

CREATIVE WOMEN OF HULL

Hull has produced some amazingly creative women. Use these cards to discover more about them. How many had you heard of? Who in your opinion is the most important? Expand your knowledge further by researching your Hull heroine.

POSSIBLE TASKS FOR CARDS

- Put the cards into a timeline
- How were these women linked to Hull?
- How could you sum up their achievements in 10 words?
- Group women together e.g. area of work/level of success/when they were alive
- What historical events would have impacted on these women?
- Which woman in your view is most important?

EXTENSION TASK

- Investigate historical creative women from across Yorkshire
- Explore historical creative women from across the UK
- Bring this information together in a display, webpage or presentation to inspire the rest of the class or school

LINKS TO HULL 2017

- Women of the World Hull hull2017.co.uk/WOW
- Editorial: Leginska the enigma hull2017.co.uk/discover/article/leginska-the-enigma/
- What's on: Ethel Leginska the Musical Pioneer hull2017.co.uk/whatson/events/leginska/



WINIFRED HOLTBY



Born on 23 June 1898 in the East Yorkshire village of Rudston, Winifred Holtby was a journalist and author. Browns of Hull printed a book of her poems when she was just thirteen and after attending Oxford University Holtby became a journalist and campaigner for women's rights. Her novels include *The Land of Green Ginger* which was named after the street in Hull and *South Riding* which included a fictional city called Kingsport based on Hull.



MADAME CLAPHAM

Born in Cheltenham, Madame Clapham (otherwise known as Emily Clapham) opened up a dress making salon at no.1 Kingston Square in Hull in 1887. Known as Hull's 'finest dressmaker' Madame Clapham brought 19th century glamour to Hull and successfully competed with London and Paris fashion houses with a large and illustrious clientele, which included Queen Maud of Norway, the daughter of King Edward VII of England.



SHIRLEY CRAVEN



Shirley Craven has been described as the most gifted textile designer of her generation. Born in Hull in 1934 she studied at Hull College of Art before going on to the Royal College of Art to study printed design. Craven became Colour and Design Consultant for London-based Hull Traders (named after the founder Tristram Hull) and through Hull Trader's totem range her fabrics graced homes across the UK in the 1960s.



ETHEL LEGINSKA

Ethel Liggins was born into a shipping family in Hull in 1886 and became a child musical prodigy playing piano recitals at the age of six. She changed her name to Leginska as she believed that musicians with Polish or Russian names were more successful. Leginska made great leaps forward for women in the arts, becoming a highly influential conductor, pianist, composer and teacher. She became the first woman to conduct her own orchestra in a leading opera house and also conducted her own all-female orchestra. By 1907 Leginska had become so recognised she was asked to play for Queen Alexandra and the ladies of the court, where the Queen commented on her excellent technique.



STEVIE SMITH

Stevie Smith was born in Hull in 1902, christened Florence Margaret Smith, was a poet and novelist. She acquired her nickname in her early twenties whilst riding on the London commons when a friend compared her to jockey Steve Donoghue.

Although Stevie's poetry was at first less successful than her novels, the publication of her best-known collection *Not Waving But Drowning* in 1957 resulted in her becoming more widely known. Stevie's work often expressed sadness and isolation with her poetry being darkly comic in style. Stevie won the *Cholmondeley Award for Poets* in 1966 and the *Queen's Gold Medal for poetry* in 1969. Stevie also inspired writers such as Amy Jenkins, who went on to write the novels *Honeymoon* and *Funny Valentine*.



DOROTHY MACKAILL

Born in Hull in 1903 Dorothy Mackaill went on to become a Hollywood star starring alongside Louise Brooks, Humphrey Bogart and John Barrymore. She attended Thoresby Primary School and went onto become a dancer at the world famous Ziegfeld Follies in Paris. Mackaill acted in over 30 films including Safe in Hell and Love Affair often playing strong female characters and earning as much as \$100,000 a film. She retired from acting and lived out her days in The Royal Hawaiian Hotel in Hawaii sunbathing and playing cards.