

JEAN'S JOURNEYS

APRIL 2025



Thursday 3rd April - travelled home from Harrogate again with Fiona driving. All our members got home safely with few delays - tired but happy at the way the whole thing had gone - all over for another year - but of course we will be planning for Llandudno soon!



Saturday 5th April - my birthday - thank you all friends and family for making this day special - for the lovely cards, good wishes, flowers, chocolates presents & visits. Definitely sitting back and being spoiled and recuperating from the rigours of Conference!!!!!! Why does it now take much longer to recover from big events ??????!!!



Wednesday 9th April - Rally Meeting at the Royal Hotel.

Susan Oliphant (Rally Convenor) & I met with Hotel Manager Donna to firm up final plans for the Rally on 30th May. I hope to see a good turn out from all our clubs - an opportunity to network & meet up socially at this annual event - to hear Association President Heather give her address. If you are staying locally the night before join the Forfar Club at the Golf Club for our Pre-Rally meal & get together.

Later that day, journeyed with Tim to Inverness staying over at the lovely Kingsmills Hotel so that I could attend the Inverness Club's Birthday Meeting the next day. Quick pop into House of Bruar on the way there, of course.



Thursday 10th April - attended the **66th Birthday Meeting** of the **Inverness Club** - this was my last club visit - later than normal as my previous 2 attempts had to be postponed for health reasons then the weather! How lovely to be there on this occasion as the Inverness Club members welcomed home their friend - **Heather Sheerin** - our **Association President**, fresh from the triumph of the Harrogate Conference. The club took the opportunity to present Heather with beautiful gifts to commemorate her year as Association President - a lovely silver framed photograph, earrings & a clematis for her garden.



Club President Mairi Cuthbert is seen making the presentation and Heather was profuse in her thanks to the club members for all the support she has had this year - and for their superhuman efforts at Conference where their craft stall had raised **£4000** for **Arthritis Action**.





The speaker for the meeting was local archivist (*left*) who gave a very interesting talk on **The Lion Tamer of Inverness!!!** A lovely day spent with so many friends - visitors from Nairn, Aberfeldy & Banff made it a large gathering & having Heather with us made it really special. I was delighted to induct a new member - **Cathy Morrison** and present appreciation certificates to 2 of our **Golden Girls** - **Doreen Caldwell** and **Sheila Kelly** - with more than **100 years service** between them. Both still very active in the club and feel that joining Inner Wheel is the best thing they have ever done. Thank you for your outstanding service ladies and thank you Mairi and the Inverness Club for your hospitality and the warmth of your welcome.

Congratulations!



Presentation to Sheila Kelly



Jean & Mairi



Jean, Doreen, Sheila & Mairi



Presentation to Doreen Caldwell



Induction of Cathy Morrison



These chickens lay eggs anywhere!



Around some of the tables



Saturday 12th April - began journey down to **Nottingham** - Tim driving most of the way down to Crooklands - our favourite stop over place just off the M6 in Cumbria

Hilton Nottingham



Sunday 13th April - continued our journey south to Nottingham to arrive in good time to attend the pre-Rally get together at the Hilton Hotel at the Nottingham Gateway - a new venue for the **District 22 Rally** - but by the comments afterwards - a great choice. I was there to support my friend **Lyn Copper** who is **DC of District 22** this year . We began this District journey together as raw recruit Editors during the pandemic - a friendship cemented over the years by many shared experiences - that’s how Inner Wheel friendships blossom.

Crooklands



**DC Lyn with the 3 visiting DC’s -
Jean D1, Joy D127, Patricia D7**



**Ass President Heather
& DC Lyn**



& James



**Ass President Heather,
DC Lyn &
D22 District Executive**



**Ass President Heather,
DC Lyn
with the amazing
D22 Choir**



**Now there is an idea -
any volunteers
to start
one in D1?????**



Monday 14th April - the day of the **Rally** - started early with a service of Friendship - something new for me but beautifully done. It was led by Rev Alison Redshaw, one of their members and the praise was led by the District 22 Choir! - *see pics above*. Although the Rally itself followed the usual format - it was so interesting to see how things were done in a different ways - like each club standing up & bringing greetings to Lyn and a lovely ceremony of lighting 4 candles which I first saw done at the 100th Centenary Lunch in London. A very happy day - thank you Lyn for the invitation and for the warmth of the welcome from everyone. We look forward to seeing you at our Rally in Forfar.



with DC Patricia,
D7



Past Ass President Pam
McConnell lights a candle



with Tim
at Pre-Rally



DC Lyn &
Paul

*Some more pics from the
Rally & Pre-Rally - some well
known faces in D22.*



*How many ladies are
needed to fix the Ass.
President's Chain of Office ?*



Ass President
Heather
& James



MOC Elaine
& Pete



Greetings
from D1



Heather with a happy group of members



Ass
Treasurer
Gloria

Wednesday 16th April - Rally meeting with the Committee. Update on plans - numbers coming in slowly from clubs but nearly all guests now accommodated and plans made for transport etc. Lists to be made - draft programme done - deadlines now looming! Some slight tweaks to schedule may be made - but table & room decorations now well in hand - report back from meeting with Donna at the Royal. Music now all in hand too - it will all come together on the day 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷



That evening was the club meeting of **Forfar IW**, when a very interesting talk was given on **Forfar in Bloom** by **Alison Elliot** and **Lynne Devine**. We heard how the group started and with a very small membership of helpers have transformed many of the town's eyesore corners into beautifully tended gardens. Inner Wheel had given the group a donation of funds recently and the ladies were able to see how this money has been spent mainly on refreshing and replanting the area at the entrance to the Country Park. A busy spring and summer is envisioned with all the weeding and watering needed to keep the various baskets & planters tended as well as the bigger areas refreshed. We congratulated them on once again achieving a **top award from Keep Scotland Beautiful**.

Pic left - Alison Elliot, Club President Susan Oliphant & Lynne Devine

Thursday 24th April - drove up to Pitlochry with 2 passengers - Mary & Agnes - to attend the **Open Meeting & Lunch of the Pitlochry Club** held in the **Moulin Hotel**. Always a lovely event and a very happy occasion. Thank you President Margaret & her committee for the warmth of your welcome and for arranging such a happy occasion - always lovely to meet up with Inner Wheel friends from neighbouring clubs. An excellent talk given by Lindsay & Craig from local business, Heather Gems. They took us through all the processes in making their beautiful pieces of jewellery - and lucky me - I won a beautiful brooch in the raffle. We were delighted too to congratulate President Margaret on becoming Pitlochry's citizen of the year - a great honour and excellent PR for Inner Wheel.



**President Margaret
with DC Jean and
with Craig & Lindsay
of Heather Gems**



**This is the beautiful Heather Gem I won
in the raffle!**

Thursday 1st May - Perth Open Meeting and Afternoon Tea .

Journey this time to Perth - via Jerico!!! Thank you Eleanor for driving Agnes, Annetta & myself to Perth & managing to get a space in the hotel car park - how lucky was that - neat reversing though!!!! This was to attend the Perth Inner Wheel Open Meeting and Afternoon Tea! The pictures speak for themselves. The afternoon tea at the Royal George Hotel is legendary - just look at that cake selection - and believe it or not I didn't have one! Musical entertainment was provided by **Plaid Song** - a brilliant local singing duo - Nicky Small & Syd House . They charmed us all with their mix of traditional songs and the stories behind them - some new to us and others well known favourites. Over 40 in attendance with visitors from Aberfeldy, Auchterarder & District, Dundee, Forfar, Kinross & District, North Fife and Stirling. My thanks as always to the Perth ladies for an excellent afternoon - and I wish them every success with their Fashion Show in a couple of weeks time, which I understand is a sell out!



Afternoon tea anyone?



Plaid Song with Sue & Dorothy Kennedy
who gave Vote of Tanks



with President Sue



What a selection of cakes!



Other pics from the day.



And so another month comes to an end but fear not there are many more travels to come later in May, when I shall be visiting **Larkhall, Durham and Belfast** to attend their rallies representing District 1.



I look forward to seeing many of you in **Forfar** on **30th May** for our **73rd District Rally** - being hosted by my own club, in the **Royal Hotel**. Preparations are well in hand. A very warm welcome awaits you and we look forward to welcoming **Association President Heather** as our guest and hearing her address. See you all there.

