

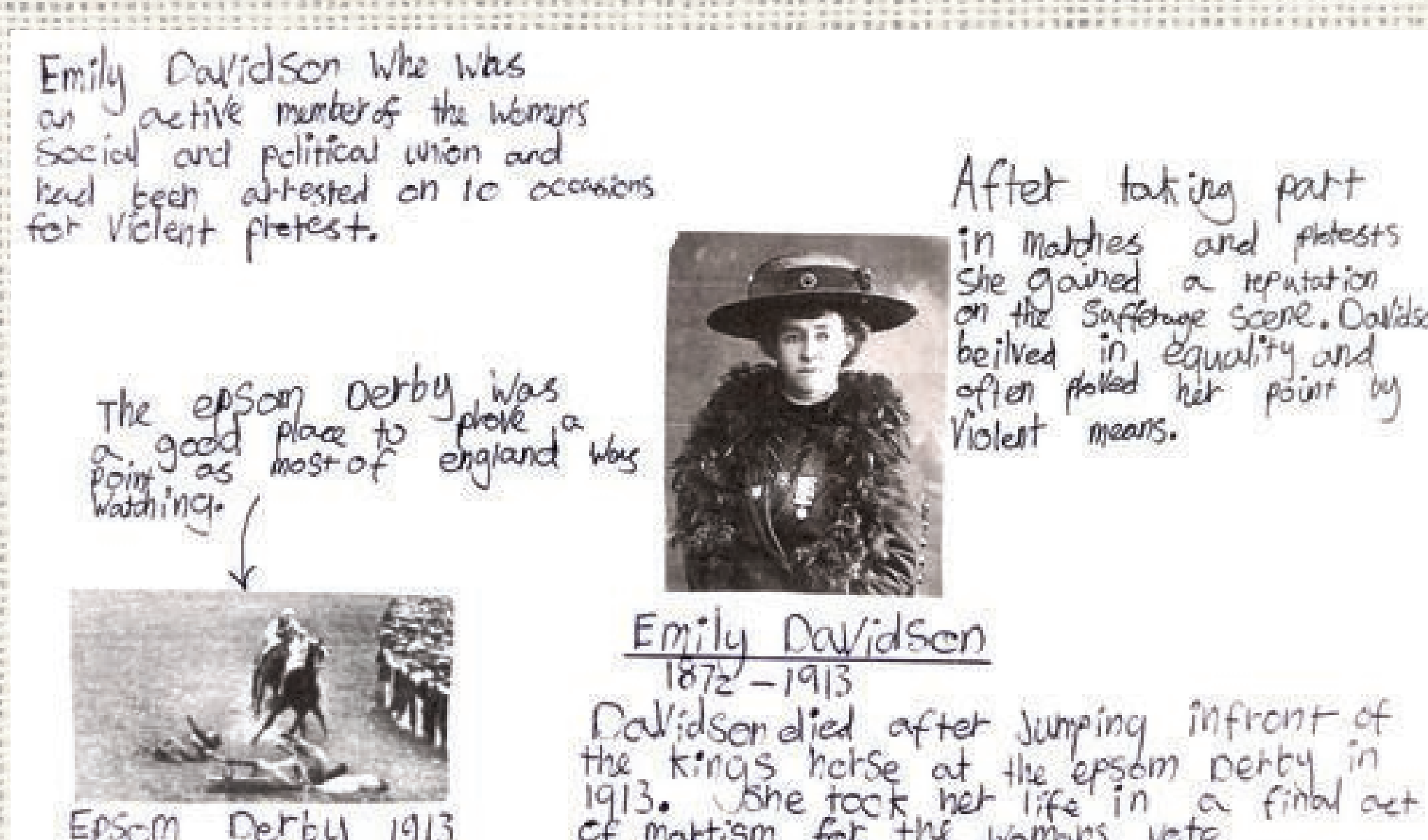


Forgotten Champions of the Women's Suffrage Movement in Leicestershire

In February 2018, the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland was awarded a grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project to mark the centenary of women first obtaining the vote in parliamentary elections. Working with pupils from Robert Smyth Academy in Market Harborough, the project set out to commemorate six lesser known local figures who were involved in the fight for votes for women. Through workshops at the Record Office, visits to the Women's History Library in London and to the Houses of Parliament, the pupils were introduced to historical sources for the lives of the men and women who today are largely forgotten. This exhibition showcases some of the work by the pupils and celebrates the lives of these 'Forgotten Champions'.

Emily Wilding Davison (1872-1913)

When Emily Davison threw herself in front of the King's horse in the Derby at Epsom on 4th June 1913, she became a martyr for the cause of women's suffrage. Thousands of women, including women from Leicestershire, took part in her funeral procession. The fact that her collision with the horse was actually recorded on film has ensured that her sacrifice is still remembered today. Her protest caught the imagination of today's school children...



Visits to the Record Office, Wigston Magna, May 2018

At workshops at the Record Office, pupils were shown documents relating to the six 'forgotten champions' and introduced to resources online which would help with their research. Each pupil was asked to research the lives of one particular character and this exhibition is the result of their endeavours.



Visit to the Houses of Parliament, 18th June 2018

After a tour of the Houses of Parliament, pupils enjoyed a question and answer session with Neil O'Brien, MP for Harborough.



Visit to the Women's History Library, London School of Economics, 18th June 2018

At the Women's History Library, Dr Debbie Challis showed us the current exhibition celebrating the many organisations which contributed to the fight for women's suffrage and showed the pupils documents relating to the protests of Nellie Taylor, a suffragette from Smeeton Westerby and her sister Dr Elizabeth Wilks who refused to pay tax until women gained the vote.



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