

April 2016

Production note [www.parliamentaryradio.com](http://www.parliamentaryradio.com)

Dear Colleague,

As you know we started up [www.wpradio](http://www.wpradio.com) in March 2007 after writing a book on women in parliament and relaunched it as [www.parliamentaryradio](http://www.parliamentaryradio.com) in September 2011. We have always tried to be impartial and cross party giving our work added importance and authenticity. It is funded and run by me with the support of women across party and the broadcast journalists Jackie Ashley, Linda Fairbrother and Deborah McGurran. Our web manager Adrian Wright deserves credit.

Since depositing our 350 interviews into the LSE Archives, and our 82 interviews into the British Library (copyrighted to me) I have run [www.parliamentaryradio.com](http://www.parliamentaryradio.com) through my own production website and I am fully aware that it could and should be relaunched at some time on another independent platform as before. For this to happen it needs further partnership working and funding. Alongside me Jackie Ashley, Linda Fairbrother and Deborah McGurran retain copyright for all.

Since January 2016 we have also put out content on the blog and audio podcast site of the Centre for Business Research at the University of Cambridge where it is clocking up a good number of shares sometimes into four figures. <http://www.blogs.jbs.cam.ac.uk/cbr/>. Amazing. More recently I have broadcast through Soundcloud and Twitter, <https://soundcloud.com/stream> cutting out the need for a web host for our broadcasts.

I think that one of our major achievements is to be accepted into the Lobby as a weekly contributor to politics for the last decade. This body of work has required sensitivity and has been held together for a decade by a stable and knowledgeable team of MPs and journalists across party including a team of MP Advisory Board members. Our Conservative MPs were: Caroline Spelman, Eleanor Laing, and Penny Morduant. The other advisory board members have been: Gisela Stuart MP, editor of House Magazine, and Barbara Keely MP for Labour and Baroness Susan Kramer and Lynne Featherstone for the Liberal Democrats. The former LD MP Jo Swinson was influential in helping us get started.

We not only take a serious look at the public policy issues that MPs women and men are raising on behalf of women and families but we also capture interviews with those MPs straight after the most recent debates on these issues, making our coverage authentic and relevant rather than satirical. We try to ask questions that put one side and then the other respectfully!

Here is a list of what we have achieved and where our work now is:

February 2016 and interview with Baroness Featherstone on her new book 'Equal Ever After: The fight for same-sex marriage and how Lynne Featherstone made it happen', Now deposited with the History of Parliament Trust.

January 2016 The Conservative Parties 25 year fight for equality, a two part audio documentary with Bernard Jenkin, Caroline Spelman, Maria Miller, Margot James, Caroline Dinenage (listed in order of when they took up their seats in the Commons) now deposited with the History of Parliament Trust and on our website. An accompanying print article has also been written and published in House Magazine.

In October 2015 [www.parliamentaryradio.com](http://www.parliamentaryradio.com) team won an Honourable Mention in the IAWRT (International Association of Women in Radio and TV) awards. We were the only UK winner for our documentary on the Labour women's fight for equality in Westminster since the 1980s and our teams ten interviews. <http://www.iawrt.org/iawrt-2015-international-awards-0>. Dr Paul Seaward, Director of the History of Parliament Trust was a collaborator in this work and has put our ten audio interviews and two-part documentary in his archives.

From March 2014 all 350 interviews for [www.wpradio.co.uk](http://www.wpradio.co.uk) and [www.parliamentaryradio.com](http://www.parliamentaryradio.com) recorded from March 2007 to March 2014 were deposited at the London School of Economics. They are now catalogued in the "Boni Sones and Associates" archive at the LSE:

<http://archives.lse.ac.uk/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=SONES&pos=1> and  
<http://archives.lse.ac.uk/TreeBrowse.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&field=RefNo&key=SONES>

In March 2014 our second book *When There's a Woman in the Room* was published and Penny mentioned it in the *Chamber* <http://www.amazon.co.uk/When-Theres-Woman-Room-Shaping/dp/0956587194>.

The Bodleian Library Oxford University, The Cambridge University Library, National Library of Scotland, National Library of Wales and Trinity College Dublin all requested copies of our 2014 book. The National People's History Museum in Manchester, also list it.

In August 2010 the British Library opened a historical audio archive of 82 interviews of women in politics from the first book (it took six years of asking for me to get all the necessary permissions for these and some are still under wraps). <http://www.bl.uk/press-releases/2010/september/hear-hear-the-truth-behind-blairs-babes-and-camerons-cuties?mobile=off>.

In July 2010 we read from our audio interviews and they were displayed on a wall with headphones at the Tricycle Theatre London in a play about women in politics.  
<http://www.tricycle.co.uk/festivals/women-power-and-politics/> (Westminster should do the same!)

The House of Commons Works of Art Committee purchased four photographic portraits of women MPs party by party taken by the Reuters photographer Kieran Doherty who took the famous Blair's Babe photograph, which I studio produced in 2009.  
<http://www.parliament.uk/worksofart/artwork/kieran-doherty/the-day-the-carlton-club-accepted-women---90-years-after-women-got-the-vote-labour-women-mps/6929>. In January 2013 the National People's History Museum listed them as its object of the month <http://www.phm.org.uk/> The United Nations has also collected them. In 2015 all four portraits featured in the House of Commons art exhibition of women in politics thanks to Melanie Unwin the Deputy Curator. They have also been acquired free of charge by the United Nations to assist with its development work.

In October 2005 our first cross party book on women in politics book was published,  
[http://www.amazon.co.uk/Women-Parliament-Suffragettes-Boni-Sones/dp/1842751409/ref=asap\\_bc?ie=UTF8](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Women-Parliament-Suffragettes-Boni-Sones/dp/1842751409/ref=asap_bc?ie=UTF8) It was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize for journalism. Three years later in 2008 it led to an award for us at the Women in Public Policy event that year and we were shortlisted for a Channel 4 Democracy award too.

In August 2005 Jackie Ashley of the Guardian, who then became chair of [www.parliamentaryradio.com](http://www.parliamentaryradio.com) wrote about the derision women in the Chamber faced  
<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2005/aug/29/mondaymediasection3>. This led to an apology by Roy Greenslade in *Media Guardian* to them all.  
<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2005/aug/29/mondaymediasection4>

More recently The History of Parliament Trust has supported us and held our archive material, including another documentary "Through the Looking Glass" and the 70 audio interviews we made in May 2015 looking at how parties fight a General Election locally and it covers the technological changes politics is now embracing too. Dr Paul Seward has given this work fulsome praise and encouraged us to do it in partnership with Cambridge City Council. He said: *"As the organisation compiling a history of parliamentary and electoral politics in the United Kingdom from the middle ages to the (near) present day, we've been keen to see Boni's project flourish as it's something we would like to see being done more broadly across the country. We'll be holding on to Boni's recordings to add to our own archive of material on politics and elections. I'm delighted that they are so full a record of an exciting election, and perhaps may form a basis for other projects that we could get going across the country."*  
It is soon to be turned into a book. <http://www.bonisonesproductions.com/lookingglass/index.html>

Our history is written up in more detail in our Wikipedia entry:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s\\_Parliamentary\\_Radio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_Parliamentary_Radio)

End.