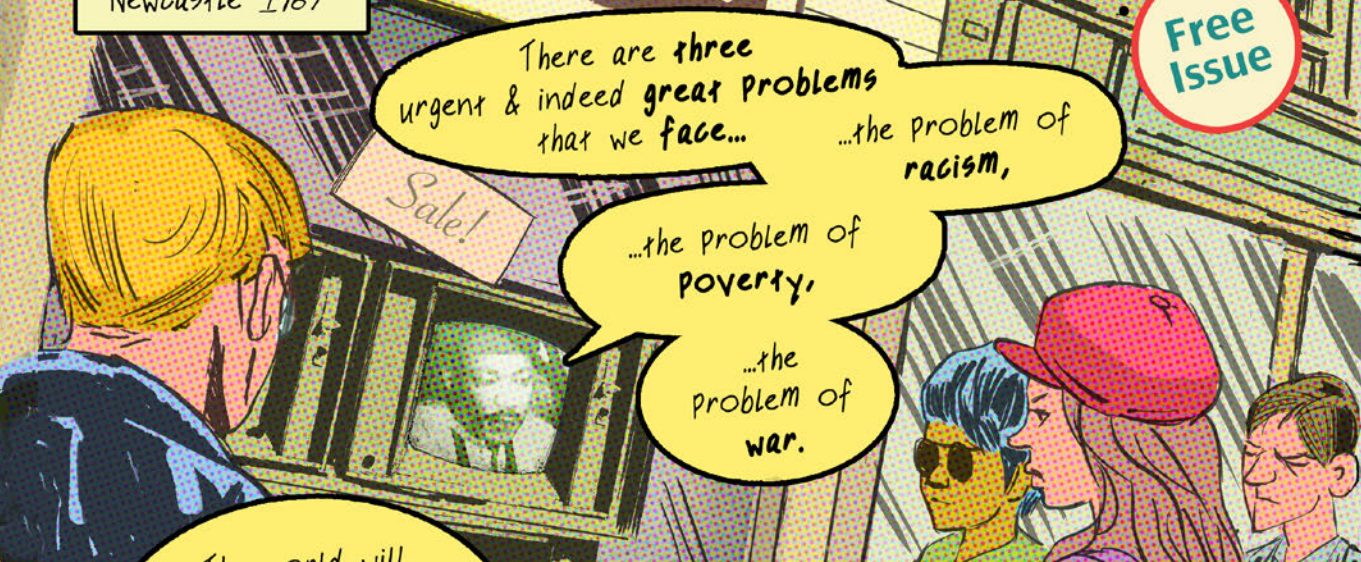




# FREEDOM CITY Comics

Newcastle 1967

Free Issue



There are three urgent & indeed great problems that we face...  
...the problem of racism,  
...the problem of poverty,  
...the problem of war.



The world will never rise to its full moral, or political or even social maturity until racism is totally eradicated...

What's this got to do with us?

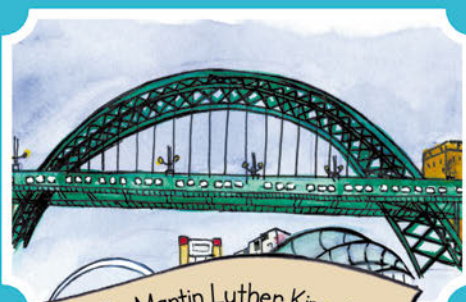
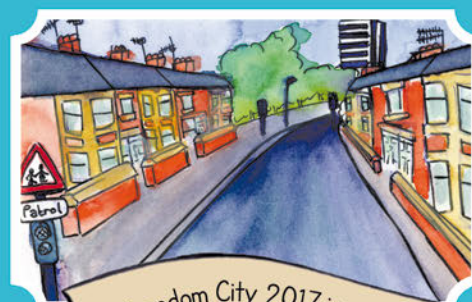
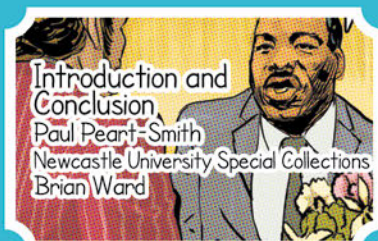
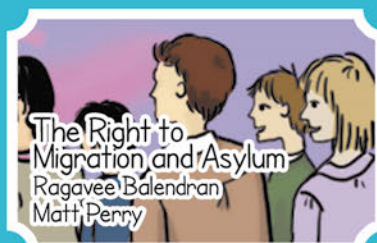
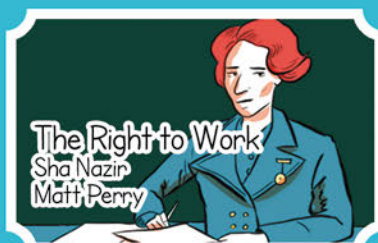
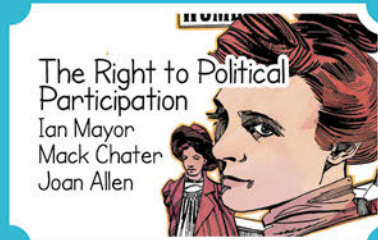


To be honest, I think it has everything to do with fairness. We're all involved.



If people want to get along, we're going to have to face this.





Freedom City 2017 is a city wide programme marking the 50th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King Jr.  
receiving an honorary degree at Newcastle University.

For more information, visit [www.freedomcity2017.com](http://www.freedomcity2017.com)

We made this free comic for Freedom City 2017. Published by Lydia Wysocki, ISBN 978-0-9574570-7-2. Printed in Great Britain by Newspaper Club. This credits page was made by Brittany Coxon. This comic is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC-ND). You can share this comic (physical and digital versions) with other people as long as you credit our project, but you can't change the comic in any way or use it commercially <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>



# FREEBORN RIGHTS: JOHN LILBURNE

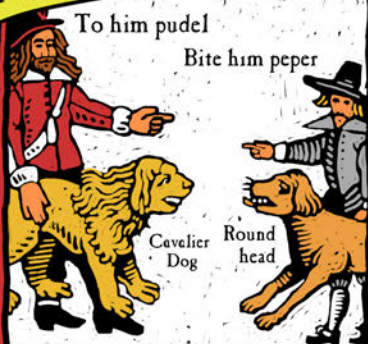
Comic by Terry Wiley

Research by  
Rachel Hammersley

Born in Sunderland  
around 1615 and schooled  
in Newcastle, Lilburne  
supported the Agreement  
of the People



...to prevent the long continuance  
of the same persons in authority



POLITICAL RIGHTS

...matters of religion & the ways of  
God's worship are not at all entrusted  
to us by any human power



RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

...in all laws made or to be made  
every person may be bound alike



LEGAL RIGHTS

as the laws ought to be equal  
so they must be good, & not  
evidently destructible





# FREEBORN RIGHTS: A Common Treasury

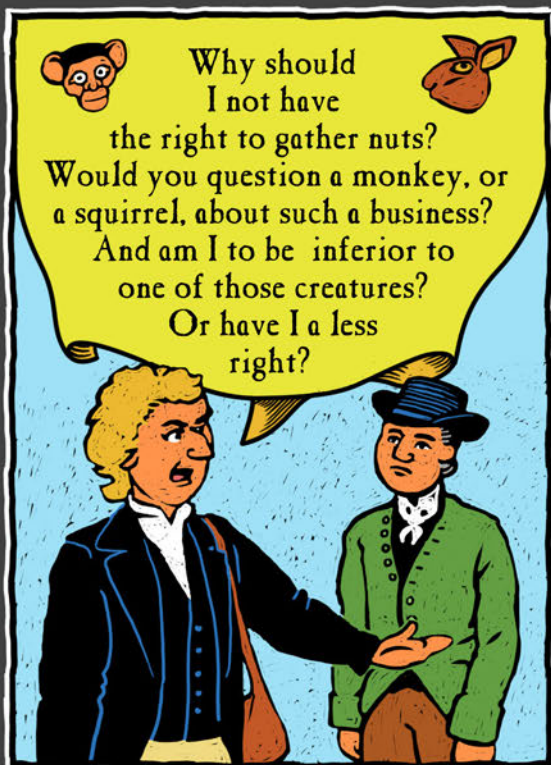
Thomas Spence was gathering nuts from the local wood near Hexham.



What are you doing?  
You are not allowed to  
gather nuts.

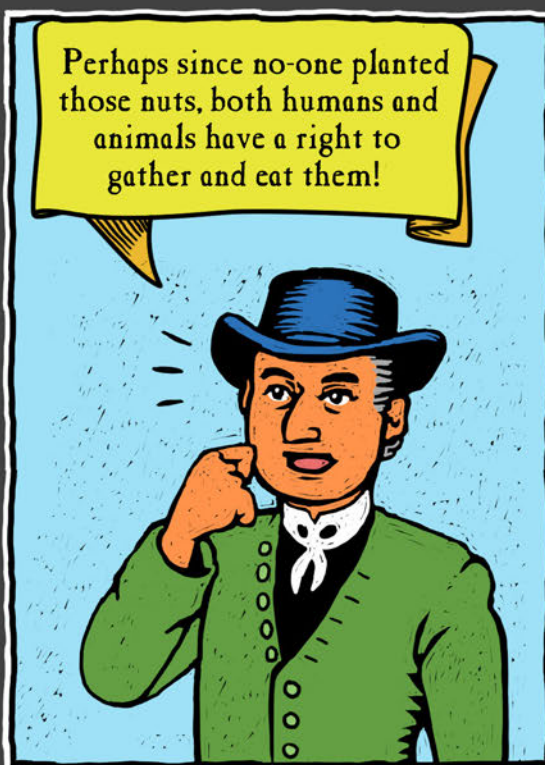


Why should  
I not have  
the right to gather nuts?  
Would you question a monkey, or  
a squirrel, about such a business?  
And am I to be inferior to  
one of those creatures?  
Or have I a less  
right?



Comic by Terry Wiley

Perhaps since no-one planted  
those nuts, both humans and  
animals have a right to  
gather and eat them!



Research by Rachel Hammersley



# FREEBORN RIGHTS: THOMAS SPENCE

Born on Newcastle's quayside, Spence later taught in Hexham



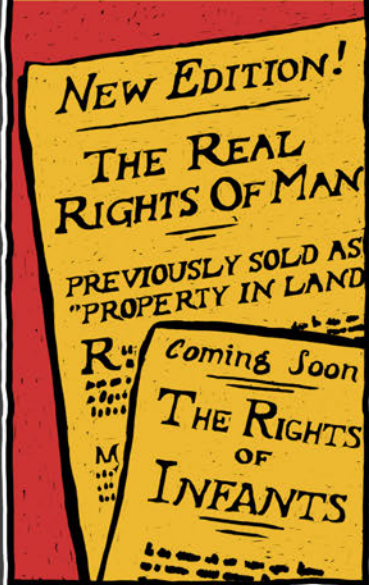
He developed a new phonetic alphabet, intended as an easy read for illiterate people.



He lectured at Newcastle's Philosophical Society



Keen to spread his message, he set up as a printer in London.



"Would you really persuade us that we have no reason to complain?"



Spence was ahead of his time in wanting rights for all -



- something we're still working on today

Comic by Terry Wiley

Research by Rachel Hammersley





COMIC: PATRICE AGGS RESEARCH: BRYCCHAN CAREY



# FREDERICK DOUGLASS VISITS TYNESIDE

It's 1846. SLAVERY HAS BEEN ABOLISHED IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE!

...but it was still LEGAL in the USA.



Newcastle Quakers and abolitionists met to discuss how to support the American struggle.



I was born a slave but I learned to read and I escaped.



The more I read, the more I was led to abhor and detest my enslavers. I could regard them in no other light than a band of successful robbers, who had left their homes, and gone to Africa, and stolen us from our homes, and in a strange land reduced us to slavery.

At last, Frederick Douglass arrived in Newcastle.



COMIC: PATRICE AGGS RESEARCH: BRYCCHAN CAREY

Freedom from Slavery

This comic is part of Freedom City Comics anthology, read more online [research.ncl.ac.uk/fccomics](http://research.ncl.ac.uk/fccomics)



Today, the right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, enjoyed by all qualifying British Citizens or long term residents over the age of 18.



But that was not always the case.

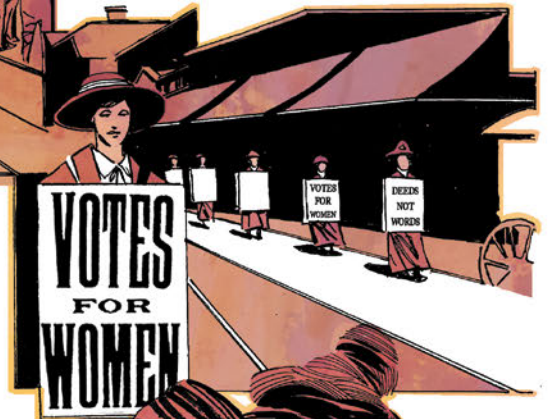
# THE RIGHT TO POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



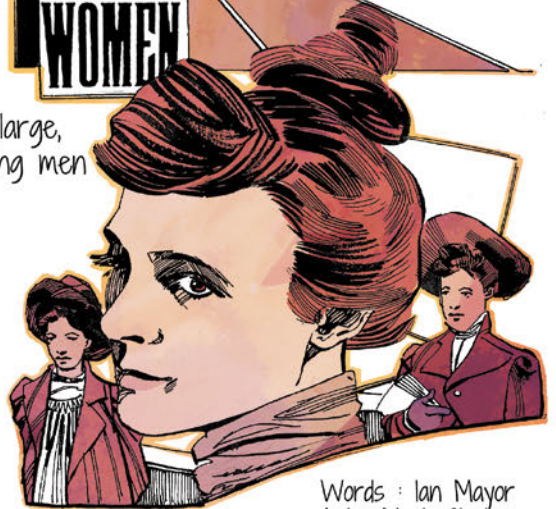
Changing politics and the pressure of popular opinion has meant the laws governing who could vote have changed over time.



Each reform marked a step towards equal representation, not discriminating by wealth or gender.



Some steps were small and some were large, and many were fought for by the working men and women of the North East.

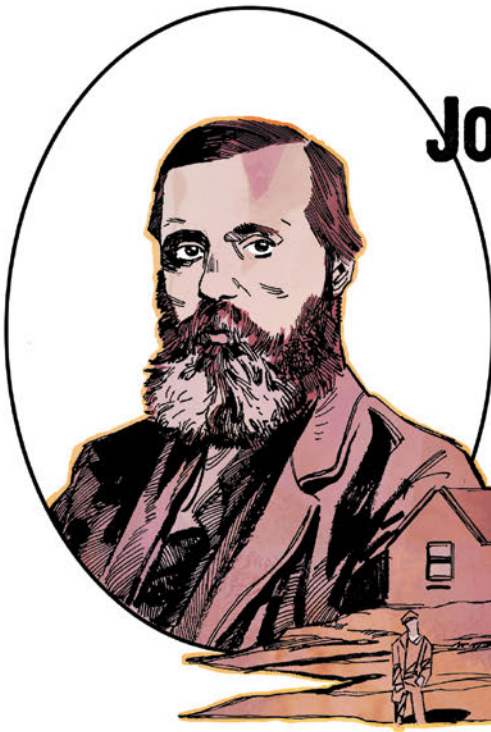


Words : Ian Mayor  
Art : Mack Chafer  
Research : Joan Allen



# JOSEPH COWEN

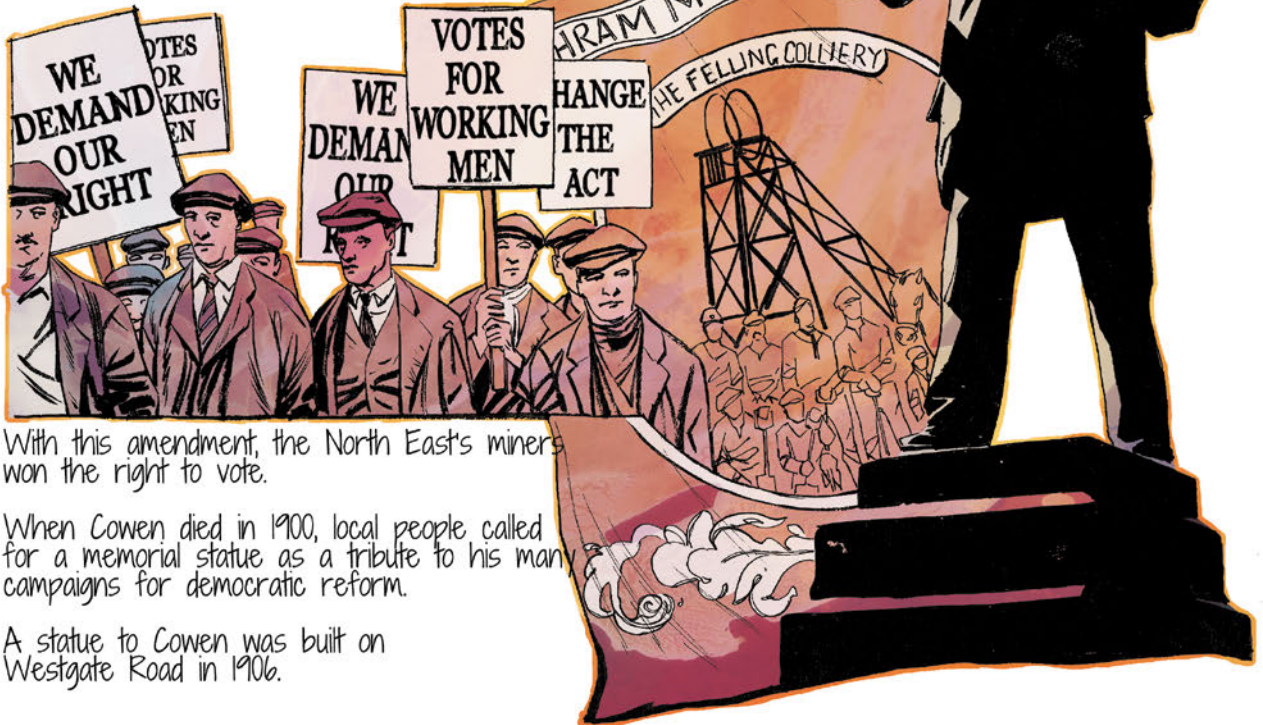
Joseph Cowen was born into a wealthy brickmaking family. Well educated and outspoken, he was a natural politician.



The MP for Newcastle from 1874 to 1886 was well known for his dramatic oratory and strong Newcastle accent.

The 1867 Representation of the People Act meant more people could vote. But most of the North East's miners were excluded because they lived in tithed cottages (rented as part of their job).

Cowen and others organised a mass demonstration on the Town Moor in Newcastle on 12th April 1873 which was attended by over 40,000 miners. This public display highlighted unfairness in the Act and called for the Reform Act to be changed.



With this amendment, the North East's miners won the right to vote.

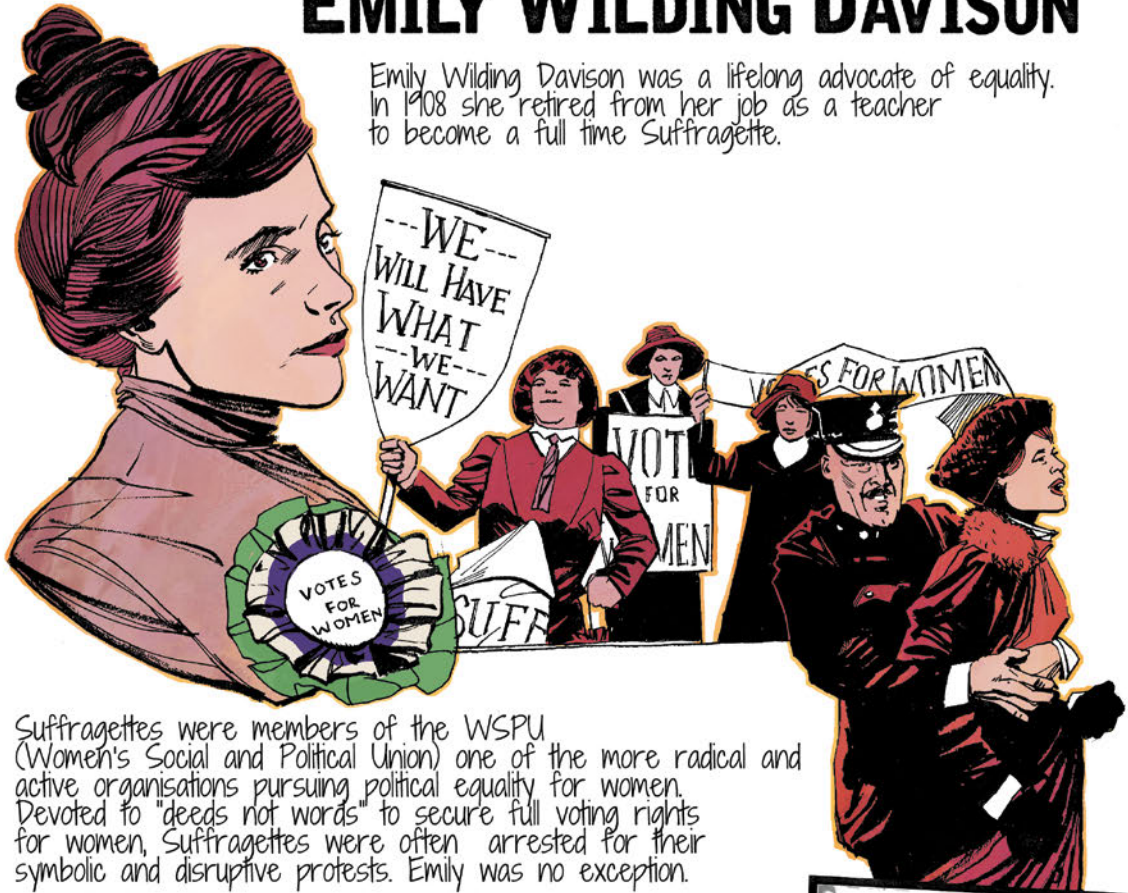
When Cowen died in 1900, local people called for a memorial statue as a tribute to his many campaigns for democratic reform.

A statue to Cowen was built on Westgate Road in 1906.



# EMILY WILDING DAVISON

Emily Wilding Davison was a lifelong advocate of equality. In 1908 she retired from her job as a teacher to become a full time Suffragette.



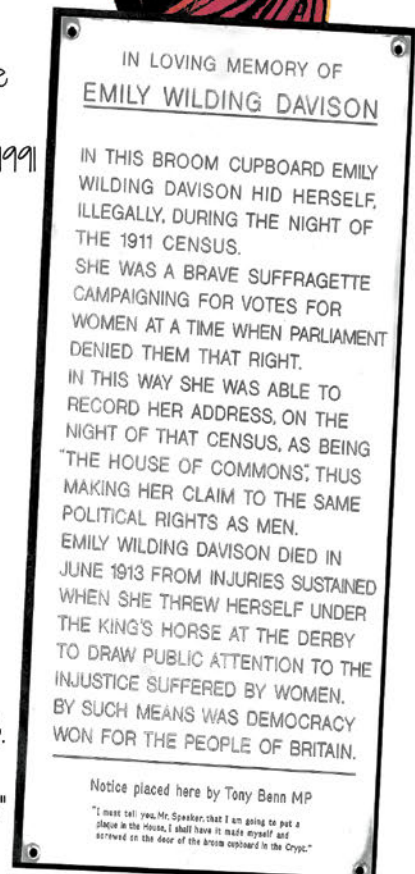
Suffragettes were members of the WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union) one of the more radical and active organisations pursuing political equality for women. Devoted to "deeds not words" to secure full voting rights for women, Suffragettes were often arrested for their symbolic and disruptive protests. Emily was no exception.

On the night of the 1911 census, Davison hid in the House of Commons, a symbolic claim to the same political rights as men (this act was later commemorated in 1991 in a plaque).



Davison would continue her activism until her death in 1913.

She is buried near her family home, in Morpeth. Her gravestone marked "Valiant in Courage and Faith"





## JARROW'S CRUSADE FOR WORK

On 5 October 1936, 200 men set out from Jarrow Town Hall on a 300-mile march to London. The march has come to define the region and the era, as a brave protest against injustice.

### "BEER OR TEA SIR?"

#### Jarrow Marchers Dine in Leeds Town Hall.

The march's aim was clear: the people of Jarrow wanted the government to make the Bank and steel industry drop their objections to a new steelworks that would bring thousands of jobs to the town.

11,000 people signed the petition in Jarrow. A further 67,000 people signed a second petition across England as they marched 23 days out of 26! In their journey south, they were well received in many towns and cities that sympathised with their plight.

### MARCHERS DETERMINED TO GO ON

Unemployment and poverty dominated Jarrow after the closure of the Palmer's shipyard in 1934. Four out of five people in the town were out of work. For Ellen, unemployment was 'not a local problem. It is the symptom of a national evil'.

### MISS WILKINSON TIRED OUT.

On 31 October, the marchers reached London. Despite their efforts, the petition fell on the deaf ears. Conservative Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin refused to see them. On 4 November, Ellen Wilkinson presented the town's petition to the House of Commons.

The marchers felt they had been effectively fobbed off and returned on the train with heavy hearts but received a heroes' welcome in Jarrow.

### JARROW'S "MORE WORK" MARCHERS IGNORE GOVERNMENT SNUB

What did the march achieve?

Nothing changed for Jarrow immediately, but it helped alter attitudes. After the war, the government introduced a welfare state with the NHS, secondary education, right to housing and National Insurance. Governments promised that there would be no return to the hardship, mass unemployment and ill health of the 1930s.

WORDS & PICTURES: SHA NAZIR COLOURS: KIRSTY HUNTER RESEARCH: MATT PERRY





**GENERAL ELECTION 1931**  
**MIDDLESBROUGH EAST PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION**  
**VOTE FOR**




**ELLEN**

Ellen travelled extensively, often into the eye of the storm of major conflicts in the hope of resolving issues back home.



Ellen Wilkinson was an MP for Middlesbrough East from 1924 to 1931, later working as a journalist.



She returned to politics in 1935 and was elected as Jarrow's MP: a career defining victory.



**1932 INDIA**

Ellen visited Gandhi, leader of the movement for Indian independence, who was on hunger strike in jail. Her Indian friends included Nehru, an independence activist who would become the country's first leader.




**1935 BERLIN**

Two years after the Nazis came to power, Ellen wrote a newspaper article warning the world of Hitler's intention to march into the Rhineland: a threat to world peace.



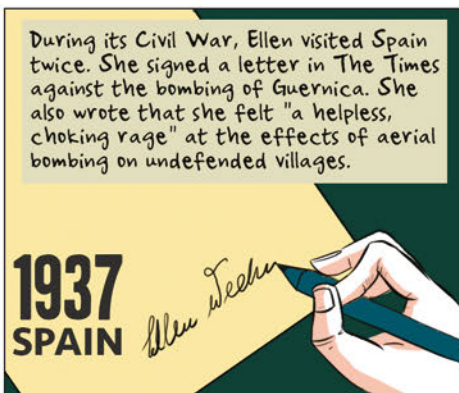
US Car workers were on strike in their factories. Ellen climbed through a window to speak with them. This famous sit-down strike won union rights for workers across the car industry.

**1936 USA**



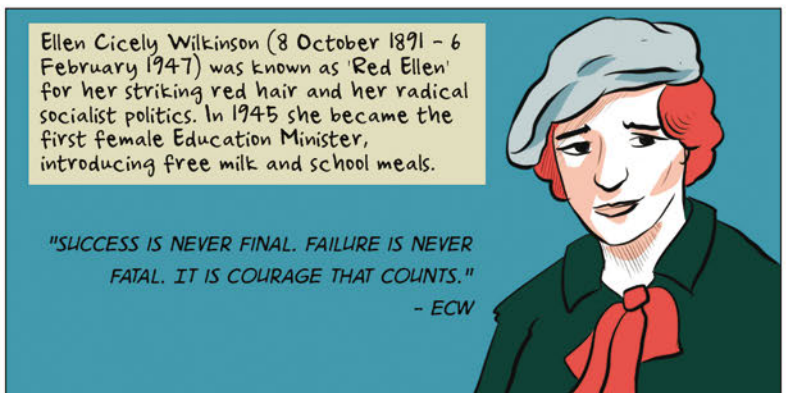
During its Civil War, Ellen visited Spain twice. She signed a letter in The Times against the bombing of Guernica. She also wrote that she felt "a helpless, choking rage" at the effects of aerial bombing on undefended villages.

**1937 SPAIN**



Ellen Cicely Wilkinson (8 October 1891 – 6 February 1947) was known as 'Red Ellen' for her striking red hair and her radical socialist politics. In 1945 she became the first female Education Minister, introducing free milk and school meals.

"SUCCESS IS NEVER FINAL. FAILURE IS NEVER FATAL. IT IS COURAGE THAT COUNTS."  
 - ECW



WORDS & PICTURES: SHA NAZIR COLOURS: KIRSTY HUNTER RESEARCH: MATT PERRY



# GUERNICA'S WAR CHILDREN.

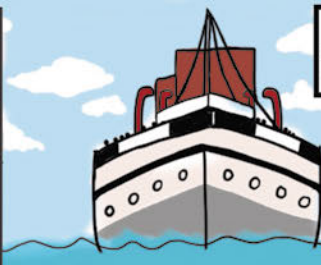
COMIC BY  
RAGAVEE BALENDRAN,  
RESEARCH BY MATT PERRY



Guernica was a market town in the Basque Country in Spain. In 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, Nazi bombers destroyed the town. They were helping General Franco, Spain's future dictator.



In May 1937, 4000 Basque children came to the UK as refugees.



The crossing was rough, and many children experienced sea sickness for the first time.



Basque Children's Committee homes were set up around the UK in hostels, church buildings, and houses lent by local people. In the North East, BCC children lived in Hexham and Tynemouth.



BCC homes received support from local people, including different political, religious, and community groups. Strangers donated food, money, and clothes.

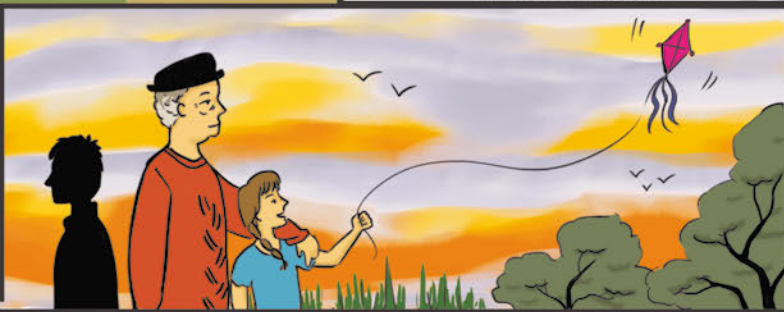
Other local people opposed the BCC homes, saying the children would ruin the area.

Eventually some children returned home to the Basque Country...



...others were adopted or grew up, and the North East became their new home.

The survivors - and now their children and grandchildren - have created the British branch of the Basque Children of '37 Association, a community dedicated to keeping the story of the 4,000 refugee children alive and to maintaining contact with them.









# ACTIVISTS AND RADICALS ON TYNESIDE

## KEY

- 1 Suffragettes
- 2 Thomas Hepburn - Founder of Pitman's Union of Tyne and Wear
- 3 Jarrow Crusaders
- 4 1569 Rising of the North
- 5 Northumberland keelmen
- 6 Thomas Burt - MP & Founder of Northumberland Miners
- 7 James Murray - independent minister of High Bridge Chapel
- 8 Thomas Spence - radical activist
- 9 Sudha Telang - minority rights campaigner
- 10 Emily Wilding Davison - Suffragette
- 11 Earl Grey - Prime Minister & architect of 1832 Reform Act
- 12 John Tuttle - Leveller
- 13 Joseph Cowen - MP, writer & campaigner
- 14 Mr. Sehgal - Hindu community activist
- 15 Zafar Khan - Muslim community activist
- 16 CS Sokhi - Sikh community activist
- 17 Ellen Richardson - Quaker & Abolitionist
- 18 Frederick Douglass - Abolitionist
- 19 Ellen Wilkinson - campaigner, MP & cabinet minister
- 20 Martin Luther King - Civil Rights campaigner
- 21 Olaudah Equiano - writer & Abolitionist
- 22 Richard Cobden - MP & free trade campaigner
- 23 William Beveridge - economist, MP & architect of Welfare State
- 24 William Wells Brown - Abolitionist
- 25 Anna Richardson - Quaker & Abolitionist
- 26 Arthur Henderson - MP, cabinet minister & Nobel Peace Prize winner

Research by Matthew Grenby & Lydia Wysocki

Who else do you think belongs in this picture?

Activists and Radicals on Tyneside

This comic is part of Freedom City Comics anthology, read more online research.ncl.ac.uk/fccomics

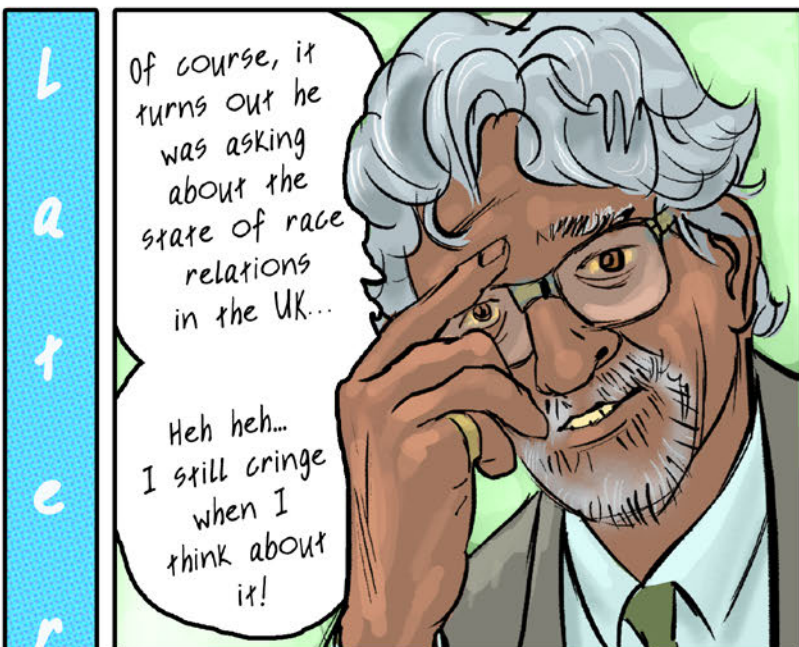
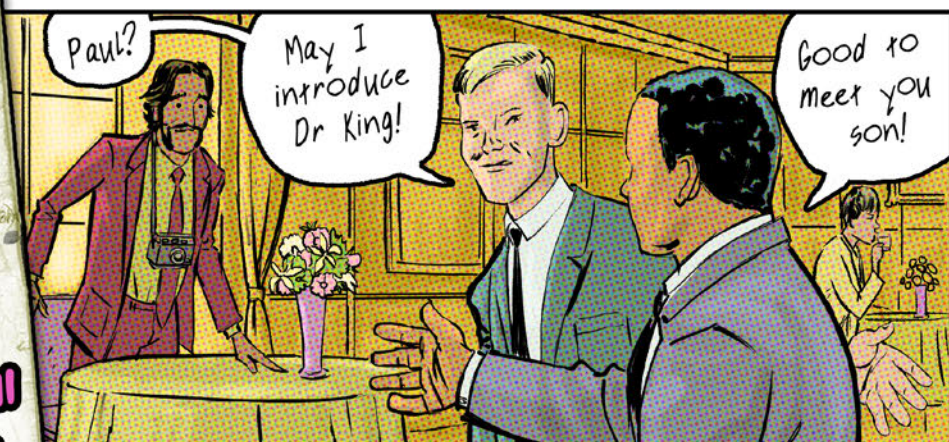
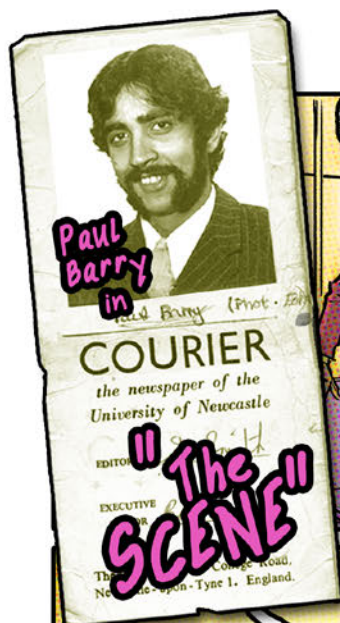
- 1 Suffragettes
- 2 Thomas Hepburn - Founder  
of Pitman's Union of Tyne  
and Wear
- 3 Jarrow Crusaders
- 4 1569 Rising of the North
- 5 Northumberland keelmen
- 6 Thomas Burt - MP & Founder  
of Northumberland Miners
- 7 James Murray - independent  
minister of High Bridge Chapel
- 8 Thomas Spence - radical activist
- 9 Sudha Telang - minority rights  
campaigner
- 10 Emily Wilding Davison - Suffragette
- 11 Earl Grey - Prime Minister &  
architect of 1832 Reform Act
- 12 John Tuttle - Leveller
- 13 Joseph Cowen - MP, writer &  
campaigner
- 14 Mr. Sehgal - Hindu community  
activist

- 15 Zafar Khan - Muslim community activist
- 16 CS Sokhi - Sikh community activist
- 17 Ellen Richardson - Quaker & Abolitionist
- 18 Frederick Douglass - Abolitionist
- 19 Ellen Wilkinson - campaigner, MP & cabinet minister
- 20 Martin Luther King - Civil Rights campaigner
- 21 Olaudah Equiano - writer & Abolitionist
- 22 Richard Cobden - MP & free trade campaigner
- 23 William Beveridge - economist, MP & architect of Welfare State
- 24 William Wells Brown - Abolitionist
- 25 Anna Richardson - Quaker & Abolitionist
- 26 Arthur Henderson - MP, cabinet minister & Nobel Peace Prize winner

Who else do you think belongs in this picture?

Who else do you think belongs in this picture?





Based on Paul Barry's true story, shared as part of the Freedom City Alumni Project. Artist: Paul Pearl Smith. Additional thanks: Brian Ward