

ANNE BALL

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Anne Ball from Devon Live. Com

Anne Ball was an activist and independent business woman from Ilfracombe who was active in the tax resistance campaign and she also opposed the census in the early 1900's. In addition, she was a campaigner for the right for women to vote.

Anne was founding member of the Ilfracombe branch of the Women's Social and Political Union. She was also its literary secretary.

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Anne and fellow suffragette Marie Newby organised local women into a focused campaign for the vote. They also embraced militancy along the way. Her role as a suffragette linked to her role in the Tax Resistance League, of which she was a member. Their argument was that because women could not vote, they should not have to pay tax. Anne was so devoted to Tax Resistance that she wrote a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer justifying her actions and repeatedly refused to pay taxes as a protest at the lack of female enfranchisement.

She also played a part in resisting the census as suffragettes and suffragists felt that since they could not vote, they should not be counted in it. In 1911 women throughout the country were urged to boycott the census for this reason. On the night of the census, Anne opened up her two Trained Nurses Institutes in Ilfracombe to any women who wanted to evade the census. The women went there so they were immune from the census since they were not staying in their real homes; this meant that they would not be counted.

Researched and written by Elizabeth Strange, Curatorial Research

Volunteer.

Bibliography

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(2) Vass Pamela, Suffrage Activists in Devon 1866-1918, 2018, Google Docs, <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1POvwPFWeKlStyGB3aJNjoewGASES8sGpZNH2XY7OqE4/edit>

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