

# Women-Information Sheet 6.

The following extracts are taken from the research notes of David Parker while he was putting together his book "The people of Devon in the First World War". The History press 2013.

They give you an example of the range of roles women played during the war and some of the attitudes had towards women and their place in society.

## **MID DEVON and Newton TIMES. 26 September 1914**

*Newton Abbot Ladies working party publishes weekly total of goods made and sent to St Johns Ambulance - last week 6 night shirts, 18 pillow cases, 100 bandages, 6 bed jackets, 3L shirts, 100 pairs of socks, 21 pillows, 4 scarves, 17 dozen handkerchiefs.*

## **MID DEVON and Newton TIMES 1918.12 January 1918**

*Editorial criticising new Lord Clifford's (10th Lord from 1916) outburst in Lords against the proposal to extend female suffrage, he wants it to be for over 30s only at most, He said 'The mass of people must be led to success by aristocracy or to ruin by its democracy'; 'His idea was government of the foolish by the wise'; Mid Devon Times scathing when the unions and Labour MPs, and cited John Burns, J H Thomas, and John Hodge, are so sensible. Clifford called the common people 'a herd' and quite incapable of self-government.*

## **North Devon Journal. 20 July 1916**

*Barnstaple WAC meeting at which Miss Chichester said farmers don't want women, and many women won't register for work for fear of being sent to farms although they're happy to do other war work; Chair Mr T Yeo read letter saying farmers can apply for short-term soldier help from nearby military camps - usually 6 day's work allowed.*

## **South Molton Gazette.7 November 1914**

*Publishes letter from wives of Archbishop of Canterbury, and Bishops of Rochester and Southwark on what women at home can do in wartime - (i) work in spare time , (ii) pray for men at home, at work as well as church etc, (iii) have and show high expectations that they will be 'steady and brave and good men'-'Many a man has been kept good by thinking of the good straight girl he knows at home who expects him to be good and straight. 'For some it's certain death-a man should not carry to war 'as his last remembrance of the women and girls of England anything but what is pure and gentle and straight and true.'*