

ABERTAY

25

YEARS

Abertay 25

**Women in
Politics**

**An Abertay 25
Research Project**

**With thanks to
Soroptimist
International - Dundee
&
Rautomead Ltd
for their sponsorship of
these packs.**



Introduction

We will:

Explore the lives of two inspirational pioneering women in Dundee with links to Abertay's history, discover their story and investigate the challenges facing local female politicians in the first part of the 20th century.

Topics of interest:

Women's rights and history; rise of the Labour Party; Social Studies (History, Citizenship); Health & Wellbeing

Learning outcomes:

I know who Lily Miller and Annie Lamont are, and why they are significant to Dundee's history.

I have used evidence to discover their story, understand a timeline and have answered questions as well as created some of my own.

I have used primary and secondary resources to explore answers to my, and my group's, questions.

I have used my, and my group's, research to build a narrative and used the creativity and skills in the group to present this narrative to a chosen audience.

I expect this project to support me to:

reflect on my strengths and skills to help me make informed choices when planning my next steps

learn about where to find help and resources to inform choices

communicate, collaborate and build relationships

explore and evaluate different types of sources and evidence

develop my understanding of the history, heritage and culture of Scotland, and an appreciation of my local and national heritage within the world

broaden my understanding of the world by learning about human activities and achievements in the past and present

establish firm foundations for lifelong learning and for further specialised study and careers

recognise and nurture my creative and aesthetic talents

Teacher's notes—
a longer overview
of the Women in
Politics story can
be found [here](#).

The story of Dundee's women in politics shows that the City was not a "Women's Town" despite having a high rate of female employment especially in its textiles factories.

The positions of power were still male dominated. It wasn't until 1931 that Dundee elected its first MP, and 1935 when its first female councillor, Lily Miller, was elected. But women before 1931 were highly capable politicians, as the documents about Annie Keir Lamont (telegraphist, poet, and political activist) show. Once elected, they faced the challenge of working and debating in a male dominated council chamber and trying to get their message reported by an equally male-dominated conservative press.



Dundee Corporation
Portrait photograph
of Lily Miller (c.
1939), Dundee City
Archives

Teacher's Notes

- How to Use This Pack

This project aims to encourage the group members to engage in discussions based around the evidence provided. The more they discuss, the more topics of interest they might come across. For example, they might become interested in how women are portrayed in the media “then & now”, or they might want to discover more about female town councillors in Dundee.

This pack provides ideas to help you take a group through a research project by questioning and discussing evidence in archive documents. We have highlighted some questions you might ask to get the discussion started. However, the aim is for the group to take the lead, and for you to be helping it achieve its goals. This can take time, so encourage them to make suggestions and ask questions, and see if they can discover their answers in the given resources. If not, they can keep a note of those questions for further research. Over time they will use their research to find their own direction and build a story that they will tell in a presentation that they design and develop themselves.

Contact archives@abertay.ac.uk for more information, or for extra resources.



To recap on the 3-stage project, [watch our video on Enquiry Learning from the Welcome pack](#)

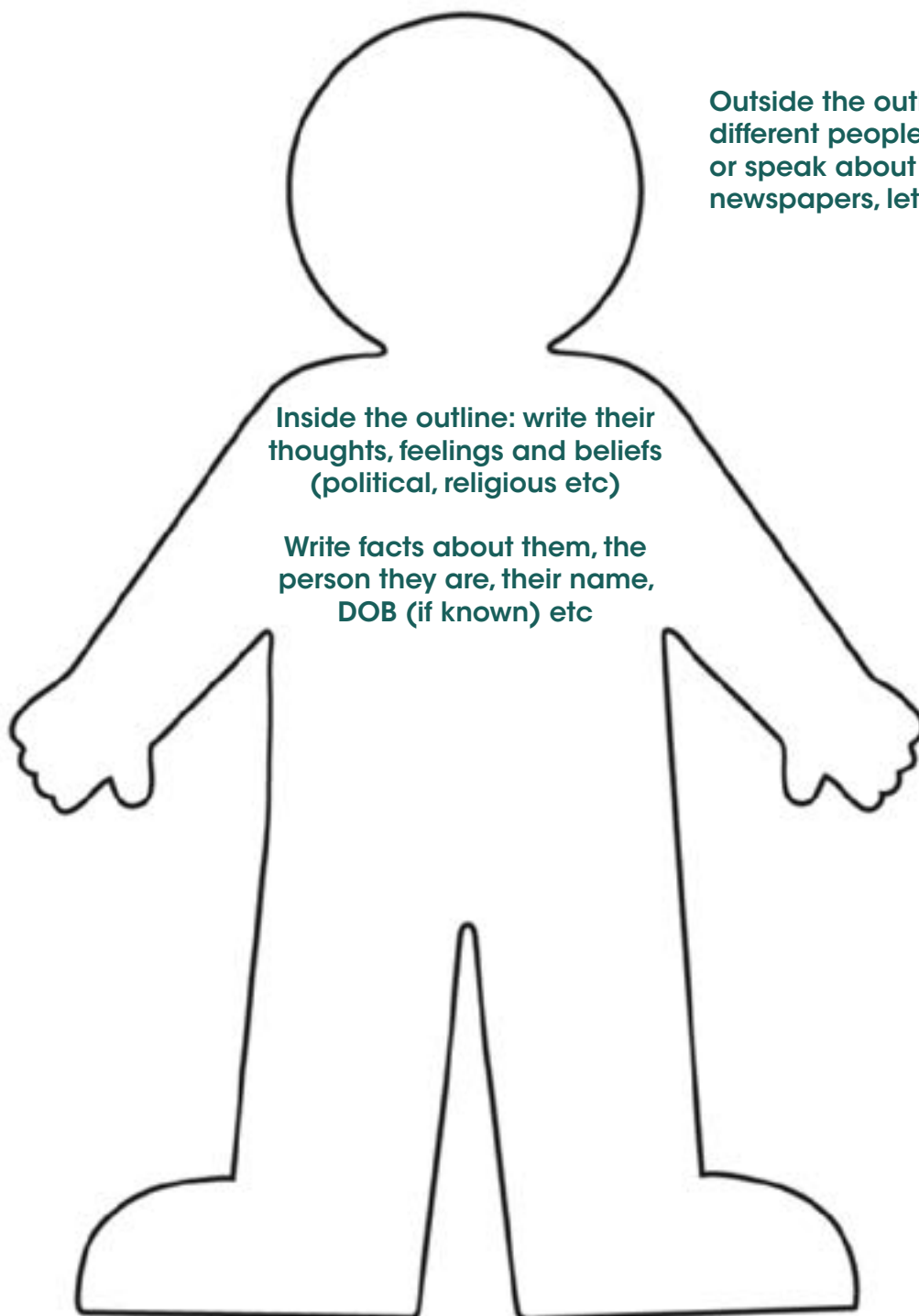
Preparing for Stage 1— teacher's notes

Each document in this stage has a suggested activity (or two!) to help your groups with their discussions. The purpose of this stage is for the groups to identify the story the documents tell, and find a topic, a person or a theme to focus on for their further research. In their discussions they will identify more questions to research, and take individual responsibility for tasks preparing for stage 2.

Stage 1- Find your Focus

As the groups work their way through the documents, they'll come across the "main characters" of their research.

Before they start, ask each group to draw two large outlines of a person on a piece of paper. As the groups discover more about the people they're researching, they will add the information to the outline, constantly building on their research and discovering areas of interest.



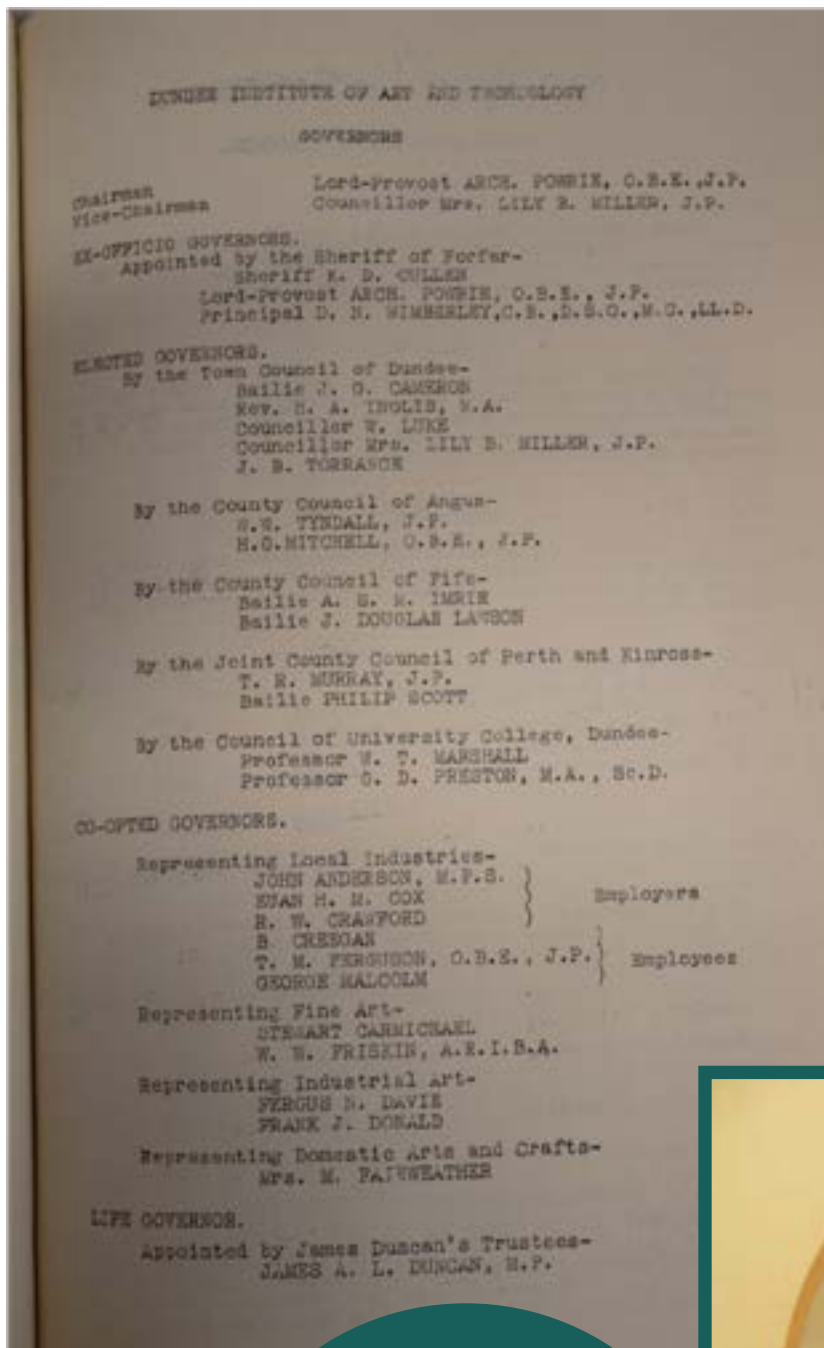
Outside the outline: write how different people see them or speak about them e.g. in newspapers, letters etc

Inside the outline: write their thoughts, feelings and beliefs (political, religious etc)

Write facts about them, the person they are, their name, DOB (if known) etc

Meet your main characters

- Main Character #1



Discover your main character

What is their name?

What is their role at Dundee Institute of Art & Technology? What is its relationship to Abertay University?

What is their role in Dundee?

What other information can we discover about them?

Above: Dundee Institute of Art & Technology Annual Report 1947-1948, Abertay University Archives

Right: Dundee Corporation Portrait photograph of Lily Miller (c. 1939), Dundee City Archives



Meet your main characters

- Main Character #2

Below: Close up, Montage Photograph of Dundee Post Office Staff (1905), Dundee City Archives, GDX1488

What is their name?

What did they study at the Dundee Technical Institute? What is its relationship to Abertay University?

What was their job?

What other information can we discover about them?



Year 1904/5. Student's Name, Annie Hest Lambert
 Occupation, Telegraphist Address, 5 Park Terrace
 Date of Birth, 18/2/84 Blackness Road
 Last School attended, Harrie Academy. Highest Standard attained, VIII

RECORD OF SUCCESSES.

INSTITUTE EXAMINATIONS.			EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS.		
YEAR	SUBJECT	GRD.	YEAR	SUBJECT	GRD.
1904/5	Mag. & Electricity	Pass	1904/5	Mag. & Electricity I	1st Good
			1905/6	Telegraphy & Telephony Ord.	2nd 6th

Right: Dundee Technical Institute Student Enrolment Register (1904/05), Abertay University Archives ref. ABY-DTCSA-3-1-1

Golden Document -

Lily Miller's Election Pamphlet, Dundee City Archives
ref GDX754/1

DUNDEE MUNICIPAL ELECTION, 1932
WARD SEVEN

VOTE FOR



Mrs Lily Miller
THE LABOUR CANDIDATE

POLLING DAY: TUESDAY, 1st NOVEMBER, 1932
8 a.m. till 5 p.m.

Polling Stations:
HILL STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL
ROCKWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
DOWNFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL

THE MOST pressing problem confronting the Working Class of Dundee to-day is that of Unemployment. Month after month we see more and more workers being thrown on the "scrapheap."

We urge that the workers must judge the Moderates by the manner in which they have dealt with the problem. If judged by results, we are confident that the only conclusion the workers can come to is that they have hopelessly failed.

On behalf of the Organised Workers of Dundee, viz, the Dundee Trades and Labour Party submit our proposals for this and other problems.

1.—UNEMPLOYMENT

We are in favour of putting into operation all schemes of work that are at present being held up by the Moderates. We stand for the immediate development of Working Class Housing, the construction of Roads, Streets, Sewers, etc., and we are in favour of direct labour on all Corporation Work.

All work, including relief work, to be governed by Trade Union Rates and Conditions.

2.—THE MEANS TEST

On this question the Town Council, as the Local Public Assistance Committee, can do a great deal to assist those who come under its operation.

While fighting for its abolition, viz, of the Labour Party stand for:—

- (a) Payment on the highest possible scale.
- (b) Allowances for Rent and Coal where necessary.
- (c) Exemption from Rates.
- (d) The provision of Boots, Clothing, and Meals for all School Children whose Parents or Guardians come under the Means Test.

3.—RENT REDUCTIONS

We are in favour of an immediate Reduction of 25 per cent. on the Rent of all Working-Class Houses. The Town Council, as the largest Landlords in the City, could give a lead by reducing the Rents of all Corporation Houses coming under this category.

4.—EDUCATION AUTHORITY

As the Local Education Authority, the Town Council plays an important part in the lives of the workers. We are in favour of the provision of Free Books and Free Secondary Education. We stand for the development of Nursery Schools and Clinics.

5.—PUBLIC HEALTH

We are in favour of Baby Clinics and the provision of Grade A Milk to Expectant and Nursing Mothers. We stand for the best possible treatment for the prevention of Tuberculosis and Maternal and Infant Mortality.

Generally we stand for the Council using every means in its power to assist the workers in their struggle for a fuller and better life.

ALL WORKERS VOTE FOR LABOUR CANDIDATES ON ELECTION DAY

Printed and Published by Dundee Printing Limited, 14 Victoria Road, Dundee

Activities - 10 minutes

1. Find 5 facts—You have 2 minutes to find 5 facts in the document! Write them on a piece of paper, or project jotter.
2. What political beliefs did this person stand for? Which of these beliefs do you feel strongly about and why?
3. How do you think Dundee has changed since this document was published?
4. How successful do you think this person was in their campaign?

Advice on other sources of information are available! Contact archives@abertay.ac.uk to discover more

Golden Document -

Dundee Courier, 6 November 1935. Copyright DC Thomson & Co. Ltd



Discuss!

1. What is so remarkable about Lily Miller?
2. This article is published 3 years after the election pamphlet. Why do you think it took so long for Lily to be elected?
3. How do you think Lily felt when she was elected?
4. Do you think Lily was the first woman to aspire for such a role? What reason do you have for your answer?

This newspaper cutting has been taken from a much larger article. Contact archives@abertay.ac.uk to discover more.

These newspaper cuttings have been taken from a much larger article. Contact archives@abertay.ac.uk to discover more

**WOMAN ENTERS THE LISTS
As Candidate for Dundee Council.**

Miss Annie K. Lamont and Mr J. Grafton Lawson are possible candidates for Dundee Town Council at the election in November. It has not yet been decided which ward Miss Lamont, who is a prominent member of the Labour party, may contest, but it is likely that Mr Lawson will stand for the First Ward. Mr Wm. M'Farlane, the present M.E.A. representative in that ward, has intimated that he will be compelled on account of pressure of business to relinquish the seat, which he has held for the past three years.

Miss Lamont is well known in many circles in Dundee, while Mr Lawson, it may be remembered, unsuccessfully contested the Eleventh Ward at the last election.

Above: Dundee Courier, 25 August 1924. Copyright DC Thomson & Co. Ltd

**Men Only,
Woman Councillor
Was Told**

Above: Dundee Evening Telegraph, 15 March 1949. Copyright DC Thomson & Co. Ltd

LORD PROVOST WANTS WOMEN'S VIEW

Lord Provost Powrie, worried over the selection of the city's marriage gift to Princess Elizabeth, has asked the women members of the Town Council to meet him this afternoon.

Recently the Lord Provost invited city jewellers to submit suggestions.

The women councillors who will help the Lord Provost choose from the offers are:—
Baillie Mrs Lily Miller, Baillie Mrs Agnes Holway, Miss L. Clunas, Mrs J. Brougham, and Mrs M. H. Meredith.

The public subscription totalled £390.

Above: Dundee Courier, 31 August 1947. Copyright DC Thomson & Co. Ltd

Discuss! 5 minutes.

1. What is significant about the date of the article mentioning Annie Lamont, compared with the date of Lily Miller's election? Why do you think it was difficult for women like Annie Keir Lamont and Lily Miller to be elected to local government in Dundee?
2. What barriers do you think these women faced? How do you think they were perceived in the media?

Golden Document -

Extract from page 4 of Annie Keir Lamont—Post Office Time Capsule Letter, 1921, Dundee City Archives ref. GD/Mus/226

“ The vote has been granted to women within the last few years, and we are very keen about voting, and indeed, most of the women in this office are very anxious to see Winston Churchill turned out of his seat (Dundee) at the next General Election.

Mrs Winterbotham and Lady Astor are our only representatives in Parl[iamen]t, but we hope there will be a Lady Premier before 2021.

”

Annie Lamont's letter to the 21st century, Dundee City Archives

This is a short snippet from a much larger document. Contact archives@abertay.ac.uk to discover more

Discuss! 5 minutes

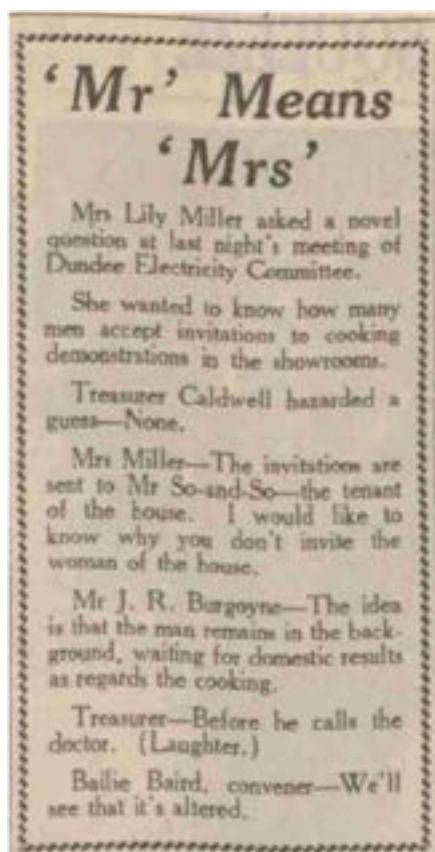
1. When were women given the vote and how did this change politics?
2. Why do you think Annie Lamont was writing this letter, who was her audience?
3. What do you think Annie Lamont would have thought about the female Prime Ministers we have had?

STAGE 2

FURTHER RESEARCH

Teacher's Notes

[Click here](#)
for an example
of what a further
research topic
could look like.



Far left: Dundee Courier, 22 November 1938. Copyright DC Thomson & Co. Ltd

Left: Dundee Evening Telegraph, 20 September 1938. Copyright DC Thomson & Co. Ltd

Where the group's research takes them depends entirely on them. At this point, the group has curiosity. Some of the questions raised at the end of Stage 1 will not be answered by the documents in the pack, so where can they go to find the answers? First of all, they need to decide which questions they want to answer—they need to discuss and decide on the direction they want their further research to go in. What is it they want to discover and why?

Examples of further research topics:

There are so many directions for further research in this story. The group might be interested in looking at the evolution of women in politics; looking at women in the media; the connections between Lily and Annie; a timeline of inspiring women in Dundee; media and mental health; using Annie's letter to contrast Dundee "then and now" ...

Contact archives@abertay.ac.uk when you know the topic your groups want to explore further. We can send larger copies of the documents from this pack as well as help you discover more sources of information! **The last page in this pack lists further sources of information.**

You are always
welcome to contact
archives@abertay.ac.uk
for further information or
to ask for help with your
project from a member of
the archive team. We can
help further focus and
develop your
group's research.

STAGE 2

PRESENTATIONS

Teacher's Notes

- The group will need to decide on a few things before getting started on their presentations. We want them to be as creative as possible, using the skills of those found within the group. Is there a confident speaker? A musician? Someone who enjoys arts and crafts? Encourage the group to discuss the different ways they could present their research to an audience.
- On page 16, there are some questions the group could discuss together to help guide them towards a presentation.

What is your topic?

- The group should agree on the topic of the presentation, the story they want to tell, and the message they want to send.
- Their message should be clear, strong and something that they are confident talking about.
- Are there any local politicians you could interview?

Who is your audience?

- How will the group get their message across?
- How will the group's chosen audience benefit from their research?

How will you present your discoveries?

- Now they know what their message is and who their audience is, they can focus on the best way to get that message across—what will make the biggest impact.
- A short story, drama, piece of music, animation, artwork, interactive exhibit – the possibilities are endless!

Create!

Once the groups have decided on their message, audience and presentation style, it's time to create! Each member of the group needs a role either in the design or delivery of the presentation (or both!) Before they start, they should make a plan. How long do they have to create their presentations, what equipment and skills to they have—laptops, art supplies, cameras etc. Remember to contact archives@Abertay.ac.uk - we might just be able to help!

Most importantly, the group needs to create realistic goals. They should think about time, resources and skills and what they can actually achieve with the resources available to them.



Photo of Annie Keir Lamont, Dundee Courier and Advertiser 1926 Copyright DC Thomson & Co. Ltd

Record!

Whatever the presentation is, we'd love to see it. If you're able to take photographs, video or audio recordings—or even send a file over—please do. It might just end up in our archives! Contact archives@abertay.ac.uk to find out more.

Stage 3

- Presentations Group Worksheet

Work through this sheet to help prepare your group presentation. Discuss each of the questions with your group before making a decision. Think about the skills of each person in the group, for example do you have an artist in your group? Or someone who is a confident speaker? Do you have a musician or someone who is interested in video editing? Use what skills and equipment you have available, but make sure everyone has a role in either the design or delivery of the presentation.

What is your topic or message?

Discuss the main topic of your presentation. Write your topic in 10 words or less. This will help you decide the title of your presentation. Try to summarise the story you want to tell in a paragraph. This can help you plan how it could be divided up into sections / scenes in your presentation.

Who is your audience?

Discuss who you are creating this presentation for. Your school, a nursery, a future employer or politicians? It can be a completely made up audience—someone from the future, the past or even an alien!

Why do you think they should listen to your message? How will they benefit?

Your presentation needs a “why”. Think about why your audience needs to hear your research. It might help them change their perspective, or inspire them to make a change.

How will you present your work?

This will depend on the topic/message and audience you have chosen. A younger audience might benefit from storytelling or rhyme, whereas an alien might need a lot of visual cues. Use the skills in your group to decide on the best way to present.

Discuss realistic goals. What can you achieve with the time and resources available to you. Play to each other's strengths – if one person is an amazing writer, another a great illustrator and someone else is a fantastic speaker – work together to create something you can all feel confident presenting!

Further Research

There are different sources for your research, including the ones below.

Abertay University Archives archives@abertay.ac.uk

British Newspaper Archive www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/

Dundee City Archives archives@dundeecity.gov.uk

Local History Centre www.leisureandculturedundee.com/library/localhistory

University of Dundee Archive Services www.dundee.ac.uk/archives/

Acknowledgements

Abertay University would like to thank the following organisations for support in the development of these resources. They can also be contacted for further help with research.

Dundee City Archives archives@dundeecity.gov.uk

Local History Centre www.leisureandculturedundee.com/library/localhistory

University of Dundee Archive Services www.dundee.ac.uk/archives/

DC Thomson Archives www.dcthomson.co.uk While their collections are not normally publicly accessible, an enquiry service is offered but responses may take a few weeks. Historic newspapers can be searched through the British Newspaper Archive, and the Dundee Central Library collections hold modern editions so please use these sources first.

Verdant Works Museum www.verdantworks.co.uk/

Rautomead Ltd www.rautomead.com/

Colourful Heritage www.colourfulheritage.com/

We would also like to thank the following people and organisations for direct help in creating this pack

Soroptimist International Dundee

Shelagh Gardiner

Congratulations!

Congratulations! You've completed Abertay 25's Women in Politics Education Pack! Don't forget to fill in your post-project evaluation forms!



We'd love to see your creations, so take photos and recordings and send them to archives@dundee.ac.uk

If you have any feedback from your experience (either as the group taking part or the group leader) please do get in touch.

