

THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

celebrating and recording women's lives



For immediate release: 20 August 2012

Last chance to see *Cycling to Suffrage: The Bicycle and Women's Rights, 1890-1914*, an exhibit on now at The Women's Library

****Closing Sept 8th, 2012****



Image © The Women's Library

This must see exhibit explores the history and politics of women's bicycling

In 1895, American activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton famously declared that "many a woman is riding to suffrage on a bicycle." From the fashionable lady cyclists of the Victorian era to the politically motivated suffragette scouts of the Edwardian age, the bicycle has long been associated with liberated women.

This free foyer exhibit curated by Vera Douie Fellow Dr Sheila Hanlon uses rare and seldom seen artefacts from The Women's Library to explore the politics of women's cycling in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Britain, with a focus on the suffrage campaign and some surprises along the way.

"Cycling to Suffrage: The bicycle and women's rights, 1890-1914" curated by Dr Sheila Hanlon, 21 March – 8 Sept 2012

For immediate release, 20 August 2012

Further Details: tel 02073202222 or email moreinfo@thewomenslibrary.ac.uk

Address: The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University, Old Castle Street, London E1 7NT

Web: www.thewomenslibrary.ac.uk

PRESS INFO: Isobel Diamond on 02073201180, ts001951@londonmet.ac.uk

The inspiring story of how bicycles contributed to women's emancipation is told through portraits of New Women cyclists, designs for rational cycling costumes, bicycle parade postcards, letters home from suffrage cycle tours, news reports of militant police chases a-wheel and more.

Cycling to Suffrage investigates the history of women's cycling in a bygone era, but raises issues that still resonate today.

Here's what some of our visitors have said:



"I left with a sense of connectedness to all the pioneers of women's cycling" –Spokeswoman

"Essential inspiration for women to get back on their bikes" –One Stop Arts

"What a great tribute to the power of cycling in activism... We would encourage everyone to go and see the wonderful Cycling to Suffrage Display at the Women's Library" –Climate Rush

"See how the humble bike transformed the position of women" –What Glass Ceiling

****Chosen as one of the Breeze Network's Top 5 Cycling Picks for July/August 2012****

The exhibition runs until 8 September 2012.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Further Details: call 02073202222 or email moreinfo@thewomenslibrary.ac.uk

Venue: The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University, Old Castle Street, London E1 7NT

Nearest tube: Aldgate East, Aldgate or Liverpool Street.

Opening hours: Mon to Fri 9.30am - 5.30pm, Thurs until 8.00pm, Sat 10.00am - 4.00pm

More information: www.thewomenslibrary.ac.uk

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- Established in 1926, The Women's Library is an archive, museum and library housing one of the greatest collections of women's history in the world. It is part of London Metropolitan University, one of the foremost providers of undergraduate, postgraduate, professional and vocational education and training in Britain.
- The Vera Douie Fellowship is a visiting fellowship supporting original research at The Women's Library. Fellowship holder Dr Sheila Hanlon completed her PhD at York University, Toronto in 2009. Her dissertation "The Lady Cyclist: A Gender Analysis of Women's Cycling Culture in 1890s London" was nominated for several awards. She currently resides in London, where she is continuing her research on the history of women's cycling. Sheila can be contacted at cyclingtosuffrage@gmail.com
- For press information, images, or press tickets for events (numbers limited) please contact Isobel Diamond at The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University on 02073201180 or via ts001951@londonmet.ac.uk (DETAILS NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

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