



Ada Jane Summers; Stalybridge's first woman Councillor and Mayor, and first woman Freeman of England



International Women's Day

Ada Jane Summers – Stalybridge's first woman Councillor and Mayor, and first woman Freeman of England

A daughter of an Oldham textile mill owner, Ada Broome married John Summers, founder of the Globe Iron Works, Stalybridge in 1875 and was well known for her kindness and generosity to those in need.

Helping to improve social conditions, hospital visiting and donating funds were the cornerstones of Ada's married life to the inhabitants of Stalybridge where she was known as the 'Lady Bountiful'.

On their Silver Wedding anniversary, John and Ada donated £1000 (roughly £85,000 today) to the local hospital and when her husband died in 1910, Ada continued to use much of his wealth to benefit the town and improve lives.

She became a Stalybridge town councillor in 1912 and by November 1919, had been elected Mayor of Stalybridge.

A month later, the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act came into force, which enabled women for the first time to become magistrates. She was sworn in, becoming the first woman to adjudicate in an English Court.

In October 1920 when an Act of Parliament was passed which enabled women to perform the duties of magistrates, she was appointed the first female Justice of the Peace in England.



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Make a Paper Chain to celebrate International Women's Day

You will need:

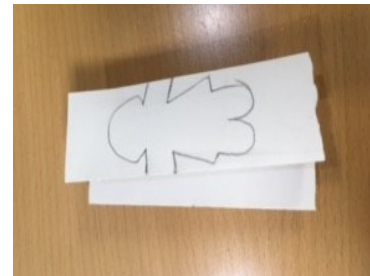
A length of paper
Pencil
Felt pen or crayons
Scissors

Instructions:

- Fold the length of paper as if you were creating a fan. Each fold should be approximately 3cm wide.
- Flatten the folded paper in order to draw a shape.



- Draw a simple image of a woman onto the folded paper. I have drawn a silhouette wearing a skirt but you can decide on a different outfit if you prefer!



- Using scissors, carefully cut around the outline that you have created.



- Pull the fan of paper apart and your paper chain is created. Repeat the exercise to make more and glue the ends together.
- Decorate the finished chain to reflect International Women's Day!



Using the internet, discover what the following women have invented or created (answers below):

1. Evelyn Berezin 1971
2. Elizabeth Magie 1904
3. Letitia Geer 1899
4. Ada Lovelace 1843
5. Josephine Cochrane 1872
6. Tabitha Babbitt 1812
7. Maria Beasley 1882
8. Anna Connelly 1887
9. Mary Anderson 1903



1. Computer driven word processor 2. Origins of Monopoly board game 3. Medical Syringe 4. First computer programmer
5. Hand powered mechanical dish washer 6. Circular saw 7. Life raft amongst many other notable inventions 8. Fire escape
9. Windscreen wiper blade