



Association of Inner Wheel Clubs of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

DISTRICT 25 NEWS

November 2023

Welcome and Greetings from District Chairman Gail Elhinn

With so much uncertainty and upheaval in the world at the moment, it has been comforting to have enjoyed the positivity and warmth of Inner Wheel members over the last few months.

We have had a very successful International Rally, organised by Aileen Hargreaves. A change to the way the raffle was organised seems to have been very well received and the stalls added much to the total which can be donated to her charity.

I was delighted to get a very positive response to the new way of organising the skittles competition. Six clubs wish to take part and we will book a March date, after Christmas, at The Bull, Henfield.

I am sure that you have taken a look at the Convention Proposals and General Motions by now. Most seem fairly clear but I suspect that there are two or three which will generate some discussion. I look forward to hearing your ideas for the "100 for 100" project.

I have visited Cuckfield and Lindfield Club and Seaford Club, so far, and will be joining Chichester for lunch on the 2nd January. I have also represented the District at the Rotary Club of Lewes' Centenary events.

My club met up with some Hove members for an informal lunch at a garden centre; it was an excellent opportunity for developing friendship and fellowship.

I am hoping to give you more information about our own Centenary Lunch in Haywards Heath very soon. I am just double checking the arrangements made so far.

I wish you a very happy Christmas/Holiday celebrations and thank you for your support.

Yours in friendship

Gail Elhinn



OUT & ABOUT IN THE DISTRICT

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF CHICHESTER

President Sarah Chandler

In July, at our Hand-Over meeting, we welcomed our new President, Sarah Chandler, who introduced us to her charity for the year: 'My Sister's House', a local charity supporting women 'in difficulty or crisis'. Our current support is to fill bags (made by our members) with essential toiletries.

On a beautiful August summer day in perfect surroundings Sarah hosted a very enjoyable lunch at the Millstream, Bosham. September found us listening to a very enlightening talk by one of our members, Liz Walker, who for twenty five years has been a guide at our prestigious Pallant House Gallery. She gave us a summary of the original Queen Anne house and the modern extension, and a talk on the 'Collection of Collections'.



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF INNER WHEEL

To promote true friendship. To encourage the ideals of personal service. To foster international understanding

Sadly because of inclement weather we had to cancel a visit to West Dean Gardens. Another local asset to our lovely town was celebrated by a talk on the Chichester Canal by Lynda Hunter. It was first used in 1822, in fact it was part of the former Portsmouth and Arundel Canal. One of the regular cargoes was gold bullion from Portsmouth to the Bank of England, with an armed guard on board. Its other claim to fame is that in 1828 J.M.W Turner painted Chichester Cathedral from the bridge in Hunston. Now the canal is used as a leisure waterway.

Zena Macdonald

Club Correspondent

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF CUCKFIELD & LINDFIELD

President Eileen Sawyer

On 30th June 2023 Ann Berkovitch hosted a garden tea party in support of President Aileen Hargreaves chosen Charity Kangaroos - a local children's charity. Around 30 members and friends braved the inclement weather for a quick look round the lovely garden before retreating indoors for delicious tea and cakes.



At our July meeting we welcomed Yvrose Telfort from Hope House Haiti - a charity which our Club has supported for some years. She told us how she returned to her native Haiti with her husband in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of 2010. They set up the charity to help displaced and orphaned children, establishing a much needed home and school. Yvrose was presented with a cheque from the Club.

On 26th July President Eileen Sawyer was relieved and delighted that the day was warm and sunny for her tea and cakes afternoon. It was a lovely opportunity for a summer catch up which was enjoyed by many members. The following day 8 members attended the District Assembly.



Sally Mackenzie, Sue Landauer and President Eileen Sawyer with Hope House Haiti founder Yvrose Telfort.



District Chairman Gail Elhinn receives an orchid from Club President Eileen Sawyer

Following our summer break, in September we welcomed District Chairman Gail Elhinn accompanied by Lewes' longest serving member Valerie King. Gail spoke about 'where we're going' and the continuing value of Inner Wheel's role to charities and the community. She outlined Association's vision of Inner Wheel's future as an on-line based, project driven organisation. Sadly, I think many of us recognise this eventuality, which would see the service element continue but what about the friendship? Gail concluded with some suggestions for our centenary year '100 for 100' projects.

At our October meeting, guest speaker Michael Tomney gave an interesting talk about his charity Mustard Seed Relief Mission, which our Haywards Heath members have supported for many years. Supporters donate shoe boxes filled with Christmas gifts for deprived and orphan children in Eastern Europe - 'Love in a Box'. Funds raised are also used to supply books and computers. The Club made a donation to the charity and hopes to donate Christmas boxes in the future.

Ann Berkovitch

Club Correspondent

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF GODALMING

President Susan Knowles

We started our new Presidential year with the handover from Janet Baker to Susan Knowles. Janet is relatively new to Inner Wheel but took to the task like a duck to water. Susan however is an old hand, having been President of her former Club in Blackburn, District 19.

We were lucky to make the most of summer weather when our International Organiser Mary Young hosted a Strawberry Tea in her garden in aid of the BookBus. Lots of strawberries, scones and cakes were consumed to a background of laughter and chatter.

This was followed by an Afternoon Rea in the garden of our new President, when miraculously the sun shone again. Susan had refused help, and produced a magnificent spread rivalling any smart London hotel – we were really spoiled!

Our next big event is a Friendship Lunch, where members are encouraged to bring a friend and which sometimes results in new members joining us. This year our speaker is Commander Chris Knowles RN, son of Susan, who will be telling us about his career in the Fleet Air Arm and which includes serving on the new aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth.

In between the Summer and Autumn ‘high spots’ the speaker at our October meeting was Carole Hui, a member of the Lord Chamberlain’s Office, who told us about her duties and pleasures. Her work in the Lord Chamberlain’s Office led to her being invited to the funeral of HM Elizabeth II, where she sat in front of a line of Generals in full dress uniform, and to the Coronation Concert for King Charles III. Carole reported that her daughters were unimpressed by the Concert until she told them that she’d met Ollie Murs!

Carole said that from time to time she works with members of the Royal family and had found HM King Charles III easy to talk to. She enjoys her work with the ‘Great and the Good’.

Now a “Save the Date”. We are holding our **Annual Charity Quiz** on Saturday 16th March 2024 at the Masonic Hall in Godalming and would be delighted for any teams of six to join us!

Hilary Reid
Club correspondent

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF GUILDFORD

President Alison Vincent

The Club were invited to serve refreshments at the yearly Charity Walk, run by Rotary (Guildford Wey) at Shalford Park. A large assortment of delicious homemade cakes were donated by our members to sell for the event. Everything sold out! It was great that there was a good turnout this year as the weather was perfect (unlike last year, it was raining and the first one hosted since the pandemic. We didn’t have the footfall). The only sting in the tail was Brenda and myself caught Covid a couple of days before. We only had three members to man the tent!

Two members have left the Club this year: Eileen Cook who moved to Devon to be near her daughter, but sadly following her fall, she now is in a nursing home; and Margaret Wakefield and her husband have moved to Worthing. Both of them are enjoying the various amenities that assisted living has to offer.



Olive Crosby has been a member of the Club for 50 years! Anna presented flowers and a card to Olive to mark the occasion.

In August: we do not have a meeting, but this year 10 members plus 4 husbands met at The Onslow Arms where we enjoyed a very pleasant and stress free lunch.

In September: Our President Alison was presented with her name badge for the President’s Jewel. Alison inducted our newest





member Sue Hermans into the Club. She also welcomed another new member who transferred from The East Riding of Yorkshire, Lyz Muir, and presented both members with their name badges. Four of our members volunteered to help at Farnborough Rotary's 'KIDS OUT'. See Pat, Brenda and Anna serving refreshments on a very hot day

Marion Flanders
Club Correspondent

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF HOVE

President Betty Raggett

Friendship is a lifelong endeavour and as we celebrate our centenary year, it reminds us that good strong friends are as important as diet and exercise. This year our President, President Betty has suggested that we celebrate the friendship that exists in our club by arranging lunches, coffee mornings, race-days, skittles and inter club activities. This gives members the opportunity to dip in and out of club events whilst still feeling a part of the club.

We kicked off her year with a visit Brighton Racecourse on Ladies Day which started with lunch in the car park and was followed by a fabulous day watching the horsesand everyone else. Between us we didn't have much luck as our tipster (Katharine's husband) was not on form that day!



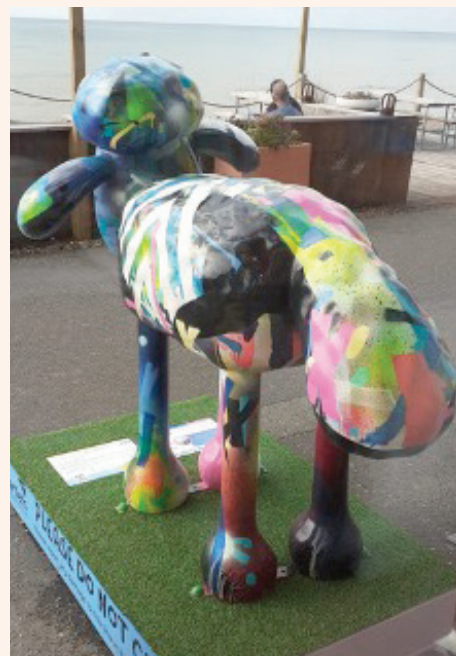
Our next event was lunch at the re-named Brighton City Airport (aka Shoreham Airport). We didn't think we would need to book...how wrong we were! However luckily for us there was space outside as it was a beautiful day and we guessed at the destinations of the planes taking off....The Seychelles, St Michael...Newquay.

Next up was Mary's marathons of coffee, lunch and tea all in one day. Mary lives in a flat overlooking the sea, so we all just use it as an excuse to people watch and to be mesmerised by the waves.

Then we met up with members from The Inner Wheel Club of Lewes and enjoyed hearing all about what they have been up to. It is fantastic to enjoy a get together and it is amazing to see the ease and warmth that comes with these long-standing friendships. Between us we have over 164 years of friendship. Alongside all of these activities was the annual District Skittles competition which our club has won for many years. It was not to be this year! We even practised on the men first.

Our President then gave us a talk on how she became a volunteer for the London 2012 Paralympic Games which was fantastic. Such a great example of how Inner Wheel values can enrich your life and improve your health.

We almost don't need an excuse to go out for coffee but as we have some rather large decorative sheep dotted around the city, someone of us met at Rockwater to view one of the many 'Shaun the Sheep'. These sheep have all been decorated by local artists to raise money for the Martletts Hospice. There is a whole trail dedicated to them.



Friendship is a privilege that shouldn't be underestimated. Simply put, good friends are good for you. Luckily for us, 'Friendship' is and continues to be the bedrock of our charity. Our lives have been enhanced by the friendships that we have known and continue to have. Margarett would be proud.

Last but not least, we would like to wish one of our members a very happy 80th birthday. She is just about to become a grandma for the second time so her life is going to get even busier.

Katharine Butcher
Club Correspondent.

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF LEWES

President Elizabeth Hughes

We've had teas this summer in gardens for the Joint Committee and the Handover Meeting. In June our International Service Officer held a lunch in her sunny garden in aid of her charity Toybox, and Seaford Inner Wheel joined us, helping us to raise a goodly sum of money. In September we visited Limekiln Farm, Chalvington - a National Garden Scheme Open Day which was a delight with many flowers still blooming away. We also had cake! We've had a visit from a representative of KSSAA, our Past President's charity, and presented him with a cheque. We're about to visit their headquarters. We've also had a visit from our President's charity, Homelink.

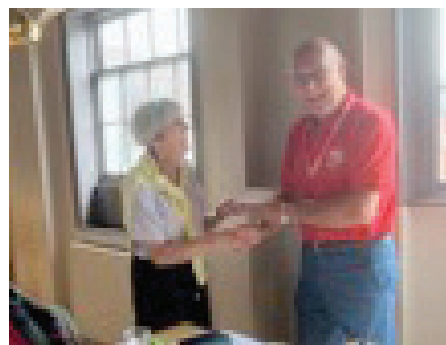
Sue Tompsett
Club Correspondent



Lots of cake!



Sue Chowen and Christine Fogden at Susan's lunch for International Charity Toybox



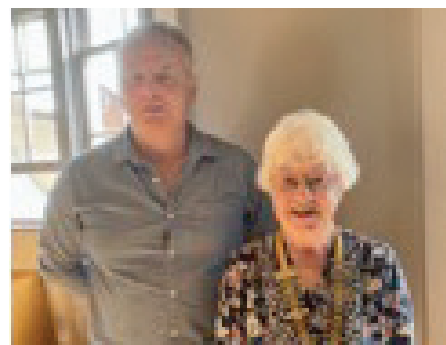
Christine and KSSAA representative - her charity



Christine inducting President Elizabeth Hughes



Past District Chairman Katharine inducting District Chairman Gail



Elizabeth with Homelink representative - her charity

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF MIDHURST & PETWORTH

President Hilary Mitten

Incoming President Hilary Mitten arranged a most enjoyable visit to Leonard's Lee Gardens for our Summer outing. The weather was kind. We were fascinated by the Dolls House Museum which gave us an insight to life in the Edwardian times. Not only miniature houses were on display, but farm yards, gardens with box hedges and a Church. To wander around the grounds at Leonard's Lee is a treat, with so many varieties of plants, shrubs and trees, some very unusual. The photo shows a statue of "The Three Graces," with a magnificent Acer in the background. Our refreshment was a delicious cream tea, which we all felt we deserved after our educational wanderings.

A Reason to Celebrate: The Inner Wheel Club of Midhurst and Petworth members were very happy to be celebrating our 54th Birthday on 10th October 2023. All members of Rotary were invited, which swelled our numbers. Our Speakers were two retired Doctors who came to work in Midhurst at the beginning of the 1970s, very close to the birth of this vibrant club. Each table was decked with a blue candle surrounded with beautiful, vivid yellow flowers, with much gratitude to our creative members of the club. There was a real buzz to the evening, with much chat and laughter.

The photo is of our President Hilary Mitten and a founder member Peggy Goodall who lit the candle at the start of the evening.

The Chook Trophy: Our annual Skittles match between Rotary and Inner Wheel was held at the Spur, Slindon. The trophy was donated by a member of Rotary member in memory of his wife who organised Skittles for Inner Wheel. The trophy was so named for her love of her "Chooks". There is always a lot of banter during the evening, fun being had by all. We played three games, with Rotary being the winners with 273 points and Inner Wheel 249 points. A killer was played: this is a game where the skittles are

assembled, each competitor has two lives, they bowl once, then the next player bowls to the remainder of the skittles. If there is no score you have lost a life. This is repeated until one team has lost all its lives. Whereas Rotary beat us with their superior strength in knocking down the skittles, the Inner Wheel Ladies were more accurate in their aim, so won the Killer game. Our prize money is to be used for Inner Wheel Charities.

Six of our members travelled the roads and lanes to reach Ashington for the International Rally. Our stall was set up with various articles suitable for Christmas Stocking fillers. At times business was brisk, Christmas being on people's minds. A delicious lunch of ham and chicken salad was served, which gave an opportunity to chat to one's neighbour from a different Club - Friendship spreading its arms. The focus was then on our speakers who represented "Hope House Haiti". The Charity was formed after the disastrous earthquake in 2010. This Charity provides a home and school for children orphaned in the earthquake. The Charity's aim is to provide funding, professional guidance and advice to those working with the Charity in Haiti.



Our Bridge Tea - a very happy time

Linda Payne
Club Correspondent

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF SEAFORD

President Maureen Edgar

Summer appeared to have arrived at last and the ladies of Inner Wheel were able to socialize with coffee mornings in other member's gardens. On Saturday 17th June, we held an afternoon Garden Party at the home of Andrea Butti, one of our colleagues, in aid of the Charity 'Shelterbox', which provides aid to families in all countries devastated by disaster, such as flooding. From Cameroon to Syria, all the way to the Philippines and the Caribbean, they have provided shelter to over 2.5 million people so far. They provide safe emergency shelter and the tools for those effected to rebuild their homes, their communities and lives. The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Stalls included bric-a-brac, books and jigsaws, pre-loved clothes, and a raffle. Refreshments included tea, coffee and cakes made by the ladies.

We have warmly welcomed a new member to our local Club. Mary Simms was inducted into the Membership of the Inner Wheel by our President, Dr Mary Morris, in our May Meeting.

June was sadly our last evening meeting at Diellas Restaurant in Seaford. Stefano was presented with a Marks and Spencer Voucher by President Dr Mary Morris as a token of our appreciation for all his kindness and attention whilst we have



been there. From July we will be gathering on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Seaford Golf Club, Firle Road, commencing at mid-day.

Members of the Inner Wheel Club went for their fortnightly stroll along the Seafront ending up at the Sailing Club for coffee and chat. The weather has been kind so far, let's keep our fingers crossed for further dates.

On 18th September one of our members, Anne

Vickers, held a coffee morning at her house. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and especially the lovely cakes that she had made for us. All proceeds were donated to the Young Carers.

On the 19th September, nineteen members met at the Old Boot Inn for an evening meal. This occasion was arranged so that members who are unable to meet at our monthly lunchtime meeting at the Blatchington Golf Club on a Tuesday can get together with friends to catch up on news. We were very well accommodated with good food and service. The evening meal was organised by Maggie Posgate, a member of the Club's Social committee, and it is intended that in future, evening meetings will be held once every three months.

October has been a busy month for the ladies of the Inner Wheel socialising whilst fundraising. Past President, Andrea Butti hosted an Afternoon Tea at her house, on the 9th October, where members congregated to fill shoe boxes for the Charity "Link to Hope". The Charity aims to combat poverty and give humanitarian aid to the most disadvantaged. The poorest, especially people struggling to survive in rural villages that lack basic amenities, are the most vulnerable and most exploited. The shoe boxes are sent to families and the elderly in Eastern European countries and are filled with everyday essentials.

On the 19th October, members attended the Inner Wheel District International Rally at Ashington, West Sussex. The International President for the District, is Aileen Hargreaves, and her chosen charity is "Hope House Haiti". This well-attended rally exhibited plenty of different stalls supporting the organisation with a lovely lunch provided. Seaford ran a popular Tombola stall. A presentation was given by charity volunteers who explained how the charity was formed by Yvrose and Pierre Richard Telfort, a Haitian couple, who set up "Hope House" as a home to look after children orphaned after the devastating earthquake in 2010. They established a school, and later a Secondary School in 2014, providing free education, health checks and a daily hot meal for the poorest children in the local community. Aileen Hargreaves stated, "Hearing about disasters around the world has sadly become too frequent and we strive to provide help, in as many ways we can, to as many charities as possible but often feel frustrated that we are unable to do more. The consequences of the disasters are far reaching and impact greatly on family life, children's health, development, and security which is of great importance and the disruption can last for many years long after the disaster occurred". The Inner Wheel Club also strives to support Charities in this country, addressing the needs of local and national charities.

On the 25th October, our President, Maureen Edgar, hosted a Coffee Morning at her house which included a raffle. A substantial amount of money was raised for her charity "Chestnut Tree House". This children's charity provides hospice care services and community support for children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions in Sussex and Southeast Hampshire, as well as providing support to their parents and carers.

Marilyn Elizabeth Ross
Club Correspondent

THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE RALLY

ASHINGTON 19TH OCTOBER 2023

It was a showery day, so arrivals at the Ashington Village Hall were pleased to be served refreshments by Guildford Inner Wheel Club members. The event was very well attended by more than 66 Inner Wheel Ladies, and there were many stalls around the Hall, selling homemade cakes, Christmas goodies, books, bric-a-brac, etc, all doing a lively business as truly nice things were being sold. Then there was the Raffle with just a few very nice prizes: for example, a large basket of fruit, beautifully presented, and a delicious-smelling Stephanotis potted plant which I think was won by a Guildford member; a drift of the flower's perfume wafted past as the Lady returned to her seat nearby.

We were served a truly delicious lunch by Debbie and her Assistants: we had chicken, stuffing balls, pigs in blankets, ham and pineapple, hard-boiled eggs, coleslaw, couscous decorated with tomatoes and grapes, tomatoes with mozzarella, green salad, warm buttered new potatoes and rolls and butter. For dessert, those of us with the inclination had bought cakes from the delectable choice on Guildford's cake stall.

After a necessary 'comfort break', District 25th International Service Officer, Aileen Hargreaves of Cuckfield & Lindfield Club, introduced the speakers from District 25's International charity for this year, 'Hope House Haiti'. There were two Ladies who had been to Hope House and worked there, so they had many, many slides to show us of 'then and now' conditions at the farm house there that was adapted as a home and school for children orphaned by the 2010 Haitian earthquake. We were told how the school was developed with the emphasis not only on education but also on befitting the children for working life. In addition to giving a home and education to the children, they have developed the farmland to provide food for them all.



Sadly, in recent years lawlessness on Haiti has grown and the farm and its inhabitants were under threat, so they built a wall all around the Home and its environs. Nevertheless, it was necessary for them to venture out to Port au Prince for provisions and other activities and when this became too dangerous instead they got what they needed by going over the nearby border into the Dominican Republic. Sadly this is still an ongoing situation and one of the Ladies, a teacher, has been unable to return for several months. As you can imagine, such a detailed Report took more than an hour to relate.



At the end of their detailed talk Aileen presented the two Ladies with a cheque from District 25 Inner Wheel members.

If you are ALWAYS trying to be NORMAL, you will never know how AMAZING you can be.

Maya Angelou