



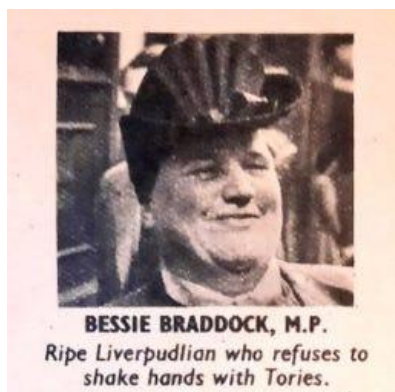
**COLLECTIVE
ENCOUNTERS**



Battling Bessie Braddock By Diane Jansen

The Ruler : Political activism, Social Welfare, Misogyny.

Bessie Braddock was born 1899 in the everton area, 23 Zante street. A trade union activist and politician. She was Liverpool's first woman MP, elected member of parliament and held the seat for 24 years. She represented the working class housing, the NHS, maternity and child welfare. Also she was responsible for putting the lion quality mark on British eggs, gaining the title battling Bessie.



BESSIE BRADDOCK, M.P.
*Ripe Liverpudlian who refuses to
shake hands with Tories.*

Bessie put up with a lot of abuse about her clothes and weight. A quote from Bessie to Winston. Churchill, "Winston, you are drunk and what's more, disgustingly drunk." He replied, "Bessie, my dear, you are ugly, and what's more, you are disgustingly ugly, but tomorrow I shall be sober and you will still be disgustingly ugly."

Images: Top right: Bessie visiting slums, source not found. Bottom left originally taken from *Picture Post's* preview of the 1952 Labour conference held in Morecambe.

<https://www.sinceattleeandchurchill.com/>

Not that everything she did was ideal, especially for the people of the Tryweryn Valley. When it was transformed into a reservoir, she quoted, "it was progress."

A statue by Tom Murphy, a Liverpool sculptor can be seen at Lime Street Station opposite Ken Dodds. It shows a huge black bag she always carried with her, which no one seemed to know what was inside. I like to think it was a dozen eggs.

NorthWalesLive 



Above photo by North Wales Live
21st Oct 2015.

Right cutting from an article in The
Guardian on the 40 year anniversary,
13 Oct 2005

First proposed in 1956, the reservoir drowned the village of Capel Celyn and its farms, cottages, post office, school and Methodist chapel. Sixty-five million gallons of Welsh water were then pumped to homes and factories in Liverpool every day. "Everyone deplores the fact that in the interests of progress, some people must suffer," Liverpool MP Bessie Braddock told the Commons at the time. "But that is progress."

Eight hundred acres of land were bought by compulsory purchase, which had to be approved by parliament, but 35 out of 36 Welsh MPs voted against.

In the draft motion (in which Tryweryn is spelt wrongly), the city council acknowledges its debt to the many thousands of Welsh people who have made their homes in the city. "We realise the hurt of 50 years ago when the Tryweryn valley was transformed into a reservoir to help meet the water needs of Liverpool."

(N.B The protest took place at the statue by Tom Murphy on 21st Oct 2015, to mark the 50 year anniversary of the opening of Tryweryn reservoir, for which an entire village was drowned out so that the water could be sold off to other cities around the UK).

Women in Action

Women in Action, which I go to every Tuesday, has made me more self confident and developed new skills, performing in Aunty and Impro Level two and taking part in our pantomime at the Unity Theatre with rave reviews, gaining a sense of pride with the rest of the cast, and what we achieved with Joanne Tremarco. Also met people of different personalities, age and gender, but when we have a task or research to do, we all pull together. The arts are important to me, and I'm able to develop it further at Women in Action by learning new skills and gaining friendships.



Photograph by Jazmin Sinclair of WiA's "Auntie" which drew on the BBC archives to explore changes to women's rights and representation in the 1960's to

present day. Auntie was devised with, and directed by Tessa Buddle and written by Mandy Redvers - Rowe.