

Some of the many tributes to Audrey Jones

Ann Dawson

Audrey has enjoyed an active life to the end, let us be thankful, I am certainly thankful for all the wonderful women who have paved the way for those of us who, for the time being, will carry on the good work.

Dianne Setch

The women in Wales have lost a champion. Audrey's contribution to the struggle for equality nationally and internationally was extraordinary. All who knew her benefited from her generosity and kindness. How we will miss her.

Annette Lawson (NAWO)

Audrey died very recently - about a week ago now. She was a great activist for women's equality who chaired the Wales Assembly of Women for many years. Others will have different stories to tell but there is a little from my perspective and long friendship with her.

As Welsh as her name, she was not one for worrying too deeply about boundaries between parts of the UK but loved Wales deeply. I think we met through Fawcett in which she played a leading role on the Education Committee. However, my own fondest memories of her stem from CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) especially in the 90s when there were groups of us there - in particular I recall Valerie Evans, Audrey, Elizabeth Sidney and myself often going off to lots of red wine and dinner somewhere along 2nd or 3rd Street and laughing ourselves silly. Can I remember what about? Alas no but the wit and the fun flowed as smoothly and rapidly as the wine. Perhaps Margaret Owen came with us sometimes and forgive me (again) if I am leaving out others who were also part of this.

It was not that the purpose of us being there was forgotten but the hard business of gaining women's rights was mixed with a sense of accomplishment (well they were more progressive times) and an ability to turn things insideout and laugh at them. CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) really was fun.

But Audrey was also personally supportive of many of us while at the same time never pushing herself forward. I was one of the lucky women whom she supported; and she also was most supportive of NAWO of which she was a steadfast member. It was Audrey who nominated me to chair the International Working Group of the WNC at the first meeting of its new 'public appointments' Commissioners without my knowing she would do so, and this led to some marvellous, fruitful years in which of course Audrey was a leading light, especially for Wales. I am so sad that this light has gone out.

MARGARET OWEN WPD DIRECTOR

I first met Audrey Jones when, in 1998, I was a newcomer at the annual session of the UN CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) We really bonded when on leaving New York, I bumped into Audrey at JFK airport when she had been booked to leave from Newark, but we sorted that one

out, and even then was so impressed by Audrey's unflappability and purpose when if I had found myself in this situation I would have gone into hysterics! Over two decades I have observed, listened and learnt so much from Audrey, who, while representing the women of Wales, was always insistent that we UK women showed our concerns for our sisters overseas, and made ourselves well aware of the impact that UK policies might have on the status of our sisters in developing and especially conflict afflicted countries, While representing so creatively and constructively the women of Wales (in many aspects of women's lives, Wales, much through Audrey's charismatic Leadership, has a lead on England) Audrey spoke out for all women and girls irrespective of national borders. She was brilliant on the urgency to assure women and girls equal opportunities in education, and in employment. She was brave, outspoken and witty and I loved being with her and was always grateful for the great support she gave me personally as I struggled to obtain government and UN attention to the plight of widows. And to eliminate the discrimination and violence they endured due to their marital status. Audrey will be greatly missed. She was one of our true pioneers, wise, measured and courageous. She will be always remembered by everyone who has worked in the UK women's movement and I mourn the loss of a very special person and a true ally and friend.

Baroness Gould

Thank you for letting me know Audrey was one of those people who is always there to help and be supportive without waiting glory or fame

Janet Veitch

I also have great memories of Audrey, especially as the voice of Wales for the WNC for many years, and as others have said as a stalwart of CSW. I remember Audrey and Valerie sharing an apartment in New York and walking the UN corridors together, debating (occasionally bickering) amicably. Audrey also played a key role in many CEDAW shadow reports for the WNC, particularly on education where she was an expert. Audrey was one of the circle of women who helped me when I first arrived at the WNC. She was always generous with her time and her knowledge. A sad loss.

Khatija Barday-Wood

I have known her for a short time but my memory of her was of fondness and her lovely smile when she spoke to you.

Marha Jean Baker,

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

She was everything we would all want to be, always cheerful and thoughtful.

Kate McCullough (Chair): NIWEP

I am so deeply sorry at the passing of Audrey - she always was very welcoming when she met with the NI delegation attending CSW and other meetings over the years. She was an inspiring person. VCVS will show respect for an amazing woman.

Carwen (Wynne Howells)

I was so sorry to learn the news of Audrey's death. I have fond memories of Audrey and Val Evans - WAW's 'dynamic duo'. In their heyday they were a formidable pair and contributed a huge amount to the equality agenda. Audrey was a past Chair of the Association, a member of the Editorial group and a tireless worker for women's rights in the arts as in all other areas of life in Wales and internationally.

Deidre Beddoe.

I was so sorry to hear about Audrey. She was a magnificent woman, absolute tireless for so long. She contributed so much to the feminist cause in Wales. I shall be lost without her help- if I wanted to know anything about women in contemporary Wales, I always rang Audrey who would say, 'I'll post you the info. right away'. For a project called Between the Lines, people were asked to suggest a person who had influenced them or who they admired. Without any hesitation I chose Audrey.]

Ann Wood

So very sad to hear that news.

Jo Pudney

I have lots of happy memories of Audrey. I send my sympathy and love for her.

Sarah Lloyd-Jones

I was so sorry to read this news. She will be greatly missed.

Jane Salisbury

We will all feel diminished by Audrey's death but we must remember all the wonderful work she did in gift time- and the fun she could be.[I remember fondly the women's suppers with Huw washing up and serving wine like our pro feminist butler. What a wonderful pair they were-so generous. Many women across Wales and UK and indeed the globe will be unaware that Audrey's sharp analytic eye and vigilance for women's rights and girls' education was quite splendid throughout her teaching career and well beyond. She really made a difference!

Jane Hutt, Assembly Member

Audrey Jones was not only a dedicated and inspirational teacher, she was a courageous and committed feminist who helped form the Wales Women's Rights Committee, Wales Assembly of Women and was a long-term contributor to UN consultations and debates upholding Women's Rights across the world, attending the UN as a delegate for Wales in the past 5 years supported by the Welsh Government. I always welcomed the contributions made by Audrey at our Labour Party meetings when I was sure to learn a great deal from Audrey's questions and scrutiny of my reports, as her Assembly Member and Minister in the Welsh Government. She was

sympathetic to the challenges I described, but was clear how I had move forward and represent the interests of my constituency more effectively - especially women and vulnerable people. Her love of the arts featured strongly in her life and we enjoyed a shared interest in contemporary music. It was wonderful to see Audrey at the Vale of Glamorgan Music Festival in May with her son and friends. She was also a keen supporter of the Vale of Glamorgan Artists attending the the VOGA art exhibitions across the Vale. Audrey Jones will be greatly missed by her family, friends, the Labour Party and the wide political and friendship network she developed across the world from her home in Dinas Powys.

Jenny Sabine

I am indeed sorry to hear of Audrey's death. She did an amazing amount of work for the Women's Assembly of Wales and she was a founder member and staunch supporter of Archif Menywod Cymru/Women's Archive of Wales. Until very recently she has attended our events and played an active part in our AGMs. We will miss her very much, and I know she will be missed by all the Women's Assembly members as well as her family and friends.

Anne Syfang

So sorry to learn of Audrey's death. She was an inspiration and a tireless worker for women of Wales and the rest of the world with her representation at National & international conferences.

Patricia Ziad

I am so sorry to hear that Audrey died, what a sad day. Its awful to lose a friend, deepest sympathy I know she will be missed.

The Baroness Grey-Thompson

She was an amazing teacher. Massive influence on my life.

Philippa Dixey

I did not know Audrey very well at all. However, from what I gleaned she certainly made a great contribution to the women's movement.

Rhian Connick

I first met Audrey 16 years ago, and came to realise very quickly that she had a passion for women's issues and what was right and just. I had the privilege of watching Audrey throughout the years fighting for women's rights and learnt a great deal from her. She was so knowledgeable and tenacious and I admired her courage and persistence. Audrey will be greatly missed and we will miss her presence and passion, Audrey is a great loss to the women's sector in Wales and beyond.

Sylvia Olley

Audrey will be sorely missed. Her knowledge, intellect and enthusiasm made her a formidable adversary in any debate. Women's Arts benefited from her calm and informed comments at every discussion. She was a lovely person

with great warmth and I will miss her.

Marha Jean Baker – WILPF

She was everything we would all want to be, always cheerful and thoughtful.

Jacqueline Alkema

Audrey Jones was a very special person. I felt honoured to have known her and enjoyed listening to her sound advice on women's issues, admiring her vast knowledge. I also loved the evenings at her house with great food, discussions and lots of art to look at. I'll miss you Audrey.

Ella Edwards

I only met Audrey at a few committee meetings, on these occasions I felt a real presence and understood the high regard for her.

Organisations Audrey was involved with.

Wales Assembly of Women, represented Wales Assembly of Women annually from early 1990s to 2012 at the UN Commission on the Status of Women conferences (NGO accredited to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations)
Women's Arts Association, late 1980s to 2014
Art Central Friends, 2008 – 2013
Contemporary Arts Society of Wales
Community Health Council, 1995 – 2007
Dinas Powys & Wenvoe Labour Party, 2006 – 2011 & to 2014 (as Hon Sec)
Fawcett Society Education Committee 1995 until closure
Older Peoples Forum, Wales
Archif Menywod Cymru / Women's Archive of Wales, 1995 – 2014
Wales Council for Voluntary Action 2001 – 2011
Served as a Commissioner on the Womens National Commission from 1996-2002
National Alliance of Women's Organisations
Women's Library