

# MINI NEWS AT ONE

E – mag 9 : April 2023 — Conference Edition



**HAPPY  
80TH  
BIRTHDAY  
ABERDEEN  
INNER  
WHEEL**



Two of our clubs have celebrated milestone anniversaries in the last few months . Our oldest club **Aberdeen** celebrated their 80th Charter with a Dinner at the Ardoe House Hotel for club members & their partners. In all there were 62 attendees including Assoc. President Karen Davies, IIW Vice President Trish Douglas, District Chairman Doris Campbell, President of Aberdeen Rotary Club, Linda Walker as well as members of the District Executive and club members from Aberdeen St Fittick, Banff, Forfar, Montrose and Laurencekirk. District Chairman Doris, herself a member of the Aberdeen club and the 5th member to be District Chair from Aberdeen, lit the friendship candle and Assoc. President brought greetings from Association as well as her good wishes for the club in the future before being asked to cut the fabulous birthday cake with President Beth Struthers. Club Secretary Maureen Drummond read

cards and congratulatory greetings from far and wide including from Matamata in New Zealand — a link club for many years. The evening was rounded off by an excellent presentation by William Brown Kerr of the Braemar Mountain Rescue team. This was a fabulous evening, enjoyed by all who attended. Congratulations to all speakers & organisers.

Meanwhile just up the road in **Ellon**, some 30 years ago, after several months of deliberation and planning, the Inner Wheel Club of Ellon was awarded its charter. This 30th Birthday was celebrated in style by the club on the 4th February with a visit to Meldrum House for afternoon tea with some guests from District and neighbouring clubs as well as some of their Past Presidents who are no longer members. The food was excellent, the staff very attentive and if the noise level was anything to go by everyone had a great time. Pics show some of the company ; founder members right; District 1st Vice Chairman Annetta cutting the cake with Past DC Marjorie Duncan formerly of Ellon — now President of Stirling IW.

## Tribute to the Inner Wheel of Ellon

Thirty years ago in spring  
A venture new was born,  
A club for us, the womenfolk,  
The Inner Wheel of Ellon.



We'll support your club, the men all  
said,

The idea it is a winner.

Just one thing, before you start,  
You'll need to make our dinner!

We've had speakers lots throughout  
the years

On subject wide and various.

We've painted faces, picked up litter,  
Planted bulbs and looked glamorous.

But Covid came, and Lockdown too,  
The world was doom and gloom.

But we soldiered on as we always do,  
And quickly learned to Zoom! .

We've had some laughs and shed some  
tears

For those we've loved and lost.

But friends we've made, and fellowship  
Are what we value most.

And as we celebrate our Club  
And thirty years now gone,  
We look to the future and wish it well  
The Inner Wheel of Ellon!

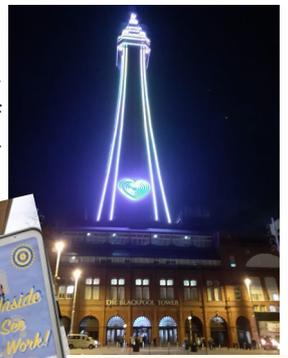
Anne Hamilton



**HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY  
ELLON INNER WHEEL**



**Conference Report** : A very warm welcome awaited us at our Annual Conference in Blackpool from the 27th to 29th March. This was a return to a traditional conference with all the usual entertainments, stalls and activities. A party of 30 travelled down to Blackpool from District 1 - including 4 husbands. Most stayed in the District Hotel - the Ruskin - which was only a couple of streets away from the main venues, the Winter Gardens and the Tower - which was lit up in Inner Wheel colours while we were there. Blackpool has been hard hit by recession and lockdown and is currently undergoing a "facelift" with evidence all around of levelling up money being spent to revive its fortunes. Nearly 1200 members attended and we were all so excited and happy to be back together after such a long absence. I didn't see an unhappy face and old friendships were certainly renewed while new ones were



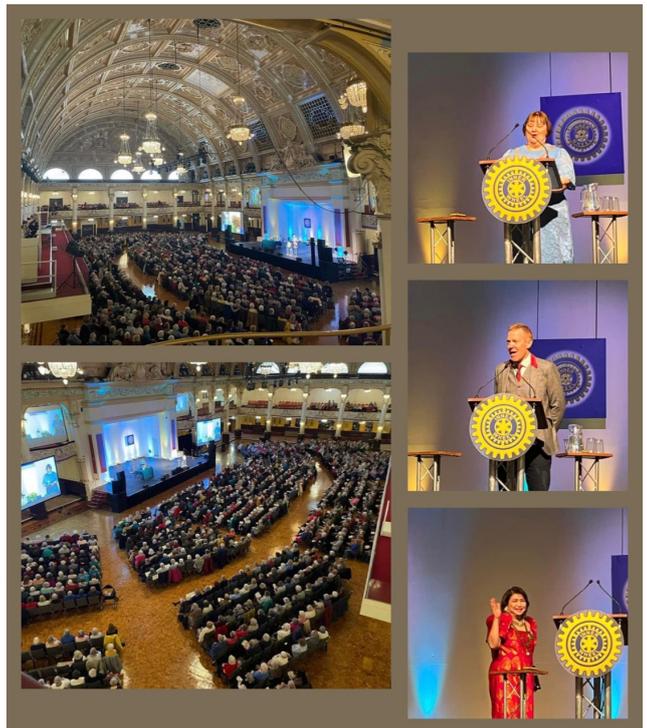
Judy welcomes us into the Conference Hall and the Tower lit up in our honour



made. There was a lovely happy atmosphere throughout and it was just lovely to be back chatting, sharing stories and ideas.

On the Monday evening the District Dinner was held in our hotel - a very happy friendly relaxed affair. *See pics left.* Assoc. President Karen popped in to visit us - I think it was her 7th visit that night! . The business got started on the Tuesday and this did not disappoint, with a knockout venue and fantastic speakers. Seen below are Association President, Karen, International IW President Zeny and keynote speaker Adam Henson of BBC Countryfile fame - he was certainly the star of the show! A collection was taken at the service for **Blood Bikes - £4820** and already Inner Wheel has

raised **£21,800 for Air Ambulances** throughout the UK, with 3 more months of our year to go! One of the most emotional speakers was a **Lynne Baird**, whose son had been tragically killed in a stabbing. She has started a charity to promote a **Public Access Bleed Control Kit** – which had it been around would have saved his life. These cost **£105** and I think many clubs will be sponsoring these to go alongside defibrillators. The AGM happened on the Wednesday and while most of us found the digital voting on phones/tablets easy, there were a few hiccups—including mislaid email links and a time lag. Practice will make perfect. It allowed delegates to vote from home and a video link allowed members to see all that was happening in the hall. This streaming was enjoyed by some of our own members. All proposals were carried with a large majority. In 2022 we raised **£522,013.36 for charities in GB&I** and **£251,431 for International Charities** —with **£71,256** being sent to **Ukraine**. Amazing stuff! Throughout the day pictures from clubs were flashed



Heather with some of her sales team welcoming Association Vice Pres. Anthea, International IW President Zeny and Association President Karen to the stall.

up on the big screens. All of our 19 clubs were featured, more than once - so you were all there with us in one form or another. We were particularly proud when Heather, Association Treasurer took to the stage to present the accounts in a clear and easy to follow manner with great dignity and her usual practical style. She was very ably assisted by District Chairman Doris who came forward to second all her proposals and spoke very well. Heather had a very busy conference, running and manning the sales table, which featured many old favourites, now back in stock, as well as a few new items featuring a drawing of the Margarette Golding Rose, to be released at Chelsea Flower Show and Inner Wheel Gin, celebrating 100 Years of Inner Wheel in GB&I. Most of us came home with a bottle. Both of these may be ideas for next year — our centenary!

*continued*

Everyone was delighted to be able to revive our links with District 10. All our clubs in District 1 are linked with a club in District 10 and old friendships and bonds were renewed at our Link Lunch held in our hotel on the Tuesday. As you can see there was a lot of laughter and chatter in each others company over coffee and sandwiches. I am sure many of you will recognise District 10's Chairman, Phyllis Charter with Doris, but can you spot any other well known faces? Sadly like us, District 10 has lost many members and clubs over the last few years so a revised list of link clubs will need to drawn up to reflect this. The business of conference wound up on the Wednesday afternoon when Chizzy Akudolu (an actress from Casualty and a Strictly contestant) spoke of her personal battle with depression. Soon it was time to say farewell to Betty Roberts Immediate Past Ass. President— who visited our Rally in Banff, as she retires from office and goes back to her club as President next year! A prize winning children's choir from local Anchorsholme Academy provided us with an excellent musical finale to the day.



## LINK LUNCH with District 10



Now it was time to hurry back to get our sequins, sparkle and glitter on for the Presidents Evening in the Tower Ballroom! Where one and all danced the night away to the excellent accompaniment of "The Other Guys" group. It was quite a sight to have all those women up boogieing the night away. Long conga lines of dancers snaked the floor and the magnificent organ appeared up onto the stage. Here we are in our finery — the Dancing Queens — left!

I thoroughly enjoyed being at Conference again and can recommend the experience to all of you who have never been. Of course there is no Conference next year as we have the International Inner Wheel Convention in Manchester in May. This should be superb and you can register already. It does appear expensive but the registration fee does cover all the events/ lunches/ Gala Dinners etc. I hope lots of you will consider going .

**Jean, Editor**

**Huge thanks** for the tremendous response to Nanette's appeal for books to be donated to the Book Bus project. We were inundated with boxes of books at the District Meeting and after transporting most of these home to Stirling, plus extra club deliveries, ISC Nanette managed to arrange for Monica & David Gordon of the Book Bus to collect the boxes from her home! Well done, Nanette! *Pics* — Nanette & Jessie Stuart loading the van in Stirling with our boxes. More went down to Conference in cars — so overall we have made a very healthy donation to the project. The Book Bus stall was a very popular one in Winter Gardens and I am sure their tombola raised a good amount as well. More info found at — [www.innerwheel.co.uk/international-service-projects/the-book-bus](http://www.innerwheel.co.uk/international-service-projects/the-book-bus); [www.thebookbus.org](http://www.thebookbus.org)





### CONGRATULATIONS!

We are all delighted to hear that **Heather Sheerin** has been elected as our new **Association Vice-President** for **2023-2024**. District Chairman Doris, the District Executive and all members send their warmest congratulations to you Heather! You will make a brilliant Association President. We are all very proud of you!

*This is just brilliant news for you, Heather — for your club, Inverness and of course all of us in District 1! We look forward to supporting you.*

### Diary Dates 2023

**Friday 26th May : District Rally**

11am onwards : **Marcliffe Hotel, Aberdeen**

**Wednesday 14th June : District Meeting and AGM :**

Virtual Meeting - 10.30 am

**Wednesday 23rd August : District Meeting/Assembly**

**Invercarse Hotel, Dundee**

**Saturday 14th October : International Service Rally**

**Court Hotel, Stirling**

### Margaret Rennie

District Chairman 1995—96



It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death of **Past District Chairman, Margaret Rennie** of the Anstruther Club. She suffered a stroke from which she did not recover and sadly passed away the next day. She had donated her body to medical research and there are no plans for any memorial service. We send our sincere condolences to her family, to all former members

of the Inner Wheel of Anstruther and to all who remember her in District 1 and beyond.

Our thanks to Elspeth Hunter, past member of Anstruther Inner Wheel, for keeping us informed about Margaret . It is good to know that “about 10 of the Anstruther club meet for coffee once a month & make a small donation to First Responders. A remnant of the IW spirit continues! “. Thank you Elspeth.

Our web site is constantly being updated so please check it out regularly—both the District page & all the club pages. [www.innerwheel.co.uk/district-1/](http://www.innerwheel.co.uk/district-1/) . The next Club Reports for News@1 are due by 31st May . I look forward to meeting up with many of you at our Rally in Aberdeen — the last face to face get together of the year.

**Jean xx**

**Happy Easter !** Many clubs collect Easter chocolate to give to the less fortunate. These collections are from Stirling, Ellon & Dunfermline and are distributed by organisations like Women’s Aid and the Salvation Army. The flower logo is from IW New Zealand! And oh so many chicks, owls, sheep went to Conference for the M&D stall. They were so overwhelmed that there were bargain deals from the first afternoon!! Here are some of the items D1 made!



**PICTURE COMPETITION :** We are delighted to announce that the picture chosen to represent District 1 on our Association magazine cover is this magnificent **Highland Cow!** It was taken by **Sheelagh Southwell** of the **Inner Wheel Club of Nairn** - a worthy winner, and very symbolic of District 1. All the photographs have now been loaded onto a Gallery for you to see on the web site. [www.innerwheel.co.uk/district-1/](http://www.innerwheel.co.uk/district-1/) . I am sure you will agree that they are all winners and that any of the lovely pictures could grace a magazine. What talent we have here in District 1. Thank you all so much for entering.

