

Membership Matters

Newsletter

2024-25 – issue 3 – June 2025

Hello M&D Friends and all members of Inner Wheel.

This is my last issue of Membership Matters. I have so enjoyed working with you and getting to know you. It has been a busy time for all of us since the last issue in February and it is lovely to read on Facebook about what you have been doing.

Sadly, we still have a number of Clubs disbanding and I thank those of you who have worked to prevent this.

On a brighter note, it is lovely that we have welcomed many new members to our great organisation.

HARROGATE CONFERENCE



One of the numerous highlights was meeting up with so many members when you visited the M and D Stall at our Conference.



Our boards gave information on **personalising the tool kit**, **e-clubs** and examples of **opportunity for publicity**.

We had a number of leaflets on various topics for members to take away.

£1052 was raised for Arthritis Action through our jam jar raffle.



IN AID OF
Arthritis ACTION

Thank you to the many members who helped man our stall. Your time was so very much appreciated.

Our two new M and D banners were displayed for the first time. These were created from the Tool Kit and gave an **opportunity** to showcase the flexibility of using the Kit.



BESPOKE CLOTHING

It is very heartening to see how many members are wearing bespoke clothing out in the community. This is a wonderful **opportunity** to publicise the good work being done by all of you. A number of Clubs chose to wear their tee shirts, etc in Harrogate creating awareness during our visit.

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And your work is certainly appreciated in high circles!. The members of Motherwell and Wishaw (D2) were invited to the Scottish Parliament by their local MSP in recognition of their service in the community. And, of course, they made the most of the **opportunity** by wearing their bespoke polo shirts!



FRIENDSHIP

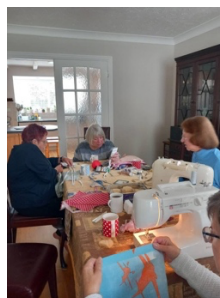


Members of IWC Oban combined friendship with

fund raising when they walked and cycled 40k for Sense Scotland, a charity supporting those with complex needs. Their tabards created awareness.



District and Club outings are so valuable in cementing friendships and a great way to integrate new members. Here are Doncaster St Leger on their outing.



And this Club is combining friendship with creativity wielding sewing machines whilst drinking coffee!



And how about Call My Bluff for an evening of friendship which was run in D26?

ZOOM

Using Zoom is a great **opportunity and resource** which we can all use in our clubs and districts. Coffee mornings on Zoom can be an extra way to keep in touch, especially in the winter months. It is one benefit to have come out of Covid as we all became aware of this resource. You can run quizzes on it, learn new skills, eat a meal or even craft together. During the height of the pandemic D5 Choir hosted concerts on Zoom! And, you may remember, Sue Hopgood used Zoom to present a workshop on the Tool Kit.

Zoom uses AI to produce minutes! Scary or what?! I shall worry when we get our first AI Inner Wheel member!

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SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY

I love looking at Facebook to see what you have all been doing (and to get ideas!).

Often the simplest ideas can give the most benefit.

What a great opportunity to look in our drawers and cupboards for kitchen equipment to donate to women who have had to escape their home in a hurry.



A simple idea, but so valuable to women less fortunate than ourselves.



Well done to the members of IWC Frome for answering a call to produce red, white and blue bunting for VE Day.



Luton North answered a request from their local Hygiene Bank for urgent supplies.

An easy request to fulfil but so valued by people we shall never meet.



Hazel Grove Treasurer listed and showed all the club had achieved during the past year both in the community and internationally. The list was impressive and made one realise, in the words of a well-known supermarket, "that every little helps!"

Below is their donated Bleed Kit



Many Clubs are now donating bleed kits in public spaces following the presentation at Blackpool. Do make sure you include Inner Wheel details on these kits.



Tunbridge Wells very visible whilst litter picking.

NEW CLUBS



Chris Hines, keen to open a new Club in D4, ran a promotional stall in a supermarket along with IWC Scarborough. To attract passersby they held a tombola in aid of

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Marie Curie and, of course, they had plenty of leaflets to give out about Inner Wheel.

There is also a new Club in the making, with a potential twelve members ready to go! They are currently meeting their District Executive to learn about Inner Wheel and it is hoped to confirm their charter application very soon.

Watch this space!

ZOOM MEETINGS

Our **recent** Zoom Sessions have included:

* a meeting with our Members At Large (M@L) and District M and D Officers;

*an initial discussion on exploring and setting up of **e-Clubs**;

*followed by a meeting with D322 (Sri Lanka and the Maldives) and the first IIW e-Club (Serendib e-Club), chartered in January 2025. It was so helpful to talk with the members and ask about their experience in chartering this first ever e-Club; a **unique opportunity** to learn from those who have actually achieved it. I am so grateful to Denise Abeyeratne (District Extension Officer of D322) and members of Serendib e-Club for their willingness to share highlights from their early months as an online club with us.



Many of you know that I feel we should aim to have one **e-Club** in each District with the idea of encouraging women who are working or raising young families to join us. This would be run as a traditional Club but online. Members would be entitled to access everything a regular Club can, including District Meetings, Conference voting etc.

TWO HANDY TIPS

*Wear the Inner Wheel brooch whenever you can. It is a good conversation opener.

*And carry a couple of the folding credit card sized leaflet in your pocket or bag, then you are always ready to share information when asked.

FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

What great **opportunities** for learning from each other.



Reading Maiden Erleigh with Hardeep from D314 who made contact through our website when she was visiting GB and I.



And John Lewis was the meeting place for Dr Ketaki Sheth from Bombay with IWC South East London.

And, so I sign off with heartfelt thanks for all you have contributed in the three years I have served as your Association M and D Chairman. I have loved it and will miss it. I never saw myself as one who would be offered the opportunity and I say to you all, if you are prepared to ask for help you can do anything!

My committee have been wonderful and I am delighted to say they are continuing and Linda Clarke is picking up the baton. Thank you Linda, Sue and Cathy for all your support. Elaine, a previous member, will join them as MOC member. They will be a very strong team.

Liz Norris
Association M and D Committee
Chairman 2022-2025.



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