



How did we get here?

VOTES FOR WOMEN

1865 Organised campaigns began for women to have the right to vote.

1897 The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was formed and led by Millicent Fawcett, a suffragist. Suffragists believed in reasoned argument and worked within the law to bring about change.



1928 All women over the age of 21 were given the vote.

1929 The idea of urban Guilds was born, for women to meet and learn about citizenship and how to use the vote. The first Guild was opened in Hayward's Heath. Guilds were able to meet and help others locally by forming Federations.



1932 The organisation became the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds. It continued to grow.



World War II During the war years the Government asked the NUTG to encourage married women who were not eligible for National Service to work locally, part time, to release others for war work.



1950s Guilds and Federations took the opportunity to join in the Festival of Britain celebrations. Following the Annual General Meeting Townswomen were able to campaign on national affairs.

1960s 1970s 1980s Members campaigned on issues such as: Environmental pollution, mixed-sex wards nuclear power, food additives, prescription charges, carers' rights.



1989 The National Union of Townswomen's Guilds became Townswomen's Guilds.

1990 Nearly £200,000 was raised to plant trees in six new woods, to help the environment and to replace trees lost in storms in the late 1980s.

1990s And members continued campaigning on: Single person supplements, medicinal cannabis, genetic screening.



2000s Notable campaigns: Post office closures, parental accountability, human trafficking.

2010s Notable campaigns: Empty homes, geriatric care in hospitals, gambling advertising, getting rid of cheques, banning FGM and modern slavery.



2014 A new logo was introduced to show we were continuing to move forward but we kept our history and heritage in mind.

2017 A TG memorial was commissioned for the National Memorial Arboretum.

2019 We will be celebrating our 90th birthday!

- And all the time the members of this friendly organisation continued to meet together regularly in Guilds regardless of politics, race, age, religion or circumstance.
- They exchanged ideas, developed new skills and interests, lobbied on various issues and had fun!
- As well as meeting locally, members became involved in national activities and events including conferences, competitions, sports and leisure activities, craft activities and fundraising, held around the country.

