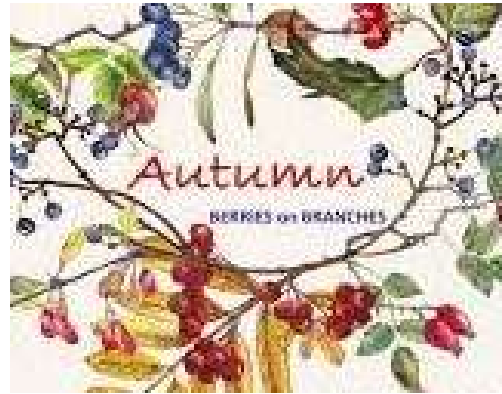


September Snippets'25

Autumn Newsletter D.20



DISTRICT 20's NEW CHAIRMEN FOR 2025 - 2026



Rita Jolliffe, Mo Hodges and Carol Price have all agreed to share the office of District Chairman for the new Inner Wheel year and all three of them look very happy about it.

Frome

- President Sheridan and Secretary Pam went to the open afternoon at the Blue House in Frome and presented a cheque to two trustees for £1000 towards the repairs required on this 300 year old building. The Blue House used to be a school but is now converted into 17 flats for people over 55 years old who have a connection to Frome. The gardens are a hidden gem and with Frome Town Band playing it was a very popular afternoon for locals to visit lured by tea and cakes!
- I was delighted to welcome Sheridan, President of Frome who kindly presented me and Claire from Bluebird Care with a cheque for £500 to keep the group running. I am also grateful for Lorraine and Renee, Inner Wheel members, who regularly help by talking with the carers and clients each week.



Home Farm Fest

It is great fun running the tea tent with volunteers from District 20 providing cakes and teams of ladies throughout the weekend to serve tea and cakes. Refreshments included a wide range of homemade cakes, which were hugely enjoyed by the festival goers. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the festival was a great success. At the celebration party, Pam and Bridget from Frome Club presented School in a Bag, CEO Luke Simon, with £1,000 for more school bags. It was a super evening

and after photos and a film show we learned that £139,992.69 was raised at the 2025 HFF. Come and volunteer and join in next year's fun!!!!

West Woodspring

One Big Family

- President Jeanette and Vice President Carol, went to the annual handover meeting of Weston Rotary. Rotary's highest award - a Paul Harris Fellowship which was given to much loved member, Richard Purgas. Jeanette's husband Gregg joined the exclusive band of those holding a Four Sapphire Multi Paul Harris Pin in February 2022.

Serving the Community

- When Esther the Community Fundraiser from Weston Hospice visited, we were delighted to be able to hand £500 over to her, raised from coffee mornings, to go towards the amazing service that wonderful organisation offers to the local community.

Inner Wheel Take on Weston Rotary

- Weston Rotary Skittle Team were a bit apprehensive when WWIW challenged them to a game because, as the wife of a Rotarian, one of their star players would be playing for the opposition! Although Angela was on form the Rotarians still managed a win by 5 points.

A Busy Time

- The Bacon Buttie stand on the 7th Tee was resurrected at Weston Rotary's 29th Annual Charity Golf Day and Penny provided a barn for August's Annual American Supper. A fun evening enjoying what was left of the Summer.



The Importance of Friendship



- Our old friend and District Chairman, Rita Jolliffe, joined us for dinner in September our first meeting after the Summer break. Unsurprisingly, the theme of the evening was Friendship. We all agreed that Covid had been disastrous for Clubs in general with many Clubs sadly folding.

- In October we were entertained by our very humorous Speaker, Jan Bance, recalling the time when she had lived with her husband, John, on their Narrow Boat, where the temperature never dropped, whatever the weather. As

deputy head of a school she determined to make the most of the long school holidays, Jan and John enjoyed some wonderful journeys along various canals, covering most parts of the country.



Two of our Special Members, President Carol and Secretary, Ann celebrated milestone birthdays.

Carol also commemorated her Diamond Wedding Anniversary, having been married to Roy now for sixty, yes 60 Years! They were delighted and honoured to receive, warmest congratulations and heartfelt good wishes from Their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla.

Shepton Mallet

Inner Wheel Duo Win Big at RHS Hampton Court

The Mother and Daughter team Janet Thornborough and Harriet Farquhar, brought colour, innovation, and community spirit to the national stage by winning the RHS 5 Star Award for the Best Trade Stand 2025 with their Protek outdoor paint/preservative range at



the RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival.

Harriet and her team collaborated with garden designer, Matt Leigh, as they have supplied paint to the television programme "Love your Garden" for the past ten years. For this event, Matt created a trade stand that was both functional whilst providing inspiration for gardens. The paint selection was coordinated with the plantings

to create a calm and reflective atmosphere.

Despite the demands of running a family business, both Janet and Harriet continue to champion the Inner Wheel values of bringing fun, friendship, and global service into everything they do.



Janet with D20 annual award for service



- President Liz with Rotary President Keith Jenkins when he gave us an interesting talk on his career & how he ended up living in Somerset via early family connections.

Yeovil

First meeting of the Inner Wheel year and a double celebration. A cheque for £1,170 was presented to Swavek Nowakiewicz, headmaster of Fiveways School, by Sandra Dudley from funds raised at a concert and jumble sale during Sandra's year, and it was a real pleasure to welcome Rachael and Janet as members of the club.

- Enjoyable occasions to start our year. A get-together with Crewkerne and Chard clubs. A fun game of skittles followed by lunch and a quiz to test our little grey cells!!! Thanks to Crewkerne Club for arranging it.
- Our Santa Checkley Cookery Day. Santa did all the cooking, we enjoyed a cocktail



and canape and then a delicious lunch. Great to be back at Santa's after a break of several years.

- Members enjoyed a Tea Party in support of Breast Cancer Now. The rain held off and it was a pleasure to welcome so many friends and family. Thank you, Yvonne, for hosting such a lovely occasion. And the cakes were delicious!!! £648 raised

Wellington

- We were delighted, when our own Fran Allen eventually paid her formal visit to the club as Joint District Chairman, when she was able to present President Rosemary with a new chain of office, sporting the club's 50 year badge.



- In July, on a beautiful sunny afternoon, we all enjoyed glasses of Prosecco or Elderflower Pressé in the garden of a lovely thatched cottage near Taunton before our annual sumptuous Afternoon Tea. The wasps also enjoyed it!
- Our members have been busy knitting squares which have been made into three warm blankets, which together with children's knitted cardigans and hats and other goods, including Christmas shoeboxes, will go to CR2EE for transport to Eastern Europe.

Taunton

- Retiring President, Angela Snow handed over a cheque for £3,100 to "Breast Cancer Now", her charity for the year. After taking the initial part of the meeting she then gave way to the new incoming Presidents, Margaret Blackaller and Marlene Ewens. Ring out the old and ring in the new so to speak! Both new and old committee members met for a "bring and share" supper.
- A number of Inner Wheel ladies, their husbands and partners attended a delightful "Pimms Afternoon" in July organised by Joan Teale and Ati Lewis. Not even the thundery downpours could dampen the convivial atmosphere!
- On Friday 3rd October 93 people attended the "Autumn Soirée" organised by Joint Presidents, Margaret Blackaller and Marlene Ewens. This was held at Taunton and





Pickeridge Golf Club, and guests enjoyed a meal followed by musical entertainment. Chris Davies, well known in the area sang, and Katy played the piano. Everyone joined in the singing and answered the musical quiz questions. There was lots of fun and banter. Clinton Rogers formerly of the BBC and his wife attended. Clinton is President of the League of Friends of Musgrove Park Hospital, the chosen charity of Margaret and Marlene. The event was deemed a huge success and it is likely that over one thousand pounds will be raised for the League of Friends.

Wrington Vale

- As the sun glowed in the summer evening sky, brightly shining over a house in Shiphham a woman arrived, carrying plates of scrumptious delights. Quiet chattering, slight anticipation about what's coming, new starts and different ways. Drinks were poured, food placed on the tables as more women arrive and then a silent descends. "Ladies please take a seat at the table." The leader placed herself next to our smiling, well-travelled VIP guest Pam Brewster. "Ladies welcome to our next stage and new Inner Wheel year, here at Wrington Vale". There was an increase in volume, excitement raising as the year 25/26 had begun.

"If you go down to the woods today

You were in for a big surprise

For that's the place that the ladies had their picnic."



The ladies of Wrington Vale gathered under the beautiful canopy of various trees. The gentle whisper from the leaves. There were summer hats, pretty dresses and picnic boxes in various shapes and sizes. Calls of hello, welcome, how are you and I'm hungry, accompanied by our

intrepid leader brushing leaves off the tables, with a floor brush. Now that's dedication!

Food was opened, "couldn't find my roll this morning"- "thank you for my tea loaf Mum," "it was lovely" were all heard amongst other things. Salads, sandwiches, fruit and crisps all munched to a background of chatter. Strawberries were shared, tea & coffee accompanied by a tin of biscuits. The sun & shade were enjoyed however it wasn't all relaxing. There was a display of a knitted blanket for residents in a care facility. The start of a collection for a woman's refuge in the build up to Orange the World.

The sun dipped behind the trees and the ladies tired. The afternoon slowly came to an end. Good afternoon my friends until we meet again.

Bridport

- Bridport held its annual August picnic when most members and their partners met at the National Trust car park at Hive Beach. A circle of picnic tables and chairs was soon laid out, plastic tumblers were soon chinking, and the sounds of chatter and laughter could be heard around the scene. Umbrellas, raincoats and jumpers had been packed into cars in readiness for a windy downpour which never materialised and although the sun refused to appear from behind the clouds it was a warm and wind free afternoon, enjoyed by all who attended.
We do not hold an official meeting in August and the picnic is a good time to catch up and relax for a few hours.



Mendip

- A number of members, some accompanied by their Rotary Club partners, took advantage of the fine weather to have a walk along the Strawberry Line. Starting off in Easton at Club President, Alison Webb's home, they walked to Westbury sub Mendip and enjoyed a cream team in Liz Hamblin's garden. The sun shone and following the tea they happily walked back to Easton.
- Mendip members enjoyed the visit to King John's Hunting Lodge in Axbridge as Sue Acland's planned activity for the month. We all enjoyed a good chat and a cup of tea afterwards, and I had a very good scone with jam and cream which was delicious.

Westbury

Our year started with the handover of office to joint Presidents Maureen Boyd and Christine Bristow.

- A walk was organised by Jackie Pike in June round Warminster Park which was most enjoyable.
- June also saw Helen Slay hold an open day in her lovely garden. Tea and cakes were available following a stroll around the garden. £160 was raised for our local hospice Dorothy House.
- Although there was a slight shower the sun a Summer lunch was held in August - organised by President Maureen Boyd and hosted at Jo and David Earny's home. The food was cooked by club members - a wonderful spread and an amazing £300 was raised to be given to local charities.



- In September, Val Algar and Julie Street went to the 'Great Hands on Day' at the local White Horse Pottery run by Trevor Picton who was celebrating 30yrs as a potter. They made a pot and 2 small model hedgehogs- had a great time and are just waiting for them to be glazed and fired. In the past Trevor has very generously, donated pottery for our Quiz night raffle prizes.
- The monthly book club, lunch out and cooking cakes for the local Alzheimer's group, continue.

Taunton Vale

- What a beautifully sunny day, walking along the canal, just enjoying the countryside. What could be better than coffee before and lunch after, joined by a small flock of sparrows trying to pinch our food! Please come and join us next time!

Sedgemoor

Penelope, Barbara and Rita enjoyed a lovely day visiting Buckfast Abbey and the South Devon Railway. Rita had organised the trip for W I and 52 came along.

One thing that made it extra special for Rita was seeing a three year old boy enjoying the grounds of the Abbey in a Wizzybug which as you know is very close to her heart.



Chard



July – Tea and Cakes with a very interesting tour of Chard Museum.
 August – Fish & Chip supper, weather didn't permit in Desi's garden so we ate around the table fitted in front of lots of "stuff" which was heading off to Ukraine etc! A wonderfully friendly evening.
 Our new tabards were seen in action at the event held for VJ Day.
 In September our latest member Jane received her badge from President Lynda.

Golf Day

On 18th September we played the District Golf Competition at the Isle of Wedmore Golf Club. Nine ladies contended for the trophy with, at times, some testing weather conditions. We all had a thoroughly enjoyable time however with Linda Knowles, member of Taunton Inner Wheel winning the trophy. We were delighted to have the company of Carol Price who presented the trophy to the winner.



And Finally

This group of “Wild Swimmers” in Dorset (including my son and daughter in law) recently decided to raise money for **mytimes young carers** by

Pulling an aeroplane – a Boeing 737 no less!



Probably not for IW!!

Over £1,000 was raised but sadly, none of them belong to Rotary or Inner Wheel but it is good to know the next generation still do their bit for good causes.

Orange The World - November 25th -10th December

It is not by accident that the headings are orange as Inner Wheel around the world is supporting the 2025 campaign themed “End digital abuse against women and girls”.

Please keep your news coming in as it happens and we thank you for doing so.

Jenny Jones
Editor