



# Entre Nous

## The Inner Wheel Club of Edgbaston Convention



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### Daphne's Diary



Our first meeting of the year started splendidly when you all presented me with a surprise birthday cake. Thank you so much once again, especially Diane, who made and decorated this delightful and delicious cake. You also excelled by donating over 100 toiletry items for the Mums at Birmingham Crisis Centre to mark Inner Wheel Day, which also met the *100 for 100* challenge.

We now have a busy couple of months with elections at all levels of Inner Wheel. All our club officers are willing to continue, but we do need a President. Sharing has worked well in recent years, so if we have two or three members who will share, we will be fine for another year. Please give this careful consideration as our club will be 40 in October 2025 and it would be so sad if we didn't reach this milestone. We may be a small club but just think of all the people locally, nationally, and internationally who benefit from our support, and we ourselves would miss out on the fun and friendship we share.

The March District Meeting will be a celebration of District 6's 90th birthday, so it would be good to get a nice turnout from the club. Unfortunately, from this year, if fewer than 60 members attend a DCM, there will be a room hire charge of £500. The Executive is making March a fun meeting, with reports being pre-circulated to keep business to a minimum. A few of us will be representing the 1970s in the *Decades Fashion Show* before lunch, then after lunch some of us will be taking part in the murder mystery play, *Murder at the Holiday Camp*. Do come and support us and don't miss out on the fun. The meeting should be finished by 3.00pm.

As David and I missed our family Christmas celebrations because I had Covid, we recently had a weekend with Jane and family. On the Saturday we went into London to see granddaughter Lucy's delightful new flat, her first rung on the property ladder. Then after lunch, Jane, David and I went into the West End where we saw the excellent production of *The King and I* (a shared birthday celebration, as our birthdays are all within two weeks just after Christmas). Finally on Sunday the whole family enjoyed a belated Christmas lunch - turkey, crackers, games and all - what fun. My next birthday celebration will be at the beginning of March when I will be going to see the ballet *Sleeping Beauty* at Birmingham Hippodrome with Jane, my sister and niece. I rather like these extended celebrations! I look forward to seeing you at our February meeting when we will welcome Greg Morris, Chair of *Hamlin Fistula UK*, for an update on the charity's work, and we will also be joined by Punam, Edgbaston Convention's Rotary President this year, as she was unable to attend our November meeting because she had Covid. Meanwhile, enjoy all the emerging spring flowers. **Daphne**



## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE MATTERS



Katie has been so busy knitting for us and has far exceeded previous donations. About 10 days ago Dave and I visited my brother Tony and Katie in Stroud and returned with 6 large boxes containing 126 knitted squares (colourful and pastel), the usual striped sweaters in assorted sizes (4 sets of 5 jumpers) 11 further brightly coloured jumpers, 13 babies' jumpers and cardigans. Just some of these items are shown on the photo (left).

Having a deadline of 14 February for the blankets for the Fistula hospital, I set to and within a week I had sewn together and crocheted enough of Katie's squares to produce another large blanket.

Both this one and the one made by our club members are shown below in the left and right photos respectively. Both blankets carry the printed label indicating their origin. Hope you like them all. In appreciation of her efforts, I presented Katie with a beautiful large orchid. **Diane**



### District 6 inner Wheel International Service

District International Service Chairman Beryl has provided a list of items for donation at the International Service Rally on 23 May 2024 at Barston. If you are unable to attend the Rally donations can be passed to Club members who will be there. All the donations will be sent to the Ukraine – thank you for your help.

#### **Knitted Goods for All Ages**

Gloves, mittens, hats and scarves  
Jerseys  
Leg warmers

#### **Clothing and Footwear**

Good condition, second hand for all ages

#### **Food**

Biscuits (within one year's best of date)  
Cooking Oil  
Flour  
Pasta  
Rice  
Salt  
Tinned fish  
Tinned meat  
Tinned veg.

#### **Medical**

Antiseptic creams, bandages, calpol, first aid kits  
gauze, Ibuprofen, Paracetamol, plasters, surgical  
gloves etc

#### **Toiletries**

Flannels, incontinence pads, nappies, sanitary  
towels, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste

#### **Camping Equipment**

Batteries, camping cutlery, candles, generators,  
LED lights, power packs, sleeping bags, tents etc

#### **Household Items**

Bedding, crockery, cutlery, fridges, kettles, towels,  
tumble dryers, washing machines etc

#### **Stationery**

Ballpoint pens, colouring books, colouring pencils,  
Pencil sharpeners, etc



## I Won the Raffle!



You may remember that at the Inner Wheel/Rotary Christmas lunch I won the raffle, which had been provided by Rosie and was a voucher for a set lunch for 2 at the Gaucho restaurant on Colmore Row. The voucher couldn't be used until after January 10 but very soon after that I booked a table and off Dale and I went. Our first task was to find Gaucho. After walking along Colmore Row a few times on a very windy day we were pointed to a short distance down Church Street and there it was. Inside it was quite dark but as far as we could see there were quite a few tables occupied.

Gaucho, as the name suggests, is an Argentine steak house and vegetarians would have a problem. For us meat-eaters the menu was attractive and I started with ceviche of sea bass and mango (delicious) and Dale had some chorizo. Then we both had rump steaks with masses of chips (who can eat them all?) and a few roast vegetables. That kept us both quiet for a while, even with a glass of Argentinian Red to help the digestion.

We couldn't manage a dessert but an excellent coffee with a small chocolate rounded the meal off beautifully. The service was very friendly, but lacked some attention to detail, and there was no loud music to intrude. The other tables provided several "diners of interest", you know -What is she wearing?, Do you think they're having an office lunch? Why do they all go to the Ladies at once?

Altogether we enjoyed our lunch, it was a great surprise win. Janet

## Rules and Regulations!

In 2006, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in England, and said "Once again, the Earth has become wicked and over-populated, and I see the end of all living flesh before me. Build another Ark and save 2 of every living thing, along with a few good humans. He gave Noah the CAD drawings, saying, "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his Yard but no Ark. "Noah!" he roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed Building Regulations Approval because the Ark was over 30m2. I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim I should have obtained planning permission prior to building the Ark in my garden because it is development of the site even though in my view it is a temporary structure, but the roof is too high. I had to appeal to the Secretary of State."

"Getting the wood was another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them, and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest set up to protect the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!"

"When I started gathering the animals, the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals

against their will." "Then the County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study of your proposed flood."



"I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many BME's I'm supposed to hire for my building team." "The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only CSCS accredited workers with Ark-building experience." "So, forgive me Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky.

Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?" "No" said the Lord "the government already beat me to it!"

**Supplied by Diane**

**District and Club Diary Dates –January 2024 to June 2024**

**February**

**14 – International Meeting** – speaker Greg Morris  
Chair of Hamlin Fistula UK.

**29 – Visit to Walsall Leather Museum** – meet there  
at 1100. Pay on the day. Further details from Gay.

**March**

**13 – Business Meeting** with elections of officers for  
2024/5

**19 Inner Wheel Club of Kenilworth Open Meeting** –  
12 for 1230am at Kenilworth Golf Club, two course  
lunch and tea/coffee, speaker Roy Smart on Wallace  
Simpson and the Abdication Crisis, £25 pp.

**21 – District 6 Committee Meeting and 90<sup>th</sup>  
Celebrations** with lunch at the Lake at Barston;  
details to follow. Club is representing the 1970s –  
wear appropriate dress! See poster alongside!

**26 – Book Club 1000 for 1015am** at Jen's home. All  
welcome!

**April**

**10 – Club meeting** – tba speaker

**May**

**7 – 10 – International Convention in Manchester**

**15 – Club Meeting** – tba speaker

**23 – District International Service Rally** at Barston,  
speaker from the Ukraine. Details to follow.

**June**

**6 – District 6 Committee Meeting and AGM** with  
dinner at the Lake at Barston – details to follow.

*Further details of the above are available at Club  
meetings and/or from Secretary Daphne*

The butterfly does not look back at  
the caterpillar in shame, just as you  
should not look back at your past in  
shame. Your past was part of your  
own transformation.

- Anthony Gucciardi




Copy for March to Gay by Friday 8 March  
2024. All contributions welcome!

Your District Executive invites and encourages all our members to join them  
at the

**March 21<sup>st</sup> District Committee  
Meeting**  
(details from your Club Secretary)

This will be a one-off event to celebrate 90 years of  
District 6 plus continuing our celebration of 100 years of  
Inner Wheel following a shortened meeting

All the decades of Inner Wheel will be represented by our clubs from the  
1920's to the 2020's



After lunch we will be treated to a play set in the 1930's

**Murder at the Holiday Camp**  
Cast: Inner Wheel Members + one other

Will Miss Marble solve the murder or will you?

