

# Membership Matters

## Newsletter

2024-25 – issue 2 – February 2025

Hello M&D Friends

We are now in our 101<sup>st</sup> year since Inner Wheel began in Manchester on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2024. Many of you took the opportunity of celebrating this milestone with acts of kindness and friendship and supporting less fortunate people in our communities. But then, that is something you do all the time!

A whizz through Facebook shows just how many and diverse ways our members, clubs and districts are making themselves visible in the community.



Members of Inner Wheel Club of South East London in Camberwell Park on January 10<sup>th</sup>. An opportunity to advertise themselves.

### OPPORTUNITY

As you know, our focus this year is on Opportunity



Inner Wheel Club of Yeovil took the opportunity of an information stall at a local supermarket.



Moyra Cryer of Hazel Grove preparing to join the homeless on the streets of Stockport raising money for Wellspring. She made the most of this opportunity by putting the IW logo on her tent!



Inner Wheel at the Heart  
of the Community for 100 Years

The inside line on Stafford  
Castle Inner Wheel Club!

Never heard of Inner Wheel? – well neither had I until a couple of years ago but now I am a fully joined up member and thoroughly enjoying active participation in the Stafford Castle Club. The club celebrated its 35th birthday with a celebration dinner at the Moat House, Acton Trussell recently and is one of 400 clubs in the UK. The Association of Inner Wheel Clubs was first founded by a small group of Manchester Rotarian's wives in 1924 with the aim of bringing together like-minded women from all walks of life who share the aims of true friendship and personal service. Originally members provided goods and assistance to the poor in their local communities but as the organisation grew Inner Wheel also developed international projects to sit alongside those at home. The organisation is now one of the biggest voluntary women's organisations in the world with clubs in over 100 countries. So what will an active branch of the Inner Wheel get up to in 2025? Stafford Castle club meet every month at the Moat House, Acton Trussell – we have a meal, a business meeting and most months a speaker. We collect items for Womens Aid, co-ordinate a shoebox collection for the international Christmas Appeal sending "love in a box" to many disadvantaged homes across Eastern Europe and some members will be knitting blankets for an Ethiopian charity. We also collect pre-school toys for nursery age children and donate them to a local school in Stafford. Each President, selects a local and international charity which the Club supports through various fundraising activities throughout her term of office. As a club we also make time to socialise and enjoy each other's company whether it be a trip to the Walsall Leather Museum, Wedgwood or lunch at Aston Marina; there's always a trip in the pipeline! Some members also volunteer as Stewards at the annual Stafford County Showground Firework Display organised by the Stafford Castle Rotary Club – always an enjoyable evening! If this sounds like something you would be interested in why not come along to one of our meetings and see what it's all about? Contact Joy Bristow via email or phone – joybristow@sky.com / 07908 860227 or you can take a look at the Inner Wheel website [www.innerwheel.co.uk](http://www.innerwheel.co.uk). We'd love to see you!

Well done Stafford Castle for getting this article in a local publication. A great opportunity for showcasing Inner Wheel and all that we do.

# Membership Matters

## Newsletter

2024-25 – issue 2 – February 2025



D18 taking part in a broadcast on Radio Merseyside. What a great opportunity to highlight Inner Wheel in the community!



And not to be outdone, the Association Executive with Melanie and Alicia took part in "Orange the World" on the steps at Warwick Square.



Great advertising!



Another splendid opportunity is from Atherstone who have sponsored the away kit for their local girls football team, complete with IW logo. An opportunity for mothers to join us and for the girls in the future.

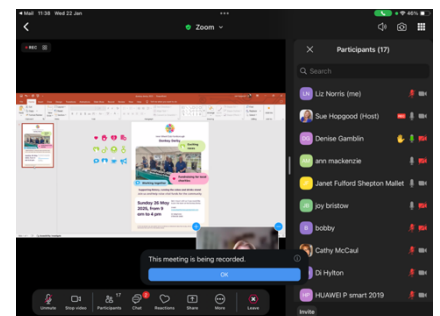
Brighthouse Town and District continue to sponsor their local team. They have now taken up stone carving - see their video on Facebook!



Good to see the Llanfairfechan and Penmaenmawr IW banner on this stall.

It is lovely to see that many of you are using the new Tool Kit for advertising events, making posters and flyers all of which are becoming recognisable on Facebook as Inner Wheel reports.

The Association M and D Committee ran an online workshop on how to create posters and leaflets using the Tool Kit. Running any sort of online workshop was a first for us and it was lovely to work through the process with Sue Hopgood.



Those taking part were able to watch Sue's screen as she explained what to do. We will run this again if there is sufficient interest.



# Membership Matters

## Newsletter

2024-25 – issue 2 – February 2025



Using the Tool Kit  
above and below.



Inner Wheel is a women's  
organisation focused on  
friendship and service.



Join us and become a woman  
of action today.  
Write to us at  
[admin@innerwheel.co.uk](mailto:admin@innerwheel.co.uk)

We have continued to run  
a number of **Zoom sessions**  
on a variety of Inner  
Wheel topics and  
discussions.

September Margareta  
Wesslau from Stockholm on  
"Avoiding Disbandment" (find  
recording on Association  
website).

October Discussion on "How  
we might start new Clubs"

November "Finding ways of  
recruiting members to our  
Clubs"

December An online  
Workshop on using The Tool  
Kit

January - looking at  
"Retention of Members".

These have all been well  
attended. The session on  
Retention was four short of  
the limit of 100! It was good  
to have this headache! We  
ran it with 10 "break out  
rooms" giving **opportunity** for  
all to take part before  
reporting back to the main  
group. Notes and/or  
recordings are available.

We have upcoming Zoom  
sessions planned too.  
Dates to be advised on the  
following topics.

Exploring starting eClubs

Discussion with M and D  
District Officers

Catching up with our M@L  
members

Meeting up with our new  
members

Promoting true friendship is  
one of our aims. This takes  
many forms.



Sidcup working together on a  
project



West Woodspring clearly  
have fun!

# Membership Matters

## Newsletter

2024-25 – issue 2 – February 2025



Learning a new craft!



D22 enjoying a Christmas outing.

Celebrating Membership is so important. Many Clubs and Districts do this by the Presentation of certificates.

D22 hold an evening celebrating membership at the end of the IW year. A great way to give value to service given by our members



Barnstaple remembered all their Past Presidents by listing them on their cake at their 80<sup>th</sup> Charter Celebration. How lovely to remember past members in this way!

### Harrogate Conference

The M and D Committee are looking forward to welcoming you to our stall. Come and see our information boards displaying ideas for reinvigorating Inner Wheel.

We will be selling key rings, made by our members, at £2 each in aid of Arthritis Action



We also have our Jam Jar Raffle with valuable prizes generously donated.



You choose which prize(s) you would like to win!

Before concluding, I would like to add just one more **OPPORTUNITY!**

I am looking to piloting **eClubs** and have looked into this for the past few months. Now IIW have chartered their first one in Sri Lanka with the Maldives. These clubs would be run in the same way as our traditional ones, but most of their activity would be online, though not necessarily exclusively. I feel there are many women who would like to join us but work and family mean our traditional clubs are not viable for them.

Long term it would be wonderful to have an eClub in each District!

Opportunities multiply as they are seized." — Sun Tzu.

Thank you for all you are doing to keep IW alive!

Liz  
Association M and D  
Committee Chairman.



# **Membership Matters**

## **Newsletter**

**2024-25 – issue 2 – February 2025**