

Redlynch & District Local History Society

General Elections in the 1920s: Who Nominated the Candidates? by Jane Howells

This was a thought-provoking talk about the series of general elections that occurred in the decade after the First World War, with a particular emphasis on the campaigns in the constituency including those neighbouring Salisbury. It was a period of dramatic political and social change for British society, with many women over thirty gaining the right to vote in 1918. By 1929 both men and women could vote on equal terms over the age of twenty-one.

There was a total of six elections between 1918 and 1931. The turnout in Salisbury in the rushed 1918 elections which happened within months of the war's end, was less than half. The figures were nearer 80% by the end of the twenties as people embraced their new voting rights, with the 1929 elections nationally having the first female candidate and the start of the Labour Party.

Jane Howells has been researching the people who nominated and recorded their support for the local candidates. She asked the audience if anybody recognised the names on the lists from the parish of Redlynch, so that she could learn more about them. This was very successful, the hypothesis was raised that while the Conservative list included the farming Anglican and land owning community, the Liberal supporters were nearly all members of the Methodist congregation.

The Conservative candidate, Hugh Morrison managed to hold the seat for the whole decade apart from one year from 1923 when the Liberal Hugh Moulton had brief tenure.



Hugh Morrison



Hugh Moulton

Our next talk is Wiltshire Highwaymen by Ruby Vitorino at Morgans Vale & Woodfalls Hall , 7:30pm
3rd May 2022

Bob Inns, Secretary