**First President of S.I. Halifax 1928 - 1930**

**LAURA ANNIE WILLSON 1877 – 1942**

**Builder, Engineer and Suffragette**

In March 1907 Laura Willson was arrested at Westminster and imprisoned. She was one of 75 women arrested after a suffragette rally that concluded with an attempt to gain access to Parliament. Found guilty of disorderly conduct, she was sentenced to 14 days in Holloway.

In September 1907 Laura presided over a meeting of the Halifax local branch of the Women’s Social and Political Union addressed by Adela, the daughter of Emmeline Pankhurst. Laura had earlier in the year been imprisoned at Armley in connection with her support for the Hebden Bridge weavers’strike, where she had been charged with making “a violent and inflammatory speech “. Having refused to be bound over she was imprisoned in Armley.

For the remainder of her life she continued to campaign for the welfare of women and children.