



International Women's Day Event Report for Wem Rural Parish Council

"A FIRST FOR WEM"

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IS NOT JUST FOR WOMEN. GENDER EQUALITY IS AN ISSUE FOR EVERYONE

Started in 1911 International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

Wem Rural Parish Council hosted it's first event to celebrate the local success of women.

2024 Theme

The theme for 2024 was **Inspire Inclusion** and was used to raise awareness of digital inclusion as this is a concern for many women locally.

MORE THAN

500

WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN ATTENDED THE EVENT

Planning the Event

A core group of women met on a regular basis and helped the Clerk to plan this event which included managing volunteers, finding speakers and performances.

All of the women have shown an interest to continue to meet. (Around 20 local business-women, volunteers, councillors or retired)

INCLUDING STUDENTS FROM THOMAS ADAMS AND ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Event

It was a well attended event by people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, lifestyles views with one thing in common - celebrating local women.

INCLUDING LOCAL BUSINESS WOMEN AND VISITORS



Exhibition Area

There were over 25 Exhibitors in the Main Hall including activities for people to try such as playing a keyboard powered by a banana, learning how to crochet and learning more about engineering.

Resources

A Careers Workbook was created so that students, or those looking for career guidance, could find out more about what jobs they are best suited to along with activities to complete. Further career guidance was also available to pick up.

Shropshire Women that Inspire us

Students from Thomas Adams School made a display board featuring local women that inspired them.

Funding & Sponsorship

This event was funded by Full Fibre along with some local businesses that purchased the IWD merchandise and printing. They were Monks Estate Agents, Hatchers Solicitors, VET SOS and Digital Online Brand.

Feedback

We received a lot of positive feedback throughout the day with people asking if we will be hosting this event for next year. A survey was sent to attendees and you can read the results in the feedback below.

Some suggestions for future events included hosting the event on a Saturday so that people who work can attend, improve the sound system in the main hall and don't put on more than one talk or activity at the same time so that people can attend everything available.

2025

Put the date in your diary for Saturday 8th March 2025 as there is an expectation for Wem Rural Parish Council to host another excellent event, however we'll have to do something drastic to improve upon this one!

Funding up to £1,000 will cover the cost of putting on this event.

Pledges

Throughout the day attendees were asked what could they do for forge gender equality.

You can read these pledges in this report.

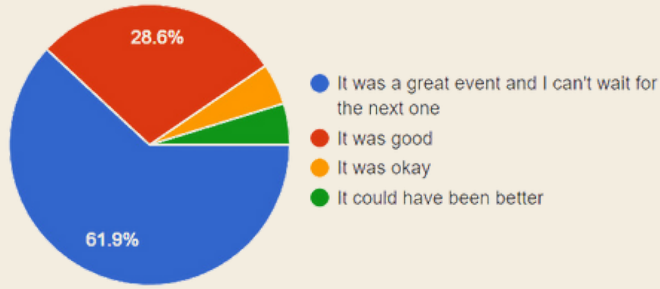
Highlights from the day

Some of the highlights included a dance performance from Derwen College, a free Burlesque Workshop and a the friendly atmosphere that so many people commented on.



Survey Results

Overall, how much did you enjoy International Women's Day?



Please share with us why you feel that way about the event

- Very positive atmosphere
- A lovely, welcoming day with some great connections made.
- Really exciting to see so many inspirational women coming together to inspire the next generation
- Everyone who visited engaged with each other it soon changed the atmosphere a real buzz followed around Wen Town Hall and I hope everyone left with a positive attitude .
- So much to see and do
- An impressive and wide range of participants, plus lots of visitors
- I was unable to attend as I work full time (unable to take time off)
- Lots of people, the children enjoyed the interactive line dancing session
- I loved meeting all the people who were involved. Wem has some very interesting and inspiring women who work dammed hard to pave their way in life and very often helping others too.
- it was extremely well organised
- Great vibes. Energy. Good to see many age groups.
- Great workshops and stalls. Well attended by a range of age groups. Lots of fun for all!!!
- It was very busy which was great and worthwhile going, however my only feedback really is the setting for the talks.
- It worked very well because it hadn't been done before but repeating it too often might not be so successful. Another event with a different theme might be an idea, but it would depend on the aim, and whether to celebrate International Women's Day in the same way would be best.
- Seeing so many positive stories was inspiring.
- So great to have the event in Wem, for it to be so well organised and attended and bring a buzz to the townhall.
- It was great, one little pointer when we have talks it was relevant that the school children attend as this information was for them not the ladies in the room who already had successful careers/business
- Great speakers, great networking, incredibly well organised.
- I thought the variety of attractions was great and brilliantly organised
- We had a chance to meet local young people with an interest in engineering.



Survey Results

If you attended any of the talks, workshops or performances which one was your favourite and why?

- Only managed mine.. had a great art session!
- I only attended one because I was busy with my own, but I thought Hannah from Mary's Meals was excellent (and not just because she's my friend!)
- Lesley Picton so engaging
- Alison Utting talk 👍 all dance workshops 👍 Derwen dancers 👍 all excellent and fun 😊
- Pauline Dee - such an interesting lady who is passionate about Wem
- We listened to Pauline Dee and found it really interesting.
- The dance group from Derwen was by far my favourite . Why ? My elder brother was ' special needs' and back in the day they didn't have this kind of interaction with the public. The group were fabulous!
- to ones I saw were great
- Enjoyed Pauline Dee and Hatcher solicitor. Both examples of Shropshire people who have been successful in a rural area. So important that people can stay and live here.
- They were all very interesting and totally engaging - even the talks with fewer people.
- Liked them all, especially the dance routine before by the children.
- The kids dancing was uplifting and inspiring.
- Aggie by A Shropshire Lass.
- I would like to do a "how to set up a craft business" workshop instead.
- Some of the talks were of limited use to be honest. The crowd numbers were extremely low. The performances were fantastic, especially the dance group.

If you visited the Main Hall what did you think of the exhibition area? Please let us know which ones you like the best.

- It was great to connect with all stalls
- It was all fab. The variety was wonderful. Loved the displays made by Thomas Adams students.
- Airbus never heard of them such a great opportunity right on our door step
- All stakeholders friendly, good mix of interesting stalls, hard to choose one over another
- The stall for International Women ... very inspiring. I hope the children got the message.
- very well set out, lots of things to see and do
- Wonderful Derwen dancers and joined in and enjoyed the singing demo.
- I thought the talks were in a strange place and needed some privacy / semi privacy.
- Exhibition area well set out, exhibitors very approachable and prepared to talk about their exhibit. Wouldn't like to single out any particular one, but interesting to talk to RAF Shawbury
- Very good- lots of variety and helpful ladies.
- Great variety, looked around with my two young boys and bought bits. My 4 year old was excited to speak to the Airbus engineers. I would have liked to attend a talk but not possible whilst having caring responsibilities.
- It was a bit busy, but that did help to create an atmosphere
- Hall was nice but there wasn't enough space for the number of exhibitors, everything was too cramped with not enough room to move around.
- Diverse selection of stalls.I loved that the schools were involved. I didn't get chance to view all the stalls.



WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE THINGS ABOUT International Women's Day?

Meeting other people

Seeing so many people taking an interest

We had a young lady that spent 10 minutes at the Airbus stand. She talked about her passion for aviation and expressed an interest in coming to us for work experience when she was old enough

Loved lots of talking eg to Airbus young engineer. Met and talked with others who I didn't know. A very uplifting event.

the day as a whole was fantastic, really good to see everyone getting involved

I did really well on my stall, so having the chance to sell and promote my business was a bonus. The atmosphere was great. The best thing was probably Pauline Dee

Being able to speak with young people and tell them about the benefits of credit unions

The girls enjoyed their visit and said it was "the best morning ever."

The acknowledgement of the importance of raising awareness and championing the strength of women in all they do

Having the opportunity to exhibit my work. Many thanks for inviting me to be part of the day.

Great Networking

Very busy and worth while going which was good.

The whole event was 'full on' all day. Great to see Thomas Adams pupils attending and taking part. For me the dancing 🎉 was great 👍

Derwen College dance troupe

Everything

There was a lovely buzz



FEEDBACK

At International Women's Day

Would you be interested in attending an event next year and is there anything you think we can improve?

Yes to attending.
Can't think of any improvement



yes I be happy to attend next year.

Yes. More of the same!



Earlier notification of the program

I was acting as a WTH volunteer 'Marshal' and really enjoyed the buzz of the day. Quite a long day standing most of time till 4pm and after but I would be happy to do it all again next year 🙌

Yes, happy to support next year. Consideration needs to be given to using a venue to the best advantage and to allow speakers to be heard.

I would be interested in attending next year. As a successful female business owner of many years



Yes, the talks are too encourage children into areas that they might not have necessary thought about, but children were rushed straight up to workshops shortly after arriving.

We didn't have much space around our stand. If we could be put at the far end of the hall next year I'm sure we would have enough space.

Run some of the event outside 9-5 working hours, eg afternoon into the evening or on a Saturday



Be more clear on what to expect on the programme. More spotlights on local women. You did an amazing job Helen. Well done xx

Yes we would like to come again next year



Possibly fewer talks to maximise attendance at each talk.

Yes. I know some people who were working were disappointed they couldn't attend. A difficult one because some stall holders and workshop people might be less willing/ able to attend to contribute

PLEDGES

At International Women's Day

I will help forge women's equality by:

Celebrating history

encouraging younger women
being a good role model to younger women and men

raising awareness

remembering where we came from

women can pilot just as good as men
women can do computer science too, not just men!

speaking out about women's rights
stand up to sexist comments and behaviour!

getting involved in different activities
standing up for other women and their rights

remembering that women can do anything they put their mind to
raising awareness in our community and combatting misogynistic views

ignoring sexist comments

PLEDGES

At International Women's Day

I will help forge women's equality by:

achieve my life goals

doing well in school and getting my dream job.

be a good human

saying as parents encourage our girls to do anything and everything by standing up and helping others when needed

breaking the gender gap with the tech sector

supporting and encouraging ALL women with POSITIVITY!

by promoting women's independence in school environment

encouraging and enabling women to stand and be counted and actively participate

encouraging more women to get involved in decision making at a local and national level

championing women advocating for equality and challenging stereotypes

encouraging women to continue to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities being offered

PLEDGES

At International Women's Day

I will help forge women's equality by:

remembering that men are not superior!

helping and supporting other women
telling people about today and the meaning behind it

spreading awareness

protesting for women's rights, eg. pay
standing up for the women who are facing sexism
showing we can do any job and be successful

speaking out about women's rights
being a positive role model for young generations.

celebrating with others to tell them about the things I've learned today

standing up for what is right
encouraging women to stand for political roles

enable the "invisible women" to become 'visible' by 'inclusion'

ensuring education in schools from early years onwards is embedded across curriculum

Thank you to Wem Rural Parish Council for hosting International Women's Day in 2024

Thank you


Thank you also to everyone that helped and for being part of the story so far


One of the biggest outcomes to come out of organising International Women's Day is the contacts and support we have gained from local businesses, schools and community group.


It doesn't end here...

The women involved in organising this event will continue to meet and we have already been asked to organise another event - more news to follow soon!

Contact us to hear more:

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