

STALL STORIES

Sylvia Jones loves explaining the history of her collection of green, white and violet jewellery.

Known as suffragette jewellery because it was worn to show support for the women's suffrage movement, each turn-of-the-century gold piece is set with stones representing the suffragettes' symbolic colours.

'The initial letters of the words green, white and violet stand for Give Women Votes, and the colours also have symbolic meanings: green for hope, white for purity and violet for dignity. The traditional stones used were peridot, pearls and amethyst,' says Sylvia who, as part of antique jewellery specialist Anderson Jones, has been exhibiting at this fair for more than 15 years. Ladies of substance commissioned each piece individually. 'It was worn with great pride but made in secret because it was commercial suicide for a jeweller to be associated with the movement'. That makes it rare to find suffragette jewellery in a named box. But even without such packaging, each piece sells for £600 to £3,000.

