

Lucienne Boyce

A SUFFRAGE WALK AROUND CLIFTON VILLAGE

BY
LUCIENNE BOYCE

This circular walk is a companion to the Bristol Suffragette Walk in *The Bristol Suffragettes* by Lucienne Boyce (ISBN 978-1-78132-106-5). If you are feeling energetic you can do it as a detour from the main walk, or you can do it as a separate walk. Allow 30 minutes – longer if you stop in one of the many tempting cafés you'll pass on the way.

Start

The start of the Clifton Village Suffrage Walk is at 5 York Place, Clifton, which is No 2 in "A Walk with the Bristol Suffragettes" pp 81 to 90 *The Bristol Suffragettes*.

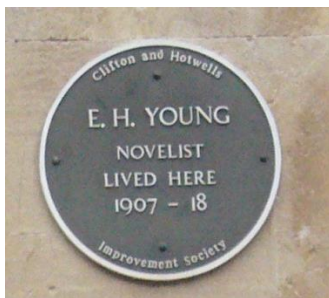
[Continue to the end of York Place and turn left into Clifton Road. Walk along Clifton Road until just before Clifton Hill, where you will see on the left a footpath down to Clifton Hill House (now owned by the University of Bristol), which has two green plaques on the wall. Go down this path and look for the plaque to Dr John Percival.]

Clifton Hill House

The Reverend John Percival MA DD (1834–1918) lived at Clifton Hill House. Dr Percival was the first headmaster of Clifton College. He helped to found Clifton High School for Girls, was President of Redland High School council, and a leader in the movement to establish University College, Bristol. He was later Bishop of Hereford. He was an early supporter of the Bristol and West of England Suffrage Society, and a vice president of the Society in the 1870s. You can find out more about the Society at 3 The Mall (see below).

[From Clifton Hill House walk straight on along Lower Clifton Hill towards Goldney Hall. Turn right into Constitution Hill and walk along into Clifton Road. Carry on towards Clifton Village; there are nice views of Clifton Wood and the city on your left, and you will pass the Nuffield Chesterfield Hospital, which is on the other side of the road, on your right. Just before the junction with Hensmans Hill cross the road to the entrance into Saville Place. Turn right and walk around Saville Place. Look for a plaque dedicated to novelist E H Young at 2 Saville Place.]

2 Saville Place, Clifton



Emily Hilda Young (1880–1949), novelist and suffragette supporter, was born in Northumberland. She married Bristol solicitor John A H Daniell in 1902 and they lived in the top flat at 2 Saville Place between 1907 and 1918. After her husband's death at Ypres in 1917, E H Young moved to London to be with her married lover, Ralph B Henderson, living in the same house with him and his wife. Henderson was headmaster of Alleyn's School

in Dulwich, and when he retired he and Young moved to Bradford on Avon, where E H Young died in 1949. Many of her novels were set in Clifton, and deal with marriage and domesticity.

[Go back to the entrance of Saville Place and turn right into Regent Street. Walk up to the first zebra crossing and cross over. Continue up the hill, passing the top of Royal York Crescent on your left, and turn left into Princess Victoria Street. Take the second right into The Mall; turn left into West Mall.]

3 West Mall (Formerly 3 The Mall)



From the 1830s, 3 West Mall was known as 3 The Mall, but by the 1890s this section of The Mall had been renamed West Mall.

Florence Davenport Hill (1829/9-1919) lived here with her widower father Matthew Davenport Hill (Commissioner of the Bristol and District Court of Bankruptcy) and her two sisters. The family moved to Bristol from London in 1851.

The Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage was established in January 1867, and it was at 3 West Mall that the Bristol branch of the Society was founded at a meeting on 24th January 1868. It was apparently at Mr Davenport Hill's suggestion that a society was formed; he was active in a number of reform movements, in particular penal reform, and had been a supporter of women's suffrage since the 1830s.

Florence Davenport Hill was on the original executive committee of the Bristol suffrage society with a number of other famous Bristol reformers, including Agnes Beddoe, Mrs Alfred Brittain, Rev J Estlin Carpenter, Mary Estlin, Mrs Mill Colman (sister of J S Mill) and Liliash Ashworth (from 1869).

In 1869 the Society was renamed the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage. By 1872 the Society had opened an office in Park Street. In October 1898 the society affiliated to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage campaigned vigorously in favour of suffrage bills, holding meetings throughout the South West, sending deputations to Bristol MPs, and collecting signatures on petitions. Florence Davenport Hill herself signed the 1866 petition which was presented to Parliament by John Stuart Mill (1806-1873).



The Blue Plaque was installed at 3 West Mall on 15 December 2018 with Thangam Debbonaire MP as guest of honour.

With Thangam Debbonaire (left) and Lori Streich (right) of the Blue Plaque Committee at the installation ceremony.

Pic: Gordon Young

[Continue to the top of The Mall where it meets the Downs and turn right along Beaufort Buildings. You will see Christ Church across the green. If you like you can walk over to get a closer look at the Church and then rejoin the walk, or follow the instructions below.]

Christ Church

At the end of 1913 the WSPU began putting pressure on the Church of England to speak out against forcible feeding. In 1914, WSPU deputations were sent to a number of Bishops, including the Bishop of Bristol, and when the Church remained unsympathetic more drastic action was taken. This included the interruption of services as well as arson and other attacks on church property.

15 March 1914 saw a day of coordinated protest at Christ Church and a number of Bristol churches. Women interrupted services by reading aloud the suffragette prayer: *“O Lord, we beseech Thee, save Thy servants Emmeline Pankhurst and Mary Richardson, and all who are enduring torture for conscience sake.”* Two women were arrested after being ejected from Holy Trinity, St Philips. At St Michael and All Angels, Bishopston two women, one dressed in suffragette colours, were asked to leave after saying the prayer. They waited outside and distributed suffragette literature as the congregation left.

The Bristol protests were part of a national day of protest when suffragette prayers were read at the cathedrals of Glasgow, York and Brighton (Brighton’s St Peter’s Church is known, unofficially, as Brighton’s “cathedral”). In addition, during the preceding night, pillars, pews, walls, floors and a window designed by Edward Burne Jones in Birmingham Cathedral were daubed with slogans such as *“Votes for Women”* and *“Stop Forcible Feeding”*.

[Walk to the end of Beaufort Buildings and turn right onto Clifton Down Road, heading back to Clifton Village. Cross over the first zebra crossing and walk along Boyce’s Avenue (which is opposite Princess Victoria Street). Go through the archway and follow the footpath in front of you across Victoria Square. Turn left at the top of the Square, passing over the top of Lansdowne Place, and cross over the zebra crossing towards the elevated Richmond Terrace. Turn left and carry straight on along Queen’s Road. If you

want to walk along the terrace go up the stone steps in front of you and continue walking straight on above Queens Road.]

1 Richmond Terrace

Lillian Dove Wilcox was living at 1 Richmond Terrace in 1909, when it was a lodging house owned by a Miss Maria Bartlett. Lillian, who was born in Bedminster, was a widow and a member of the Bristol WSPU.

Lillian was arrested following a deputation to the House of Commons on 19 June 1909. She went on hunger strike and on her release was one of twelve women awarded a medal by Mrs Pankhurst. The award proceedings, in London, were interrupted when the police arrived to serve summonses on Lillian Dove Willcox and Theresa Garnett. Each faced two charges of assault on wardresses during their stay in Holloway. Theresa Garnett was sentenced to one month in prison and Lillian Dove Willcox ten days. Back in prison they were put into punishment cells. They were released on 8 August after a hunger strike.

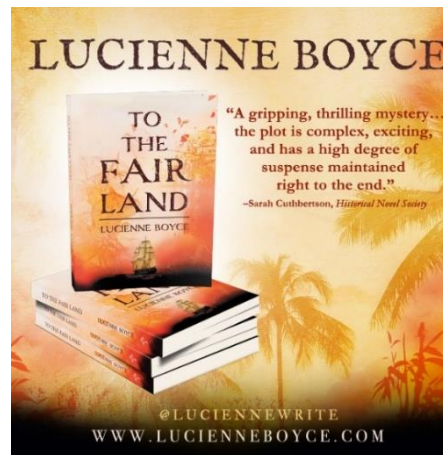
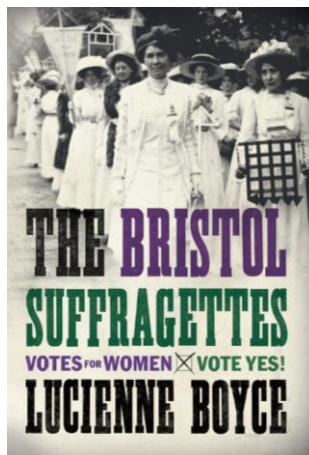
When Annie Kenney left Bristol in 1911, Lillian Dove Willcox took over as Honorary Secretary of the WSPU. On 16 February 1912 she heckled Bristol MP Charles Hobhouse at an anti-suffrage meeting in Colston Hall. On 9 March 1913 she was at St Andrew's Hall in Glasgow when Mrs Pankhurst was arrested. She was arrested again on 11 March 1913 while attempting to petition the King at the opening of Parliament.

Lillian was a friend of Mary Richardson, who had stayed with her at her cottage near Tintern Abbey. Mary seems to have harboured passionate feeling for Lillian, for whom she wrote a poem "*The Translation of the Love I Bear Lillian Dove*". Mary's arrest was one of the catalysts of the suffragette attack on the University of Bristol's Sports Pavilion in October 1913. When Bristol students wrecked the WSPU shop in retaliation, Lillian Dove Willcox was once more in prison. She had been arrested on 8 October in Piccadilly when she attempted to puncture the tyres of a taxi carrying Annie to prison.

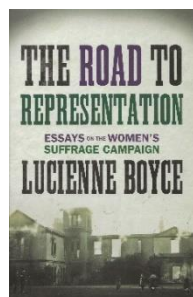
After the WSPU ceased suffrage activities on the outbreak of the First World War, Lillian Dove Willcox joined Sylvia Pankhurst's East London Federation of Suffragettes. She became a member of the Suffragette Fellowship founded in 1926 to bring together militant women and commemorate the struggle of the suffragettes.

[Descend from Richmond Terrace. Here you can rejoin the main Bristol Suffragette Walk in *The Bristol Suffragettes* on Queen's Road, or you can go back to the start of the Clifton Village Suffrage Walk by turning right into Gordon Road. Walk to the top of Gordon Road (you will pass Annie Kenney's residence at No 23, which is described in the main Bristol Suffragette Walk, and turn right back into York Terrace and the start of the walk.)]

I hope you have enjoyed the Clifton Village Suffrage Walk. Directions and street numbering have been checked as far as possible, but if you do want to suggest corrections you can contact me via [the contact form](#)



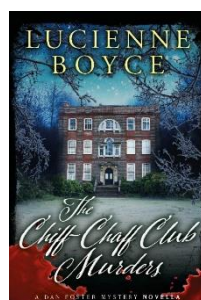
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