

Inner Wheel

ASSOCIATION OF INNER WHEEL CLUBS
IN GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

Summer 2025



Inner Wheel at the Heart
of the Community for over 100 years

**All roads of
Friendship and Service
Lead to Inner Wheel
"Women of Action"**



**HEARTBEAT
OF HUMANITY**

Inner Wheel 2024-25



www.innerwheel.co.uk

A fond farewell from President Heather

It has been an absolute privilege to have served as your Association President for 2024-2025 and I thank you all for giving me the opportunity.

There have been so many highlights throughout my year, the Conference in Harrogate being just one. The District Rallies I attended, where laughter, joy and friendship played a significant part, I thank you all for making me so very welcome.

I am overwhelmed by the wonderful generosity of members who supported my Craft Stall at Conference for Arthritis Action. The beautiful items, made so lovingly by members, were beyond my expectations and so very well received, thank you from the bottom of my heart to all those wonderful ladies who donated these delightful crafts.

I wish to recognise my wonderful Executive who have supported me, whole heartedly, throughout my year. Thank you, ladies. Also, to my husband James who has been my strength and support and always there for me.

As I stepdown from this role I do so with a heart full of gratitude and cherished memories. Though this may be a farewell in an official capacity I look forward to continuing my journey together with you all as part of my Inner Wheel life.

Thank you once again for your support, enthusiasm, and most of all your friendship.

Take care.

*Yours in Aye
Heather*



Reflections on Harrogate Conference from first timer, Yvette Thomas D22 and two regulars - June Christophi D12 and Cliona Kear D3

Sunday: - Arrived early afternoon. Meeting with the "Four Musketeers team" – Di (D'Artagnan), June, Cliona, and me (Porthos, Aramis, and Athos). Good to see everyone in person. Free time before dinner so time to explore and reacquaint myself with Harrogate as well as admire the Vintage cars assembled at the Majestic. A few familiar faces. Dinner gave me more time to get to know my co musketeers. Noise levels at dinner fairly low.

The Hotel Majestic is in the town centre of Historic Harrogate, it is a stunning Victorian building that has served many famous visitors such as Winston Churchill, Edward Elgar, Errol Flynn, James Herriot, GB Shaw, and several Prime Ministers. The Hotel served as an RAF Reception Centre during the Second World War and was bombed on the 17th of July 1940, it has been extensively refurbished since.

Monday: - Following a leisurely breakfast a trip to the Conference Centre was in order. Over the morning the hall with the Sales stalls was transformed from a blank area to a very colourful one. What a wonderful range of items we could spend our money on, and we did. Once registration was open it was time to meet up with old friends and make new ones. It is certainly true that the more events you attend the more people you get to know. It took me an hour to leave the hall! Dinner was earlier this evening as many Districts had arranged get-togethers.

Beginning to spot more Inner Wheelers on my morning exploration and a chance to do some serious shopping. 10,000 steps before lunch.

Whilst not as majestic as the hotel, the Conference Centre is still an impressive building and has been hosting conferences and exhibitions since the end of the Second World War. Over the years the venue has expanded to include eight exhibition halls as well as ancillary facilities. It is to here that our journey continues. Having collected our registrations, we progress into the hall where numerous stalls are laid out with amazing goodies. crafts, jewellery, clothes, etc.

Registration open but not many yet! An interesting mix of stalls. Like a swan all calm on the top but, no doubt lots of rapid paddling going on by the governing body, Melanie, and the stall holders. Gradual increase in decibels as more people pour in greeting their friends. I guessed my squares for President Heather's quilting and got my winning raffle tickets. (It turned out they were not winners, and neither was my guess but hey-ho, it is the taking part that is important, and the money raised for President Heather's charity, Arthritis Action.)

I am getting into the rhythm of it now. Much more of a buzz at dinner and then District 22 gathering for drinks and lots of chat with DC Lyn in anticipation of the next two days. One hundred members from the district attending.

Tuesday: - I wake to the prospect of another sunny day. After a quick breakfast – although that is difficult with so many friends to chat to – it is off to the main hall. A real buzz now with the stalls already busy. In my seat in good time. President Heather is piped onto the stage in true Scottish style, and we are off!

The Reverend Catherine Forsdike, Member of Council D8 gets us underway with the Service of Friendship. She had us all a little bemused as my fellow musketeers will report. A fabulous way to break the ice, get us all relaxed and laughing. Setting the scene for a Conference all about friendship.

Having been welcomed to the conference by the Reverend Catherine Forsdike, she then went on to say, “welcome to Bournemouth - in the snow” having realised this was wrong she pretended to have the wrong notes, going over to her husband to check with him... She then turned to the audience and said, “April Fool.”

The essence of the memorable service was friendship and the celebration of life. Friendship is the life Blood of Inner Wheel. There were poems, hymns and readings all speaking of friendship. The service ended with the singing of ‘AULD LANG SYNE’ we all joined in with our arms linked... how more appropriate could this be?

During the service, a collection was made with the proceeds going to Smile Train. The service was truly uplifting.

Welcomes followed from President Heather, Chris Aldred the Charter Mayor of Harrogate, International President Mamta Gupta and then our first speaker took to the stage – Angela Rippon CBE. Gosh what a professional. Speaking without notes she took us through her lengthy career from cub reporter via lots of TV in different countries. (More details from my fellow musketeers). My impression: an absolute professional with her feet firmly planted on the ground, approachable, articulate, with expressive hand gestures and enthusiasm for what she does. A true ‘Woman of Action’ who can still rest her foot on the speaker’s lectern when asked about a “heat pump” advert.

Speaker Angela Rippon, what an amazing, eloquent Lady she is, spoke of her life achievements. Her first role on television, 5th September 1966, and she was paid just £6 10 shillings. Then on to being the first female to present Top Gear, then the Antiques Road Show. She has also presented 6 Royal Weddings, 2 Royal Funerals and 1 Coronation. During her talk, a mobile phone started to ring, Angela at once ran forward and asked ‘is it for me’ this caused great laughter in the audience. One of her most memorable presentations was of when she and three other celebrities went to Gambia in Africa to the slums. They were to live there for one week, they were given £2.50 to last the week. There was no running water, or toilet, and they were to wear a T-shirt, sarong, and trainers. With her money Angela bought a toothbrush, toothpaste, and a loo roll. Angela was to help a young woman, Julianna who had three sons. Julianna was a washerwoman by day and a prostitute by night. The washing was done by hand

and at the end of Angela’s first day her hands were raw, so she was unable to continue. However, the local school offered her a teaching role... so she taught English, and payment was food. There were many other stories, including her getting the opportunity in 1975 to ride ‘Red Rum’ a famous racehorse... and not forgetting her wonderful experience competing in ‘Strictly Come Dancing’ so beautiful and elegant.

President Heather opened the afternoon session by introducing the District Chairmen.

The first speaker was Hugh Davies an Ambassador for Smile Train. Having been born himself with a hare lip and cleft palate he spoke from experience. First operation at six months and final operation at eighteen. Before his first operation no photos were ever taken of him. This was back in the 60’s. At eighteen he decided that his life up until then was to be a closed book and it is only in the last year or so that he has realised the impact that this has had on his emotional and mental wellbeing. He showed a video of a clinic in Bolivia and the work that is being done there. In the last 25 years Smile Train has transformed the lives of over two million children and adults in 75 countries. He was presented with a cheque for £4,600 from the collection at the Service. Thanks to your very generous donations we will give a smile to another 15 children. Hugh was very taken aback by this generosity.

Gillian Castle was the next speaker - Gill is a record-breaking Channel Swimmer and charity founder. Gill was fitted with a stoma following devastating childbirth injuries. She realised that there was a need to talk about what had happened but there was no one there. Gill suffered anxiety, she had depression, lost her job, problems with her eating and still had to look after her baby son. She wanted to help others in this same situation, so she overcame her fear of the open water, and her fear of the dark, she trained hard and took on the challenge to be the first woman with a stoma to cross the English Channel. Gill raised more than £50,000.

What an inspirational ‘Woman of Action.’ Her life changing event, when she became a young mother followed by her “light bulb” moment when she determined that she needed a mindset change. Making the most of her wonderful son and her can do attitude. She left us with a final quote from Dolly Parton that sums up this lovely ‘Woman of Action.’

“We can’t direct the wind.
But we can adjust the sails.”

She certainly has.

Leah Boylan came next with her enthusiastic speech on Arthritis Action. She spoke of how 1 in 6 people need firsthand practical help, and she is keen to reach out to younger adults to show that Arthritis can impact people of all ages. Association President Heather presented Leah with a cheque for £6000, with more to follow.

Trish Douglas spoke about Orange the World which is a United Nations initiative. It runs every year from 25th November which is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to 16th December which is International Human Rights Day. Every day in this world of ours 138 women are murdered. We are encouraged to wear Orange to bring notice to this. A couple of mottos are "Her Safety our Priority" and "Education, Opportunity and Respect are her Right."

Back to the hotel for another lovely meal, lots of noise and chatting with new people. Then, to the Royal Hall for "A night at the proms." No dress code but many people with union jack scarves, shirts or dresses and everyone was given a flag to wave. A real treat for me as I love a good brass band, and this one was brilliant with a very funny and clever conductor Martin Heartfield. The highlight was the Proms section. Flags were enthusiastically waved and the voices of 908 attendees raised the roof. There were a lot of hoarse voices the next day!

Wednesday: - Up bright and early to be in my seat by 9.30 for the morning session – the AGM. I had my fingers crossed for a slick meeting. I was not disappointed. President Heather and administrator Melanie, between them, kept everything flowing along. Finished in good time for lunch.

The Platform Party was introduced along with Association Past Presidents and Members of Council. The first Report was from the Council to the 2025 Conference and was followed by Reports from all the Committee Chairmen. The Proposals and Motion were dealt with in a timely fashion and all the necessary voting took place.

President Heather opened the afternoon session with a little jig as she arrived on the stage. She was introduced to us by Constitution Chairman Pat Russell who told us a little about Heather who then gave her Address to Conference. Vice-President Pam Boyes gave the Vote of Thanks and was then presented with the Chain of Office for 2025-2026. The official handover will take place at the Annual Assembly in Yarnfield in July. The incoming Association Executive Committee was then introduced. Some notable comments from Heather: "You get out what you put in" "Change is Necessary" "Be part of the solution not the Problem" "If it is to be it is up to Us."

It strikes me that the Association Executive Committee is like a District Executive Committee. Heather and the other officers are a small IW family who support each other and work together like a small club. I certainly look on my Executive Committee as being a second club. Once all the ceremonials were finished it was time for the final speaker. Karen Combes gave an interesting and polished presentation about Medical Detection Dogs. She spoke with authority and excitement about the future for dogs aiding science with early, accurate diagnosis in addition to their ability to support an individual by predicting something like a collapse or epileptic seizure. More on this presentation from my co-musketeers.

It was fascinating to hear about how the dogs are trained to recognise specific scents relating to various medical conditions. Normally it is one scent per dog.

She also explained how the dogs are trained to detect early diagnosis of epilepsy, Uti's, severe allergies, certain cancers, malaria, and diabetes, even Covid-19 and all through their keen sense of smell.

Harrogate Ladies College Choir completed the afternoon entertainment. The choir is made up of young girls who sing twice a week in morning chapel and have twice reached the final of the National Choir Competition in Birmingham. They sang beautifully and each song was introduced by different members of the choir, giving the name of the song and the composer.

We were treated to a selection of beautiful choral pieces and what better to finish than with John Rutter's "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." There was joy in their faces as they sang. Fantastic girls and hopefully future Inner Wheel ladies.

President Heather extinguished the candle and declared the 2025 Conference closed. What a truly wonderful Conference it was. My final quote is from a Friendship poem read by Association Past President Betty Roberts before our dinner on Sunday evening "Be the Friend that you would like to Have."

I expect many of you will have seen the wonderful photos of the 60's, 70's and 80's evening. With apologies to the Four Seasons. "Oh, what a night, back in 63" It sure was.

Members were dressed in all manner of costume relating to those wonderful years... flower power, vintage, minis, retro, long, flares etc etc... Perfect ending to a brilliant Conference...

Did I enjoy Conference? Most certainly, possibly even more than Convention. 900 + ladies from GB & I together in Harrogate. What's not to like.

I cannot begin to imagine how many hours went into its planning, but the final result was amazing. Ladies you have my heart felt praise and admiration.

Will I do it again? If I can persuade my husband that he would like to have a short holiday next year around the time of his birthday in Llandudno 23rd – 25th March 2026 - I will be there.

My heartfelt thanks go to my Publication Committee for working as a Team and producing this report. They have summed up conference in these short pages and I hope you feel the fun, friendship, laughter, and sheer joy that was evidently enjoyed by all who attended.

Here's to Llandudno 2026





If you can start the day without caffeine,
 If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
 If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
 If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
 If you can take blame and criticism without resentment,
 If you can conquer tension without medical help,
 If you can relax without alcohol,
 If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,
 Then you are probably



THE FAMILY DOG!

Courtesy of District 19

Little known facts:

District 18 MOC, Michele Bathers

I was part of the Investiture choir at Caernarfon Castle for the Investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales on July 1st 1969.

District 22 MOC, Elaine Hopkins

Whilst a catering manager I organised a luncheon for HM Queen Elizabeth II and served her lunch in a marquee in the grounds at Boots Beeston in 1980.

District 7 MOC, Shirley Cross

When we lived in France, I learned the technique of French pointing of stonework and working on scaffolding, completed the outside and inside of our barn conversion.

District 3 MOC, Cliona Kear

We were on a night flight from Dublin to Stansted. My daughter was 11 at the time and she was asked if she would like to visit the flight deck (this was 1991 when such things were permitted). I was asked to go with her, and it was fascinating. Halfway through the journey the pilot checked with his co-pilot and we were invited to remain where we were until we landed in Stansted. What a wonderful and exciting experience it was. I can still visualise the lights of the Southeast approaching so I suppose I could say that I landed a flight at Stansted!

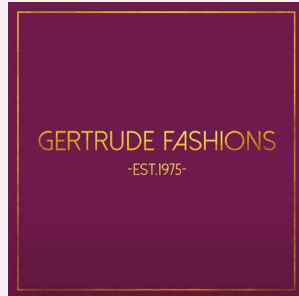
It is amazing what you learn about Inner Wheel ladies

Kindness is a gift
You're **meant** to give away
So, offer it to **all**
You pass along the way.

Its worth can never dull,
Its charm can never cloy.
It costs you not a thing
And brings you naught but joy!

For kindness is a gift –
The sweetest and the best:
The more that you bestow
The more your path is blessed.

**Thank you to D127 for letting
me copy this.**

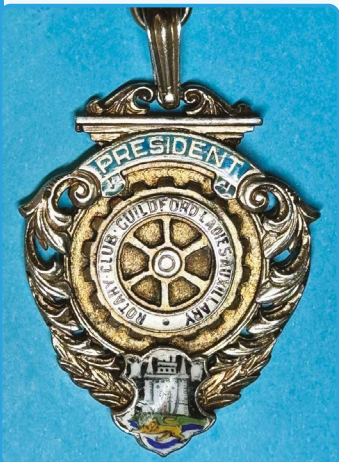


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A Short history of Guildford Inner Wheel Club by - Club member, Anna Cartwright

The Ladies Auxiliary of Guildford Rotary Club was formed on 19th February 1926 and the first meeting was held in March 1926. There were 28 founder members. Our handsome President's badge was purchased by the Rotary Club and gifted to the Club in June 1927.



On 8th March 1932 Mrs Margarette Golding visited the Club and members decided to change the name to the 'Inner Wheel Club of Guildford'. At the District 14 Rally in Hove on 9th June 1936 Mrs Golding presented the Club's Charter Certificate to the Founder President Mrs Radbourne.

The Club has continued to flourish over the years supporting its own projects as well as supporting the Rotary Clubs in Guildford. The Club has nearly closed on several occasions but is going strong in 2025 with 19 members.

Team work and long may you continue

This is team work at its very best, D24 bring their clubs together to work on a very worthwhile project. Reaching out to women and giving them some basic personal items.

Handbags for Ukraine

During a District Meeting of D24 a member from the Clacton on Sea club, Carol Ninnim, told the members of an idea her own club had of filling handbags with toiletries and sending out to Ukraine.



June Milne, who is a member of Braintree and Bocking Club, works for a group called Felsted Aid, an Essex based charity which is part of UK Aid. In conjunction with another group in Colchester they regularly send vans and large lorries full of aid into Ukraine and Poland. She had arranged for the handbags to be sent as part of their next consignment. This idea inspired other clubs to do the same and it was agreed this would be done on or around Inner Wheel Day, an International venture.

The clubs who actively became involved were Harlow, Harwich and Dovercourt, Chelmsford Mildmay, Wickford and Braintree and Bocking in addition to Clacton-on-Sea who started the whole thing off.

Penny Pilbrow D24 Editor



Little known facts:

District 1 MOC - Diana Taylor

When I was event secretary for the St Fort Carriage Driving trials, on several occasions I enjoyed having the late Prince Phillip as a very entertaining dinner companion when he was competing. He was always nipping into my office to raid the shortbread tin too.



The beautiful Margaret Golding Rose is still available to purchase from Harkness Roses.

<https://www.roses.co.uk/product/531038/rose-margarettgolding-5l-potted>

Link posted on the Inner Wheel website
www.innerwheel.co.uk

Inspirational Women Event held by Pershore Inner Wheel Club D10

By - Diane Cartwright, Club Correspondent,
The Inner Wheel Club of Pershore

In celebration of International Women's Day on the 8th March, President Jan and the members of Pershore Inner Wheel organised an event with seven truly inspirational speakers at Peopleton Village Hall, Worcestershire.

The presentations covered High Office, support for disabled children, personal journeys to success, penguins, setting up a new Medical School and Olympic gold medals! There was tea, coffee and cake plus a raffle of course, with attendees coming from many Inner Wheel Clubs in D10 and D6, members of WI, plus friends, neighbours and family, in total 120 people attended including a few men.

Everyone left the event with a smile on their face after hearing such uplifting stories from our speakers.

The speakers were **His Majesty's Lord - Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Beatrice Grant** who is the first female to hold the post in this county

Susan Birth, a local artist was chosen to decorate one of the 40 large penguins for the Great Waddle Trail 2024 in support of St Richard's Hospice, Worcester.

Annie-Marie, the mother of a disabled daughter and son and **Becca Holdman** of 'soundabout' who use music, sound, and silence to create opportunities for Learning Disabled people with complex support needs thrive.

Freddie Barker the Worcester Poet Laureate for 2024-2025 and is the youngest person to be chosen. Freddie wrote a poem especially for International Women's Day. A truly inspirational individual.

Professor Sandra Nicholson: Founding Dean Three Counties Medical School, talked to us about her background and aims for this graduate entry medical degree course.

Last to give yet another inspiring talk was **Rebecca (Becky) Redfern the gold medal winning Paralympic breaststroke swimmer from Droitwich** and a member of Worcester Swimming Club.

She was diagnosed with the degenerative eye condition known as retinitis pigmentosa. Becky, has gone on to win gold and silver medals in World, European and Olympic competitions. The Olympic gold was achieved at last year's games and Becky was awarded an MBE in the 2024 King's Birthday Honours, for services to young people and to the community in Worcestershire.

Funds raised going to Parkinson's UK and local Pershore charities.

From L to R –

Professor Sandra Nicholson, Rebecca Redfern, Freddie Barker, Becca Holdman, Susan Birth, His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Beatrice Grant, Anne- Marie.



**"Friendships between women,
as any woman will tell you,
are built of a thousand small kindnesses ...
swapped back and forth, over and over again."**

Unknown

Leeds Inner Wheel Club becoming part of history;**By Julie Badon, President**

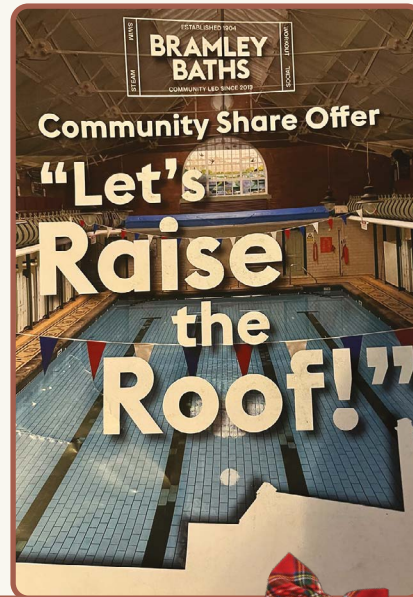
Leeds Club, D4 and individual members were pleased to be part of the community share offer at Bramley Baths, seeking to maintain a key part of our history. In the end the target of £350,000 was exceeded - reaching £374,360 with 531 investors - just incredible!

Built in 1904 in response to the cholera outbreak, it has now survived both the Spanish flu and COVID pandemics. It is an incredible Grade II listed building, a key asset in that community and is the last functioning bath house in Leeds. Leeds Inner Wheel Club are proud to be connected to the People Powered Baths - preserving both the past and the future by maintaining our history and enabling young people to learn to swim.

The baths are looking forward to celebrating this tremendous success in the coming weeks and sharing updates on their roof project.

To follow further look at; <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/bramley-baths>

**Well done Leeds Inner Wheel,
you really are
"Women of Action"
at
"The Heart of the Community"
Where Every Beat Counts -
Every Action Matters**

**Little known facts:**

Julie Ramsay - Association International Service Committee Chairman

At school Julie was banned from taking part in experiments in the chemistry class because she was too enthusiastic.

Inner Wheel are lucky her enthusiasm has never waned

A Good Listener
By Jenny Jones D20 Editor

People who are known for listening to others in distress are The Samaritans, Carol Williams from the Bath Club has listened as "A Samaritan" for 41 years. When she was first involved all the telephone calls were local but now they can be from anywhere.

However, the basic principles remain the same –

- the service is available 24 hours
- the caller can take as long as is necessary
- the issues are raised solely by the caller

Carol became a Director of the Bath Branch on 2010 and went on to train new Samaritans: she was given a Margarette Golding Award in 2018 in recognition of her outstanding service to those in need of "A Good Listener."

SAMARITANS

Little known facts:

District 20 MOC Pam Brewster

I have worked in Bahrain for Gulf Airways training the Sky Nannies.

District 2 MOC Susan Morris

Susan has a Kookaburra that comes to her garden every year. It escaped from a local wildlife park and it adopted Susan.

Little known facts:

District 9 MOC Linda Clarke

(Incoming Association Membership and Development Committee Chairman)

One of a pair
(Linda is on the left)

(I hope Linda's sister is an Inner Wheel member!)



Daphne Fowler PDC and Past MOC, District 6

The Anne Frank Tree in The Garden of The Innocents National Memorial Arboretum



District 6 has a special connection with the National Memorial Arboretum - not only is it situated within the district, but following its conception in 1988 and appeal for funds, in 1995/96 Jackie Fisher, District Chairman at that time, proposed that District 6 should be part of the project. The idea of dedicating one of the beds to the innocents of Dunblane was agreed, and after considerable fund-raising this was officially called The Garden of the Innocents. The garden has now evolved into a memorial to all children who are victims of war and terrorism.

The white planting symbolises innocence and the raised beds are in the shape of jigsaw pieces that do not fit together, symbolising the confusion and bewilderment children suffer through war and violence.

On Armistice Day in November 1999 an elder tree, dedicated to Anne Frank, was planted in the centre. The flowers are removed on 12 June each year, the anniversary of Anne Frank's birthday, so the tree never bears fruit, just as Anne was prevented from reaching maturity. March 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the death of Anne Frank and the

Royal British Legion, who now run the National Memorial Arboretum, launched an appeal to refurbish The Garden of the Innocents.

Having volunteered for several years at the Arboretum, PDC Jackie Fisher later became Operations Manager, and in 2004 she was presented with a Margarete Golding Award for her dedication to this work.

On 13 March 2014 a Davidia (handkerchief) tree was planted on the perimeter of the Garden of the Innocents to mark the 80th anniversary of District 6. This date is also the anniversary of the Dunblane Massacre in 1996.



The members of District 6 have had a long association with the National Memorial Arboretum, and it is certainly worth a visit. It is poignant and heartbreaking but breathtaking in equal measure.

There is also the Inner Wheel Garden, a time of remembrance and reflection.

I wish to public acknowledge three wonderful ladies who have reached, inspired and been deservedly awarded a Margarett Golding.

Elizabeth Weaver - D12

Inner Wheel Club of Dover

Sue Read - D24

Inner Wheel Club of Chelmsford Mildmay

Zannifer Mason - D9

Inner Wheel Club of Thame



MANY CONGRATULATIONS

MOTHERWELL & WISHAW CLUB – PARLIAMENTARY MENTION

By Nancy Ralston D2 1st Vice Chairman and Editor

The ladies of Motherwell & Wishaw Inner Wheel had a lovely surprise at one of their club meetings. President Marjorie McGeary read out a letter from their local MSP congratulating them on their 77th birthday and advising that a motion had been raised in the Scottish Parliament recognising their long-standing contribution to the community.

The ladies were also invited along to the Parliament building in Edinburgh for a special reception lunch in their honour. The club are making arrangements for this visit and lunch which will be in May.

We look forward to taking lots of photographs and posting the visit on the club Facebook Page.



Julie Ramsay, Association International Service Committee Chairman

Here we are ladies nearly at the end of another Inner Wheel year and how quickly it has gone. My first year on the Executive has flown by and I am still taking in the amount of work carried out up and down the country for International Charities.

Recycle I said at Yarnfield last July, and wow you have taken this to heart. Blankets, bras, pants, ring pulls, foreign and out of date coins, clothing, household goods, spectacles..... We are just about running our own recycling plant.

At Yarnfield in July I will be launching the charity for the coming year. It is one very close to my heart and one that a late member of my club introduced me to, and she was a great supporter of. It is also one that many of you do already support and I hope you will enjoy the project in the coming year.

I will be looking for members to think outside of the box and involve schools and communities. Therefore, helping promote the name of Inner Wheel in GB & I while doing international work.

At this point I would like to thank you all for what you have done in the last year and look forward to working with you all in the next year.

Women of Action at work.



**168,000 Ring Pulls or 48 kilos
From Dundee D1**

Susan Clarke, Hazel Grove Inner Wheel Club D5
- very good friend of Carole

Carole Haigh (Fairfield, New Zealand) has provided us with a very special memory about Mrs Mabel Nixon, the first GB&I secretary. Carole was very fortunate to stay with Moyra Cryer, IW Club of Hazel Grove, Manchester after the Convention, who shared this information with her.

The Inner Wheel Ring

Mabel was born in Scotland and moved to Manchester with her husband and son. She was a tall, elegant lady; quiet and unassuming. "Her calmness soothed many ruffled feathers in the early days, and she was able to reconcile divergent opinions to the good of the Association with her unquenchable humour.

'She was Margarette Golding's driver and they travelled many miles to visit newly formed Clubs. That would be quite some journeys back in the 1930s!

'Mabel was the first Secretary/Treasurer of the Manchester Club in 1924. She was President in 1927 and when District 5 was formed (the first District in Inner Wheel) she was the founder secretary. She was appointed the Association Founder Secretary from 1935 – 1939 when she resigned on health grounds.

'Mabel was the backroom girl whose strength of will and ability made the foundation of Inner Wheel possible. She saw the need for good communication between Clubs, even in the 1930s. Peggy was the driving force, but Peggy and Mabel were both very clear about the structure of the original constitution which remains true today.

'Mabel designed a ring which was presented to Margarette in 1937 by the Association as a token of her appreciation and made sure it was kept within Inner Wheel by bequeathing it in her will. It is given to each new GB&I President for their term of office'.



Hereford Wye Valley Inner Wheel club member Ruth Hewison has a very interesting and ancient role.

When his Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty the Queen visited the Channel Islands Ruth was part of the ceremony in Guernsey when she presented him with a set of Spurs. Ruth comes from a family who have held the title of the **"Fief des Eperons"** since the 18th Century, as the spurs are reputed to have been presented to her ancestor by King Charles II.

It was quite a large "happening" with all the Channel Islands dignitaries being present to greet the King and Queen, and Ruth was invited to give both radio and television interviews.

Margaret Foord, Inner Wheel Club of Hereford Wye Valley



Little known facts:

District 17 Editor, June Tamlyn

Devon boasts the UK's narrowest street, Parliament Street in Exeter, measuring just 0.64 metres at its narrowest point. Exeter is famed for its streets as Gandy Street is said to have inspired Harry Potter's Diagon Alley. (J.K. Rowling studied English at the University of Exeter.)

A Fresh look at Bradford by APP Thelma Pacsoo, D4

As Bradford celebrates the honour of being chosen as 'City of Culture 2025' The Inner Wheel Club of Ilkley were delighted to be given a private viewing of a special exhibition entitled 'Faces of Bradford - Then and Now', the work of photographer Laura Mate, who kindly came along to talk us through the series of paired portraits of ordinary Bradford residents from shots taken some 25 years ago, placed alongside portraits taken during the past year,

The exhibition highlights the strength, resilience and cultural richness of the people who have shaped Bradford over the years and is part of the Bradford City of Culture initiative, celebrating the city's Rich heritage and cultural diversity through portrait photography.

"Bradford has captivated me since coming to the College of Art in 1999," said Laura. "Its energy, diversity and creativity set it apart. A true cultural melting pot it thrives on community-driven projects and learning that we were celebrating our 79th Charter Anniversary, said it was good to welcome a group who themselves do much in their community."

Believing that photography can break barriers, challenge perceptions and reshape how Bradford is seen and understood, she certainly had us all talking about it as we set off home.



Friendship is a canvas, a masterpiece untold
Painted with colours of silver and gold.
With every stroke, memories are born
A tapestry of love that's never torn.

Through vibrant hues of laughter and tears
We create a portrait that will endure the years.
Each brushstroke adding depth and grace
A friendship that time cannot erase.

So let's paint this canvas
With colours that never fade or die.
For in this masterpiece, our souls blend
A friendship that knows no end.

D9

Little known facts:

District Chairman D13 Sue Jessel

She was Esther Rantzen's singing voice in a performance of Tubby the Tuba. When Sue was about 8 years old she played a mini saxophone on stage in Brighton with Jimmy Edwards who said that she had a lot of rhythm. Her voice appeared in the TV programme "Love Hurts" with Adam Faith, Zoë Wanamaker and Jane Lapotaire.

Wow, who knew!

I am finding it very hard to believe this is my fourth edition, time has flown but the achievement of members has never diminished. It is wonderful reading first hand all the Newsletters and articles sent out by District Editors and Club Correspondents; they are all as much a part of this magazine as I am.

I hope you enjoy reading about the fabulous conference held in Harrogate and for those who were unable to attend I hope it gives you the incentive to try and attend next year. Please pass this edition on to family and friends, use it as a showcase of Inner Wheel and let the world see just what fun, entertainment, service and friendships we all enjoy.

Di
xx

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, THE WORD ITSELF SAYS I'M POSSIBLE



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*10% off the basic cost (not supplementary charges) is valid for new bookings made from 01 May to 31 May 2025 and only where an Inner Wheel club is mentioned at the time of booking via 01283 901 074. Any bookings made before or after the dates mentioned above, against a named Inner Wheel Club, will get 10% back to their club after travel.