



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **How The Vote Was Won: Art, Theatre and Women's Suffrage Exhibition: The Museum of Richmond Old Town Hall, Richmond, Surrey TW9 11P 1st May – 4th September 2010**

**Curators: Irene Cockroft and Susan Croft**

As the country prepares to vote, Aurora Metro in association with The Museum of Richmond will be launching a timely exhibition from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> September, celebrating the incredible artistic and political achievements of the suffragettes in campaigning for the vote for women.

This unique exhibition will focus on the work of the writers and artists who were involved in the movement. The Actresses' Franchise League (AFL) wrote, directed and performed dozens of plays all over the country to raise awareness among ordinary people of the need for full citizenship and political representation. The Artists' Suffrage League created posters, postcards and banners for use by the movement while others produced jewellery and a variety of crafted objects from silver and enamel to bedspreads and clothing to raise money for the cause.

One extraordinary local woman, Princess Sophia Duleep Singh who was a god-daughter to Queen Victoria, living in grace and favour at Hampton Court Palace was a founder member of the Tax Resistance League, whose motto was "No Vote No Tax". Another leading local suffragette was The Lady Frances Balfour who tried to persuade her brother-in-law, the Conservative Prime Minister Arthur Balfour, to support the cause of women's suffrage, without success. She was President of the London Society for Women's Suffrage and spoke at many events and rallies, particularly in the borough of Richmond where she was also head of the local branch.

**Talk:** Shirley Williams **27th May, 7.30pm** at the Museum of Richmond. Ticket price: £5/£3 concs. Tel: 020 8332 1141

**Playreading** '*How The Vote was Won*' by Cicely Hamilton and Chris St John (previously performed in Twickenham in 1910) at the Orange Tree Theatre, **June 19th, 11am**  
Tickets: £10/£8.00 concs. Box office: 020 8940 3633

**Website:** [www.suffragette.org.uk](http://www.suffragette.org.uk)

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