

Mary Hankinson (1868-1952)

Mary Hankinson entered Madame Bergman Österberg's College in 1896 as a mature student. She was a founder member of the organisation which became known as The Ling Association.

Mary was instrumental in the development of the game of netball and was also a founding member of the All England Women's Netball Association in 1926.

She was also a member of the Women's Freedom League, one of the militant suffrage societies. She was a very active suffragette. Mary became President of the Gymnastic Teachers' Suffrage Society in 1913. Her brother was Unitarian chaplain to Holloway prison and he was used by Christabel Pankhurst as a conduit of information to and from suffragette prisoners

From 1905 until 1948 Mary was a member of the Fabian Society. She was employed in 1907 to give instruction in Swedish drill and country dancing at the first Fabian Summer School which was funded by Charlotte Shaw. For the next thirty years she was in charge of all the Fabian summer schools.

See *Women and her Sphere* posted on 17th September 2017

Suffrage Stories: The Fabian Glass Panel and its Suffrage Connections by Elizabeth Crawford