



Press Release May 11th, 2010

Baroness Williams of Crosby (Shirley Williams)



A conversation on women and politics to accompany a new exhibition

Venue: The Library Room, Old Town Hall, Richmond

Thursday 27th May 2010 at 7.30pm

Ticket price: £5/£3 concs Tel: 020 8332 1141 www.museumofrichmond.com

The event will be chaired by Dr Nicola Phillips, Lecturer in Gender History.
Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Kingston University.

Please include this event in your listings.

Come and hear Shirley Williams speak about the suffragettes and their legacy for women and politics. Shirley progressed from being the first woman General Secretary of the Fabian Society in 1960 to being elected MP for Hitchin in 1964. In 1981 she co-founded the Social Democratic Party as one of the "Gang of Four". She became the first MP elected for the SDP in 1981 and was President of the new party. She strongly supported the merger of the SDP with the Liberal Party into what was to become the Liberal Democrats.

She was appointed to the Lords in 1993 and was elected Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords in 2001 serving until September 2004. She published her autobiography, *Climbing The Bookshelves*, in 2009.

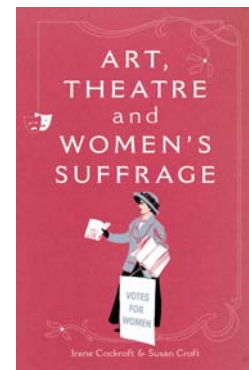
How The Vote Was Won: Art, Theatre and Women's Suffrage This is an exhibition commemorating the incredible artistic and political work of the suffragettes, how the movement inspired the work of artists, writers and theatre-makers, as well as the involvement of local people in the suffrage movement.

Aurora Metro Arts and Media Ltd.
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Organized by Aurora Metro Arts and Media and the Museum of Richmond, the exhibition is curated by Irene Cockroft, writer, lecturer and specialist in Arts and Crafts of the 19th and 20th centuries, and Dr Susan Croft, writer, academic and formerly Contemporary Curator at the Theatre Museum.

Their book *Art, Theatre and Women's Suffrage* will be available in June 2010



To arrange an interview please contact: Pagan Hopkinson
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