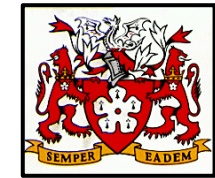
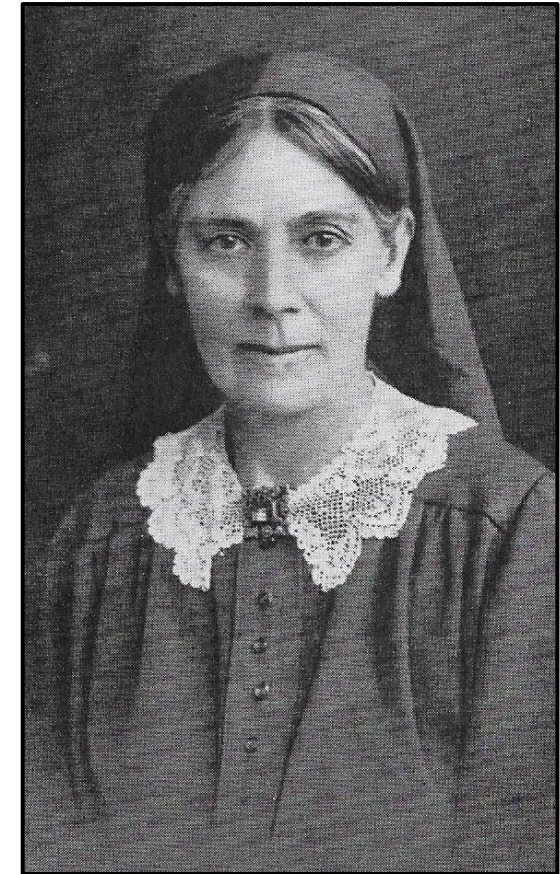




Councillor Emily Comber Fortey B.Sc. JP 1866-1946



Emily was born in Chelsea. Her father was an HM Inspector of Schools in Madras, India. She was educated as a boarder in Frome and then Bristol High School. Emily converted to Catholicism at eighteen and joined the Catholic Church. She then studied at University College Bristol and gained an Honours Degree in 1895. After graduating she took up a chemical research scholarship. She supported men in writing a number of academic papers. When her father died she moved to London and gained further qualifications in sanitary inspection and midwifery. She also studied sociology at the London School of Economics. Emily disliked the fact that women were seen as less important and was a suffragist sympathiser. In 1909 Emily moved to Leicester. She had a heart for the poor – within two years she was elected to the Board of Guardians. During WWI she moved to France and ran a small YMCA rescue home for girls in Le Havre. In 1921 she returned to Leicester and re-joined the Guardians. Throughout her adult life she had concerns for the welfare of people, caring for the physical, mental and spiritual needs of those around her. She had a passion for the education of young people. Emily had a keen interest in politics and was a member of the Independent Labour Party. In 1923 she was elected as the first female Leicester City Labour Councillor. As a Councillor she worked tirelessly on education, health, sanitary & mental health committees and served the St. Margaret's Ward for 23 years. Emily was no pushover. She argued against any policies that she saw as morally wrong. In 1928 she challenged the City Council for only appointing single women teachers to permanent posts. For her the policy was not in keeping with the spirit of the Sex Discrimination (Removal) Act. Her motion was defeated by 10 votes to 4 and married women remained debarred. She was also a stern critic of council slum clearance policies in the 1930s and was reprimanded in Labour Group for opposing the Council's promotion of birth control. In 1924 she was appointed as a magistrate in Leicester. In 1956, 10 years after she died, the Emily Fortey Special School in Glenfield Road opened in her honour.



Emily Fortey in the 1901 Census living at 18 Hughendon Road, Clifton, Bristol. She is a Chemical Researcher. Her father is a retired Inspector of Schools.

No of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c, and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES			Number of Rooms occupied if more than three	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Conditions as to Marriage	Age last Birthday at		PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded
		Inhabited	In Occupation	Not in Occupation					Males	Females					
125	18 Hughendon Rd	1			Emily Fortey	Head	M	41	1	Retired Inspector of Schools			Chelsea, London		
					Francis A. Fortey	Wife	M	50					London, St. John Wood		
					Emily C. Fortey	Daughter	F	35		Chemical Researcher			Clifton, Bristol		
					William W. Fortey	Son	F	24		Chemical Researcher	Widow		Clifton, Bristol		
					Francis J. Fortey	Son	F	16					Clifton, Bristol		
					Miss Margaret Fortey	Daughter	F	28		Book / Domestic			Brighton, Sussex		
					Robert W. Fortey	Son	F	23		Student			Leicester, Leicestershire		