



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Rural Women Celebration**

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March rural women came together at the Agricultural Business Centre in Bakewell to mark International Women's Day.

The event was organised by Rural Action Derbyshire to highlight the hard work and strength of the women who are the backbone of so many rural communities. It was championed by The Willow Project, an established project raising awareness of rural domestic abuse.

Women have played a pivotal role since Rural Action Derbyshire, was established as a Rural Community Council in 1924. Of the 19 original Officers and Members, 5 were women. Today both the Chair and Chief Executive Officer are women, leading a strong team of staff and trustees.

Emma Simpson, Head of Communications at RAD said; "It's really important to take stock every now and again, to pat ourselves on the back and recognize in ourselves and others the contribution we make to our work, family, friends, and lives of people in the wider community."

There were some high-profile guests including the Lord Lieutenant Elizabeth Fothergill CBE, the High Sheriff Theresa Peltier and Police and Crime Commissioner Angelique Foster who were all delighted to be there to acknowledge and applaud the achievements of all those present.

Throughout the event, discussions centered on amplifying the voices of rural women, addressing the unique challenges they face, and fostering opportunities for their advancement. From agricultural endeavors to entrepreneurial ventures, the diverse contributions of women in rural industries were celebrated and recognised as vital pillars of community resilience and progress.

The Rural Women event underscored the significance of International Women's Day as more than just a date on the calendar but as a rallying call for gender equality, inclusion, and empowerment. By shining a spotlight on the achievements of rural women, the event

reinforced the importance of inclusivity and solidarity in creating a more equitable and prosperous society.

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**Notes to editors:**

**The Willow Project** - The challenges faced by victims of domestic abuse who live in the countryside can be quite different to those living in the town or city.

The Willow Project delivers awareness training throughout Derbyshire. This will help people identify the signs of domestic abuse, give them the confidence to report it, and challenge attitudes that perpetuate domestic abuse, particularly in rural areas.

**Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD)**, formerly Derbyshire Rural Community Council, is an independent organisation and registered charity operating across the county since 1924. RAD aims to improve the life of those living and working in rural Derbyshire, by providing direct services to help people and groups in rural communities, and by raising awareness of the issues faced by rural communities. For more information go to the [RAD website](#). RAD is a network member of ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England).

**Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner** the PCC is designed to bring communities and the police closer together. It is about holding the police force to account. The Commissioner is elected as the 'voice of the people' that aims to improve community engagement and deliver a more effective policing service. Angelique Foster has been a key figure in local government politics for more than a decade and aims to reduce the fear of crime across Derbyshire's communities by increasing police numbers and patrols and providing a strong police presence in towns and villages.

<p><b>Social Media Tags:</b></p> <p><i>@ruralactionderbyshire - Instagram</i> <i>@RuralActionDerb - X</i> <i>@RuralActionDerbyshire - Facebook</i> <i>Ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk</i></p>	
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