

OLC Newsletter

March 2023



Welcome

Welcome to this special edition of the Open Learning Champions newsletter. As we celebrate International Women's Day today, we wanted to highlight the recent OU/BBC Scotland co-production, *The Women Who Changed Modern Scotland*. We have also highlighted some OpenLearn resources on women's workplace history, the role of women in the railway industry and the history of female protest and suffrage in the UK which we hope you will enjoy exploring.

International Women's Day highlights



New OU/BBC series showcases remarkable Scottish women

A new three-part series [The Women Who Changed Modern Scotland](#) tells the story of women who had a role in shaping Scotland over the last 50 years.

Presented by OU honorary graduate Kirsty Wark, the OU/BBC co-production highlights the women who, throughout the decades have challenged the status quo, defied sexism to seize new opportunities and in more recent years, have stepped up to lead in politics, in their communities and in the workplace.

Well-known names such as First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, and actress and OU honorary graduate Elaine C Smith, are profiled alongside an extraordinary range of women who may not be household names, but their passion and commitment have changed the lives of everyone in Scotland. The entire series is available to view on BBC iPlayer.



Women and equality: where do we go from here?

To accompany the series *The Women Who Changed Modern Scotland* there is a range of supporting content on our OU/BBC co-production website, [OU Connect](#).

This includes two short films exploring the barriers to and the benefits of women in politics. Those featured include cross-party MSPs, members of the Scottish Youth Parliament and representatives of the Women 50:50 campaign. A clip from one of the films is above.

The content also contains articles by the OU academic consultants for the programme Dr Kim Barker and Dr Helen O'Shea, as well as journalist Catriona Stewart.



Women and Workplace Struggles

The stories of women's often hidden struggles in the workplace across 120 years are being given fresh prominence in a new free online social history resource launched on OpenLearn by the OU in Scotland.

The [Women and Workplace Struggles: Scotland 1900-2022](#) collection casts a new light on struggles women have faced in the past, as well as highlighting new issues that women face in the workplace today. The collection was developed with Scottish Union Learning.



Women and Scottish Railway History

The role of women in Scottish railway history can be explored through a collection of free online learning materials available now on OpenLearn.

The [Women and Scottish Railway History](#) collection celebrates the achievements and struggles of women members working within the rail industry in Scotland, from around 1900 until the present day. They were developed by the OU in partnership with The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers Scotland, and Scottish Union Learning.



The History of Female Protest and Suffrage in the UK

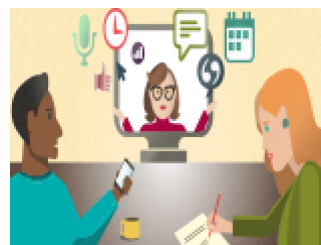
[The History of Female Protest and Suffrage in the UK](#) course focuses on one example of democratic protest: the campaign to extend the vote to women

in the UK. The course introduces two key figures in the campaign, Ada Nield Chew and May Billinghurst, and looks at the ways in which the Women's Social and Political Union, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the First World War shaped and affected the battle for the vote.

Everyday Computer Skills

In our previous newsletter we shared a linked for the [Everyday Computer Skills](#) course. This course has been designed in partnership with Lead Scotland and The Open University in Scotland (OUiS) and has recently been updated. In this course, learners will:

- develop knowledge and confidence about how to use a computer
- create files using Microsoft Word
- send and receive messages via email, Facebook, Twitter and Skype.
- access and search the internet securely
- use online services such as shopping and banking.



Champions Coffee Morning - 22nd March



Our next champions coffee morning will be on **Wednesday 22nd of March 11:00 - 12:00**. At this coffee morning we will be trying out some interactive quizzes on OpenLearn as well as discussing CPD activity for champions which we are currently exploring with colleagues in Wales. At this coffee morning, there will also be an opportunity for you to network with other champions.

As usual, we will be sending out cake for you to enjoy so please do let us know your dietary requirements when you register. If you would like to receive cake, please ensure you register by **8th of March (today)** so we can get in contact with you to receive your cake choices. You can still register to attend the coffee morning after 8th of March however, it will be too late to order cake after this date.

[To register for the coffee morning click here](#)

Share your thoughts



Remember to follow @OUScotland and @OUfreelearning on Twitter for updates and tweet us using **#OLchamps** if you have anything to share.

You're welcome to share this with your colleagues, learners and networks. If you no longer wish to receive these mailings, you can [unsubscribe here](#) and we'll take

you off the mailing list.

If you have any questions about Open Learning Champions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us at scotland-engagement@open.ac.uk.

Keep well,

David, Ewe and Kat



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