

## **Send a scrap- have your voice heard !**

Please do join in and contribute to the Shropshire banner and be part of the Processions project even if you aren't able to get to the workshops we are running. We really want our banner to represent as many voices of the women of Shropshire as possible.

We are asking women/girls to send a 3'' x 10'' double sided strip of fabric which has a message on it. It might be a word that sums up your feelings/thoughts on being a woman in Shropshire today, it might be words about the women of the past who fought for a vote, it might be about the future of women as you see it, it might be the name of a woman you admire – in fact it can be anything you want heard relating to being a woman. We would also like you to add your location and occupation (if you want to). Then to post the scrap of fabric to DASH , 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE. We need you scraps of fabric by May 1st please. We will then add all of the pieces to our banner either as fringing or as links of a fabric chain.

**Please see below some advice about making a strip of fabric.**

**Tip- You can either choose a fabric that doesn't fray such as felt or if the fabric frays include enough for a hem. We encourage you to recycle fabric rather than having to go out and buy anything.**

**Tip- The women's suffrage colours were Green, White and Purple (standing for Give Women The Vote)- you may want to use these colours as part of your design.**

1- You need to have a piece of fabric that is 6 inches (15.5cms) x 10inches (26cms).

If your need to hem your fabric(because it frays) it needs to be a bit bigger to allow for the hems- perhaps 7 inches (18cms)x 11inches (28cms).

You are going to fold your fabric in half to make a double sided piece measuring 3'' (7.5cms) x 10'' (26cms).

**2- You can use fabric glue for hems if your fabric frays.**



**Or you can pin and sew hems if your fabric frays.**



**3- You should end up with a strip of fabric that is double sided and measures about 3 inches by 10 inches (it doesn't have to be exact) now you can add your message/messages.**

4- You can sew or stick things on (if you stick please make sure it's very secure)

Please be as inventive and imaginative as you want – these are just basic ideas.



Or you can use a waterproof pen/marker and write/draw on it



**Remember you can add something on the other-side such as your location**



**and occupation.**

**We will use the strips to either be added to the bottom of the banner as fringing or to make the links of a fabric chain that links all of the women of our county together.**



**We have discussed many things about women in our initial workshop – here are just a few of the things we discussed.**

By making a banner are we celebrating? Marking the significance?  
Commemorating? Honouring the sacrifice of women in the past?

What are our thoughts about Suffragettes? What are our thoughts about the Suffrage movement? Do we know anything about any Shropshire Suffragettes?

Do we feel represented today? (The Representation of the People Act )

What does our vote mean to us and does it count?

Do we want to look forward or backwards? What do we want to say ? What is our voice for this project?

What if any is the significance of it being a Textile Banners Project?

What would the women of 100 years ago feel about the progress or lack of it that has been made for women? How have we progressed? Have we progressed?

What are the challenges and issues for women now?

What will the next 50/100 years bring for women?

What impact can we make as women today?

What is/has been the attitude of the feminist movement towards women with disability.

What do we want to say about Women in Shropshire Today?

Or do we want to say something more globally significant about Women?

What is the position of women with disability in the women's movement in the past and currently?

**We also looked at Banner images including;** Suffragette banners, Greenham common banners, union banners and church banners.

**We looked at textile artists;** Dawn Dupree, Edwinna Macinnon, Hannah Ryggen, Sarah Impey, Lorina Bulwer, Yukimo Reynolds, Susan Stone.

**We have formed a facebook page Shropshire Subversive Stitchers please do join our group and see the conversations that are developing.**