deeks OBE

Amanda moved to South Gloucestershire Council in 2001 and became Chief Executive in 2004. The Council is a mixed urban and rural unitary authority with over 7,000 staff and a net budget of £216.9m. Amanda leads South Gloucestershire's involvement in the new West of England Combined Authority and the WoE Local Enterprise Partnership.

Image ©South Gloucestershire Council

Inspiring women

in public service



Olivia Burgess

A family friend of Robert Baden-Powell, Olivia started the first Chipping Sodbury Scout Troup in April 1914. She helped them to become messengers for the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), stationed in Chipping Sodbury. Olivia and her sister, Joyce, were scouting pioneers who had the idea for the first World Scout Camp. As daughter of Colonel W. Burgess, Commanding Officer, the 12th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment (Bristol's Own) Olivia was at the inauguration of Yate and Chipping Sodbury War Memorials.

Image: Gazette series: Yate and District Heritage Centre

Inspiring women

in public service



Mary Draper (1910-2011)

Mary Draper served for 12 years as a Liberal Yate Town Councillor, becoming Chair from 1990 to 1992. She helped save historic Poole Court from demolition and saw it restored as the Town Council offices. She was a popular and artistic Teacher at North Road Primary School, The Ridge Junior School and Abbotswood Primary School in Yate. Mary was also Chairman of the local branch of the Arthritis Research Campaign for 30 years and a stalwart fundraiser.

Mary Draper (centre left) YHC Gazette 1912 New Mayor and Past Chairs at Yate Town Council

Inspiring women

in public service



Image: Gazette series: Yate and District Heritage Centre

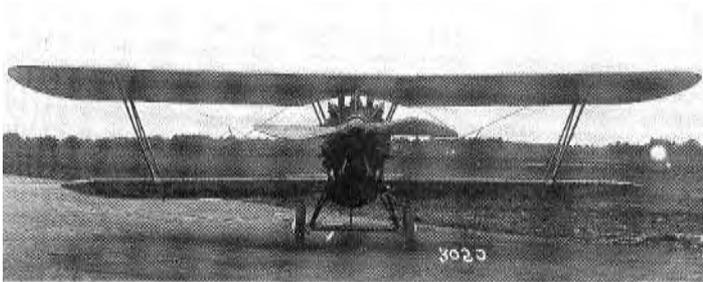
Gertrude Higgins

Gertrude Higgins was born in and lived all her life in Yate. She attended St Mary's School and was the organist of the Methodist Church and Sunday School Teacher. She was a Magistrate and school secretary.

Gertrude donated the clock in the Parish Hall, Yate, in her father's memory. Gertrude was a founding member of Yate Choral Society where she sang contralto, being made an Honouree member in 1996 on the society's 30th birthday. Gertrude continued to serve the town well into her 90s. She was utterly formidable and completely committed.

Inspiring women

in public service



Public Domain: Bristol Badger

Rosina Jones

Rosina worked in the canteen of Bristol Aeroplane Company from 1936, organizing the essential sustenance for workers.

All food preparation was done by hand and ensuring hygiene meant scalding surfaces with boiling water, and scrubbing the floor with caustic soda, wearing clogs. She served in the management dining rooms, events and on-board food during the promotion flights for the Britannia aircraft. During the war, they fed hundreds of shift workers, including overnight. Canteen staff worked up to 12 hours shifts.

Inspiring women

in public service



Image: With permission of Tina Mitchell-Skinner

Tina Mitchell-Skinner

Tina is the Chief Executive Officer of Brain Tumour Support, a charity she founded after the death of her husband Paul, aged 37. With Tina's vision, dedication and leadership, the charity runs support groups, home visits and specialist support across the South West and West Midlands. The charity helps approximately 2,200 people annually, including patients and their families, at any stage of the journey after hearing the devastating news of a brain tumour brings. The Charity also provides input to professional and international brain tumour support conversations.

Inspiring women

in public service



Rosa Rouse

Rosa worked for Bristol City Police and was transferred to Gloucester Constabulary because of her ability to ride a motorbike. She was stationed at Staple Hill for 8 years and dealt with many cases in the 30s, including an air crash at Yate and cases of theft and elopement. She was active in raising awareness concerning child abuse, infanticide and demanding money with menaces. She was one of the few women to give evidence to the Savidge case enquiry.

Source of image: Gloucestershire Police Archives

Inspiring women

in public service



Rachel Whittard

(1885 – 1968)

In 1917, Rachel Whittard became a student nurse with the Red Cross and worked at a military hospital as a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD).

In 1920, Rachel qualified as a midwife but she also assumed the role of District Nurse.

In 1926, she came to Marshfield and, in the severe winter of 1940, Rachel crawled upon her hands & knees in the snow to reach her patients.

After the end of the Second World War, ill health forced her retirement from nursing. Over her career, Rachel had delivered over 900 babies. She was also the Superintendent of the Marshfield Congregational Chapel Sunday School and she was an active member of the Marshfield Women's Institute (WI). Another talent was appearing in the annual Marshfield pantomime.

Image: With kind permission of Marshfield Parish Council.

Inspiring women

in public service



Image: With kind permission of Patchway Conservation Group and Lucy Hamid

Lucy Hamid

Lucy Hamid came to work in Patchway in 1989 as Clerk to Patchway Parish Council (now Patchway Town Council) with a young family, a sociology degree and lots of experience of community work. Found opportunities to fill gaps in the community provision by starting summer holiday play schemes, persuading the Council to set up play areas in 5 areas, setting up Patchway Conservation Group in 1990 and Patchway Environmental Forum so that members of the community can work together to improve the open spaces and environment. Also set up Patchway Local History Group, which is now part of Southern Brooks Archaeology & Local History Group. A founder member of Patchway & Bradley Stoke Community Development Project, which is now Southern Brooks Community Partnership and of Coniston Community Association, achieving great things for the community.

Inspiring women

for social justice

“People who may have seemed worn down by the struggles of day to day life would leave inspired to take on new challenges after a couple of hours in Sue’s company.”

User, Yate Peer Support Group, West of England Centre for Inclusive Living (WECIL), about Sue Liebow.

1922 The Law of Property Act allowed both husband and wife to inherit property equally.

1944 Education Act makes secondary school free, raises school leaving age to 15 and outlaws the marriage bar for teachers.

1976 Race Relations Act made it illegal to discriminate because of race, colour, nationality or ethnic grounds in employment and education.

1995 The Disability Discrimination Act.

2017 Recl@im the internet is established to tackle misogyny and sexism on line.

Inspiring women

for social justice



Image: With kind permission of Aaliyah Hussain

Aaliyah Hussain

Living in South Gloucestershire, Aaliyah is a second generation British Muslim woman with roots in three Commonwealth counties.

Her organisation WeRise (Women Empowered against Racism, Injustice, Sexism and Extremism) works to increase cross-cultural understanding through advocacy, training and community engagement. She is a powerful leading voice in the relationship between Islam, feminism and social justice.

Inspiring women

for social justice



Image: With kind permission of Alex Raikes

Alex Raikes, MBE

Alex is Strategic Director of Stand Against Racism and Inequality and has worked for SARI for 27 years. She is passionate about breaking down barriers between people so we can live side by side, peacefully, happily and without conflict. She is an innovative, dynamic, committed facilitator and service co-ordinator known for her work against hate crime.

Inspiring women

for social justice



Image: With kind permission of Primrose Granville

Primrose Granville

Primrose is a tireless, community champion for many issues that are close to her heart including race equality, human rights, health and wellbeing and disability rights.

Primrose, lives in South Gloucestershire. She is an inspiring, award winning broadcast journalist with shows on 3 radio stations, BBC South West, BCFM and Ujima.

Inspiring women

for social justice



Image: With kind permission of William Liebow

Sue Anna Elizabeth Liebow (1956 - 2015)

Sue, a teacher in Further Education, was an inspiring woman. She was active in a number of South Gloucestershire disability groups in the early years of this decade. Sue co- founded 'Photographers with Disabilities', Yate. She joined the South Gloucestershire Disability Equality Network committee in March 2013 becoming Chair by August.

Inspiring women

for social justice



Image: With kind permission of Holly (granddaughter of Brenda Bishop)

Brenda Bishop

Brenda has given a lifetime of service in South Gloucestershire through the trade union and labour movement, community organisations and as an elected Labour councillor. Her greatest achievement is the establishment of the first women's refuge in Kingswood in the 1970s. Meeting women exposed to domestic violence drove Brenda to take the lead in starting a refuge for women, Kingswood Women's Aid. Over time, this evolved into the charity, Survive, through which work with local women continued for 44 years until the organisation closed this year.

Inspiring women

for social justice



Photo taken by Rose Mahon November 2018

Sue Kelham

Sue Kelham is currently the Interim Principal at a school in South Gloucestershire. She started teaching in 1989 against the background of Section 28, a particularly discriminatory piece of legislation with regards to the LGBT community. Throughout her teaching career, she has been wholly committed to tackling discrimination and challenging stereotypes. Sue believes that being out at work has enabled her to bring about change in the schools she has been part of. This journey has sometimes been funny, but hasn't always been easy and in fact has been on occasions terrifying. It has been a journey of personal and professional growth and real change is happening in some of our schools.

Inspiring women

*Industry and Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics*

'Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more so that we fear less.' Marie Curie, Physicist and Chemist

1930 Dorothy Wrinch co-founded the Biotheoretical Gathering, studying the precursor to the DNA double Helix.

1941 Caroline Haslett became President of the Women's Engineering Society and co-founder of the Electrical Association for Women, whose slogan was: *'Emancipation from drudgery'*.

1961 The Contraception Pill becomes available on NHS

1964 Dorothy Hodgkins won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her work on x-ray crystallography.

2002 Joyce Bell Burnell OBE, an Astrophysicist, becomes President of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Inspiring women

Industry and Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics



Image © Yate & District Heritage

Thelma Bennett

Thelma Bennett was 18 in 1941 when she survived the bombing of Parnall Aircraft Factory, Yate at 14.30hrs on Thursday 27 February 1941. 4000 people worked at the factory and 55 were killed by the bombing. Thelma went back to work the very next day. The factory played a vital role in the war effort by specialising in making gun turrets and other parts for aeroplanes as well as being was a target for German bombers. Throughout World War Two the factory work force grew from under 100 to over 600 people by the end of the war many of whom were women. Like many other brave women, Thelma had joined up for war work before it was compulsory, knowing that the work might be dangerous. She worked as a “calculating machine girl”. The works pass was the only item salvaged from her burnt handbag.

Inspiring women

*Industry and Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics*



Emma Robertson with Bloodhound March 2018.
Image: With permission from Emma Robertson

Emma Robertson

Emma, from South Gloucestershire, works at Renishaw as an Industrial Design Engineer. She is passionate about getting young people interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), especially young women. As a STEM Ambassador across South Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire and Bristol, she aims to inspire more people to consider a career in engineering

Inspiring women

*Industry and Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics*



Janet Tolman, second from left and © Rolls-Royce plc

Janet Tolman (- 2003)

Janet Tolman has the distinction of having been not only the first woman manager at Rolls-Royce Bristol, but the first woman Senior Manager. She managed the crucial Design Services Department which providing printing, photo graphics, translation, typing and administration. Janet was considered to have excellent judgment, organizational skills and ability to handle all levels of personnel.

Inspiring women

*Industry and Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics*



Image: With kind permission of Betty Morgan

Betty Morgan

Using her secretarial and accounting skills, Betty worked for the Chief Engineer at ICI. In 1961 she joined the British Aircraft Corporation's offices at Pall Mall, becoming secretary to the Vice Chairman of BAC. On her return to Filton, Betty volunteered with Bristol Aero Collection Trust at Kemble and now volunteers at the Aerospace Bristol.

Inspiring women

*Industry and Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics*



Image: With kind permission of Meriel James

Meriel James

Meriel James started as a bilingual secretary in 1964 on the Concorde project with France and working with the Chief pilot for three years. Foreign partner companies wrote in their own language. As Head Translator at Rolls-Royce and then Translation/Technical Library Manager she had a good knowledge of the workings of jet engines due to working with engineers

Inspiring women

*Industry and Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics*



Image@ South Gloucestershire Council

Deborah Jones

Deborah Jones is Centre Director at The Mall, Cribbs Causeway.

Her innovative and exceptional leadership have provided floor space to complement surrounding attractions and so develop the visitor economy. Partnering with Aerospace Bristol to launch Bristol Fashion week, Autumn/Winter 2017, under Concorde, has been her most significant project to date. The event reached 3 million viewers via ITV's 'Lorraine'. Deborah is a remarkable woman, who supports the local community, development of The Mall and tourism across South Gloucestershire.

Inspiring women

*Industry and Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics*



Image: with Kind permission of Jean Williams

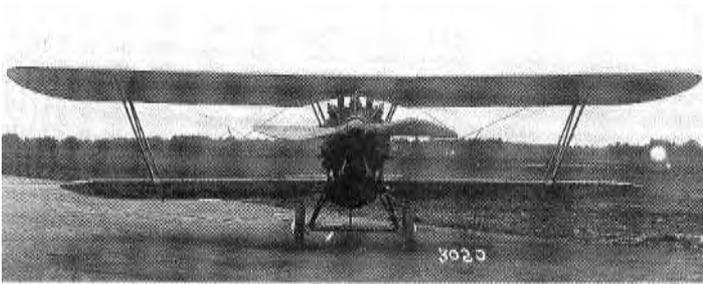
Jean Williams

Jean started at Bristol Siddeley Engines in 1956, training in shorthand, typing and English, and worked for the Welfare Department, leaving in 1962. Returning in 1968, to the Inspection Department at British Aerospace, her duties included the vital work of keeping service records for Britannia aircraft.

Jean also designed the form used for the check list of changes for Concorde, essential before each flight. Transcribing handwritten notes from technical staff sometimes included correcting their English.

Inspiring women

*Industry and Science, Technology,
Engineering and Mathematics*



Public Domain Image: Bristol Badger

Brenda Perry

Brenda worked under Nobel Prize Winner Professor Powell, in the Cosmic Ray Research Department, Bristol University. She helped to develop film exposed in the outer atmosphere for analysis showing high energy radiation from outside the solar system. Brenda moved to British Aircraft Corporation (BAC) where she read instrument panel records during test flights including the Canberra High Altitude record of 65,890 feet. Brenda then worked at Smiths Industries in the materials laboratories where thermistors, extra sensitive temperature sensing instruments, were being developed. This experimental work with chemicals was exacting.

Inspiring women

in sports

Girls now have a chance to look up and see women playing football, netball, softball and hockey and know that they can win a gold medal too.” Angela Ruggiero, Ice Hockey Olympian

1936 Dorothy Tyler MBE won a Silver Olympic medal in the high jump the first British woman to win an athletics medal.

1969 Women’s Football Association was formed.

1964 Mary Rand MBE became the first British female to win an Olympic gold medal in track and field.

2012 Felicity Ashton became the first person to ski alone across the Antarctic land mass using muscle power, as well as the first women to cross the Antarctic land mass alone.

2016 Laura Trott, cycling champion, becomes first British women to win three Olympic gold medals at Rio.

Inspiring women

in sports



Dr Elizabeth Ann Trotman MBE (1952 – 1997)

Ann, from South Gloucestershire, won 3 Silver and 1 Bronze medal in the 1984 Paralympics. In the 1988 Paralympics, she won 4 Bronze medals. Ann was awarded the women's special gold medal for her role in the 1988 International Co-ordinating Committee of the games and in recognition of her outstanding service to disability sport.

Image: Pat, Ann and John Trotman at Buckingham Palace © John Trotman

Inspiring women

in sports

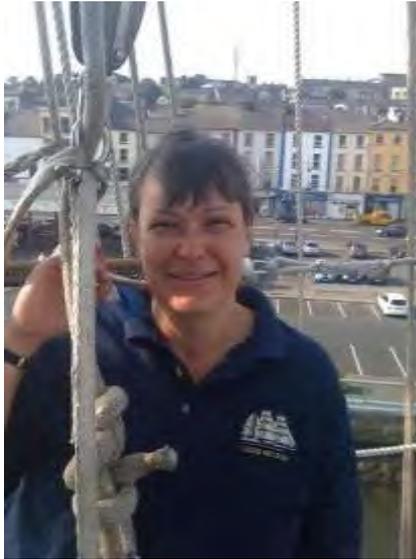


Image: With kind permission of Karen Butler

Karen Butler

Karen grew up in Little Stoke attending Filton High School, competing in her 1st Paralympics in 1992 after taking up air rifle only 18 months before. She went on to compete in 4 Games – Atlanta, Sydney, London and Rio. Karen is an Assistant Guide Leader with 1st Stoke Gifford Guides.

Inspiring women

in sports



Image ©Kingswod Heritage Museum

Rose Douglas (1913 – 2000)

Rose was the daughter of William Douglas of Kingwood whose company manufactured Douglas motorbikes.

Rose with her sister Irene and cousin, Margaret rose to the challenge to successfully ride motorbikes in competition in a male dominated sport. This promoted Douglas bikes as reliable and also as winners.

Inspiring women

in sports



Image: With permission of Hannah Cushley, Fitmums

Hannah Cushley

Hannah is the owner of Fitmums in Yate and has 17 years of experience in the fitness industry. She started Fitmums when her youngest daughter was just 9 months old. Hannah found that there was a lack of specialist fitness classes where mums could bring their babies to class with them and get correct advice regarding pre and post - natal training.

Inspiring women

in culture

“Culture does not make people. People make culture. If it is true that the full humanity of women is not our culture, then we can and must make it our culture.”

Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche

1929 Virginia Wolfe published 'A room of one's own'.

1949 Barbara Hepworth moved into the Trewyn Studios in St Ives and co- founded Penwith Society of Arts.

1989 Darcey Bussell was promoted to principal dancer of the Royal Ballet at 20 years old.

2009 Carol Ann Duffy was appointed first female poet laureate after 400 years of men only in the role.

2013 Malorie Blackman, the first black women to be appointed Children's Laureate.

Inspiring women

in culture



Image © Kingswood Heritage Museum

Minnie Louise Haskins (1875 – 1957)

Minnie Haskins was a novelist and poet best known for being quoted by King George VI in his Royal Christmas message of 1939. The opening words of the poem "The Gate of the Year", struck a chord with a country facing the uncertainty of war.

Minnie was born at 2 Kingswood Hill, Oldland, South Gloucestershire and she grew up in Warmley.

Minnie worked in a Wesleyan Methodist mission in London and another in Madras, India. In 1918, she studied sociology at the London School of Economics and then taught there as an academic.

Minnie was closely involved with creating Institute of Industrial Welfare Workers. She was given a presentation at Warmley Tower in 1951 during the Festival of Britain.

Inspiring women

in culture



Image: with kind permission of Meriel James

Jane Tozer

Jane was born in 1936, and worked in various secretarial capacities and as a civil servant. She took her first degree age 36, and a Medieval History MA at Bristol University in 1999. She joined Filton Community History group in Filton, and for 20 years, has acted as Treasurer and helped to collect and publish local memories. For the Bristol Aeroplane Company (BAC) 'BAC 100' Centenary project, she was involved in administering the aviation industry Oral History project and editing the interviews. Jane also runs a history tutor group and gives talks on history subjects. Jane's work for Filton's heritage is of lasting value.

Inspiring women

in culture



Margaret Lovell

D.Litt(Hon) DipFA(Lond)FRBS RWA
Margaret Lovell is an award-winning sculptor from Hanham. Following her training at Slade School of Art in London and an Italian Scholarship in Florence, Margaret exhibited across the UK, Europe, USA and New Zealand. Her works are largely in bronze and vary in size from miniature to monumental

Image: 117ML with Spinnaker 1968 bronze www.margaretlovell.co.uk

Inspiring women

in culture



Jackie Sims

Founder of Filton Community History Group, Jackie has been a heritage champion for over 25 years. Jackie volunteered for 5 years at The Bristol Aero Collection, editing many oral history books, initiating the 'BAC 100' centenary and contributing to Aerospace, Bristol. Jackie's work for heritage is an outstanding legacy.

Image: © Jane Tozer

Inspiring women

in culture



Jekka McVicar

Jekka moved to Alveston in 1987 and gradually created a world famous organic herb farm. Jekka has 62 RHS Gold Medals, 14 from Chelsea. Her 'Complete Herb Book' has sold over a million copies. A Vice President of the RHS Council, she is one of the few women to hold their prestigious Victoria Medal of Honour.

Image: © Pete Axford

Inspiring women

in culture



Romy Hardeep Gill MBE

British, Indian chef, food writer, TV presenter and Thornbury restaurant owner, Romy imaginatively blends new ingredients with traditional ones. Romy was a judge on BBC Radio 4's *Food and Farming Awards* and *Celebrity MasterChef* and featuring on *BBC Woman's Hour*, *BBC Asian Network* and *5 Live*.

Photographer: Kirsty Young