



# Women's Local Government Society:

Raising the profile of past, present and future locally elected women.

Anne Baldwin

Cllr Marianne Overton



**‘Women were too hysterical ... guided by feeling and not cold reason’ ... to make a valuable contribution as councillors.**

**Earl Of Halsbury, Hansard 1907**



- ❖ **Election frequently followed co-option**
- ❖ **Women served several terms**
- ❖ **Were involved in community life**
- ❖ **Visible community leadership as mayors**



- ❖ 1919 before most women could stand
- ❖ Progress was not uniform
- ❖ Independent and political women
- ❖ Cultural changes influential



- ❖ **1964: around 12% of councillors are women**
- ❖ **1977: around 17% of councillors are women**
- ❖ **Regional variations, and variations by type**
- ❖ **Currently less than 30%**
- ❖ **Shadow Unitaries 27% women elected**



- ❖ **What can councils do to encourage more women to stand as candidates?**
- ❖ **What single change might help women once elected?**
- ❖ **Do women councillors still end up in stereotyped roles?**
- ❖ **Why are there so few women leaders?**