

Street pelted the women with eggs, shouting, 'Those women have done it!' The women ran down the street to a doorway, where they defended themselves with their umbrellas. Two of the women were knocked down and rolled in the mud by the mob, but a local garage owner drove up and rescued them in his car.

The crowd continued to attack the Constitutional Club, breaking every window, and it was midnight before the police were able to clear the street. The following morning the body of an ex-marine sergeant major was found in the Bradley Lane Leat. From the state of his body, it appeared that he had been attacked, but nothing was proved.

In 1913 the other women's suffrage movement, the



NUWSS, organised a 'Suffrage Pilgrimage'. There were eight marches from different parts of the country to London, including one from Land's End which called at Newton Abbot. But they said they found 'much indifference' and had 'a rather disheartening time' in the town.

In 1918, a law was passed giving some women the vote – but only those over the age of 30 who owned property. It was not until 1928 that all women were given the same voting rights as men.

NEWTON ABBOT STORIES



The Union Street Riot

**NOTICING
NEWTON ABBOT**

AN EXPLORATION OF THE TOWN'S BUILDINGS, PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Leaflet written by Katy and Michael Bennie from research by Tess Walker

The Suffragettes come to Newton Abbot



Emmeline Pankhurst

In 1897, the first national organisation to campaign for women's votes, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS), was formed. But some women felt that this organisation was too tame – they held meetings and produced posters, but avoided upsetting the political leaders. So in 1903, a group led by Emmeline Pankhurst broke away to form the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). This was a much more militant organisation, which believed that the only way to achieve their aims was by direct action and civil disobedience. Members went out of their way to be arrested; some chained themselves to the railings of Buckingham Palace, and one, Emily Wilding Davison, was trampled to death by the racehorse owned by the King when she tried to pin a suffragette rosette on its bridle at the Epsom Derby in 1913.



In 1908, there was a parliamentary by-election in Newton Abbot. The two candidates were the Liberal Charles Roden Buxton and the Liberal-Unionist/Conservative Captain Ernest Morrison-Bell. Both candidates said they were in favour of votes for women, but the Liberals, who were in government, refused to bring forward a law about it. So Mrs Pankhurst, her daughter Sylvia and another WSPU member, Nellie Martel, came to Newton Abbot to campaign against Mr Buxton.

When it was announced that Captain Morrison-Bell had won the election, the crowd who had gathered in Union