

WWW.WPRADIO.CO.UK



Catalogue of contents

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY RADIO



70 Great Russell Street
London
WC1B 3JJ

Mobile: 07703 716961

About WPRadio.co.uk

www.wpradio.co.uk / Boni Sones OBE

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WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY RADIO WAS FOUNDED IN SEPTEMBER 06 BY BONI SONES OBE OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES AND OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED IN MARCH 07.

It is wholly owned and run by Boni through her Company but supported by women politicians across party globally and by nationally known journalists. The content is mediated and generated by women journalists on behalf of women politicians to promote the work they are doing on social policy issues in Britain, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Jackie Ashley, of the Guardian and BBC is our Chair.

In January 09 Boni was awarded an OBE for "Services to broadcasting and Public Relations".

Boni was given permission to set up the web broadcaster after writing a book on women politicians published in September 2005 called: "Women in Parliament: The New Suffragettes" with Margaret Moran MP and Professor Joni Lovenduski. She presented her idea to women MPs in the Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet and to the then Minister for the Creative Arts, Shaun Woodward MP. She has also won the support of the Commons authorities themselves and the BBC.

Boni is now a lobby pass holder in Westminster and is supported by Linda Fairbrother of Anglia TV renown. Others have reported for us including Deborah McGurran of the BBC, the late Brian Shallcross of Gcap media and our fledgling broadcast reporters Daisy Ayliffe, Lucy Fairbrother, Georgie Hemmingham, Sophie Kinradl. Magazine journalist Anne Garvey and film maker Barbara Gorna, are supporters too.

Women MPs Eleanor Laing Conservative, Barbara Keeley and Anne Begg, both Labour, and Jo Swinson Liberal Democrat are on our Advisory Board and have been great supporters.

SINCE SEPTEMBER 2006 WPRADIO.CO.UK HAS BROADCAST APPROX 161 REPORTS WITH WOMEN MPS in the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Parties in Britain, including Ministers in the Cabinet and Shadow Cabinets, such as Theresa May MP, and Lynne Featherstone MP, Harriet Harman MP. We also talk to leading women in the charity sector too such as Lynne Berry CEO of the WRVS. We have interviewed academics and those who feed into social policy like the TUC, and the Women's Institute.

Male MPs are interviewed too, when they promote family and women's issues, such as John Bercow, Speaker of the Commons.

Many of our Head to Head interviews are dubbed with music, all are recorded "as live" but can be listened to or streamed through the web site or downloaded. People agree our content is to BBC standards and is of the very best, better than most newspaper podcast content of today. We aim to become the BBC like world service for women in parliaments globally in 2011. We will be letting women MPs here through a "guest editor" approach interview women in other parliaments.

We have also recorded 12 analytical documentaries "file on four" BBC style, some of which have attracted sponsorship and some round table "Any Questions" type debates with politicians from all parties.

Internationally wpradio.co.uk has produced documentaries on the European Parliament,

The Ugandan Parliament, and on Ethiopia and Afghanistan too as well as promoting John Bercow MP's work on Genocide in Africa.

Our broadcasts are available on mobile "Apps" too which can be downloaded from our site. This means our reports can be heard without the necessity to own a computer and means we can reach parts of the world through mobile technology only.

In Europe, Diana Wallis MEP, the Liberal Democrat, a Vice President of the European Union is a supporter, as is Mary Honeyball MEP, who represented Labour women MEPs there. We have also spoken to Swenden't Margot Wallstrom, a Vice President of the European Commission, and the Spanish MEP Barbara Duhrkop.

We carry video interviews recorded at the Westminster Millbank studios to ITV professional standards. However, our main media for communication is radio to BBC Radio 4 and World Service standards and the renowned Reithian production values of "inform, educate and entertain".

We have a BBC archive of content taken from Today in Parliament on our website too. This formative association with wpradio.co.uk is now discontinued.

In all we put around four to six new interviews on the site each month, Home and International, generating about 30 minutes new content each week over two hours a month.

We have just out to all 142 women MPs of all parties our 2011 catalogue of content. In the autumn of 2008 we launched four portraits of women MPs party by party at the National Portrait Gallery to mark 90 years of women and the vote. They have now been purchased by the House of Commons Works of Art Committee. The Parliamentary Education Service have also purchased copyright to the photographs and they can be download from the official House of Commons Parliamentary Education Service website at www.parliament.uk/education.

wpradio.co.uk is also worked with the NASUWT to distribute copies of the photocall

brochure direct to schools through the 130 NASUWT Equality Offices. The then Equality Minister, Maria Eagle, wrote a letter in support of this to the Equality Offices.

OUR ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS, THE MINUTES OF OUR MEETINGS AND OUR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS, AND BUSINESS PLAN CAN ALL BE FOUND ON THE ABOUT US PAGE OF WPRADIO.CO.UK. WOMEN MPs FROM ACROSS PARTY SIT ON OUR ADVISORY BOARD AS DO LEADING MEMBERS OF THE THIRD-SECTOR.

Our WP Radio Advisory Board

Journalists:

Jackie Ashley, Chair, Guardian and BBC
Deborah McGurran, BBC East
Lesley Abdela, Shevolution
Boni Sones, Executive Producer, author

MPs:

Eleanor Laing MP (Conservative)
Jo Swinson MP (Liberal Democrat)
Barbara Keeley MP (Labour)
Anne Begg MP (Labour)

Academic:

Professor Joni Lovenduski, Feminist academic
Birkbeck College, London

Other:

Anastasia de Waal, Family and Education
officer, Civitas
Elizabeth Kanter, Research in Motion

Third Sector:

Nick Aldridge, CEO MissionFish UK
Boo Armstrong, CEO, GetWell UK
Philippa Reiss, Gone Rural Swaziland

Financial sector:

Jake Rigg, Panoptican

Our editorial policy and our sponsors can be found on “our Sponsors” page. We are totally transparent.

We press release interviews we have done and these have been reported by the mainstream media such as the Guardian, the Telegraph, the Independent and BBC and ITV. Again these are on the site under “Latest News”.

We set out to be the Women’s Hour of Westminster and have indeed become it. wpradio.co.uk is now a global brand of some repute, collected by the United Nations and now in the history books too with our interviews being on display at the Tricycle plays in London “Women, Power and Politics”. Our requests for interviews would be looked on favourably in most of the major Parliaments in the World today.

Our founding MP members were Caroline Spelman MP, Jo Swinson MP, Sally Keeble, and Sandra Gidley. As a result of their desire for women MP’s across party to work together on issues of concern, wpradio.co.uk got off to a strong and stable beginning. They were assisted by Labour researcher Dan Beagle who we are indebted to.

More about Boni



BONI WAS VOTED ONE OF THE 20 MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN IN BRITAIN BY WOMEN IN PUBLIC POLICY MAGAZINE FOR THE WORK SHE HAS DONE AS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY RADIO.

She was nominated for the Dods Scottish Widows female political journalist of the year award 08. She has also been a nominee for the Channel 4 political awards in January 2008 and a nominee for the Orwell Prize in journalism in 2005. Boni is asked to Judge the Chartered Institute of Public Relations Excellence Awards, Broadcasting too.

Boni is now requested to speak at and Chair national events, and is a guest speaker on new media.

Boni has strong associations with support groups of women in Westminster, such as Fabian Women, the Conservative's Women2Win campaign and the Liberal Democrats too. Organisations such as Fawcett, the former Women's National Commission, the ERS, the Human Rights Commission, NASUWT are supporters.

Boni has thirty years experience in print, radio and TV journalism, has been a BBC on air correspondent, radio and TV, a BBC political editor, and helped set up BBC News 24. She has been in charge of teams of broadcast journalists reporting into live programmes.



Linda Fairbrother has a thirty year career in journalism and broadcasting and originates in the "East" too. She has a reputation for her work in the charitable sector.

In 2011 we will be joined by other established broadcast journalists who will be conducting interviews for us.

Our web statistics

WE ARE NOT A MEMBERSHIP BASED ORGANISATION NOR INDEED HAVE TRIED TO SET UP ONE.

Our focus to date has been on creating reputation and the product brand to BBC standards of broadcasting, that “informs, educates and entertains” to Reithian values.

We had over half a million hits last year about 55,000 a month.



In May 2010 we had our highest audience ever with 3,913 visitors, there were over 1,000 more visitors in June and July too compared to last year and even August increased. We don't share our content with others in order to inflate our stats, you have to visit our website to listen to our content.

In July 2010 for the first time we published our Top Ten podcasts for that month. The top 8 all had over 100 downloads per podcast approx 3,000 downloads of actual podcasts in one month.

Wpradio.co.uk most recent web stats from November 201 to March 201 show a similar picture: we are consistently getting over 2500 visits per month. Downloads have ranged between 25GB and 36GB per month.

Our top five podcasts had over 100 downloads each with Hazel Blears, Sally keeble, Theresa May and Anne Begg heading the list. There were 1,200 downloads in the top 10!

Our visitors are not only returning they are staying on the site to listen to more than one item for an average of ten minutes.

Also our visitors are likely to be the most important opinion formers across politics in the UK. We know members of the Cabinet and Shadow Cabinets listen in.

We are told our visitor numbers are much the same as established membership based organisations such as the Society of Editors.

Our previous stats for 2009 are set out below.

DAILY AVERAGE				MONTHLY TOTALS			
MONTH	VISITS	PAGES	HITS	MONTH	VISITS	PAGES	HITS
Dec 2009	91	136	1613	Dec 2009	2105	3130	37100
Nov 2009	92	150	1513	Nov 2009	2782	4526	55227
Oct 2009	100	156	1513	Oct 2009	3124	4851	46915
Sep 2009	76	124	1200	Sep 2009	2294	3727	36013
Aug 2009	66	98	1039	Aug 2009	2056	3062	32239
Jul 2009	57	100	1002	Jul 2009	1791	3114	31065
Jun 2009	65	100	1299	Jun 2009	1970	3025	38984
May 2009	66	104	1845	May 2009	2063	3240	57209
Apr 2009	55	86	1607	Apr 2009	1656	2605	48233
Mar 2009	59	101	1742	Mar 2009	1831	3144	54012
Feb 2009	54	102	1770	Feb 2009	1538	2873	49562
Jan 2009	52	90	1234	Jan 2009	1633	2805	38255

How we operate

We are a small team and Boni employs a professional web management company, in Cambridgeshire who are trained in sound, as is Pete Cook of Screenspace our brilliant Sound Engineer. Our site works and is uncomplicated you press “play” and the reports and recordings do just that, they “play” or can be downloaded. Paul Foulsham of Magstar helped us get started. We are grateful to him and his team.

We have deliberately not tried to make the site complex and to be all things to all people. It is the “Women’s Hour of Westminster”.

The team enjoys our work which is done on a shoe string budget to high standards. We are committed. Boni Sones OBE commissions and pays for all content and associated costs, but is advised by the technical team, the Advisory Board, and women politicians.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN WPRADIO.CO.UK

Wpradio.co.uk has received expressions of interest in working in partnership with us, all from established media or new media organisations. We regularly talk to others and collaborate where we can and seek out new ways to operate.

MARKETING

We regularly meet and talk with MPs and attend events. We were asked to be the Media Partner of the NASUWT at their annual conference on women and the vote, and have worked with the Fabian Women’s Network conferences too and the Women2Win ones. We have also attracted sponsors, the ERS, STEP and Research in Motion, Blackberry.

Our audio archive of 82 women MPs interviews from a book Boni wrote: “Women in Parliament: The New Suffragettes” was opened at the British Library in September 2010 and Boni was featured talking about it and the team on the BBC Today programme. Thanks to the team of interviewers which also included then Angela Lawrence and Dr Eva Simmons.

We regularly twitter too and others twitter about us. www.wpradio.co.uk at Tweetminster will find us “Society” section. Thanks to Nick Aldridge. Boni’s wordpress blog has all our press releases too. A Google search will find all.

We have sent out Newsletters and our brochures, and in December 08 we produced and sent to interested women MPs across party a DVD of our audio content and photo launch at the NPG, to mark 90 years of Women and the Vote. This DVD is now available on the website for schools and colleges at a price of £22, eventually perhaps generating income for us.

The NPG launch also has a catalogue of the event and what we did when. We have been mentioned in the Chamber at a Women’s Day debate – the actual URL i.e. www.wpradio.co.uk – it must be a first in Westminster!

One of our big selling points in terms of authenticity and the Web is that the British Library archives all of our content, and tells us we even have an audience in the USA. All of these are displayed on the site.

OUR FUTURE

We hope to carry this important work further with a suitable business partner. Special thanks to Deborah McGurran of the BBC East whose support has been invaluable and Jackie Ashley our Chair. Anastasia de Waal our Advisory Board member has been a trusted friend too throughout and thanks to Lucy Fairbrother for her technical know how.

BONI SONES OBE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, WPRADIO.CO.UK

JUNE 11.

CATALOGUE OF CONTENTS - JUNE 2011 AND ALL OF 2010:



1. Could you cook a lunch for just 33p? Eating for £1 a day to relieve world poverty.

Baroness Anne Jenkin of Kennington, has a reputation for her work fundraising for charities. It is not surprising then that within weeks of putting on her "Red Robes and Ermine" she could be found in a small kitchen along a corridor several flights of stairs up in the Lords cooking a lunch for her fellow Peers and supporters that cost just 33p.

Baroness Jenkin, was taking up the challenge put down by the "Below the Line" charities fighting poverty around the World: RESULTS UK, Christian Aid, Think Global, Restless Development, and Salvation Army (International Development), to live off just £1 a day for food and drink. 1.4 billion people have no choice but to live their lives below the poverty line.

Anne's "good housekeeping" 33p a day "soup kitchen" in the Lords managed to provide not just a filling soup, but pita bread, cheese and tomatoes to her "hungry" colleagues too. Recipes on www.livebelowtheline.org.uk

Baroness Jenkin was joined by Baroness Trish Morris, Baroness Judith Jolly, helper Dorothy Tyson, and four younger supporters Guy Kirkpatrick, Mayti Navellou, Ashli Alberty, and Kathryn Llewellyn. Our intrepid www.wpradio.co.uk reporter Linda Fairbrother went to join them and taste the soup but first she began to smell it as she found her way to that kitchen.

2. The Million Women Rise coalition report on violence in the Congo.

The Million Women Rise coalition went to Westminster recently to present their findings of their recent trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo. There will be Presidential elections in the Congo at the end of this year, and their report on their trip "Congo...The road to Mwenga", which has five tough recommendations, will be presented to Parliament soon by the Chair of that meeting, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Vice Chair of the All Party Human Rights Group (APPG).

The trip was part of the Third International Action of the World March of Women that involved women from 48 countries. The Million Women Rise coalition report and film of the trip aims to address the realities of sexual and gender-based violence for Congolese women as well as

strategies for ensuring that those who commit them are brought to justice. Our Executive Producer, Boni Sones spoke to the speakers and audience.

Fact file: "The UK government effectively monitors and evaluates the impact of UK tax payers' contribution of 1 million dollars a day spent in the DR Congo. But it "does not reach women who have been raped or improve prospects for the future".

To sign a petition on the Congo, to be sent to Equalities Minister and International Violence Against Women champion, Lynne Featherstone MP – see <http://www.congonow.org/actionpage/lynn-featherstone-sgbv-en>

3. Zarghuna Kargar: "Dear Zari - Hidden Stories from Women of Afghanistan"

Afghan Women's Hour journalist Zarghuna Kargar has just published her new book "Dear Zari". Based on 13 real life stories of women in Afghanistan today, including her own, she tells how these heart-breaking and empowering stories are transforming women's lives, simply through their "telling".

Zarghuna was part of the first team of journalists to report for Afghan Women's Hour which in

two years became the second most popular programme on the Radio. The telling of stories and the sharing of experiences through radio has transformed the lives of many women and their families. Zarghuna tells our Executive Producer, Boni Sones OBE, how every time she wrote or read lines in the book tears came to her eyes:

"I hope my book is read with care because there are so many hurt feelings involved in these emotions, hurt feelings of me and women in the book." Boni spoke to Zarghuna at the Cambridge Wordfest event as they sat by the river bank.

Published by Chatto & Windus in early May 2011. Amazon: Hardback £11.29 or £8.31 Paperback, www.amazon.co.uk/

[You can read our press release here...](#)

4. Jo's marathon for leukaemia research Target: £2,620.00 Raised so far: £2,770.40 If you would like to sponsor Jo go to: www.justgiving.com/jo-swinson



Jo Swinson the Liberal Democrat MP for East Dunbartonshire, a PPS to

Vince Cable, and co-founder of the Campaign For Body Confidence is about to compete in the Virgin London Marathon 2011 on April 17th.

Jo is only the second women MP ever to run the London Marathon following in the footsteps of her

colleague Patsy Calton, a former LD MP for Cheadle, who ran it four times, but subsequently died of cancer in 2005.

At her height Jo has trained for between 35 to 40 miles a week, and fitted in five work outs during the week. She eats plenty of complex "carbs" but also confides that while she is running long distances she snacks on sports drinks and jelly babies too.

Jo who completed the Loch Ness Marathon in 2007, says running is a good way to "respect" your body and give you confidence. Our Executive Producer Boni Sones OBE caught up with Jo as she was climbing the stairs to her third floor office in Westminster:

[You can read our press release here...](#)

5. Ann McKechin MP for Glasgow North and Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland

Ann McKechin has been an MP since June 2001 and the MP for the newly configured constituency of Glasgow North since 2005. She was Scottish Office Minister in the last Labour government and is now the Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland. Ann previously served on the Scottish Affairs Committee and then as a member of the International Development Committee and was Chair of the All Party Group on Debt, Aid and Trade and Chair of the backbench group of Scottish Labour MPs.

Our intrepid www.wpradio.co.uk reporter Linda Fairbrother spoke to her about how she managed to work as a Westminster MP, with the Holyrood MP, the Regional representatives and the Euro MP. How does "devolved" government work for the people who vote for her?

6. wpradio.co.uk listeners 2011

wpradio.co.uk web stats for the previous 6 months show we are consistently getting over 2500 visits per month. Downloads have ranged between 25GB and 36GB per month.

Our March Top 10 downloads

1	Hazel Blears	Interview	203
2	Sally Keeble	How the budget is helping grandparents	171
3	Theresa May	Interview	159
4	Anne Begg	Parliamentary Education Service Question Time	123
5	Anne Begg	Parliamentary reform and MPs expenses	108
6	ERS	Women Mp's	99
7	Alan Cambell	Prostitution	97
8	Emily Wilding	Women supporting Women	97
9	Noreena Hertz	Women and the Recession	97
10	Angela Eagle	Voting Reform	96

7. And what a "swell" party it was – Speaker's House and International Women's Day

On 2nd April 1911 a lone suffragette, Emily Wilding Davison hid herself in the broom cupboard in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, in the crypt of St Stephen's Hall, Westminster, on the night of the census so that she could give her address as the House of Commons.

100 years later there was no need to hide. The Speaker John Bercow opened the doors of his State Rooms to the women MPs from all parties with their friends and special guests from campaigning organisations to mark the Centenary of International Women's Day.

Emily who died after pinning a sash to the King's horse at the Epsom races would have been wide-eyed at being allowed into the State Rooms, Speaker's House, House of Commons. The 16th March party was organised by three women MPs Mary Macleod MP, Kate Green MP and Jo Swinson MP from Conservative, Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

If walls could have ears? No need - Women's Parliamentary Radio journalists Linda Fairbrother and Boni Sones captured this sound portrait for you in this special three part documentary "**A Message to Emily?**"



In Part One Boni spoke to:

Caroline Adams from the women's Parliamentary Labour Party and organiser, Barbara Gorna and Joan Lane film producer. Vicky Booth, Diversity Officer for the Liberal Democrats, Fiona Mactaggart MP and Lydia Simmons. Barbara Keeley MP, Fawcett acting CEO Anna Bird, Sharon Hodgson MP, Sue Tibballs of the Women's Sports Foundation. Joan Ruddock MP and Councillor Joan Millbank. Maria Eagle MP and Yvette Cooper MP

Part 1:

In Part Two Boni spoke to:

Baroness Elspeth Howe, Baroness Hussein-Ece. Cherie Blair and Sarina Russo. Lorley Burt MP and Helen Berresford, Kealey Hastick from Platform 51. Helen Grant MP and Martha Kearney BBC journalist. Harriet Harman MP, The speaker John Bercow MP and last but not least the most senior woman in the Cabinet, the Home Secretary and Minister for Women Theresa May MP.

Part 2:

In Part Three Linda spoke to:



Nan Sloane from the Centre for Women and Democracy,

Margaret Beckett MP, Baroness Ramsay, Kate Green MP, Lesley Abdela from Shevolution. John Bercow MP, Caroline Spelman MP, and Lee Chalmers of the Downing Street Project, Liberal Democrat supporter Dinti Batstone, Jo Swinson MP.

Part 3:

[You can read our press release here...](#)

8. Equalities Minister Lynne Featherstone MP - "one tough woman"!

The Equalities Minister, Lynne Featherstone



one, the Liberal Democrat MP for Hornsey and Wood Green is a formidable campaigner with a reputation for being "one tough woman"! So far she's managed to get to the top of those red boxes initiatives to stop homophobic bullying in sport, to regulate without legislation "air brushed images" of women in the media and she's progressed

gay marriage rights. On the controversial issues such as "trafficking of women" she tells her critics "look at what we are doing don't just chant "are you in or are you out"!"

Lynne says the Government will not back track on funding the new Agency for UN Women, it has, she says "100 per cent commitment" from her Government. She has had no sleepless nights even on issues such as voting for the tuition fees increase. "If you don't ask you don't get", she says. Lynne has received "nothing but backing" from both Theresa May MP, the Home Secretary and Women's Minister and the Prime Minister, David Cameron. Theresa and Lynne may look like "the odd couple", but they do "sit down and talk out", their differences! "We just find a way through," she says. In this special interview Our Executive Producer, Boni Sones OBE, spoke to Lynne.

[You can read our press release here...](#)

9. Luciana Berger MP meets wpradio.co.uk reporter Linda Fairbrother in our "New Faces" series

Luciana Berger, the Labour MP for Liverpool Wavertree, is the Shadow Minister for Climate Change. As a "new face" in Westminster she has achieved a fast rise to the higher echelons of party politics, being the youngest member of Ed Miliband's Shadow Cabinet and she has already asked three questions at Prime Minister's Question Time. She attributes her success to "luck" and says being "in the Chamber" is very different from how it looks and sounds on TV. The challenge with PMQs, she says, is that everybody is in the Chamber! You need to take a pause before you start, it's a fast pace, you need to speak loudly and quickly to be heard, your

question needs to be "pithy" too. Luciana says it's "a fine art"! She likes the "traditions" of Parliament and the pomp and ceremony of the Speaker's entry into the Chamber, so parliamentary reform is not top of her agenda, but like others she does want to change the hours on a Tuesday so sittings start and finish earlier. Linda Fairbrother spoke to her.

10. "Face to Face Encounters": Times sketch writer Ann Treneman talks to Natascha Engel MP who is Chair of the new Backbench Business Committee



So what are those "usual channels" that govern the House of Commons? Ann Treneman, sketch writer of the Times,

talks to Natascha Engel MP who chairs the new Backbench Business Committee which was set up on the 15th June 2010.

This is the first Business Committee of any kind to be established by the House. Ann Treneman, who watches and reports on the debates in the Chamber from the lofty heights of the "Lobby", is more qualified than most to comment on whether or not it is helping to modernise the Commons and transfer power to the ordinary backbench MPs. Strangely in her "Face to Face Encounters" series Ann agrees that these debates are: "less yarboo and me you"!

[You can read our press release here...](#)

International Women's Day 2011 - two women MPs

campaigning with women MPs across-party for women's rights!

11. Rachel Reeves MP - "Hands off our pensions!"

Rachel Reeves MP, the Shadow Minister for Pensions for the Labour Party, is calling on the coalition Conservative Liberal Democrat government to reverse the changes it has announced to delay the pension age for women by two years, in some cases.

The MP for Leeds West, tells Women's Parliamentary Radio, www.wpradio.co.uk that it's about time the Women's Minister, Theresa May MP and the Equalities Minister, Lynne Featherstone MP, stood up for women and called on the Government to announce a "U" turn on this issue as it has done recently on selling off forest lands. She talked to Boni Sones, our Executive Producer.

12. Fiona Mactaggart MP - why women here and in the Congo need a "Women and Equalities Audit Committee"!

Fiona Mactaggart MP tells Boni Sones OBE our Executive Producer why she will be calling on government ministers to set up a "Women and Equalities Audit Committee" in the International Women's Day Debate in the Commons on March 10th. Fiona the Labour MP for Slough and Shadow Spokeswoman on Women will use the debate to call for the Government to be made accountable on all women's issue through the mechanism of a new Committee. The Committee would audit Government Departments on how they are treating women across the board on issues such as pensions to those such as rape in the Congo and the human rights of women in Afghanistan. Go for it Fiona!

[You can read our press release here...](#)

13. A film of the life of "Emily" - Emily Wilding Davison:



Film Producer Joan Lane of WildTyme Productions Ltd www.wildthy.com

meproductions.com and script writer and producer Barbara Gorna are

making a film of the life of the suffrage



tte Emily Wilding Davison, who became a martyr to the cause of women's votes when she was fatally injured in the 1913 Epsom Derby. She ran onto the track in support of the women's right to vote campaign and was knocked over by the King's horse but as this film reveals for the first time "Emily" did not commit suicide, her death was an accident.

The scarf "Emily" wore when she was knocked down is on loan to the House of Commons from Barbara and forms part of a small display near Central Lobby Westminster called "Parliament and Votes for Women". "Emily" also hid herself in a broom cupboard in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, in the crypt of St Stephen's Hall, on the night of the census on 2nd April 1911. It will be 100 years on 27th March 2011, the date of the next census, since she did this.

Joan kick started the script for the King's Speech and like that film script "Emily" resonated with

Joan, whose father's family come from Morpeth, where "Emily" is now buried. Our Executive Producer, Boni Sones OBE, spoke to Joan and Barbara as they stood under the "Emily" scarf and progressed to Central Lobby.

[You can read our press release here...](#)

Barbara's short documentary film of Emily's life can be viewed on [Face to Face Videos](#)

14. How to juggle work-life balance: Does a "vocation" stop you taking a much needed break?

"A healthy selfishness" might just help us all juggle that "Work- life balance" question says Caroline Lloyd-Evans, coach, counsellor and relationship therapist. Here Caroline tells Boni Sones OBE, our Executive Producer how women have to work harder, compete harder and climb over their own complexes to navigate that obstacle course to achieve balance. "Tweaking a little" can make a big difference. Do listen, this advice is clear!
www.cleconsulting.co.uk

15. www.wpradio.co.uk VSO UN "Godmothers" documentary presented from Central Lobby, Westminster

1,500 women are dying a day in childbirth. Forced marriages, rape, violence, poverty, equal pay: Michelle Bachelet's new UN Agency for Women has some vocal supporters in the UK who want to ensure it gets the funding it needs to make a difference. To make sure that happens, VSO has just launched the

'Godmothers' campaign www.thegodmothers.org.uk which calls on DFID to become a leading donor to UN Women by making a financial contribution of around 21 million dollars.

In this special Two Part 50 minute UN "Godmothers" documentary our Executive Producer Boni Sones OBE, caught up with Sharon Hodgson MP, campaigners themselves, and Anas Sarwar MP, as activists met their MPs in Central Lobby, Westminster.

In Part 2 of UN "Godmothers" Boni talks to Lesley Abdela of Shevolution while she chatted with activists in Central Lobby.

[You can read our press release here...](#)

16. Infant Early Attachment and The Big Society

Andrea Leadsom MP talks to Linda Fairbrother

One in ten mums suffer from post-natal depression. Now Andrea Leadsom the Conservative MP for South Northamptonshire is taking an issue close to her heart to launch a Northampton charitable venture, with patrons, donors and volunteers to provide perinatal mental health care for mothers and their babies. Andrea had a 25 year career in banking and finance, and was a Trustee and Chairman of the children's charity OXPIP (the Oxford Parent-Infant Project), which offers intensive therapeutic help to parents and their babies in the first two years of life.

Andrea, who suffered from post-natal depression herself, believes that many of the problems our society faces can be traced back to poor early attachment. She's already held a

Westminster Hall Debate on Early Attachment and says her campaign to mainstream this issue into social policy has cross-party support. Andrea thinks that if her Big Society launch of the new Northamptonshire project is a success it could be a template to "role out" across Britain. She's not contemplating failure despite the public sector cut-backs!

[You can read our press release here...](#)

Linda Fairbrother meets: "The movers and shakers"

17. Baroness Shreela Flather, "Woman: Acceptable exploitation for Profit".

Baroness Shreela Flather, the first Asian woman to receive a peerage, and known for wearing a sari, says her book "Woman: Acceptable exploitation for Profit" is meant to "tread" on a few toes by tackling the great taboo of children working for a living and the role of women in India and Africa. www.amazon.co.uk/

Baroness Flather says the United National Millennium Development Goals will not be met by the target date of 2015 and that only by shifting the focus to women themselves and enabling them through small business, technology and income generation can real progress be made. Family planning and education are key to harnessing their talents. Our www.wpradio.co.uk reporter Linda Fairbrother spoke to her.

18. "This House would not get Married!" - A Valentine's day www.wpradio.co.uk Cambridge Union Society "partnership"

To celebrate Valentine's Day www.wpradio.co.uk went to the Cambridge Union Debate "This House would not get Married". Here William Longrigg, Partner at Charles Russell and President of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and Winston Preece, a Cambridge student, speak in favour of the motion while our Advisory Board Member Anastasia de Waal, Deputy Director and Head of Family Policy at Civitas and Anne Atkins, Author, Journalist, Agony Aunt and supporter of Christian values speak against. The Debate was Chaired by Francesca Hill, of Trinity Hall. www.cus.org will tell you who won!!

19. Ugandan elections and the voice of an 81-year-old activist - Rhoda Kalema

Ugandans hold their presidential and parliamentary elections on February 18th. This election is just the second since 1986 in which opposition parties have been legally permitted to campaign and it has been relatively free of violence to date. But there are concerns about how public funds are being used, particularly to support the campaigns of the ruling National Resistance Movement, led by President Yoweri Museveni. President Museveni came to power in 1986, following a protracted rebellion. Here in this special interview from our archives Rhoda Kalema, the "Mother" of the Ugandan Parliament tells her story of imprisonment in Uganda before going on to become an MP herself and helping to set up a Commission to help women and their families. She talked to Boni Sones OBE.

A documentary from Rhoda's

book: "A Rising Tide", made in conjunction with www.screen-space.co.uk which tells the histories of modern women politicians there from the 1940s through to the present time can be found on our [International Section](#)
Good luck Rhoda.

20. Ann Treneman "Face to Face Encounters" series.

Ann Treneman, sketch writer of The Times starts off our new "Face to Face Encounters" series of interviews talking with Caroline Lucas, MP for Brighton Pavilion and Leader of the Green Party on her proposals for the reform of Parliament.

Caroline's report "The Case for Parliamentary Reform" has just been debated in Westminster Hall. It includes measures for "electronic voting", changing "the parliamentary language", ending the "talking out" of Private Members Bills, and publication of the "Speakers List" so MPs know when they are going to be called to talk in the Chamber.

Caroline, an MEP for ten years, estimates that just queuing up to vote accounts for around £30,000 a week in MPs' salary costs, and 250 hours of their time each Parliamentary year. Here Ann – renowned for her portrayals of Westminster as a series of "playground spats" between "bickering children" - finds out if Caroline is a modern day "Mary Poppins" and destined to fail?

[You can read our press release here...](#)

21. Jo Swinson MP "Guest Editor" and Lindiwe Mazibuko, MP South African Parliament



Jo Swinson the Liberal Democrat MP for East Dunbartonshire, PPS to Business

Secretary Vince Cable, sits in our www.wpradio.co.uk "Guest Editor" Chair this week. She recently met Lindiwe Mazibuko, the opposition Democratic Alliance Spokesperson in the South African Parliament and the Shadow Deputy Minister of Communications. Lindiwe is one of the Parliaments youngest members, as was Jo herself.

In this special "hook-up" to celebrate 100 years of International Women's Day in March 2011, Jo asks Lindiwe about how she was elected and what the impact of apartheid and the ANC's 1996 Constitution has been? Lindiwe told Jo how the women in the Parliament were progressing the pressing issue of young women being kidnapped and raped as some sort of marriage courtship practice, and to stop women being treated as "objects" culturally. Here Jo is co-founder of "The Campaign for Body Confidence".

22. Our first 2011 Guest Editor Dame Anne Begg interviews four women MPs from Kenya



Dame Anne Begg, MP for Aberdeen South, Chair of the Works and Pensions Select Committee, met a delegation of women from the Kenyan Parliament recently to talk about

how Committees work in the UK Parliament. There are now 22 women MPs in Kenya, 10 per cent of the 222 MPs in all. Six of these 22 are nominated, to represent special interests.

The Kenyan women MPs went on strike in 2003 when they were banned from taking their handbags into the Kenyan Parliament. They argued handbags were part of their "attire" and the ban was lifted.

Here Anne asks the delegation about the ban, and changing family structures in a global world that is now allowing women to take out bank accounts and giving them new rights to the inheritance of land. The responsibilities of men are now changing too.

That all important new Kenyan Constitution and Bill of Rights approved in 2010, gives people new rights to "self actualisation". This will lead to more women in the Parliament, and the allocation of 47 safe seats for women, one for each County, and 16 women in the newly created Senate House.

Anne, the first full-time wheelchair user in Westminster, spoke to (from left to right) Hon. Dr Joyce Laboso MP, Hon. Shakila Abdalla MP, Hon. Linah Jebii Kilimo MP, Hon. Rachel Shebesh MP. This podcast broadcast was produced by Boni Sones OBE.

[You can read our press release here...](#)

23. Emma Bonino - Vice President of the Italian Senate - Iraq Vigil and 100 years of International Women's Day



Emma Boni

no, Vice President of the Italian Senate, and a Radical Party member, flew into London to join an all night vigil against the Iraq war, while Tony Blair was giving evidence to the Iraq inquiry. She is known for her work on human and civil rights issues, such as "against hunger in the world" and for her campaigns for women's rights including campaigning against female genital mutilation. She is also a founding member of "No Peace without Justice", supporting the creation of the International Criminal Court. She has received several international awards, including the "2004 Open Society Prize" for her outstanding achievements as a female world leader. Here in this Exclusive interview she tells Boni Sones OBE, Executive Producer of www.wpradio.co.uk why she joined the vigil and why she will be "passionately" supporting 100 years of International Women's day in March 2011!

[You can read our press release here...](#)

24. Meg Hillier MP – "Green Gloom" - winning the argument for the planet?

Meg Hillier, the Labour and Co-operative MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch since 2005, is the Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. A panellist in the Fabian Society debate on: "Green Gloom: how do we win the argument for the planet?" Meg says she's optimistic about our ability to change our habits and that people care deeply about the environmental legacy they hand down to their children and their children's children. She says it's "vital" not to play party politics with the planet, and reminds us all as the New Year begins that by reducing our energy consumption we are also reducing our domestic household bills. Boni Sones OBE, our

Executive Producer asked her on what her optimism was founded?

[You can read our press release here...](#)

25. In 2011 www.wpradio.co.uk goes global! Happy New Year to our listeners

Our www.wpradio.co.uk reporter Linda Fairbrother started off the New Year by looking at the work of "Women for Women International". She spoke to Director of Policy Britta Schmidt about the role of women in Afghanistan.

Executive Director Kate Nustedt then told Linda about their "Join Me on the Bridge" campaign linked to the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day 8th March 2011. All women MPs and men are being invited to join them. Do listen. Find out more: www.womenforwomen.org

26. In 2011 we ask is the Commons family friendly? Katy Clark MP is juggling a new baby and a demanding job

Katy Clark, Labour MP for North Ayrshire and Arran since 2005 has an 18 month-old daughter, took maternity leave, and quite often uses colleagues to hold her daughter while she pops into the Chamber to vote. Here she talks about her "two-lives" with a constituency that is 400 miles and a five hour journey from Westminster and a job that is a "vocation" – often seven days a week!

Going into the New Year of 2011 Katy doesn't think the further reforms of the Commons hours suggested by Green MP Caroline Lucas would help her, but she says the "costs" of child-

care are "considerable" and difficult to manage for many women wanting to become an MP.!

Our Executive Producer Boni Sones OBE spoke to her.

[You can read our press release here...](#)

27. Our Reviews of the political year



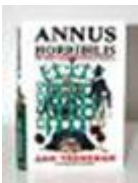
Our www.wpradio.co.uk reporter Linda Fairbrother spoke to Helen Grant the new Conservative MP for Maidstone

and the Weald, the former seat of "Strictly" star Ann Widdecombe. But from her first "biggest, best" day as an MP, through to her Maiden Speech, Helen says it's "issues" she's concerned with and there will be no dancing for her.

28. Linda Fairbrother asks the Times columnist Ann Treneman to review the political year. Her book

"Annus Horribilis": The Worst Year in British Politics - is available on Amazon.co.uk. - Here she tells us how she rates the women politicians in the Chamber in 2010 and says she's

got a soft spot for Theresa May MP, the Home Secretary but she gives Harriet Harman full marks too! However, Ann can't quite remember who the Lib Dem women are. Oh dear...



[You can read our press release here...](#)

29. Our supporters in the Lords:

Congratulations to Anne Jenkin wife of Tory North Essex MP Bernard Jenkin who was made a peer because of her charitable and political work for the Conservative Party. Labour politician Oona King and the Liberal Democrat politician Sal Brinton are both in the Lords too. All three peers are interviewed under our 2008 content page: Do listen: www.wpradio.co.uk/index3.html

Female Bomb Disposal Officer in Afghanistan.

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP founder of the Centre for Social Justice, was also at the launch. He told Boni Sones OBE, Executive Producer of Women's Parliamentary Radio that young women needed new role models to help them form successful careers. We then spoke to The RT Hon John Hayes MP - Minister for State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning who will soon be launching more apprenticeships for young women.

2. TWO AT THE TOP - LYNNE FEATHERSTONE MP THE NEW EQUALITIES MINISTER



2010 Content:

1. ESTHER McVEY MP FOR WIRRAL WEST LAUNCHES "IF CHLOE CAN"

The new Conservative MP for Wirral West, Esther McVey, has just written an inspirational careers "bookazine" aimed at 11-13 year olds on Merseyside. We asked her why and caught up with the "real Chloe" from her local Belvedere Academy. But first the www.wpradio.co.uk round table debate also spoke to: Debbie Moore – First Female to set up a PLC Pineapple; Lucinda Ellery – Inspirational Businesswoman; Rona Cant – Adventurer; Gillian McDonald – First UK Female Whisky Distiller; Lisa Pover – Cabbie turned Yachtsman and founder of the Lisa Pover Charitable Trust; Louise Greenhalgh – First UK

Lynne Featherstone MP for Hornsey and Wood Green is the new Equalities Minister. Alongside Theresa May MP the Home Secretary and Minister for Women & Equalities she will be spearheading the coalition government's equalities plans. Lynne "loves" coalition government, thinks "thrashing out" compromises is a good way to work and says she's looking forward to implementing the Labour government's Equalities Act, which she says is a "three party" success story. She's pledged to narrow the gender pay gap and wants all teenagers to see the film "Made in Dagenham"! Lynne and Theresa are busy progressing their own equalities agenda too including flexible working, a Transgender Action Plan, kite marking air-brushing in magazines, more women in the Boardrooms, and

moving the civil partnership agenda forward. Boni Sones OBE our Executive Producer, wanted to know more.

3. CAROLINE FLINT MP - ON THE FRONTLINE

Caroline Flint MP for Don Valley, is Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in Ed Miliband's Shadow Cabinet. New rules meant MPs had to choose at least six female MPs but ended up giving them eight of the 19 elected places. Caroline is now on the front-line attacking coalition plans to reform housing benefit, even though she thinks some reform is needed and is leading the charge for a programme of building new affordable homes. She also told Boni Sones OBE, Executive Producer of www.wpradio.co.uk she was no longer a token woman in a Labour cabinet line-up but was now a "first among equals".

4. THE BIG SOCIETY IN CONVERSATION - LYNNE BERRY CEO OF WRVS

Lynne Berry, the CEO of the WRVS, has told wpradio that the voluntary sector can fill gaps in services but it is not a free option. The "Big Society" builds on the tradition of people getting involved in their communities but, she says, it is not a replacement for public services.

The WRVS has over 45,000 volunteers offering practical help to older people, and has celebrated its 70th anniversary. Lynne told our reporter Linda Fairbrother that if the services of the third-sector are to expand to create the "Big Society" then more funding will be needed to professionally develop and back up volunteers with training and support. The corporate sector is

already responding to the rallying cry!

5. ELEANOR LAING MP FOR EPPING FOREST - CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM



Eleanor Laing the MP for Epping Forest is Chairman of the Conservative Home Affairs and Constitutional Affairs Committee. She also sits on the Select Committee on Constitutional Affairs and is examining the new "Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill" currently going through Parliament. Eleanor is against voting reform and the suggested system of AV, thinks the 5th May date for the referendum is flawed, and believes a wholly elected House of Lords would be a mistake, but she does agree with larger constituencies and reducing the number of MPs from 650 to 600. In this special interview Boni Sones, our Executive Producer, began by asking her why she opposed voting reform at this point in time?

6. WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY RADIO AT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE – THE FRINGE AND WOMEN!!

Juliet Lyon CBE, Director of the Prison Reform Trust, spoke at a fringe event at the Conservative Party Conference on "Should there be fewer people in prison"? She believes that the numbers of women in prisons could be cut in half, without risking public safety.

Juliet says the new Women's Centres, set up by the last Labour government after the

"Corston review of women in prisons", are "one of the most attractive and cheap solutions" compared to the cost of putting a woman in prison, upwards of £45,000 a year. Boni Sones spoke to her.

The Conservative Women's Organisation teamed up with ActionAid UK to look at the issue of "On the Frontline: Women, Peace and Conflict". They are calling for the Conservative government to appoint an International Violence against Women Minister.

Our reporter Linda Fairbrother first spoke to panellist Nicola Blackwood MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women and Conflict, then Bobby Middleton of the European Union Women's Organisation, Matilda Parker, from Liberia, and Dorcas Erskin, of ActionAid. Finally she caught up with Pauline Lucas, Chairman of Conservative Women's Organisation.

The Immigration Minister, Damian Green MP, told a "Big Brother Watch" fringe that the government would not be banning the Burka. He said he thought such a ban would be "Un-British". Our reporter Linda Fairbrother, managed to ask him why as he walked to his next talk?

7. VSO "WOMEN & DEVELOPMENT": IN DEBATE NOREINE KALEEBA OF UGANDA AND MARG MAYNE, CEO VSO

What is the best way to embark on empowering the lives of women and girls in developing economies? Here VSO's Chief Executive, Marg Mayne talks to Noreine Kaleeba a patron and founder of The AIDS Support Organisation (TASO) in Uganda, and Deputy Chair of Uganda National Health Research Organisation. They tell

wpradio.co.uk reporter, Linda Fairbrother, that the education of girls and women's involvement in politics is key to lifting women out of poverty and enabling their participation in the economy. VSO now works with partners across a range of programmes in the developing world.

8. "PROSTITUTION REGIMES IN EUROPE" THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT DR BELINDA BROOKS-GORDON, FIGHTS BACK!

Concern over the last Labour government's so called "wash-up" legislation is growing. Critics believe some of the laws passed in the last year to further equality and help women, are detrimental to those they seek to help. Already the Conservative-Liberal Democrat government has dropped moves to remove anonymity for rape complainants, after protests from the Labour ranks, but now some Liberal Democrat's want to see Labour's prostitution laws reformed, they had made it an offence to buy sex from individuals who were "procured for gain". At Birkbeck College, the University of London, academics from all over Europe met to discuss "Prostitution Policy Regimes in Europe". Boni Sones, our Executive Producer, spoke to Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon, a leading Liberal Democrat and Reader in Psychology and Social Policy at Birkbeck, Daniela Danna Reader in Sociology at the University of Milan, and Marjan Wijers a Human Rights lawyer from the Netherlands.

9. RACHEL REEVES MP AND FAWCETT'S CHALLENGE TO THE BUDGET

Rachel Reeves, the new Labour MP for Leeds West, is supporting attempts to force the government to analyse the impact of George

Osborne's budget on low income households, particularly the regressive effects of the VAT increases. As a former economist with the Bank of England she is backing the Fawcett Society's judicial review of the budget and its impact on women. Boni Sones asked her why?

10. VOTING REFORM AND MORE WOMEN IN WESTMINSTER

MPs will vote on the government's plans for a referendum on AV the first day back after their summer break. Critics say our "First-Past-The-Post" voting system lets down female candidates because of the advantages it hands to incumbents. In the UK just one in five of our MPs is female. So will the new AV ("alternative vote") system be any better?

Our Executive Producer Boni Sones OBE, asked three women MPs if changing the voting system would help further women's representation.

Here Jo Swinson LD MP East Dunbartonshire, Angela Eagle Labour MP for Wallasey, and Margot James Conservative MP for Stourbridge give you their verdict.

11. MONSTROUS REGIMENT

WP Radio will be opening a new historic audio archive jointly with the British Library on August 20th 2010. The Harman/Shephard archive will contain the full audio of 82 of the 83 cross party interviews conducted by five women journalists for the book "Women In Parliament: The New Suffragettes" published in October 2005.

If you would like access to this embargoed archive email us... Access is by permission only.

You can hear extracts from this audio in Jackie Ashley's one hour BBC radio documentary "A Monstrous Regiment". It tells the story of how in 1997 the number of women in Parliament doubled from 60 to 120 when 101 new Labour women MPs were elected but interviews women of all parties including Gillian Shephard and Theresa May. It's a great listen and chimes nicely with the Tricycle Theatre plays "Women, Power and Politics."

You can listen to Boni talking about the British Library Audio Archive on the Today Programme here:

12. WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY RADIO GOES TO THE TRICYCLE FOR "WOMEN POWER AND POLITICS".

Women's Parliamentary Radio interviews are on display and can be heard in a new exhibition at the Tricycle Theatre in London at the "Women Power and Politics" programme of events.

Ten interviews by Linda Fairbrother, Anne Garvey, and Boni Sones OBE, can be heard through headphones along one wall of the exhibition. Boni performed readings from her book: "Women in Parliament: The New Suffragettes" at the opening of the exhibition. The book can be purchased from [www.wpradio.co.uk books](http://www.wpradio.co.uk/books).

Here wpradio.co.uk talks to the Assistant Director, Amy Hodge and the Director Indhu Rubasingham, about the nine plays that are being performed in two parts.

Indhu Rubasingham, whose family are Tamils from Sri Lanka, which has a strong tradition of women in politics, having elected

the first female Prime Minister in the world in 1960, laughed when asked if she was a "feminist". Amy Hodge owned up to that "f word". Do listen and do go see the Plays, they're fabulous.

13. SPEAKING OUT AND SPEAKING UP:
THE CLASS OF MAY 2010 –
THE NEW CONSERVATIVE
WOMEN MPS

The Queen's speech – Flexible working, equal pay and changes to the rape laws.

Their Maiden Speeches and the issues to be fought for - the local economy and protecting local business.



Esther McVey the Conservative MP for Wirral West, television presenter and businesswoman and Karen Lumley the Conservative MP for Redditch, an accountant and businesswoman who was the youngest Tory group leader in Wrexham, say what they thought of David Cameron's Queen's Speech. Priti Patel the Conservative MP for Witham a former press and PR advisor and an economics graduate and Lorraine Fullbrook the Conservative MP for South Ribble, the former Executive Director of the Women2Win campaign and a former local councillor and businesswoman

talk about the issues they will be speaking up for in their forthcoming Maiden Speeches.

The new faces on the block!

14. HELEN GRANT MP
CONSERVATIVE AND
RUSHANARA ALI MP LABOUR.

Helen Grant the Conservative MP for Maidstone & The Weald and Rushanara Ali the Labour MP for Bethnal Green & Bow are two of the new faces at Westminster. Helen is the first black female MP for the Conservative Party and Rushanara Ali is the first Bangladeshi MP.

They are two of the 142 women MPs in Westminster, an increase of 16, just 22 per cent of the total, and both have already compiled a "list" of the issues they will champion on behalf of other women and their constituencies. Boni Sones OBE, Executive Producer, spoke to them shortly after they attended a photocall in Westminster Hall of all the new faces.

15. A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CEO
AND TOWN CLERK ON
ELECTION DAY

They're off. It's the day of the General Election and Antoinette Jackson is the Chief Executive of Cambridge City Council, one of a few women who run councils in Britain. She's spent months planning the fine detail of getting voters registered, staffing the 42 polling booths and getting volunteers to count the votes after the polls close at 10 pm. The results will be declared about 2.30 to 3am in the morning. Accuracy, says Ms Jackson, is essential. And there's local elections too. She spoke to our Executive Producer of wpradio.co.uk, Boni Sones OBE.

And eight-year-old Imogen Rodgers, has managed to read ALL the election literature that has come through her door. Boni caught up with Imogen at the Good Shepherd Church Hall.

16. FOUR WOMEN PPCS
FIGHTING FOR ONE SEAT -
BRIGHTON PAVILION!

There's one seat that in all likelihood is going to return a woman MP. Brighton Pavilion has four women PPCs contesting the seat and one man.



Linda Fairbrother our www.wpradio.co.uk reporter cycled off in search of these four women Prospective Parliamentary Candidates. First she stood by the sea and talked to LD Bernadette Millam and then Nancy Platts for Labour, who is fighting to retain the seat for her Party. Linda then cycled up the hill to talk to Charlotte Vere Conservative, and Caroline Lucas, the Green Party Candidate and the Leader of her party, standing in a seat the Greens hope to win.

Nigel Carter is also standing for UKIP.

17. VERA BAIRD QC MP



Vera Baird QC MP for Redcar talks to our reporter Linda Fairbrother about the Labour women's Equality Bill, which she has just steered through Parliament.

It was a hard fought for piece of legislation that has eventually won the backing of all parties.

It sets out to create a fairer society for all combating discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity.

18. ANN CRYER MP



Ann Cryer MP for Keighley, who is stepping down from Westminster aged 70, has gained a reputation for plain speaking and doggedness. Her husband, Bob, was an MP and when he died she decided to stand too, she was then followed into Westminster by her son John, becoming the first mother and son MP team in Westminster.

Here Ann tells Executive Producer Boni Sones about her suffragette grandmother, the roots of her political passions, and her much acclaimed work on Forced Marriages and now first cousin marriages.

19. THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT: "THE BODY IMAGE DEBATE"



Two Liberal Democrat MPs, Jo Swinson and Lynne Featherstone have launched a "Real Women: The Body Image Debate" on International Women's Day.

Jo is the MP for East Dunbartonshire and Lynne the MP for Hornsey and Woodgreen. They believe that the constant bombardment of perfect images of women in the media are leading to all kinds of mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, lack of self esteem, eating disorders to name but a few. They are campaigning for adverts which have been "air-brushed" to be labelled as such. Their suggestions also include "health certificates" for models, more sport and "image" education in schools. This campaign has won the backing of academics, doctors and clinical psychologists worldwide.

Our wpradio.co.uk reporter Linda Fairbrother brushed up her body image with a bike ride to the train station to interview Lynne. It's a campaign we are supporting.

20. SHIRLEY WILLIAMS, BARONESS WILLIAMS OF CROSBY

Rt. Hon. Professor Shirley Williams is Co-Founder of the Liberal Democrats and is a Member of the UK House of Lords, where she was Leader of the party from 2001 to 2004. She is Professor Emeritus of Elective

Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and advises the Prime Minister on issues of nuclear proliferation. She has written many books and is regarded as an "elder stateswoman" of British politics.

Baroness Williams recently gave a talk to the "Institute of Government" on reforming politics after the expenses saga. Here Linda Fairbrother, our wpradio.co.uk reporter, asked her why she thought politics was "broke" and how we could go about "fixing it", including more women MPs in Westminster. Do listen!

21. THERESA MAY MP CO-FOUNDER WOMEN2WIN



Theresa May MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Shadow Minister for Women is contemplating an increase in the number of Conservative women MPs, should her party win the next General Election.

The numbers could rise from 18 now, just 9 per cent of the Parliamentary Party, to a possible 55 to 60, should the Tory Party get an overall majority.

This week another A List candidate, Joanne Cash in Westminster North, found themselves in the hot seat as she offered to resign amid a row with a senior local party member.

The Women2Win campaign was founded in November 2005 and the A-list was announced a month later, having first been

suggested by Theresa May and Andrew Lansley in 2001. The roots of the Women2Win campaign pre-date Cameron but with the party leader's conversion to All Women-Shortlists, following the publication of the Speaker's Conference Report, the party is moving forward its progressive agenda. Research has shown that a women candidate can add 1 per cent to a party's vote. Boni Sones, Executive Producer of Women's Parliamentary Radio, spoke to Theresa May MP about the history of the Women2Win campaign, her aspirations for future women MPs, and the issues they would be likely to champion.

22. THE CHILCOT INQUIRY ON IRAQ

For eight years Oona King was the popular Labour MP for Bethnal Green and Bow in East London until she lost her seat to George Galloway of Respect, her defeat being attributed to the Iraq war.

A year after becoming an MP, in 1998, she founded the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the Great Lakes Region and Genocide Prevention. She initially opposed military action but eventually supported going to war in Iraq and while reading from her diaries "House Music" in part 2 she told Boni Sones, why she still thought that decision was right. However, she regrets the lack of post conflict planning. She was appalled by the genocide of children in Iraq.

23. "THE HUSTINGS" EXCLUSIVE THE CAMBRIDGE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT HUSTINGS

Women's Parliamentary Radio wants to thank the Cambridge Liberal Democrat Party for allowing us to watch its

"Hustings" where three men and three women competed to be the next Prospective Parliamentary Candidate. The popular sitting MP David Howarth is standing down. Here we interviewed the six candidates but you will have to listen in to find out who won (don't cheat!). And it seems the winner wanted to thank "the cat" for all the help it had given! It's rare to be allowed into a "Hustings".

The candidates were:
Julian Huppert, Belinda Brooks-Gordon, Julie Smith, Rod Cantrill, Sian Reid, Tim Bick.

Boni Sones, Executive Producer, asked how they had each prepared for "The Hustings" and what issues they were choosing to focus on. The Party's Gender Balance Taskforce wants to select more women MPs.

24. THE HUSTINGS: CLAIRE WARD MP MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TEAM

Claire Ward, has been the Labour MP for Watford since 1997, one of the new 101 "revolution" of women who came in with that new Labour government, many on all women-shortlists although Claire was not one of these. Just 24, she was the youngest ever Labour female MP and is now a Minister in the Ministry of Justice team. She's managed to juggle the job of an MP, with a new family, and ministerial responsibilities.

Claire welcomes the Speakers' Conference report which wants all parties to do more to get women and ethnic minorities into Parliament. She tells Prospective Parliamentary Candidates it is a hard slog to get selected for a seat and that the job is "a way of life" but when you achieve success it is a "rewarding job". She applauds the planned new creche announced by Speaker

Bercow but now says there needs to be further reform of the hours of the Commons.

She is proud of her government's many achievements for women, which she says, still go largely unreported in a media which treats women MPs differently from male.

25. THE HUSTINGS: MARIA MILLER MP SHADOW MINISTER FOR THE FAMILY

Maria Miller, has been the Conservative MP for Basingstoke since 2005. As Shadow Minister for Women she has been championing a better work life balance for men and women and their families and says she would support a further reform of hours in the Commons. She thinks the planned new creche facilities announced by Speaker Bercow will benefit staff as much as MPs themselves.

Maria, who has a family and fought one seat in 2001 before being successful in Basingstoke, says the support of her husband and family was vital in helping her as a PPC to gain her seat, as well as helping her to bear the cost of it all. She says the Conservative Party could increase its number of women MPs from 17 to over 50 in the next Parliament if the Conservatives get a clear majority and that its Leader, David Cameron MP has always wanted to see more women MPs in Westminster and in the government.

Maria thinks that some of the new women MPs could find themselves with ministerial responsibilities fairly quickly, she gained her shadow cabinet role after just six months in Westminster. She names Penny Mourdant, Margot James and Harriet Baldwin as candidates to watch. Executive Producer Boni Sones spoke to her.

26. THE HUSTINGS:
JO SWINSON MP EAST
DUNBARTONSHIRE

Women's Parliamentary Radio is beginning the New Year with a new series on "The Hustings!" We are interviewing all parties on how they are encouraging women to become Prospective Parliamentary Candidates in the forthcoming election.

We begin with Jo Swinson MP, for the Liberal Democrats' who was the youngest MP in

Westminster and who personally has done much to encourage women candidates. She gained her East Dunbartonshire seat in May 2005 and it was third time lucky for her.

Jo says the problem for the Liberal Democrat's is not in the selection procedures, but in getting enough women to come forward. In Cambridge there are three men and three women, all local, going forward to the hustings on January 15th to

replace the sitting MP David Howarth.

Our fourth year of broadcasting via the web!

In 2010 www.wpradio.co.uk will celebrate its fourth birthday of broadcasting through the web. If you want to know more about the interviews we have recorded with women MPS across party on social policy issues then view our "[Catalogue of Contents](#)" here (*PDF*).

Our content December 2009 to March 2007:

1. FIONA MACTAGGART MP - CHANGES THE LAWS ON PROSTITUTION AND WINS AN EMMA HUMPHREYS MEMORIAL PRIZE

Fiona Mactaggart, the Labour MP for Slough, has campaigned and succeeded in changing the laws on prostitution.

It was at 11pm on 3rd November 2009 that Fiona watched the House of Lords pass Clause 14 of the Policing and Crime Bill. It begins to put the responsibility for prostitution onto the purchaser, who has a choice, instead of a seller who often does not. It was one of the most significant changes in politics of 2009 and was in danger of being voted down.

She has won a special prize in the Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize for her work and is Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade and co-Chair of the Parliamentary Labour Party Women's Committee.

Here Fiona tells how she worked with others in her party, Harriet Harman MP, Jacqui Smith MP, and men too as well as women across party to achieve this change. It was first spoken of by Mary Wollstonecraft in "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" in 1792. Fiona told Boni Sones how she "reached for the stars" and succeeded.

2. THE ANN TRENEMAN DIARIES

Annus Horribilis: The Worst Year in British Politics

Matthew Parris has called it "brilliant" and Women's Parliamentary Radio wholeheartedly agrees. Here

Ann Treneman, the sketch writer for The Times, reads from and reviews her new book. Boni Sones, Executive Producer of www.wpradio.co.uk joins in. The book puts the year's most turbulent events in politics into Ann's very own side-splitting perspective.

Thanks to Ann for allowing us to broadcast these special readings.

3. CHLOE SMITH MP FOR NORWICH NORTH

Chloe Smith the new MP for Norwich North is now the youngest MP in Parliament after being elected in a by-election in July this year. At 27 she is two years younger than the previous "baby of the House", Lib Dem Jo Swinson, but Chloe insists "If you are good enough you're old enough, the age isn't the thing!"

Chloe describes herself as a Norfolk girl "through and through" and whilst a candidate for 18 months she was an energetic local campaigner. Her mentor was Baroness Gillian Shephard of Northwold, a former Norfolk MP and minister, and Chloe says she herself has mentored other potential candidates through the Conservative's Women2Win Campaign jointly led by the Rt Hon Theresa May MP.

She's already given her Maiden Speech, on further education in her constituency and although she says she isn't a fan of positive discrimination she does want to see women supported in their attempts to gain seats. Here our reporter Linda Fairbrother secured a special interview with Chloe, but first she visited Cliveden House in Berkshire, the former home of the first women MP to take up

her seat in Westminster - the Conservative Lady Nancy Astor, where she spoke to Annette Scudamor, a National Trust guide.

4. BARONESS PROSSER, DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Treasury Select Committee is spending the autumn asking prominent men and women in banking, finance, politics, academia and the fields of equality, what their views are on whether a so called "Lehman Sisters" approach could have helped avert the financial crisis in the City. The Committee is looking at how many women are in senior positions in major financial institutions, how widespread is the glass ceiling, pay inequalities, flexible working, and sexism in the City. One of those to give evidence was Baroness Margaret Prosser, Deputy Chair of the EHRC. Our reporter Linda Fairbrother caught up with her and asked what she told the Committee?

5. CLAUSE 13 OF THE POLICING AND CRIME BILL

On the first day back after the long summer recess, Labour MP and former Home Office Minister, Fiona Mactaggart, held a briefing meeting in the Commons to campaign for Clause 13, of the Policing and Crime Bill. There are fears the Clause maybe diluted or rejected in the Lords, where the Bill is now being debated, and Fiona told the meeting that 54 organisations supported it.

She was joined by Catherine Briddick, Senior Legal Officer at Rights of Women, who said it was the first time she had wholly supported the Home Office but she believed it was "completely right" to make it a "strict liability" offence to pay for sex from a person who is "procured for gain". Some other countries have legalised prostitution but supporters of Clause 13 say this has been shown not to work. Boni Sones spoke to Fiona and Catherine.

6. PENNY AND HELEN AND THE WOMEN2WIN CAMPAIGN FOR THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Penny Mordaunt is the Conservative's prospective parliamentary candidate for Portsmouth North at the next general election. Helen Whately is the Conservatives' prospective parliamentary candidate for Kingston and Surbiton. It's the first time Helen, a consultant in healthcare, telecoms and the media, and a mother of a young son, has stood as a candidate, and she has to defeat a Liberal Democrat. Whereas Penny, a media consultant, stood before for the same seat in the 2005 election which was won by Labour.

Penny and Helen say they are getting a warm reception on the doorstep and that so called "door knocking" to get the vote out is fun. But it's the recession that is top of people's priorities alongside schools and hospitals. They both say they have little time to go shopping for those "colourful" jackets women politicians wear to get spotted. Boni Sones spoke to them at the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester where they sang the praises of

the Women2Win campaign and the Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP.

7. ANTONIA COX
CONSERVATIVE PARTY
PPC FOR ISLINGTON
SOUTH AND FINSBURY

Antonia Cox is the official Conservative Party candidate for Islington South & Finsbury at the next General Election.

Antonia is a school governor, local campaigner and mother of three from central London. She is a leader writer for the London Evening Standard and author of the Policy Exchange publication, "The Best Kit", which makes the case for better support of our armed forces.

Here Antonia tells Women's Parliamentary Radio journalist Daisy Ayliffe, how she has been juggling her career, her political life here and abroad, and her family.

8. SALLY KEEBLE MP,
VULTURE FUNDS

The Labour MP for Northampton North, Sally Keeble, is pushing through a new ten-minute rule Bill, to get the UK to crack down on the excesses of the so called "Vulture funds" that profit out of developing countries debt by buying it up and then demanding excessive repayments. "The developing country debt (restriction of recovery) Bill" aims to tackle the secrecy and profiteering of the vulture funds.

Jubilee Debt, which has led the campaign against the vulture funds, records 54 lawsuits by commercial creditors against some of the poorest countries, some still in process.

The vulture funds buy up the defaulted sovereign debt of

developing countries at knockdown prices, and then sue, often through the UK courts, for the full face value of the debt, plus compound interest and charges. They're secretive institutions, often based in tax havens, and pursue their claims through jurisdictions around the world.

Boni Sones asked Sally, what she thought her Bill could achieve.

9. LYN BROWN MP

Lyn Brown, the Labour MP for West Ham since 2005, is a passionate champion of the library movement. From the time her mother took her to a London library as a child she confesses to having "wolfed down" books of all kinds and to having been "radicalised" by them. She is Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Libraries, which is due to publish a report on modernising the service in the autumn and an assistant Whip.

The novels which have changed Lyn's life include: "Gone with the Wind" by Margaret Mitchell, "To Kill a Mocking Bird" by Harper Lee, and now she's porining over her summer holiday reading which will of course include "A view from the Foothills" by her colleague Chris Mullin. Her mother worked as a packer in an icing sugar factory, but she taught Lyn that reading was the best way to "improve" yourself, and that's just what she's done, now as an MP in a neighbourhood near to where she grew up.

10. LYNNE FEATHERSTONE
MP

What's in a name? Well quite a lot it seems when it comes to job applications. The Liberal

Democrat's Equality spokesperson, Lynne Featherstone the MP for Hornsey and Wood Green has just floated a new idea at the second reading of the Government's Equality Bill to have names taken off application forms.

The "Featherstone" amendment is likely to be accepted in some form by the government. Lynne says that the unfairness of being judged on your name when you apply for a job first came to her notice when two of her interns with the family names of Hussain and Patel, complained about not getting to an interview.

Labour's Equality Bill has been opposed by the Conservatives' and welcomed by the Liberal Democrats' who are pressing for its provisions to go further. The Solicitor General, Vera Baird MP, has pushed the Bill through Parliament for the government. Lynne praised her work.

Lynne writes a good blog, at: www.lynnfeatherstone.org/blog.htm

11. CHERYL GILLAN MP

The Conservative MP, Cheryl Gillan, is successfully pushing through a Private Member's Bill on Autism in The House. It will ensure local authorities and NHS service providers give adequate support for adults with this learning difficulty. It will champion new pathways for diagnosis, assessment and support for those with Autism.

The MP for Chesham and Amersham says she was fortunate, after many years, to come top of the Private Member's Bill ballot. She talked to colleagues and charities before deciding that the gap in existing provision for Autism sufferers needed addressing. As

a result of attracting cross-party support for her pioneering Bill, it has successfully passed its third reading in the House and has now gone to the Lords.

This is England's first ever piece of Autism legislation, and Cheryl says she thinks it shows how politicians across party work to bring about change in society and that in the wake of the MPs' expenses scandal, it highlights, the good work that politicians do in Parliament. W P Radio reporter Linda Fairbrother spoke to her.

12. JOHN BERCOW MP

The Conservative MP for Buckingham John Bercow, is standing for the position of Speaker in the House of Commons. He is well liked and respected in Labour circles, even though he is a Conservative, and he is said to have the backing of more than 100 Labour MPs. Members of his own Party aren't so sure though, as some believe he leans too much to the left.

For the past 17 years the Speaker's Chair has been sat in by Labour members. Some think a left leaning Conservative who is relatively young and forward looking would help to modernise the House in the wake of the MP's expenses row. Mr Bercow is 46 years old, one of the youngest contenders for the job.

John, a member of the wpradio.co.uk Advisory Board, told our reporter Georgie Hemmingway, how he would help further equality in the House, and clamp down on sexist exchanges in the Chamber.

13. SUSAN KRAMER MP

Keeping a calm head in politics has never been more needed, as more and more of MPs so called "extravagant" expenses are paraded in the "Daily Telegraph" fairly or unfairly. What's more the "WAGs" group, Women Against Gordon Brown, appear to have been orchestrating moves to make the Labour Party confront the need for a leadership challenge. Susan Kramer, the Liberal Democrat MP for Richmond Park since 2005, has been tough enough to get out there and talk about the need to reform parliament, restore trust in politics and politicians, and to say she thinks the "Telegraph" is just doing its job.

Susan made her career in finance as a Vice-President of Citibank, a leading international bank and set up her own company before moving into politics. So will women be put off going into politics and what advice would Susan give to aspiring women politicians? Boni Sones asked her.

14. ANNE BEGG MP, VICE CHAIR OF THE SPEAKERS CONFERENCE

The Labour MP for Aberdeen South, Anne Begg, says she'll be out campaigning in her Constituency over the coming weeks to advise people that if Parliament needs reforming then they need to sign up to a political party to do just that! Anne says the way to overcome the dismay about politicians and their expenses is to get involved in a political party yourself and begin the process of change that is needed.

Anne is a formidable politician herself, being the first wheelchair user in Westminster, and the Vice Chair of the recently instituted Speaker's Conference which is looking at

the under representation of women, ethnic minorities and disabled people in the House of Commons. She is also a member of the House of Commons Charities Panel, and stands in for the Speaker in the Westminster Hall debates.

Boni Sones asked her if she agreed that Parliament needed better scrutiny?

15. DAME PROFESSOR DAWSON, IS THE KPMG PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT AT JUDGE BUSINESS SCHOOL AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

In the week that the Government has published its historic Equality Bill, Professor Dawson tells Women's Parliamentary Radio her thoughts on how women can progress in business, what distinct qualities women managers have, and if these can help get them to the top. She also grapples with those other sticky problems of the so called "glass ceiling" and gender pay differences.

Professor Dawson has managed to juggle bringing up a family, with a high flying career in business and management herself. She was Director of the Judge Business School from 1995 to 2006 and has specialised in studying organisational structure and change. She is also now Master of Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge. Those close to you at home, she says, can help determine the success of your career.

Thanks to Judge Business School for allowing us to broadcast this podcast.

16. KAY CARBERRY
ASSISTANT GENERAL
SECRETARY TUC

Too much or too little? The Government's New Equality Bill has been published this week almost 40 years after the Equal Pay Act came into force. It brings together all of Britain's Equality Legislation into one Act. As well as covering race, disability and gender the new Bill turns its attention to maternity, age, sexual orientation, religion, belief and gender reassignment.

Public sector bodies such as government departments, local authorities and health authorities, will have to comply with the provisions of the Act. The many businesses that supply them with services won't be awarded contracts until they do too.

The Minister for Equality Harriet Harman says the Bill will "make Britain more equal" but Shadow Minister for Women Theresa May remains sceptical. With the pay gap still standing at 17 per cent, Boni Sones, asked the TUC's Assistant General Secretary, Kay Carberry, if she was happy that the Bill went far enough?

17. TESSA JOWELL MP
MINISTER FOR THE
OLYMPICS

Men & Olympic events = 164
Women & Olympic events = 124

Tessa Jowell, MP, as the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport helped London win its bid to host the 2012 Olympics. Now as Olympics Minister, she is pressing the case for sports women to be able to compete in as many Olympic sports as the men. Currently men can compete in 164 events and women 124. Olympic gold medallist cyclist Victoria Pendleton and others are supporting her campaign, which

would allow women to compete in heavyweight wrestling and men in synchronised swimming.

Yvonne Ball of the British Wrestling Association said it was highly unlikely women would want to compete in heavyweight wrestling. Never-the-less Ms Jowell thinks this misses the point and that sportswomen of the future should have equality as a goal and their glass ceilings removed. She told Boni Sones, that she has written to the UK sports chiefs and is optimistic that there will be some change before 2012.

18. SALLY KEEBLE MP

How the budget is helping grandparents. The Chancellor, Alistair Darling, has announced in his budget that from April 2011 grandparents who obtain a certificate, will be able to get a National Insurance credit towards the basic state pension for caring for their grandchildren or members of their family aged 12 or younger for 20 hours or more a week. Boni Sones, asked Labour's Northampton North MP, Sally Keeble, if this was at long last a welcome acknowledgement of the years of informal help grandparents have given families and if it would help to ease the gender pay gap between men and women and progress the government's equality agenda on the eve of a new Equality Bill being published?

19. ALAN CAMPBELL MP,
HOME OFFICE MINISTER
AND LYNNE JONES MP

The government is changing the laws that govern prostitution in a bid to protect women who are trafficked or "procured for gain" by making it illegal to pay for sex from them if they are being controlled in this way. The

amendment in the Policing and Crime Bill, now passing through Parliament, is contentious. Alan Campbell MP, a Minister in the Home Office responsible for crime reduction says the government is right to be taking a firm line on protecting those women who are most vulnerable. The government's new laws would also attempt to rehabilitate sex workers by making an Order for them to attend meetings aimed at tackling addictive behaviour. But the Labour MP, Lynne Jones, has put down an Early Day Motion, saying her own government's measures are "deeply flawed". Our reporter Georgie Hemmingway, spoke first to Alan Campbell MP about how the new government measures would work in practice, and then to Lynne Jones MP.

20. JOHN BERCOW MP

John Bercow, the Conservative MP for Buckingham is a strong advocate for women's rights and an International Women's Day. In the recent International Women's Day Debate in the Commons, John, spoke up on behalf of all those hundreds of thousands of women who work below the National Minimum Wage. He also believes that there is a case for increasing the national minimum wage, particularly during a recession. He told a Conservative colleague he thought he was a "troglodyte" for suggesting there was no need for a special debate for women each year and supports Labour's Harriet Harman's quest for a new Equality Bill. Boni Sones spoke to him.

21. DR EVAN HARRIS MP

The Liberal Democrat Equality Campaigner, Dr Evan Harris

MP, attempted to introduce a Private Member's Bill to modernise our monarchy by allowing a woman to be first in succession to the throne rather than being superseded by a younger male sibling, the so called rule of "primogeniture". Dr Harris's "Royal Marriage and Succession to the Crown Bill" also wanted to allow those in the line of succession to the throne to marry a Catholic. Boni Sones, asked Dr Harris, why his Bill was needed now?

22. THE PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION SERVICE QUESTION TIME FOR WOMEN

The Parliamentary Education Service recently held a "Question Time" event where schoolgirls were invited to meet members of Parliament and members of the Lords. They listened to speeches and talked about why Parliament would be a better place with more women politicians, and those from ethnic minorities. Boni Sones spoke to the Labour MP Anne Begg, Vice-Chair of the new Speaker's Conference, which is debating the issue, Baroness Hayman, the Speaker in the House of Lords and to the young women students themselves.

23. THE MILLION WOMEN RISE COALITION

WP Radio joined 6,000 women on a march with The Million Women Rise Coalition through London to celebrate International Women's Day 09. The coalition campaign group www.millionwomenrise.com aims to "End male violence against women". As Seema Malhotra of the Fabian Women's network, walked with the protestors from beginning to end, she heard why women,

families and children turned up in such large numbers to stop the violence against women here and in countries like the Congo. Seema even met four generations of one family as she narrated the progress of the Million Women Rise march and eventually caught up with its Co-ordinator Sabrina Qureshi, to allow her to tell her story too.

The march coincided with a new initiative launched by the Home Secretary Jacqui Smith to help prevent Domestic Violence from occurring, particularly during the recession. Producer Boni Sones would like to thank all concerned for this special 30 minute radio documentary podcast and also the women from the North East for their "Nanna was a Suffragette" song. Thanks to our sound engineer Pete Cook of Screenspace.

24. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WOMEN AND THE RECESSION:

Women across party celebrated International Women's Day 09 with a heartfelt debate in the Chamber on Women and the Recession. The debate had been arranged by Labour's Harriet Harman MP, deputy leader of the Labour Party and Vera Baird MP, the Solitor General. It came a day after women from all parties had been invited to number 11 to discuss how to support women during the recession.

All parties, including the Liberal Democrat's Lynne Featherstone, talked of the importance of the government's forthcoming Equalities Bill becoming law sooner rather than later and not being side-lined because of the recession.

Theresa May MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Shadow Minister for Women spoke of the need to

help older women and families and her Facebook campaign "Theresa May for Equal Pay". And THANKS Theresa for the mention of WP Radio's women MPs photographs in the debate which are to be promoted to schools.

25. ELEANOR LAING MP

Eleanor Laing MP, Shadow Minister for Justice, talked of the need to support women internationally by keeping up our aid budgets to the third world and the high cost of childcare for women in this country.

26. SIR CRISPIN TICKELL

To celebrate International Women's Day this week, Women's Parliamentary Radio has secured this special interview with Sir Crispin Tickell, Director of the Policy Foresight Programme at Oxford University on how to meet the "sustainable development" challenges of the 21st Century. Sir Crispin, says he is optimistic about our ability to adapt and embrace sustainable green global values despite the terrible problems that face the World. Sir Crispin believes it is WOMEN who hold the key to a sustainable global future. Boni Sones asked him why?

Thanks to CIBAM at Judge Business School in Cambridge for allowing us to transmit this broadcast.

27. DR NOREENA HERTZ WOMEN AND THE RECESSION

It's women, it seems, who hold the future of the world in their hands as economists and politicians agree that global

capitalism is in need of drastic repair.

In this new "Recession Thought Leadership Series" Women's Parliamentary Radio is asking women in business and academia to contribute their thoughts on how to fix capitalism and prepare for a greener, healthier, more sustainable planet in the future. Here, Dr Noreena Hertz, an Associate Director of CIBAM at Judge Business School in Cambridge tells Boni Sones why she thinks we are about to move from an era of "gucci" capitalism to a new one of "co-operative capitalism" and how women and families will benefit.

Thanks to Judge Business School for letting us transmit this podcast.

28. EMILY THORNBERRY MP

Emily Thornberry, has been the Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury since May 2005. She has three children and was brought up in a single parent household living on a council estate. She has campaigned at a national level with trade unions and parents' groups for more family-friendly employment policies and access to childcare, particularly for women. Boni Sones, asked her to justify how the Labour government intended to help out hard pressed families during the current recession.

29. MARIA MILLER MP

Women are said to be faring worse in the current economic downturn than men. The Conservative's Shadow Minister for The Family, Maria Miller the MP for Basingstoke, and a mother of three children herself, tells Boni Sones what her Party would do to help families through

their current economic difficulties.

30. DAWN BUTLER MP

Dawn Butler the Labour MP for Brent South is one of only two black women in Westminster and the first black woman to ever become a government minister.

On the day that Barack Obama becomes the first black President of the United States of America, Dawn will be launching a new campaign "Bernie's list" to get more black MPs into Parliament. Dawn is known as a formidable campaigner, and is also planning some parliamentary celebrations to mark the historic occasion. Boni Sones spoke to her.

31. ANNE BEGG MP

Anne Begg, the Labour MP, for Aberdeen South, is Deputy Chair, of the specially convened "Speaker's Conference", which will look at improving the representation of women, minority ethnic people and disabled people in Parliament. Anne Begg is the first permanent wheelchair user MP in parliament, and she said the idea for the conference had been "energised" by the election of the USA's first black President, Barack Obama. At present only 20 per cent of MPs in Parliament are women and there are still only two black women MPs, Diane Abbott, and Dawn Butler. The Conference of 17 MPs from all the Parties will report next year.

Ending WP Radio's series of interviews focusing on women parliamentarians achievements 90 years since women first got the vote, Anne Begg MP, gave this engaging exclusive interview to Georgie Hemmingway. Anne told Georgie, she could remember the time when

disabled people used to have to travel in the baggage compartments of trains.

32. 2008 CONTENT ONWARDS: ANNE JENKIN

The name doesn't exactly roll off the tongue, but the Liberal MP for North St Pancras, Sir Willoughby Hyett Dickinson, should be a hero to the women's movement. He introduced the first Women's Suffrage Bill in 1907, as a Private Member's Bill. Sir Willoughby Dickinson was an early pioneer of votes for women. He had two highly educated sisters, one a doctor, and he couldn't understand why he could have the vote and his two sisters couldn't.

The story is told in this ninetieth year since women got the vote, by the energetic, dynamic, formidable and witty, Anne Jenkin, wife of the Conservative MP Bernard Jenkin. Anne is a political force in her own right, as a fund raiser, campaigner and co-founder of the Conservative's Women2Win Campaign. Boni Sones spoke to Anne by the new exhibition to the suffragettes in Westminster and then by the statue of Margaret Thatcher, who is a friend, one of many in her legendary contacts book.

33. JULIE KIRKBRIDE MP

The government has just announced it is to extend the right to Flexible working to all parents with a child under 16 from April next year. The announcement was made by Labour's Secretary of State for Equalities, Harriet Harman, at Prime Minister's Questions. At the moment the right only applies to parents with a child under 6 and there had been talk of not implementing the changes because of the recession.

Well, the Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, Julie Kirkbride, has thought carefully about her role as a working mother with an eight year old son. She has prioritised her busy life to ensure she sees as much of Angus as possible, and is happy to keep her political ambitions in check so as not to miss out on his growing up. Not unsurprisingly, Julie is an advocate of flexible working.

Boni Sones, asked Julie Kirkbride MP to say why she thought flexible working was good for her family and good for

**34. MARIA EAGLE MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-
SECRETARY OF STATE
AND MINISTER FOR
WOMEN AND EQUALITY**

The Queen's Speech contained new measures to promote equality through a new all-embracing Equality Bill. The measures will replace nine current laws, drawing them together to address discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, sexual orientation or disability.

The new Bill deals with tough issues such as equal pay, age discrimination in the provision of goods and services, discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, and who gets what job in the promotion stakes. But should it have included the private sector too, and is there a need for compulsory pay audits?

In this exclusive interview, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Women and Equality, Maria Eagle MP told Boni Sones, why critics of the Bill had got it wrong and why, 90 years after women got the vote, the suffragettes would have been proud of the Bill.

**35. JAMES PURNELL MP
WORKS AND PENSIONS
MINISTER**

One of the surprise changes of 2008 was when the Works and Pensions Minister, James Purnell, announced hundreds of thousands of women will win the right to a full state pension. Carers, full-time mothers and other women who have not paid enough National Insurance to qualify will be allowed to make one-off payments to bridge the gap and catch up.

Purnell said women will be able to buy back up to 12 years of missed contributions instead of the present six. The changes will relate to any person, but in reality mainly women, who will retire between April 6th this year and April 5th 2015, and who has 20 years or more of their National Insurance record. Pensions campaigner, Alexandra Kemp, of the West Norfolk Women and Carers Pensions Network and a member of the powerful coalition for Human Rights and Women and Pensions, told Boni Sones what she thought the original suffragettes would have thought of these changes, 90 years since women won the vote.

**36. CAROLINE LUCAS MEP
LEADER OF THE GREEN
PARTY**

Caroline Lucas, MEP is the leader of the Green Party and the only woman in Britain to head a major political party. She is the MEP for South East England, and is standing as an MP in the next General Election for Brighton Pavilion. The Green Party has significant pockets of support across Britain now, with an increasing number of councillors and is hoping for renewed success in next year's European Elections. They also count Lewisham and Norwich

South as winnable seats in a General Election.

In this two part interview, wpradio journalist Anne Garvey asked Caroline to spell out her hopes for a new global green agenda and women following Barack Obama's success as President Elect in the USA, and Executive Producer of wpradio Boni Sones, talked to Caroline about the specific policies of the Green Party.

37. THE HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY BILL

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill Report stage will be debated by the Commons this week. Diana Abbott, MP is also going to be proposing an amendment that would allow women from Northern Ireland to have abortions on the NHS in Britain. Currently Northern Ireland's abortion laws are governed by an Act that was passed in 1861, before women even had the right to vote. Dr Evan Harris MP, is a leading advocate for change as are other MPs across party. Boni Sones spoke to him, Ann Furedi, of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, and Kate Paterson, an NHS Consultant obstetrician at a briefing meeting.

38. FIONA MACTAGGART MP

Fiona Mactaggart the Labour MP for Slough, and former Home Office Minister, is an advocate for the reform of the Prostitution laws in this Country. She would like to see Britain adopt a model based on Sweden, where all paid prostitution is outlawed. In countries such as New Zealand, they have actually legalised prostitution, but Fiona says that won't work here. She believes we need a total ban on buying sex to protect women and to stop the trade in prostituion and trafficking. In this extended

interview, Boni Sones asked her why?

39. LUCY FAIRBROTHER

Lucy Fairbrother is a 23-year-old political activist who put her ideals to the test at the beginning of the Beijing Olympics. Together with a friend, Iain Thom, she put a "One World One Dream Free Tibet" banner at the top of a lighting pole just outside the Bird's Nest stadium. After being questioned by the Chinese police she and Iain flew home to Britain. www.wpradio.co.uk reporter Daisy Ayliffe spoke to her on her return to find out what motivated her to be an activist.

40. VANDNA GOHIL

Voice4Change England has brought together leading policy makers from across Britain at a syposium in London. "Equality and Cohesion in Diverse Britain:the Making of Public Policy" set out to consider how public policy is made and whether effective policies were being pursued by public bodies. The recent court case over single group funding involving Southall Black Sisters, and the commissioning of domestic violence services, as well as the changing meanings of multiculturalism where discussed. The meeting was chaired by Vandna Gohil, the Director of Voice4Change England. Boni Sones reports.

For more go to:
www.voice4change-england.co.uk

41. VERA BAIRD MP QC PICK OF THE SUMMER WEEKS LISTENING

Women who kill their abusive partners are to be given a new

legal partial defence against murder. It is the first changes to the murder laws in 50 years.

The Solicitor General, Vera Baird MP, the Justice Minister, Maria Eagle MP, the Chair of the Labour Party and Minister for Women, Harriet Harman MP, and the Attorney General Baroness Scotland, have helped to frame the new laws on domestic violence and murder. In the past judges and juries have been prone to letting men off lightly and punishing women harshly.

Earlier this year Vera Baird wept as she told Boni Sones how the tragic case of a teenager who killed her pimp inspired her proposed reform of the laws. Vera worked on the case of Emma Humphries, who was convicted at the age of 17 of killing her boyfriend as he was about to rape her.

42. PEACE ON THE STREETS

Labour's Vice-Chair of Youth, Dawn Butler the MP for Brent, has hosted a "Peace on the Streets" summit in Westminster with Choice FM. She wants to involve Black and ethnic minority communities in finding public solutions to guns, gangs and knife crime. A number of London MPs from all parties listened to the panelists speaking including Simon Hughes, the President of the Liberal Democrat Party. Boni Sones spoke to him, Choice FM, and Dawn as the summit ended.

43. ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY JAZZ APPRECIATION GROUP

Not every politician is gloomy about youth culture today. The All-Party Parliamentary Jazz Appreciation Group has teamed

up with Yamaha, Classic FM, Jazzwise, and PPL to award six jazz scholarships to young musicians who took their jazz direct to MPs in the Commons. Michael Connarty, the Labour MP for Linlithgow & East Falkirk, is co-Chair of the parliamentary group and Mrs Linda Riordan, the Labour MP for Halifax, is a supporter. Boni Sones asked them why.

44. DR KATHERINE RAKE

Labour's Minister for Women, Harriet Harman, wants women to be given extended maternity leave of up to a year off work. The Conservative's Shadow Minister for Women, Theresa May, says she's lost touch with the times and men as well as women need to be given the right to take extended leave when their children are born.

Under the government's plans men would only get two weeks of leave. Dr Katherine Rake, Director of the Fawcett Society, says parental leave should be available to both parents on a paid basis. Boni Sones spoke to her about this weeks political hot debate.

45. ANN CRYER MP CHRIS BRYANT MP

Ann Cryer, the Labour MP for Keighley has tabled an Early Day Motion - 1825 - asking The House, to call on the Church of England to remove all legal obstacles which prevent women from becoming bishops; and asks the Church to end this unacceptable form of discrimination against women clergy.

Chris Bryant, the Labour MP for Rhondda, is a supporter. Both were at a conference to talk about the issue organised by the WATCH group, Women and the

Church, which has urged the Church to end discrimination.

Boni Sones spoke to them both.

46. THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY is actively encouraging the Black Minority and Ethnic community to get involved in politics at a grass root level.

At a conference in London over 50 delegates listened to how they could get their "VOICE" heard in the Conservative Party. They heard speeches from Simon Woolley of Operation Black Vote, Sonia Brown, of the National Black Women's Network and Theresa May MP the Shadow Leader of the House and the Shadow Minister for Women.

47. ANN TRENEMAN

She needs no introduction as a Parliamentary sketch writer. Ann Treneman's columns in the Times newspaper are much admired. She was nominated for the Dods Scottish Widows female political journalist of the year this year. She likes to describe what she witnesses in the Chamber as a playground spat. No more so then when the women MPs collide and she witnesses "a catfight". Here she reads from three of her sketches and talks to Boni Sones.

48. THE OONA KING DIARIES

Oona King, is credited with writing a frank, authentic and genuinely humorous book on her time as an MP in Westminster. She was elected as the MP for Bethnal Green and Bow in 1997 along with 100 other Labour women, one of only 239 women ever to be elected to Parliament. She achieved significant change while she was there on issues

such as housing, landmines and the prevention of genocide.

Oona's remarkable social values were given her by her Jewish mother Hazel and her father Preston. She lost her seat to George Galloway, of the Respect Party, in 2005. As part of the wpradio.co.uk celebration of 90 years since women got the vote, Oona reads from her diaries and is interviewed by Boni Sones. Sound engineer is Pete Cook of Screenspace.

"The Oona King Diaries - House Music" is published by Bloomsbury, £12.99. Copyright Oona King

49. BARONESS SHIRLEY WILLIAMS

The Liberal Democrat Peer, Shirley Williams, has had a distinguished career in British politics. She was a member of the Wilson and Callaghan Governments in the 1960s and 1970s. In 1981 she co-founded the Social Democratic Party, becoming the first MP elected for the SDP in 1981. She is now writing her autobiography to be published next year. As the daughter of the renowned feminist Vera Brittan, it will no doubt contain many gems on British political history. Shirley has just delivered the annual Women's Library speech celebrating 90 years since women got the vote. Here she tells Boni Sones, what she thinks of women's political progress throughout the World.

50. CAROLINE SPELMAN MP - CONSERVATIVE

Caroline Spelman is the Chairman of the Conservative Party and has been the MP for Meriden since 1997. As a working mother she says her children are her top priority. She

is working with the Conservative Women's Organisation to challenge Society's attitude to violence against women. In her West Midlands constituency she has helped set up a charity called MABL (Make a Better Life) to help women affected by violence access services. Now she is taking on the issue of stalking, to ensure the police, policy makers, and government realise what a serious crime it is and how it can, in some cases, lead to murder. She is interviewed by Boni Sones.

51. NADINE DORRIES MP - CONSERVATIVE

Nadine Dorries the Conservative MP for Mid Bedfordshire is at the forefront of a campaign to reduce the time limit on abortions. As a former nurse, she is a passionate advocate of a 20 week limit. She is interviewed by Brian Shallcross of GCap media.

52. CHARLES WALKER MP - CONSERVATIVE

Charles Walker the Conservative MP for Broxbourne, has been trying to get more support for victims of rape. He's held an Adjournment Debate in the Commons this week on the issue and is working across party to ensure more resources are given to rape crisis centres, and to improve the rape conviction rates for reported offences. He is interviewed by Brian Shallcross of GCap media. Thanks to GCap for the interview.

53. THERESA MAY MP - CONSERVATIVE

The Shadow Leader of the House of Commons, Theresa May, has told wpradio.co.uk that she thinks debate in the Chamber is sometimes too

confrontational. While she supported her leader, David Cameron, for being robust in Prime Ministers Questions, she said she was disappointed that The Leader of the House, Harriet Harman, chose to be confrontational in the recent International Women's Day debate. Boni Sones spoke to her.

54. ANNE MCGUIRE MP

Anne McGuire, the Labour MP for Stirling and the Minister for Disabled People found time out from her ministerial duties to attend the launch of the Jessops Parliamentary photo competition. She was one of a number of MPs who had taken poignant pictures of people and places on their trips abroad. Anne's picture was called "Flowers for the lost: at Auschwitz Birkenau", which she visited with school children from her constituency. Boni Sones spoke to her as the exhibition was launched.

www.jessops.com/parliament will tell you more.

55. ERS DEBATE

The Government's long awaited report on "The Reform of Voting Systems" has been greeted with mixed reactions from those who have long been advocating a change in the way we elect our MPs to Westminster. Reformers say that the current voting system of FPTP - First Past the Post - discriminates against women and ethnic minorities in favour of the sitting candidate - overwhelming white males. In this special WP Radio documentary debate, sponsored by the Electoral Reform Society, we asked MPs from all parties why they are or are not in favour of electoral reform.

The debate is Chaired by Jackie Ashley of the Guardian and BBC. Round the table the MPs are Chris Huhne, Shadow Home Affairs Spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, Caroline Spelman Chairman of the Conservative Party, the Labour MP Stephen Pound and academic Professor Nina Fishman who sits on the ERS Board.

56. DAWN BUTLER MP

The Labour MP for Brent, Dawn Butler, has been visiting play facilities in her constituency with local councillors to see what a difference £1 million of new funding will make to the area. Brent was given the £1 million by the government as one of 43 new "playbuilder" authorities. It's part of a £235 million government investment on children's play. Boni Sones spoke to her at the Villiers Road site, with local councillors Lesley Jones, Mary Arnold and Harry Singh.

57. LYNNE FEATHERSTONE MP

Lynne Featherstone, the Liberal Democrat MP for Hornsey and Wood Green is her Party's spokesperson for young people and equalities. She is said to be a tough politician, and has established a reputation as a national blogger of note. Lynne also uses Facebook and Flickr on her website www.lynnefeatherstone.org.

Boni Sones spoke to Lynne about her new brief and her formidable campaigning instincts.

58. JUDY MALLABER MP -
LABOUR

Judy Mallaber the Labour MP for Amber Valley in Wales has been at the forefront of work in the Commons to eliminate the gender pay gap. There's still a 17 per cent difference among women's full-time salaries and that of men, and this rises to 40 per cent for those working part-time. In London it stands at 25 per cent. Judy sits on the Women and Work Commission and has recently led a Select Committee inquiry and report into what more can be done to make faster progress. The Report "Jobs for Girls", concluded that the Government should be doing more to keep the issue high on its list of priorities across departments. Boni Sones spoke to Judy about her work, ideals, and ambitions as an MP.

59. WOMEN MPS CELEBRATE
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
DAY

BARBARA FOLLETT MP AND
DAVID DAVIS MP

Women and men MPs across party sung marching songs and Jerusalem to celebrate International Women's Day and 90 years of women and the vote. They laid flowers at the statue of the suffragette Emily Pankhurst, which is still outside Parliament, and then walked into the Commons to commemorate the life of Emily Wilding Davison, the suffragette who died trying to get votes for women. Boni Sones joined them

60. BARBARA KEELEY MP -
LABOUR

Barbara Keeley the Labour MP for Worsley spoke of her concern for women to be better represented in Parliament.

61. WP RADIO MENTIONED IN
THE INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY DEBATE

WP Radio was mentioned in the International Women's Day debate in the House of Commons Chamber. The Liberal Democrat MP for East Dunbartonshire Jo Swinson, thinks we're cool. We think she is too. Thank you Jo. The Leader of the House Harriet Harman MP, The Shadow Minister for Women, Theresa May MP and others paid tribute to women all over the World.

62. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
DAY
MO MOWLAM MP
(LABOUR 1987-2001)

WP Radio is celebrating International Women's Day by releasing this five minute extract of one of the last political interviews the Labour politician Mo Mowlam gave. Mo has given permission for the whole one hour interview to be available after the next General Election as part of an audio archive held at the British Library with women politicians. Mo Mowlam, Labour MP for Redcar between 1987-2001, oversaw the talks which led to the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. She had the conversation with broadcast journalist Linda Fairbrother in her garden in August 2004 a year before she died for the book: Women In Parliament: The New Suffragettes. In this extract she talks of the Blair's Babe picture and why young women should get involved in politics. 90 years since Women got the vote we thought it fitting to release it now. Happy International Women's Day Mo!

63. CHANNEL 4 POLITICAL
AWARDS

The WP Radio team was nominated for the Hansard Society Democracy Award at the Channel 4 Political Awards this year presented by Jon Snow. Our congratulations to Operation Black Vote which won and our thanks to the Hansard Society and Channel 4.

Congratulations to our team: Pete Cook, sound engineer, Paul Foulsham of MagStar for the website design. Our journalists: Linda Fairbrother, Anne Garvey, Deborah McGurran. Our Chair: Jackie Ashley. Production assistants: Dan Beagle, Sophie Kainradl and Lucy Fairbrother.

64. SAL BRINTON - LIBERAL
DEMOCRATS

Sal Brinton is a leading Liberal Democrat at local and national level. She is the Party's Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Watford and has been involved in politics for 30 years. She has been a County Councillor and a PPC. Sal is now standing for a winnable seat and is helping the Liberal Democrats to train women who want to become parliamentary candidates. So what tips do women need to help them get selected for a seat and why should they stand for one they are not likely to win? Boni Sones talked to Sal.

65. WOMEN IN THE WORLD
TODAY

Theresa May MP has launched a new report on the Conservative Party's priorities for women in the UK. "Women in the World Today" puts down the foundation on which the Party's women's policy will be built. Four Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidates: Flick Drummond, Lorraine Fullbrook, Helen Grant and Penny Mordaunt told Boni Sones of the

issues that confront women in their constituencies.

66. CHARLOTTE LESLIE

Charlotte Leslie, is the Conservative Party's Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Bristol North West. She has already established a name for herself as a Guardian young blogger, and for speaking up on the under achievement of boys at school and the feminisation of Society. So is blogging or old fashioned 'door knocking' the best way to engage young voters? Boni Sones spoke to her.

67. ELECTORAL REFORM SOCIETY: WOMEN MPs

The United Kingdom Parliament is waiting for a revolution. Despite the best attempts by all three parties, Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrats the number of women in our Parliament is still dismally low, just under 20 per cent. Women may have had the vote for nearly 90 years but we still can't get an equal split of male and female MPs in Westminster. In this special documentary commissioned by the Electoral Reform Society, WP Radio journalist Linda Fairbrother spoke to parliamentarians here and abroad.

Amongst others, Linda talked to Sweden's Margot Wallstrom, Vice President of the European Commission, the Spanish MEP Barbara Duhrkop, and Professor Pippa Norris, of Harvard University in the USA.

The documentary lasts 33 minutes.

68. JOAN RUDDOCK MP - PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

Joan Ruddock MP is the Minister in charge of Climate Change, Waste and Recycling and Biodiversity in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. She finds her job demanding but also deeply rewarding. Here she talks to Boni Sones about the issues she is working on to cut down the CO2 emissions we create, including new guidelines for manufacturers of white goods.

Make 2008 the Year in which you cut your carbon footprint:

To help people take action against climate change in 2008, the Government has developed the Act on CO2 online carbon calculator which enables people to work out the size of their carbon footprint and provides them with a personal action plan to reduce it.

Individuals are responsible for more than 40 per cent of CO2 emissions in the UK - mainly from energy use in the home and travel - but there are many simple, low cost ways to cut down the amount of CO2 emissions we create.

69. 2007 CONTENT ONWARDS: WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN

EMILY WILDING DAVISON
It is 90 years since women over 30 were first given the right to vote. In 2008, Women's Parliamentary Radio is campaigning to get a plaque to the militant suffragette Emily Wilding Davison at St George's Church in Bloomsbury where her funeral procession started and a statue of her in Westminster. Writer and Producer Barbara Gorna has the sash Emily was trying to pin to the King's horse

when she was killed and she told Boni Sones why she wants it to be known Emily's death was a tragic accident not suicide.

70. WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN

In WP Radio's new series: "Women supporting Women" our reporter Anne Garvey talks to two women MPs who are helping to change women's lives inside and outside Westminster.

Jo Swinson is the Liberal Democrat MP for East Dunbartonshire. She is the youngest MP in Westminster and her parties equality spokes person. She has championed issues such as the pay gap and also become a respected campaigner displaying her environmental concerns on issues such as un-necessary packaging.

ELEANOR LAING MP
Eleanor Laing is the Conservative MP for Epping Forest. In July 2007 Eleanor was appointed Shadow Minister for Justice. She's previously worked as Shadow Minister for Children, and Women and Equality. She has a son Matthew who was born one week after the 2001 General Election. Eleanor believes women can stand up for themselves at the dispatch box, and has a few good tips for Prospective Parliamentary Candidates.

71. WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN

In WP Radio's new series: "Women supporting Women" our intern reporter Sophie Kainradl goes in search of women in other

campaigning roles who are helping to change women's lives

JOY GREASLEY ON THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Women's Institute was founded in 1915 with two aims: to revitalise the rural community and encourage more women to help with food production during World War I. Today the WI describes itself as 'a modern voice for today's woman' and is even suggesting that brothels should be licensed in order to protect prostitutes. But can an organisation with such a strong sense of tradition ever really represent such a great diversity of women? WP Radio reporter Sophie Kainradl talks to Joy Greasley, head of the WI's Training Committee, to ask how the WI is living up to its new image and if it really has as much power as its slogan suggests?

FRANCES O'GRADY ON THE TUC

Frances O'Grady became the Deputy General Secretary of the Trade Union Congress in 2003. She is the first woman to hold such a senior position in the organisation. Frances is a staunch campaigner for women's rights in the work place, from equal pay to better maternity cover. She told WPR Radio reporter Sophie Kainradl what the government must do to improve the lives of female workers, why women make great politicians and how society desperately needs to change to cater for working mothers.

72. PAUL GOGGINS MP

Paul Goggins MP, the Minister of State for Northern Ireland, has

been at the forefront of pioneering complementary medicine on the NHS. In his previous role as Health Minister for Northern Ireland, he announced a new £200,000 fund to pilot the integration of complementary medicine into the NHS. He said that these therapies should be made available to all people, not just people who can afford to pay privately. The pilot project is being operated by Get Well UK and will aim to treat 700 patients initially. Boni Sones, went to Ulster to speak to four patients and their health practitioners to find out how the Get Well UK programme was improving their health.

73. DAWN BUTLER MP

Dawn Butler, the MP for Brent has just been given a new job by the Prime Minister Gordon Brown as one of six Vice-Chairs of the Labour Party. She will work directly to Deputy Leader, Harriet Harman on youth issues and be involved with the new ministerial team at the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Dawn's enthusiasm for campaigning is infectious. Boni Sones talked to her about her new role and her parliamentary career.

74. CAROLINE SPELMAN MP

The Chairman of the Conservative Party, Caroline Spelman, MP for Meriden, has been working with others in her party to address the issue of forced marriages. She says women feel solidarity with others across party to stop women being exploited in this way. The Conservatives and Labour have supported Lord Lester's (LD) Forced Marriage Bill. This aims to outlaw forced marriages as

well as supporting people who are victims of the practice. WPRadio journalist Linda Fairbrother asked Caroline how big a problem forced marriages were in Britain?

75. MARGARET MORAN MP

Margaret Moran, the Labour MP for Luton South, Chair's the All Party Domestic Violence Group. After talking online to women survivors of domestic violence through a project called "Womenspeak" MPs have now turned their attention to children who experience violence in their own home. They joined with children's charities and Women's Aid to listen directly to children's voices through an online project called "KIDSPEAK" which Margaret helped shape. The aim is to provide a safe, anonymous and secure online environment where children and young people affected by domestic violence can share their experience with the police, judges and parliamentarians. She explains in her own words why the project is so important.

76. BARONESS UDDIN

Baroness Uddin is a Labour peer who has dedicated her life to public social reform and equal rights. She was appointed to the Lords in 1998 for her work on women and disability rights where she has continued to champion diversity issues and issues affecting the Bangladeshi community. She's worked on the problems surrounding forced marriages and more recently the collapse of the first Solutions company, which was involved in money transfers from Bangladesh. Boni Sones spoke to her at length about her 30 year career in politics first in the community and now as a campaigner in the Lords. She

started with her childhood in Bangladesh.

77. HAZEL BLEARS MP

Gordon Brown's new Cabinet has five women in it. The new Home Secretary is Jacqui Smith, the first woman to hold this important office. Harriet Harman, fresh from her deputy leadership victory, is Leader of the Commons. The Leader of the Lords is Baroness Ashton of Upholland. Ruth Kelly moves to Secretary of State for Transport, and Hazel Blears, the former Party Chairwoman, is to takeover Communities and Local Government. WP Radio journalist Anne Garvey caught up with her as she was saying goodbye to her former colleagues and before she new of her new role.

78. DAY IN THE LIFE

The Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury, Emily Thornberry, has a tough job balancing work and family life, but she says she wouldn't swap being a backbench MP for the world. She, like other women MPs, believes the real life experiences of their constituents are helping to enhance and inform government policy. WP Radio journalist Anne Garvey asked her to talk about a "Day in her life".

79. FLEXIBLE WORKING PRACTICES

The MP for Solihull, Liberal Democrat Lorely Burt, has secured a debate on workplace diversity to promote her 10 Minute Rule Bill which promotes flexible working practices. She told the Trade and Industry Minister, Jim Fitzpatrick, that she wants to see more sensitive

employment policies for ethnic minority women, other minorities, and also for women generally. WPRadio journalist Anne Garvey asked her to explain why she thought new laws were needed?

80. ARE WOMEN FAIRLY REPRESENTED AT WESTMINSTER?

Women MPs still only make up 20 per cent of MPs across party and it could be several hundreds of years before we have a fifty-fifty gender balanced Parliament. Boni Sones, asked feminist academic, Joni Lovenduski, Professor of Politics at Birkbeck College at the University of London, why women's representation at Westminster was making such slow progress?

81. WOMEN CHAMPIONING WOMEN

So what have women in Parliament been doing to champion issues of concern to women in the Country? Well if you asked them they'd say quite a lot. Sally Keeble for Labour, Caroline Spelman for the Conservatives, and Sandra Gidley of the Liberal Democrats have been talking to Linda Fairbrother about how Women MPs are helping us.

82. THERESA MAY MP

On the 23rd November the Conservatives' 'Women2Win' campaign celebrates its first birthday. So how effective has the campaign been? It has had its fair share of negative headlines but some positive ones too as more women creep onto the Cameron 'A list' of candidates. Women now make up almost 40 per cent of the candidates chosen to fight the most winnable seats. Yet even

the organisers admit "there is still so much to do." Boni Sones talked to Theresa May as she travelled back from one event on the train.

83. MONSTROUS REGIMENT

The 1997 election was extraordinary in many ways but not least because of the numbers of women in Parliament doubled from 60 to 120. Never before had the House encountered anything like it. And nor, it seems, had most of the n who joined it. Boni Sones, Deborah McGurran and Eva Simmons produced this documentary. It is presented by Jackie Ashley.

84. THE WORK OF THE SCIENCE COUNCIL

Every day we read about how science is governing our lives. There are headlines about climate change and the future of the planet, how unequal the world's health problems are particularly in countries like HIV and Aids stricken Africa, and how as a nation we are becoming more and more obese. Society needs scientists to help find solutions to these complex problems, so what does a career in science offer to young people and how can we ensure more young women opt for a career in science. Boni Sones reports.

ALL INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF CONTENT ON WPRADIO.CO.UK:

1. BARONESS JAY AND LAURA MOFFATT MP HELP VSO TACKLE GLOBAL POVERTY

Baroness Jay of Paddington and Laura Moffatt the Labour MP for Crawley have both done stints working as volunteers for VSO in a bid to help tackle global poverty.

VSO is the world's leading independent international development organisation that works through volunteers to fight poverty in developing countries.

Baroness Jay was among six parliamentarians to participate in the Parliamentary Volunteering Scheme this summer, where they helped to advise community organisations on matters relating to advocacy and campaigning.

In South Africa Baroness Jay ran a workshop on reducing the burden of HIV and AIDs care on women and girls. Last summer former nurse Laura Moffatt MP spent three weeks immersed in the health system of Sierra Leone, the poorest country in the world.

Linda Fairbrother spoke to them both with Katy Peach, Policy and Advocacy Manager at VSO.

2. PHILIPPA REISS THORNE - GONE RURAL IN SWAZILAND

Philippa Reiss Thorne is the Managing Director of Gone Rural in Swaziland. She is a 30-year-old social entrepreneur with a mission who has led a community of 700 women from 13 different communities throughout Swaziland, marketing and selling their Fair Trade

products all over the world and to top fashion designers and stores.

These rural communities now find themselves under more financial pressure than ever, having to pay for transport to clinics, school fees and to support more children. 80% of their women rely on Gone Rural as their sole income; each woman supports an average of 8 dependents; 82% of their husbands and partners are unemployed. Although extremely poor by western standards, these families will often take in neighbours children who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

Here Boni Sones spoke at length to Philippa about Gone Rural, its ethos and how it had managed to treble the daily wage of the women who work with it in just three years.

You can find out more at: <http://www.goneruralswazi.com>

3. DOLMA GYARI AND NGAWANG LHAMO, TIBETAN PARLIAMENT

The Tibetan Parliament-in-exile is located in the hill town of Dharamsala in northern India. Formed by the Dalai Lama less than a year after the uprising in Tibet against Chinese rule that led to his exile, the Parliament looks after the Tibetans across the world and provides a model for their homeland.

Dolma Gyari is the first woman to be elected as Deputy Speaker of the parliament-in-exile, and has since been re-elected three times. She has been a political activist for a number of years, and believes passionately about

the power of women to make change.

Member of the Tibetan parliament Ngawang Lhamo was born in Tibet, escaping into India as a child. Originally a teacher, she became General Secretary for the Tibetan Women's Association before founding a school for children with special needs.

Lucy Fairbrother spoke to the two women MPs about why their roles are so important to them as they visited the UK parliament.

4. LESLEY ABDELA MBE, SHEVOLUTION

Lesley Abdela, of Shevolution, has been working with other British based NGO groups to ensure that the UN Security Council Resolution 1235 is implemented, to help women's rights to be put top of the international agenda in conflict zones like Afghanistan, Congo, Nepal, Northern Ireland, and Sri Lanka.

Lesley has helped write a report for the Associate Parliamentary Group on "Women, Peace and Security", which draws up a global checklist for women in these conflict zones. Lesley has looked closely at what is happening in Nepal. Boni Sones spoke to her.

5. JANET HANSON, CEO AND FOUNDER OF 85 BROADS

The title might seem slightly disrespectful but Janet Hanson's global network of women called

"85 Broads" was named after the office address of Goldman Sachs where she worked in New York, not the other type of "Broads"! As global CEO and founder of "85 Broads" Janet Hanson has built up a global network community of 20,000 trailblazing women who want to create greater success for themselves, each other and the communities in which they live to affect change for women globally.

"85 Broads" recently launched its Cambridge Chapter at Judge Business School at Cambridge University where Boni Sones met up with the ebullient, entertaining and wise Janet Hanson.

6. BETSY KAWAMURA – INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNER AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Betsy Kawamura, is an international campaigner against gender based violence. She was herself a victim of gender based violence in Okinawa during the Vietnam war, and Betsy believes the voice of past victims of gender based violence can help heal others. She has told her story in the USA, Japan, Europe, Sri Lanka and now to various UN related agencies, to help raise awareness of all those exposed to GBV, including militarized GBV, prostitution and trafficking on an international level.

Writer Barbara Gorna first asked Betsy why she was a fierce champion of gender based violence

Then Barbara spoke to Betsy about the representation of women in International Parliaments.

The interviews took place in the House of Commons by the permanent exhibition to the suffragettes and the scarf of

Emily Wilding Davison who died staging a protest after being knocked down by the King's horse at Epsom races.

7. LUCY CHANGME

Lucy Changme, is the deputy minister for gender and women in development in the Zambian government. She is passionate about improving the education of girls, and getting more women into politics. Our wpradio.co.uk reporter Georgie Hemmingway caught up with her recently at a One World Action event to celebrate International Women's Day 09. Lucy told Georgie how she was pushing ahead with a gender based violence Bill in Zambia this year.

8. MARY HONEYBALL MEP "WOMEN IN POWER"

A new book listing all the elected female representatives in the European Parliament has discovered that the typical profile of a woman MEP is white, single, aged 52 and she has never had children. She holds a postgraduate degree in a science related subject and has worked in various scientific posts prior to her election. Like most political institutions across the world, women remain underrepresented in the European Parliament. Only 246 out of 785 MEPs are women – just 31 per cent, but this is still higher than the UK Parliament where women MPs make up 19.8 per cent of the total. "Women in Power: A Guide to Women Members of the European Parliament" has been written by Mary Honeyball MEP. Boni Sones spoke to her.

9. BRITAIN'S YOUNGEST MP JO SWINSON INTERVIEWS

MALALAI JOYA, THE YOUNGEST PERSON IN THE AFGHANISTAN PARLIAMENT

Malalai Joya defied death threats to travel on London's underground to be interviewed by 28 year old Liberal Democrat MP for East Dunbartonshire, Jo Swinson for Women's Parliamentary Radio at the House of Commons recently. She has just been given the Anna Politkovskaya award by the charity RAW on War in memory of the Russian journalist murdered two years ago in Moscow. "She lives a life of courage and truth-telling in the face of grave danger as Anna did," said Mariana Katzarova of RAW in War.

Malalai, now 30 years old, is currently suspended from the Parliament for saying: "A stable or a zoo is better than the legislature". She continues to campaign against the warlords. In this special documentary podcast Jo Swinson talks to Malalai and Boni Sones reads from the words of her friend, the campaigning journalist Glyn Strong.

10. MUMS FOR MUMS, ETHIOPIA

90 years since women in Britain first got the vote the UK Parliament still has only 20 per cent of women as MPs. In the United States, expectations for women to be in the very top jobs in politics are at the fore of the Presidential race. However, in Africa, some countries have achieved gender balanced parliaments after long internal struggles and wars. Ethiopia is working towards gender balanced parliaments at a regional and national level. It is one of the few countries in the developing World to be on course to meet the United

Nations Millennium Development Goals for the education and health of girls and women.

A project in the northern Tigray Region "Mums for Mums" is helping young single mothers in Mekelle, learn work based skills to provide for their children. It is run by Tebereh Woldegabriel, the Voluntary Executive Director. Her husband, Dr Solomon Inquai, is the retired Parliamentary speaker and head of social affairs in the Tigray region. Boni Sones spoke to them both. You can make a donation by going to www.mumsformums.com

11. WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Lorely Burt, the Liberal Democrat MP for Solihull, has just come back from an international conference in America to study how public procurement policies are helping to advance women in business and the equalities agenda. Lorely is her party's spokeswomen on Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and is the first female Chair of the Parliamentary party. She wants to see a big increase in women in business over here. Boni Sones spoke to her about the trip.

12. LESLEY ABDELA

Lesley Abdela needs no introduction in the world of women and politics. She has worked in over 30 countries advising on gender and democratic development. She is now Vice-President of the Electoral Reform Society and is a partner in Shevolution and Chief Executive of Project Parity. In 1980 she co-founded the 300 group, to get more women into the UK parliament, has received

a UK Woman of Europe award, and written and broadcast on the subject of women in politics. 90 years since women achieved the vote Boni Sones asked her how she rated the UK's progress on female representation in our parliament against other countries.

Lesley began by talking about Rwanda and Sweden which have the highest number of women in their parliaments of any country, and she's convinced that Britain needs both a proportional voting system and quotas to achieve change here.

Thanks to the Electoral Reform Society for sponsoring this interview.

13. SANDRA GIDLEY MP

Sandra Gidley is the Liberal Democrat MP for Romsey and the Health Spokesperson for her Party. She has used her professional training as a pharmacist to champion all kinds of health issues here and globally. In the UK she has been at the forefront of getting men to take health prevention seriously, improving alcohol awareness, and she is working across party on mental health issues. As a member of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Aids, she has visited Africa. Boni Sones asked her what could be done to further the Millennium Development Goals on health for women.

14. THE MOTHERS' UNION

The Christian organisation "The Mothers' Union", is a formidable campaigning organisation globally with 3.6 million members in 78 countries. It is asking governments to give financing to

help achieve the UN's Millennium Development Goal 3. This uses the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education as the indicator of the empowerment of women.

Boni Sones spoke to three MU members about the Mothers' Union work. Rachel Aston, Social Policy Officer, Vivian Kityo from Uganda, and Elizabeth Brown from Canterbury.

15. JOHN BERCOW MP

The Conservative backbench MP for Buckingham John Bercow is a supporter of human rights and women's rights internationally. A former backbencher of the year, Mr Bercow sits on the International Affairs Select Committee and chairs a committee looking into Genocide. He is a supporter of All Women Shortlists for his party, something others oppose, to get more women into Westminster and talks movingly of his visits to a Darfur refuge camp where he believes women and the love of their children, have been instrumental in rebuilding their war torn communities. Boni Sones asked him why he has championed women's rights here and internationally with such commitment and passion.

16. WOMEN MATTER

Andrew Selous the Conservative MP for South West Bedfordshire has signed a motion in Parliament calling on the government to help women affected by HIV and AIDS in the developing world. The Women Matter campaign, has been launched by the leading international development charity VSO. It is asking the UK's Department for International

Development to put women at the heart of its new global HIV and AIDS strategy. Brian Shallcross of GCap Media spoke to him. Thanks to GCap for the interview.

17. DIANA WALLIS MEP -
LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The British Liberal Democrat MEP for Yorkshire and the Humber, Diana Wallis is Vice President of the European Parliament. Diana is the first British female of any party to be elected to this position. Her roots in politics began in 1994 as a councillor on Humberside County Council. She became an MEP in 1999. In Europe Diana, a solicitor, is a spokesperson on the Legal Affairs Committee, she is also a full member of the Petitions Committee, in which she has championed citizen friendly legislation. On a flying visit to Westminster, she snatched a few moments to talk to Boni Sones and admitted her

early fears of chairing those huge committee meetings.

18. A NEW YEAR WISH FOR
"DISARMAMENT AND
GLOBALISATION" FROM
BARONESS WILLIAMS
OF CROSBY

Shirley Williams is an unofficial advisor to the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, on Nuclear Proliferation and Safety. She was a member of the Wilson and Callaghan Governments in the 1960s and 1970s. In 1981 she co-founded the Social Democratic Party, becoming the first MP elected for the SDP in 1981. Here she tells Boni Sones, why disarmament is the most pressing problem the World now needs to address.

19. RHODA KALEMA

Rhoda Kalema, the "Mother" of the Ugandan Parliament, tells here in her own words her story of imprisonment in Uganda before going on to become an MP herself and helping to set up a Commission to help women

and their families. She talked to Boni Sones.

20. A RISING TIDE

Women in the UK have been at the forefront of helping women internationally to progress their careers in politics. Many have to struggle to get their voices heard and suffer at the hands of oppressive regimes. No more so than in modern Uganda. A book "A Rising Tide", tells the histories of modern women politicians there from the 1940s through to the present time. "A Ugandan women's Struggle for a Public Voice 1940-2004" is published by Forwode. Here Sue Woodsford, tells how she supported one of those women, Rhoda Kalema, when she was in prison. Sue begins by reading Rhoda's story. Other stories in the book are read in this one hour radio documentary by Patricia Lashely, of Momentum Arts, and Boni Sones.

Photographs of Women MPs

(The National Portrait Gallery photo launch is copyright owned by wpradio.co.uk and the four photographs have already been purchased by the House of Commons Works of Art Committee.)



A PRIVATE PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWING OF WOMEN MPs IN WESTMINSTER WAS UNVEILED AT THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY IN THE AUTUMN 2008 TO MARK 90 YEARS SINCE WOMEN WERE FIRST GIVEN THE VOTE.

The original "Blair's Babes" Reuters photographer Kieran Doherty was invited back to Westminster to take the historic group photographs by Women's Parliamentary Radio working in association with the Labour, Conservative, and Liberal Democrat Parties and the Independent Labour Party.

Jackie Ashley, Chair of Women's Parliamentary

Radio said: "Kieran Doherty's photographic viewing is a remarkable achievement for all concerned. To be able to take photographs of this many women MPs this quickly shows the true talents of a news photographer at the top of his profession. Kieran remained cool throughout and fully in command of his art as the women leapt in and out of the photographs. He even managed to capture the Dalai Lama as he bid his farewell to Westminster after speaking in Parliament Hall and the tallest and shortest female MPs standing back to back. It was a really historic day on many fronts."

Boni Sones, Executive Producer of wpradio.co.uk

said: "When I co-authored the book "Women in Parliament: The New Suffragettes", with Margaret Moran MP and Professor Joni Lovenduski, in 2005, I stated in the introduction that when you walked around galleries like the National Portrait Gallery all you could see were male MPs waving order papers. A prominent national visual image of our women MPs in Westminster is needed to show all women that politics is a career they can aspire to and to mark the considerable achievements of contemporary female MPs, 90 years since women first got the vote."

Until now the most often used photographic image of women MPs has been the so called "Blair Babes" picture taken on 7th May 1997 shortly after 101 Labour women were elected to Westminster as a result of positive action by the Labour Party. That picture was taken by Reuter's Kieran Doherty, who had climbed up the steps to get the women looking up at him and waving. Many disliked it.

On May 21st 2008 Kieran was invited back to Westminster at the invitation of Boni Sones, founder of Women's Parliamentary Radio, to photograph the women MPs again. The new composite portraits, taken party by party over three photo calls, aim to ensure that a more enduring image of women's participation in the political process survives.

Each party gave its permission for the photograph to be taken to mark 90 years since women first got the vote. In February 1918 women over 30 were first granted the vote and 10 years later in July 1928 the voting age was lowered to 21.

104 out of a possible 125 women MPs were photographed. 83 of the 95 Labour women MPs were photographed, 11 of the 17 Conservative women, all 9 of the Liberal Democrat women MPs, and Clare Short, Independent Labour.

Kieran Doherty assembled the women on the steps at New Palace Yard, under Big Ben in the heart of the Westminster village where the women

are well used to assembling to have their photographs taken.

Kieran said: "I was worried about the weather in the days leading up to the photo calls but in the end I was lucky and the rain stopped. The late May, early June light was ideal for photographs of this nature. It is certainly one of the more challenging and significant assignments of my news photography career."

As Caroline Spelman MP, Chairman of the Conservative Party, arrived for the photo call she announced that "The Carlton Club" had just voted to accept women. The viewing is entitled "The Day the Carlton Club accepted women - 90 years after women first got the vote."

It was also the day after the controversial vote on the Human Embryology and Fertilisation Bill when lowering the legal time limit on abortions from 24 to 22 weeks had been discussed and defeated. It was also the day before the Crewe and Nantwich by-election following the death of the longest serving woman MP, Gwyneth Dunwoody. In America, Hillary Clinton was battling for the Democratic Party's nomination for the presidency which Barack Obama eventually won two weeks later.

The composite photographs are taken party by party with Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Independent Labour. The three major parties then had women as Chairs or Chairmen or Chairwomen. Harriet Harman MP QC the Labour Party Chair, Caroline Spelman MP Chairman of the Conservative Party, and Lorely Burt, Chair of the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Party. All three were photographed separately.

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WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY RADIO



70 Great Russell Street
London
WC1B 3JJ

Mobile: 07703 716961