

Alice Hawkins

Alice Hawkins (née Riley) was born in 1863 in Stafford into a working class family. One of nine children, Alice went to work at the age of 13 and met her future husband, Alfred Hawkins, at a socialist meeting. Alice married Alfred in 1884 and moved to Leicester, where she lived and worked for the rest of her life.

Alice raised a family of six while working at the Equity Shoe Factory on Western Road, where she quickly focused on the issues affecting women working in the shoe trade.

An active member of the newly formed Independent Labour Party, Alice went to London in February 1907 to join a suffragette protest outside Parliament. Along with 28 other women, Alice was arrested that day and subsequently spent 14 days in Holloway prison.

This period of incarceration – the first of five – galvanised Alice's resolve and she formed the Leicester branch of the Women's Social and Political Union just a few months after leaving jail. Four years later, in 1911, Alice co-founded the Women's Independent Boot and Shoe Trade Union.

Although her time as a suffragette came to an abrupt end in 1914, when women were asked to cease their militancy, Alice continued to be an active trade unionist and a Labour party member until her death in March 1946, where she was buried at Leicester's Welford Road Cemetery.



Story of Leicester

Explore the new Story of Leicester website to find out more about Leicester's 2000 year history and key historical events, places and people including Alice Hawkins.

storyofleicester.info



Photo: Leicestershire Record Office

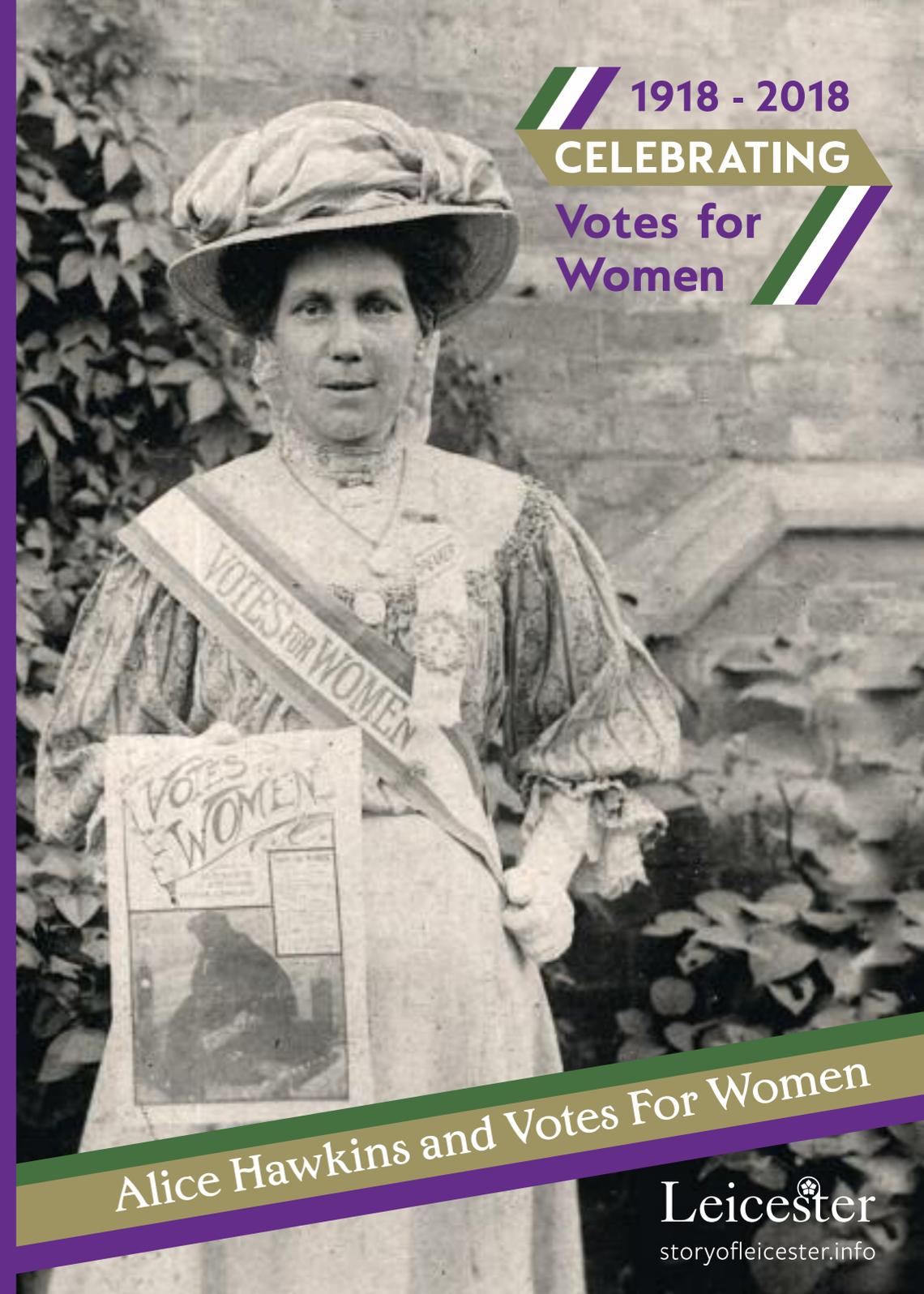
We gratefully acknowledge the support of her descendants, volunteers and community groups. A grant from the Government's Centenary Fund to support the programme and a generous donation from local businessman Jamie Lewis for the Alice Hawkins statue.



Alice Hawkins and Votes For Women

Leicester
storyofleicester.info

1918 - 2018
CELEBRATING
Votes for
Women

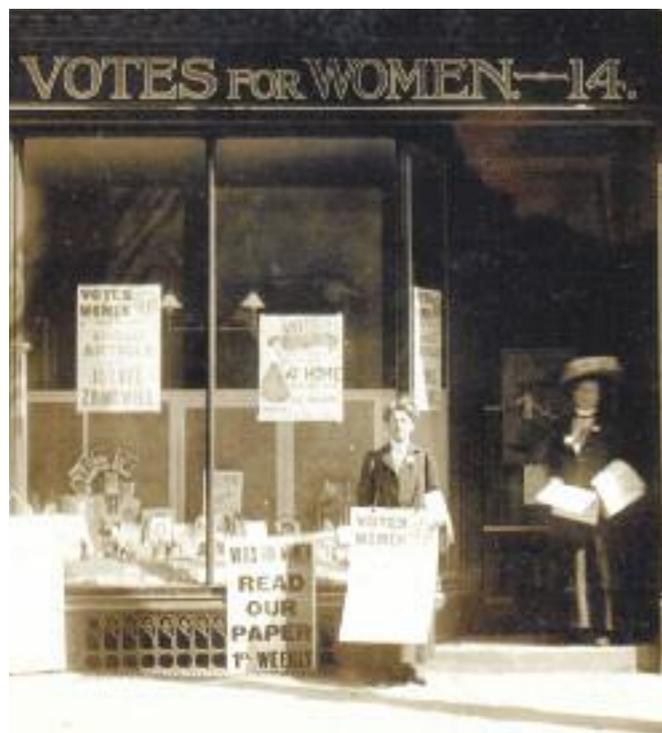




Votes for Women!

It's a hundred years since the Representation of the People Act gave some women and all men the right to vote.

During 2018-19, the city is marking the anniversary by remembering the women who played such a key role in the suffragette movement, including Leicester's very own Alice Hawkins.



Alice Hawkins Statue

New Market Square, Leicester Market

Leicester's statue of Alice was unveiled in February 2018 – a hundred years after the Representation of the People Act gave some women the right to vote.

The larger-than-life bronze statue, created by sculptor Sean Hedges-Quinn, shows Alice as she might have looked at the height of the suffragette movement, when she regularly addressed the crowds at Leicester Market.

Wearing lace-up boots – probably made at the Equity Shoe Factory where she worked – a long skirt and a wide-brimmed hat, Alice is shown in a confident pose, with her right arm half-raised, a 'Votes for Women' sash across her chest and her rolled-up speech in her left hand.

She is also proudly wearing her Speaker's Ribbon, her Hunger Strike Medal and, at her throat, a Holloway Brooch – designed by Sylvia Pankhurst and awarded to members of the Women's Social and Political Union who had been imprisoned for the cause.



Events & Activities

Alice in Her Shoes

Thursday 25 & Friday 26 October
Curve

Laurielorry Theatre Company with The Fosse Singers, The Red Leicester Choir and DMU Square Mile Choir join Alice on stage presenting her fascinating story across two nights at the Curve.

curveonline.co.uk

Alice Hawkins and Votes For Women!

27 October – 24 February 2019
New Walk Museum & Art Gallery

Looking at the stories of people who fought for women's suffrage including Alice Hawkins, Emmeline Pankhurst and Sophia Duleep Singh.

The exhibition includes the Hunger Strike Medal given to Alice Hawkins; family mementoes of Emmeline Pankhurst who led the Suffragette Movement and clothes worn by schoolteacher Susanne Potter when she was chained to the railings and taken to Holloway Prison.

A programme of events and activities will accompany the exhibition.
visitleicester.info

National Suffrage Flag Relay: Leicester

Friday 26 October

The Suffrage Flag is touring the UK as part of Civil Service celebrations for the Centenary. Look out for the flag across the city, visiting the significant sites to Leicester's suffrage movement as well as celebrating the life and work of Alice Hawkins.

Always and always facing toward the Light

Sunday 3 March 2019
Each performance 30 minutes
New Market Square,
Leicester Market

We're delighted to bring renowned video mapping specialists Shared Space & Light to Leicester for the first time to produce a spectacular free show in New Market Square.

Alice Hawkins' remarkable and inspiring story will be brought to life with live performance, a spectacular choir and an incredible video projection on the historic Corn Exchange. This major event - celebrating Alice's story and closely linked to International Women's Day on 8th March – is not to be missed.

Event produced by Leicester City Council in partnership with Big Difference Company. Free event wristbands will be available in advance from Visit Leicester on Gallowtree Gate. Please see our website for the latest event and ticket information.

visitleicester.info