Todmorden Town Council

Climate Committee Newsletter regarding the Volunteer Fair.

Written by Councillor J Williams.

About 18 months ago we ran an event allowing group members to meet and network, it was really popular so we wanted to run another event that would bring together volunteer groups to network both amongst themselves and with the public.

We held the Community Volunteer Fair on Saturday the 11th of July, and it was the hottest day on record!!

What a buzz! Hoards of people carrying displays and activities up the stairs from the moment the doors opened. 28 community groups were represented - it felt as if every group in the locality had taken up the opportunity to attend and encourage involvement with their project.

Everyone was chatting, sharing ideas, discussing issues that were affecting them, and drinking copious gallons of cold water to try and stave off the heat emanating from both their own energy and the heat of the day!

We had 150 members of the public attend across the 3 hours. There were lots of different activities to take part in at the stalls themselves, but also a whitling course from Full of Joy Sanctuary, a litter pick around the town centre with Keep Tod Tidy, a climate workshop run by the Climate Emergency Committee, a 'What is Retrofit' talk from Tod College, a talk on volunteering from Forus Tree, and a climate and comedy related poetry recital from Retrofits of Laughter!

The feedback we got, and we had a lot, was what a positive day it was:

"A useful and interesting Community event that reflected the large number of volunteer activities in the area"

"Really good, made lots of good contacts to follow up on re local volunteering"

" A good - and inspiring - representation of the voluntary sector in Todmorden. A good 'buzz'. Thanks for all the organisation and for keeping us fed and hydrated!

Most of the work was carried out by the Community Support Officer and what an amazing job it was. On the actual day, two of the Climate Committee councillors worked tirelessly and a couple more councillors attended on specific stalls.

Overall an amazing success, that will be repeated!