



Coventry TUC

Koco Unit 15,
Arches Industrial Estate, Spon End
Coventry CV1 3JQ
tel: 07958985614
e-mail: coventrytuc@gmail.com

Alice Arnold Memorial Lecture 2020

From Workhouse to Mayor

Speaker:

Dr Cathy Hunt



**Mon 16th March
7pm**

**Council House
Coventry
CV1 5RR**

From Workhouse to Mayor: the life, times and legacy of Alice Arnold, Coventry trade unionist and socialist

Alice Arnold was a women's organiser for the workers' union in Coventry between 1917 and 1931. She was first elected as a Labour councillor just over 100 years ago, in 1919, and became the city's first woman mayor in 1937.

In the months and years after the First World War, women who'd worked in engineering and munitions were being told to "think less about employment rights and political activity and more about accepting their responsibility to society to get married and produce children". Alice Arnold, as a trade union organiser and Labour councillor, was determined to challenge employers not prepared to tolerate a militant and organised female workforce.

Dr Cathy Hunt gained her doctorate from Coventry University researching the life of Alice Arnold and Coventry's trade unionism and municipal politics in the years between the wars. She is now an author and a leading expert on the history of women's trade unionism in Britain. Her most recent book is "Righting the Wrong" a biography of Mary MacArthur, the leader of the Cradley Heath Chain Makers' Strike of 1910.

Coventry TUC is proud to relaunch an annual commemoration of Alice Arnold's pioneering union and political work. This follows our successful memorial lecture in October 2019 to Tom Mann, Coventry born trade union leader who led the fight, in the late 19th century, for the eight hour day.

An exhibition of material illuminating Alice Arnold's struggles and that period of Coventry's history will be displayed by kind permission of Coventry Archives at the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum.

Everyone is welcome

**Register an interest and follow up-to-date news on Facebook
at <http://bit.ly/AliceArnoldLecture2020>**

**Further information from coventrytuc@gmail.com
or 07958 985 614 (p&p)**