

2025





# District Executive 2025/2026



Doreen Cairns  
District Chairman



Lauraine Wilson  
Member of Council



Cathy McCaul  
1st Vice Chairman



Jennifer Davidson  
District Secretary



Irene McCune  
District Treasurer



Judith De Fleury  
Membership Officer &  
Past District Chairman



Elaine Doherty  
District Editor  
2nd Vice Chairman



Doreen Armstrong  
International Service Officer



# From the Editor's Desk

District 16 News  
Editor: Elaine Doherty

This year's magazine, *Women in Action*, reflects not only the spirit of Inner Wheel but the character of our members, who continue to demonstrate dedication, compassion, and purpose in all they undertake.

The reports and photographs in this edition offer a clear picture of women who lead by example and respond to need with generosity. Their actions, both large and small, remind us of the strength that comes from collective effort.

Within these pages, you will find a record of the many initiatives undertaken by our clubs: organising events, supporting local and international causes, and giving freely of time and talent. When Inner Wheel women act, things change, sometimes in gentle quiet ways, sometimes in bold and visible ones, but always for the better.

*Women in Action* is therefore a fitting title for this publication. It captures the essence of our work and the commitment shown by every member who contributes skill, goodwill, and energy to our shared goals. This magazine portrays the dedication of members who give so generously, the leadership displayed by club presidents, and committee members and their willingness to step forward whenever service is required.

Editing this magazine over the years has allowed me to witness, time and again, the quiet power of women working together. It has been a privilege to see how compassion becomes action, how ideas become initiatives, and how friendship becomes a force for good.

I extend my sincere thanks to all who assisted in the preparation and compilation of this edition. Your contributions ensure that our annual magazine remains a valued reflection of our district's achievements and aspirations.

As we look ahead, may we continue to embody the values of Inner Wheel, women who act, who inspire, and who make a difference in our communities, and further afield. I hope this magazine offers a moment to pause and appreciate all that we have achieved together.

As this marks my fifth and final year as editor, I wish to express my deep appreciation for the trust and support I have received. It has been an honour to document the work of such dedicated women, and to help preserve the story of Inner Wheel District 16.

*Elaine*  
Editor, Inner Wheel Annual Magazine



# District Chairman's Greetings

Doreen Cairns, District Chairman

I am delighted to be taking on the role of District Chairman for District 16. I first joined Lurgan Inner Wheel Club in 2012 and have been privileged to serve in several roles, including Club Treasurer on three occasions, Club President for four years, and District Treasurer for four years. Following the closure of the Lurgan Club, I joined Portadown Inner Wheel Club twelve months ago and have thoroughly enjoyed becoming part of their Club. As I look forward to the year ahead, I hope we can all enjoy a wonderful year of Friendship and Service—while having plenty of Fun along the way, which is at the heart of what Inner Wheel membership is all about.



My motto for the year is **“Women in Action”**, reflecting the spirit of service, connection, and positive impact that defines Inner Wheel.

In friendship

*Doreen*

My Chosen Charities are:



This year my chosen charities Autism NI and AS I AM, Ireland’s Autism Charity, focus on providing evidencebased advice, resources, and guidance to autistic people their families and children with neurodiverse conditions. Their mission is to help create a more inclusive and accepting society in Ireland—one where every autistic person is valued, respected, and supported as they are. Both organisations play an important role in empowering families and strengthening community understanding.



## Welcome!

Dublin welcomed a special Inner Wheel visitor recently: Vinita Jhunjhunwala from the Mumbai Nariman Point Club, District 314. Her club, founded in 2014, has grown to an impressive 125 members, and she informed us there are now eighty-five Inner Wheel clubs across Mumbai.

Vinita spoke about the wide range of activities taking place in her district and the strong sense of service and fellowship within their clubs. Our Club member Joan has also been in touch with their President, and they plan to maintain this international connection, strengthening the friendship between our clubs in the months ahead.



## European I.W. Meeting

District 16 was proudly represented at the European Inner Wheel Meeting in Aarhus, Denmark, in September. Niamh and Bernadette from Dublin, along with Cathy and Mary from Omagh, attended on our behalf. It was a wonderful gathering filled with friendship, inspiring discussions, excellent food, and lively entertainment. All four delegates thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the warm fellowship shared throughout the event.





# Inner Wheel District Rally

Grand Central Hotel, Belfast

The District 16 Rally was held in the distinguished surroundings of the Grand Central Hotel, Belfast, and brought together members from across the District for an afternoon of fellowship and celebration. District Chairman Judith De Fleury presided over the occasion and extended a warm welcome to an esteemed group of guests. Among those in attendance were Association Vice President Pam Boyes, District Chair Jean Hale (District 1), the Mayor of Mid and East Antrim, Councillor Jackson Minford, Rotary District Governor 1160 Seamus Parker, and

Gavin Millar, President of the Rotary Club of Carrickfergus. Their presence added greatly to the significance of the event and underscored the strong relationship between Inner Wheel and Rotary.

Members representing Clubs throughout District 16 attended in excellent numbers, contributing to the vibrant atmosphere of the Rally. The programme reflected the values of Inner Wheel—friendship, service, and shared purpose—and the event was widely regarded as a resounding success.



# Rally Gallery





# Rally Gallery





# Inner Wheel Who's Who!

## Meet Association President 2025-2026

Pam Boyes

The current president of the Association of Inner Wheel of Great Britain & Ireland for the year 2025-2026 is Pam Boyes. She is a member of Sale Inner Wheel Club and has previously served as the second president of the club. Pam is committed to supporting the Ronald McDonald House Charities as her chosen charity for the year.



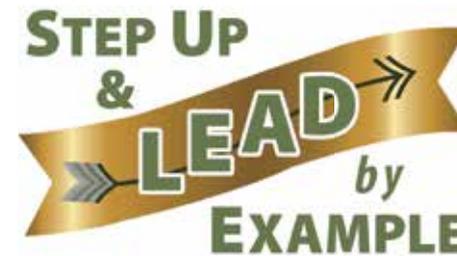
Ronald McDonald House Charities™



## Meet International President 2025-2026

Kay Morland

Kay Morland is International Inner Wheel President for 2025-2026. She is an Australian member of the Inner Wheel Club of Berwick (District A62, Australia). She is committed to her role as president and with the help of Inner Wheel members worldwide together She believes we can 'step up and lead by example.'



International theme 2025-2026



# Introducing Club Presidents

## Helen Robinson – Ballymoney Inner Wheel President

I have been a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Ballymoney since 2008. It is a fantastic group of ladies, full of commitment, friendship and fun. This is my second time as President, and I've also served as Club Correspondent. I still work several days a week in the family business, which was started by my husband's great grandfather in the mid 1800's. I have three children and three grandchildren and feel incredibly fortunate as they all live nearby. I love to go on holidays and enjoy reading a good murder mystery (the gorier the better)! I'm really



looking forward to the year ahead, to our fun nights out, to the speakers and to the fund-raising evenings. Hopefully it will be an enjoyable year.

## Lauraine Wilson – President Inner Wheel Club Carrickfergus

This is my fourth time as President and I enjoy the ethos of Inner Wheel. We are a small club and on occasions we join our near neighbouring club of Larne for speakers of joint interest. This worked well last year and we hope to continue. I enjoy reading, golf and gardening. Over the last few years our membership has dropped and this year we hope to encourage like-minded ladies to join us. I have set up a varied programme of events for the year and hope the members enjoy the year.



## Mavis Jardine – President Inner Wheel Club Omagh

This is my sixth time to have the honour of being President of Omagh Inner Wheel Club. I am originally from County Monaghan and came to Omagh when I married my husband, Colin. Our two sons and one daughter have all left home to follow their careers. Two are married and we are now the proud grandparents of four grandchildren. I enjoy spending time with my family especially during holiday times.



Our club has been reinvigorated by the new members who have joined over the past year. I hope they will enjoy being part of our Inner Wheel family and encourage other women to join too.

I enjoy gardening, music, watching tennis matches, rugby, jigsaw puzzles and live concerts. I am looking forward to having a year filled with friendship, fun and helping charities achieve their goals especially for those in need of assistance.





**Detta Healy – President Dublin Inner Wheel Club**

I am the new President of Inner Wheel Club Dublin, my name is Detta Healy, I had been a member of Sligo Inner Wheel for many years, I was Sligo Club President in 2013. When I moved to Dublin nine years ago, I joined Dublin Inner Wheel Club. I am a retired Doctor, having worked as a GP for many years and later as Medical Manpower Manager in the Northwest. I am married to Brendan who is a retired Orthopaedic Surgeon, having worked at Sligo General for many years. We have five children. My main reason for joining Inner Wheel is the wonderful friendships it creates, and I fully support the awareness programme concerning violence against women



and girls, Our club is in its 55th year, we still have two founding members who continue to attend meetings , but numbers are decreasing and my main aim this year is to increase our numbers if possible. I pray our club is stronger when my year is complete.



**Betty Fisher – Enniskillen Inner Wheel Club President**

I am a true Fermanagh girl having been born and always lived there. I have two grown up sons and am married to Rotarian Kenny, a member of Enniskillen Club and a Past District Governor.



I retired from the banking and finance world a number of years back but consider myself semi-retired now as I have recently taken up a part- time post in our local Southwest Acute Hospital.

My hobbies include travelling, in Ireland and further afield, socialising with family and friends, attending Pilates classes and playing pickleball.

I have been a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Enniskillen since 2017,

served as Club Secretary from 2018-2020 and am now pleased to be trusted with the role of President.

I am looking forward to a meaningful and fulfilling year ahead in the Inner Wheel ethos of fun and fellowship whilst also helping those in need locally and internationally.



*Inner Wheel members are encouraged to become SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL and COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS*



*Through friendship and service we plant seeds of hope that grow far beyond our reach*

Inner Wheel serving communities worldwide



**Patricia Perry – President Inner Wheel Club Ballymena**

This will be Patricia’s 10th year as President during her time as a Member of the Ballymena Club. During the height of the pandemic Patricia undertook the role of District 16 Chairman- a role which she enjoyed immensely despite the unique challenges at that time.

Patricia was appointed as High Sheriff for County Antrim during 2024. This involved attending a range of civic events across the County – a busy but very enjoyable year.

Patricia taught in Carrickfergus for several years before taking over her father’s role as a sub-postmaster in the Ballymena area. She later set up an award winning Art gallery/ Gift shop which she ran for over 10 years in her home village of Ahoghill. Patricia and husband James, a Rotary Club member and a Deputy



Lieutenant for County Antrim, are actively involved in a range of local organisations including the Ahoghill in Bloom environmental improvement group as well as the local Chamber of Commerce. The Ballymena President enjoys travelling and spending time with daughter Sarah, son Christopher and his wife Katherine.



**Myrtle Buchanan – President Inner Wheel Club City of Derry**

I’m proud and honoured to become President of COD I W Club for the third time. First time in 1988. I’ve held many positions in Inner Wheel over my fifty years membership but am still impressed that through friendship the work we do is so meaningful, so valuable, significant, and authentic in the greater community.

I came to Derry from rural South Armagh in 1959 to teach geography and met Scott. Married for fifty nine years our four children now live in Belfast, Sevenoaks, Sydney and Cincinnati. The eight grandchildren range in age from twenty five to thirteen. Scott has been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s so it is no surprise



that the charity I am hoping to support is Deeds, a locally based support group for Dementia care.

I look forward to a happy and successful year ahead.

**Maire Murray – President Inner Wheel Club Newry**





### Hilary Brooks – President Inner Wheel Club Belfast

I was born in Dublin, the youngest of four daughters. It was there that I was educated and spent my early years.

I look back on the freedom we enjoyed with great gratitude and filled my days playing sport and having fun.

I still enjoy following any sport.

I spent some months in Singapore and travelled on to Australia where I lived in Sydney for two and a half years. I loved every moment. On returning to Dublin I married now Rotarian Maurice and we have three gorgeous daughters and eight grandchildren.

We moved to Northern Ireland in 1999.



This is my third time to be honoured as President of Belfast Inner Wheel Club and Inner Wheel means an enormous amount to me and particularly the abundance of great fellowship.

### Philomena Hagan – President Inner Wheel Club Portadown

Philomena joined Inner Wheel in September 1975. A keen Inner Wheeler who is always ready to ‘do her bit’, she has served as President on nine occasions as well as taking up the role of District Chair (2004-2005), Extension Officer (2005-2006) and member of council for three years (2017-2020). A very well experienced Inner Wheeler!

A native of Portadown, married to solicitor and Rotarian Sean, mother of five and a grandmother, Philomena a former teacher of mathematics, enjoys gardening, travel, reading and music.

A very busy and dedicated lady indeed.

Once again keen to help out



Philomena has returned as President of Portadown Inner Wheel for a tenth time for which all our members are very grateful. Coupled with her experience and guiding hand we look forward to continuing to grow as a vibrant and engaging club.



### Rotating Presidents – Inner Wheel Club Sligo



### Norma Shannon – President Inner Wheel Club Larne

Norma begins her third term as Club President this year, bringing with her a wealth of experience and long-standing commitment to Inner Wheel. She and her husband, Rotarian John Shannon, have lived in Larne for nearly forty years. Over that time, Norma has served in several key roles, including District Editor and District Chairman, and she has attended many Inner Wheel Conferences in England—most memorably the one-hundred-year celebration in Manchester, her home city.

Norma’s dedication to community service extends far beyond Inner Wheel. She has been a Board Member of the Oxygen Therapy Centre for thirty years and has served as its Chairman for the past fifteen.



The Centre provides High Dose Oxygen therapy in a Hyperbaric Chamber and offers a salt therapy unit that supports both adults and children living with asthma.

Norma looks forward to leading the Club once again and to a year filled with fellowship, service, and meaningful community impact.



# News from District 16 Clubs

## Omagh Inner Wheel Club

While 2025 marks the celebration of 45 years of Inner Wheel in Omagh it has also been tinged with sadness with the passing of two of the club's stalwarts over many years. The club mourned the loss of its 2024/2025 president Janet Howard who was also a former district chairperson and Margaret Mitchell immediate past president. Both are fondly remembered by fellow club members and their contribution to the success of the club down through the years was immense. Despite this devastating loss, the Omagh club continued to grow from their legacy having a busy schedule and attracting several new members since the new year.

The highlight of the year has been the 45th anniversary lunch in May which had the theme 'Strong women, stronger world'.

The Friendship Lunch was dedicated to President Janet Howard who, unfortunately, passed away just two weeks before her many months of planning came to fruition in a wonderful celebration of the club's history. Omagh was known for its friendship luncheons in the past and this was recreated on the milestone anniversary.

Inner Wheel members from across Ireland were joined by women leaders

of community groups and charities across the Omagh area.

Prior to lunch the guests enjoyed the music of a swing combo while seeing old friends and making new friends.

After a minute's reflection for Janet, the celebration began with Secretary Cathy McCaul giving a brief history of Inner Wheel and an explanation of its primary object of friendship with service.

Judith de Fleury, Inner Wheel district chair brought greetings from the district and provided a light-hearted history of interesting facts about Omagh.

Founder members in attendance played pivotal roles during the lunch; Barbara Eakin said Grace; Edith Hadden MBE lit the friendship candle alongside Judith and together they cut the celebration cake; Katharine Wilson gave the vote of thanks to the guests.

The guest speaker was Kim Kelly, editor of Local Women magazine, who is also a broadcaster and news reader and the founder of Mighty Women NI.

Guests received a gift of a commemorative book of the forty-five years of Inner Wheel in Omagh which documents the role that the club played and still plays in the local community and in support of local, national and international charities.



Other meetings have included inspiring talks by Sheena Havlin, community fundraiser, Marie Curie, Mary Lafferty, founder and manager of Omagh based ERANO (Empowering Refugees & Newcomers Organisation) and new member Bridget Collins speaking about her 'Career Path to Omagh'.

Omagh Inner Wheel continues to go from strength to strength and looking ahead Omagh is spear-heading the Inner Wheel global initiative 'UNITE to End Violence Against Women and Girls' at district level. Club secretary

and vice chairperson of District 16, Cathy McCaul, is the local driving force behind this topical worthy initiative. An awareness walk and rally was held in Omagh in November and was supported by other Inner Wheel clubs across Ireland and local community groups.

Karen Atchison  
Club Correspondent



Members and guests enjoying the 45th anniversary celebrations.



Jean Hamill, Judith de Fleury, district chair, Edith Hadden MBE and Katharine Wilson cutting the 45th anniversary celebration cake.



### Women in Action

Omagh Members enjoying the 45th anniversary celebrations.



Karen Atchison, Mavis Jardine, Carol Simpson & Cathy McCaul with a framed chain-of-office and photograph.



Founder members Barbara Eakin, Katharine Wilson and Edith Hadden (MBE) with memorabilia.

### Carrickfergus Inner Wheel Club

Our year to date has included our monthly business meetings together with a visit to Air Ambulance in March and to the Oxygen Therapy Centre with the Larne Club in May. Several members attended the Ballymena and Larne combined 80th anniversary lunch in March. We were also well represented at the annual Conference in Harrogate, enjoyed by all. Our very successful fundraising Bingo event was held at 'Ownies', Carrickfergus in April. With Judith as

our District Chairman we helped with the Pre-Rally at Whitehead Sailing Club in June, followed by the Rally in the Grand Central Hotel.

Our programme for the new IW year to the end of 2025 included attending the Belfast Club's 'Night of Magical Music' in October at Fisherwick Church, a Christmas theatre night at Mossley Mill and an invitation from Larne Club to their speaker from Women's Aid..

Jeanette Sproule,  
Club Correspondent



Carrick Bingo Night

### Women in Action



Carrickfergus club at the recent Pamper Day with Kind Skin with Jane Prendy. Monies raised at the event will go to Women's Aid.

### Enniskillen Inner Wheel Club

In September we convened to plan our programme for the year. In October we had a most interesting talk by RNIB on the birdlife around the marshes in Enniskillen and Fermanagh. In November we took part in a crafts evening, led by Laverne Millar, where we made a paper chorister from old books and Christmas bauble hairbands. In December we visited the Tyrone Crystal Factory Museum in Dungannon, and enjoyed a delicious lunch afterwards in the Linen Green Shopping Outlet.



### Portadown Inner Wheel Club

Our Inner Wheel year began with four of our members attending the District Assembly in the Europa Hotel, Belfast on 6th September. We were very honoured that one of our members, Doreen Cairns hosted the meeting as Chairman for District 16. Our first club meeting was a busy event drawing up our agenda for the next few months. On 13th October we watched a video which outlined the 'Orange the World' and UNiTE in ACTION project which has been adopted by Inner Wheel to highlight awareness of violence against women and girls. At our October coffee morning we started to

lay plans for an walk to support this issue. Our November meeting was dedicated to gathering up clothes and school supplies for the Goshen Ministries which was delivered to the District Meeting in the Craigavon Civic Centre. On 25th November in keeping with UN International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls along with the local Women' Aid group we staged an Awareness Walk in Lurgan Park. During the festive season we joined the local Rotarian Club for Christmas lunch.

Madeleine Powell  
Club Correspondent



### Dublin Inner Wheel Club

This year I had a dual mandate being President and Club Correspondent a busy year.

2025 started off with Inner Wheel Day which we celebrated with a coffee morning in the home of Pauline Wrixon – a great opportunity to chat. We also had “Sheila’s Boutique” where we sell off unwanted Christmas gifts – they are wanted by others! Between the door and the boutique, we made €730 which went to Water Aid.

In February Bernadette (IW Member) told us the story of St. Bridget that has come down to us through the ages. In March a beautiful colourful talk with slides about the Spanish

impressionist Sorella.

In April, back to our evening meetings, Joe Quirke delighted and soothed us with his Music for Middlebrows. In May we had a visit from Inner Wheel member Cathy Mc Caul who told us about her life – which is full of incident. She also spoke to us about her plans to revitalise all the clubs.

We had our AGM in June when I was able to lose one of my hats but will continue as Club Correspondent.

As Club Correspondent I was busy with Facebook, this is a wonderful channel where we can all share our news.

Helen Duffy  
Club Correspondent



Checking out the Christmas hampers founder members Barbara King and Sheila Woods with President Detta Healey.





### Ballymoney Inner Wheel Club

Ballymoney Inner Wheel commenced the new year with a fork supper in President Elaine Moore's home to celebrate World Inner Wheel Day. Once the formalities were over a delicious supper was served and a great evening of fellowship was enjoyed and our funds were enhanced through the voluntary donation envelopes.

Our charity account was further enhanced when we hosted a very successful table quiz in Ballymoney British Legion Hall in February. Quiz master Doreen certainly challenged our brain cells, however, the cheese and biscuits served during the interval helped ease the pain!.

We were greatly moved by our guest Pearl Dunlop from 'Shared Threads' at our March meeting. Shared Threads was started by Kirsty King an art teacher from Belfast who was profoundly challenged when she heard about period poverty in various parts of the world. The extent of period poverty in the world is astounding, over 500 million women and girls have no access to sanitary pads, many are shunned during the time of their menstruation and cannot attend school meaning once a month for 3-4 days they miss out on education. This means they fall behind their male counterparts and

often leave school with no formal qualifications and poor prospects for the future. In NI eight 'shared threads' groups meet up to cut out, sew and put period bags together, One of these groups meets in Pearl's home in Ballymoney once a month and make a bag containing reusable sanitary ware. Each beautiful sown cloth bag contain 3 pairs of black pants, 3 pad holders and 6 reusable/washable pad inserts. Packs go to countries such as Uganda, India, Moldova and Poland. It is the hope and prayer of Shared Threads that the taboo of periods and the injustice towards women and girls will be eased through their work.

In April following a lovely meal in Cromore Halt in Portstewart we travelled to the Riverside Theatre in Coleraine to enjoy the Ballywillan Drama Groups production of The Railway Children. In May on a beautiful sunny evening we enjoyed the views and a delicious meal in the Royal Court Hotel in Portrush. The Birthday cake being cut by President Elaine and her mother in law Niki.

At our final meeting before the summer break we welcomed Tony Osbourne as our guest. Tony and his family have raised an incredible £350,000 for the Air Ambulance since 2019, when their son Simon was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident. Simon's life was saved by



Outgoing President Elaine Moore (right) congratulates the 2025/26 incoming President Helen Robinson.

the emergency medical intervention at the roadside and speedy transport to hospital by the Air Ambulance staff. For her year in office President Elaine had selected the Air Ambulance as her nominated charity and Ballymoney Inner Wheel were delighted to present Tony with a cheque for £500.

In September we began a new session of Inner Wheel under the leadership of president Helen Robinson who had organised a really varied and interesting programme for her year in office. We then welcomed our guests for the evening Christine Gordon and Linda a golden retriever cross, who is an ambassador dog

Linda an ambassador dog for Guide Dogs who along with her trainer Christine joined us at our Ballymoney Inner Wheel September meeting



for Guide Dogs. Guide dogs are carefully selected and require traits like intelligent, calmness, good health and good decision making skills. They go through a very intensive training programme starting when they are puppies and are invaluable in providing 'eyes' and independence to those with visual impairment and blindness. Guide Dogs in Northern Ireland is celebrating its 40th anniversary and there are 600 people currently with a guide dog.

In October we enjoyed a delicious meal in the Golf Links Hotel, Portrush and welcomed District Chairman, Doreen Cairns as our guest.



In November we welcomed Mairi Burrow, who designs her own jewellery and has a passion for repurposing old jewellery,

Our year concluded with a combined Christmas dinner with the members of Ballymoney Rotary Club.

Another really enjoyable year in Ballymoney Inner Wheel, with lots of food, interesting and varied speakers, successful fundraising activities and most of all laughter, friendship and fellowship

Rosemary Dunlop,  
Club Correspondent



Members of Ballymoney Inner Wheel presenting a cheque to Tony Osbourne- Air Ambulance Appeal, N.I.



**Larne Inner Wheel Club**

This year has been something of a roller coaster for Larne. We sadly had a few members resign due to family and health reasons, but we were delighted to welcome three new members. The roles of President, Secretary, and Treasurer are being continued this year, as we felt it was a little early to place new members into office.

Our September meeting invited members to bring guests, and

with refreshments and good conversation we were pleased to gain new members. In October, we enjoyed a lovely evening with DC Doreen at the Curran Court Hotel. November brought a joint event with Carrickfergus Club in support of Women's Aid.

December's meeting took us to Belfast Cathedral for a beautiful Candlelight Concert, preceded by a festive Christmas meal.

Norma Shannon



Larne Club President Norma Shannon welcomes D16 District Chair Doreen Cairns.



Larne Club President Norma Shannon, D16 District Chair Doreen Cairns and club members.



### Ballymena Inner Wheel Club

Hello from Ballymena. We have 16 members. Still meeting in Maine Business Centre, Cullybackey.

Our first meeting of year in January was Armchair Dancing which reminded us of the Old Dance Hall music of our youth. Thoroughly enjoyed.

For International night we had speaker Caoimhe McCann (Mary's Meals). We heard about children who need good meals at school because of both drought and war which leave families with nothing. Esther supplied a lovely

Picnic lunch to raise money for Mary's Meals.

March was a busy month. We celebrated our 80th Birthday with Larne Club, also 80 at a Special lunch in Antrim. Pleased our new member Rebekah entertained us on the violin.

In April Reiki Practitioner, Clare spoke to us and in May we learned more of the history of Ballymena and surrounding area. Good information for us 'Blow Ins.' President Patricia held a very successful coffee morning in her house ,later in the month, to raise money for Local Charities.



80th Anniversary Lunch.



Ballymena members at the Anniversary Lunch.

Summer Season ended with a visit to Glenarm castle house and gardens.

Doreen our D.C. visited us in October. We had a meal out in November and a Christmas party at our meeting in December. Last outing of the year was to hear the Chamber Orchestra play Christmas Music at The Braid Arts Centre.

Elizabeth Davis  
Club Correspondent



### Sligo Inner Wheel Club

Our planned Celebration in January of International Inner Wheel Day had to be cancelled unfortunately due to very inclement weather. Carol Quinn, head archivist for Irish distillers came to our February meeting. Her presentation entitled 'A walk through whiskey history' was most enjoyable and very informative. Election of Officers for the coming year took place at our March Meeting.

We also held another very successful Food Appeal in aid of our local Social Services. This annual event has been running since 2009 and helps to make Christmas a little happier for numerous families in our locality.

Our Club celebrated its 39th birthday at our April meeting. A special

birthday for one of our members was also marked on the night.

In May Presidents Brenda and Hilary, members of Sligo Inner Wheel Club and guests held a very successful fundraising evening in aid of Alzheimer's Research in The Glasshouse Hotel. We were entertained during the drinks Reception by Blaithin who played the harp beautifully. After our meal tenor Jonathan Carter sang for us ably assisted by Blaithin. Throughout the evening, we were treated to a fashion show by Roisin and models from Rosie B. Very successful raffles were held with proceeds going to our very worthwhile charity. A most enjoyable evening was had by the 100+ in attendance.



Sligo members celebrating 39th birthday



Presidents Brenda and Hilary and Sligo members met with members of District 209 in Italy together with their District Chairman Chiara and Past International President Gabriella. A charter was signed to foster international friendship and gifts were exchanged. It was truly an honour for our club.

Our year concluded with Our AGM in June and Presidents Brenda and Hilary presented a cheque from the proceeds of the fundraising evening to the Alzheimer's Society head office in Dublin.

Past President Brenda chaired the September meeting. We were delighted to welcome Past District



Another very successful Food Appeal took place in Sligo.



Presidents Brenda and Hilary cutting our 39th birthday cake.



Sligo Club Members presentations.

Chairman Judith de Fleury, as well as Val and Marion who were visiting from the Inner Wheel club of Maidstone Kent. Our guest speaker was Ann Fox from Parkinson's Northwest which is our chosen charity for the coming year. Later in the month members took part in The Alzheimer's Society Memory Walk in memory of Brenda's late husband Aidan and raised funds for the local Alzheimer's Daycare Centre.

Catherine McManus chaired the October meeting of the Sligo club. Catherine presented a token of appreciation to Caroline Colleary of Sligo RNLI. Caroline gave us a most

informative talk and PowerPoint presentation on the wonderful work done by the volunteers in the RNLI.

Alex, a Ukrainian native spoke to us at our November meeting. She told us of her life and experiences since moving to Sligo. Alex and one of our members Caitriona are part of a 'Knitting Natters' group made up of Ukrainian and Irish women encouraging integration.

Our Christmas party took place in December.

Caitriona Kernan  
Club Correspondent



### Belfast Inner Wheel Club

January began with lighting the Friendship Candle at our meeting on Inner Wheel Day followed later in the month with a Coffee Party in club member Judy's house. In February we had a talk on 'The Walled Garden' in Helen's Bay and in March a group attended the District Meeting in Craigavon, where we had an enjoyable meeting and lunch with the District Chair, Judith De Fluery. David and Maureen Irwin showed us slides of 'America's Deep South', in April and in May we had a joint barbeque with Belfast Rotary in Malone Golf Club. In June a group attended the District Rally in the Grand Central Hotel Belfast and the District Meeting in Ballymascanlon and we had our evening buffet and AGM in Malone.

'Colour me beautiful' was the speaker's topic in September and we had an introduction to the Club

President's Charity – 'Brainwaves' and later a fun and friendship charity lunch at club member Hester's. In October we enjoyed a talk by Professor James Nixon on 'Lord Dufferin' and our concert 'A Night of Magical Music' in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church. This event raised £4000 of which £2000 was donated to WaterAid and £2000 to Women's Aid. November brought Jasper Parson, 'The Ayes have it' and December we enjoyed our Christmas dinner in Malone Golf Club. Each month we have a coffee morning usually in Malone, we also visited Coleman's nursery and Royal Hillsborough plus a cinema visit to see the latest 'Downtown Abbey' film. We continue to collect, clothing, ring pulls, toiletries, baby bundles, glasses etc for charity.

Sheelagh Brown  
Club Correspondent

Charity evening in Fisherwick Presbyterian Church.



Two vital charities.



Soloists: Hayley Howe, Megan Mooney and Claudia Clendinning.



Dr Wendy Austin compère.



Sheelagh Brown Correspondent Officer, High Sheriff Belfast, Councillor Fiona Mcateer, Patricia Donnelly Co President and Hester Ocarroll International Officer



Victoria College Choir.



Standing Ovation.



### Newry Inner Wheel Club

Newry Inner Wheel handover in Kilkeel RNLI, donation to lifeboats



Newry Inner Wheel visit RNLI Lifeboats, Kilkeel.



Angela handed over to Máire.



### City of Derry Inner Wheel Club

Our first meeting of 2025 took the form of a soup lunch in the Waterfoot Hotel. President Lena welcomed everyone and we had an enjoyable afternoon together.

The White Horse Hotel was the venue for our February meeting, the speaker was Roisin Doherty, Curator and Head of Heritage & Museum Services with Derry & Strabane District Council. Roisin spoke of the forthcoming opening of Derry North Atlantic Museum which will amalgamate all local museums to the Ebrington Site. This is a much anticipated development and will be a great asset to our city.

In March we enjoyed a wonderful evening in the Bishop's Gate Hotel to celebrate our 75th Anniversary. We commenced the evening with a prosecco reception while being entertained by the very talented "Mood Swings". President Lena welcomed everyone especially our guests which included District Chairman Judith and members of District Committee, our Mayor Lillian Seeno-Barr and Londonderry Rotary Club President John McCrossan. Past District Chairman and Past Association President Myrtle Buchanan presented Lena with the 75th Year Charter. Some very interesting and humorous speeches and a delicious dinner brought the evening to a close.

Our Inner Wheel Open Golf

Competition which had been arranged for 25th April unfortunately had to be postponed due to bad weather. However it was rescheduled for June 27th and was a great success raising a very substantial sum for our charities. Many thanks are due to Mar and her team.

In May we were entertained in the White Horse Hotel by John Paul a very talented flower arranger who demonstrated five arrangements using a small number of flowers and foliage. These arrangements were then raffled so some lucky members went home with beautiful displays.

June saw us again in the White Horse Hotel for our AGM. The chain of office was not handed over as incoming President Myrtle was unable to attend due to illness. We sent our Best Wishes to incoming President Myrtle for a very swift recovery.

Our September meeting took place in the City of Derry Golf Club. President Myrtle welcomed members and reminded us of the three aims of Inner Wheel, friendship, personal service and international understanding. Friendship is key and clubs are the heart of Inner Wheel so members should attend, take office, be proactive and committed. All this President Myrtle concluded makes the club healthy able to grow and be active in the community.

Bishop's Gate Hotel was the venue



for our October meeting where we enjoyed a working lunch while 1st Vice Chair Cathy McCaul led us in a workshop “How to make ourselves more attractive to existing and new members”. This was a stimulating topic and gave members a lot to think about and to carry into the coming years.

Our November meeting took place in the Old Library Trust where we were given a presentation on DEEDS

(Dementia Engaged and Empowered in Derry and Strabane) by Sinead Devine. DEEDS is President Myrtle’s chosen charity.

In December we held our Christmas party hosted by club member Jill which was as ever a very festive and enjoyable occasion.

Dorothy Foster  
Club Correspondent



Left: Derry and Strabane District Council Mayor Lilian Senoi Barr with members of City of Derry Inner Wheel

Right: Club President Myrtle Buchanan and Cathy McCaul (1st Vice Chairman) workshop facilitator.



Members of City of Derry Inner Wheel who took part in the Workshop.



## Inner Wheel D16 Shines a Spotlight on Violence Against Women and Girls

Inner Wheel District 16 launched its contribution to the global 16 Days of Action in November 2025, with a powerful panel event examining the reality of violence against women and girls in Northern Ireland. Chaired by Dr Aileen McGinley OBE—Northern Ireland’s first female local government CEO and first female permanent secretary—the panel brought together frontline voices: Kerrie Flood of Women’s Aid Fermanagh, Carol Follis from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Detective Constable Heather Flanagan on modern slavery and human trafficking, and Judge Barney McElholm, long-serving Resident Magistrate in Derry.

Aid, council representatives, and the Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Alderman Stephen Moutray. Participants from Inner Wheel clubs and local groups gathered in solidarity before finishing at the Castle Café. UTV filmed the event, which aired on the 6pm news.

**Omagh** – 25 November: Later that day, almost 200 people—including nearly 100 Year 14 students from six local schools—joined the Omagh walk. President Mavis Jardine opened the event, followed by contributions from Council Vice Chair Shirley Hawkes and D16 Vice Chair Cathy McCaul, who highlighted Inner Wheel’s global UNiTE in Action campaign. Walkers dispersed through the town carrying placards before regrouping at the Strule Arts Centre, where Council Chair Barry McElduff welcomed them. Local media again provided strong coverage, with three newspaper pages and multiple online posts.

Nearly 100 attendees heard frank, often unsettling insights that strengthened community resolve ahead of the district’s Awareness Walks. Local media responded strongly, with reporters and photographers covering the event and generating six full pages of coverage and extensive social media engagement.

**Derry** – 30 November: The final walk set off from Sainsbury’s car park, following the scenic river path to the Guildhall. President Myrtle Buchanan welcomed participants alongside Deputy Mayor Alderman Niree McMorris and PSNI Chief Inspector Josie Crawford. The

### Awareness Walks Across the District

**Lurgan** – 25 November: the first of three walks began in Lurgan Park, led by D16 Chair Doreen Cairns and supported by Women’s



Women in Action

standout moment came from Chloe, a student at Thornhill College, who spoke movingly about her school's 'pyjamas club,' a studentled initiative highlighting the hidden impact of domestic abuse on children. She and her classmates braved the cold in

pyjamas to drive the message home. Attendees gathered afterwards in the Guildhall café, while Mar Hasson represented Inner Wheel in two local radio interviews and further press coverage.

Lurgan Walk



Women in Action



Omagh Walk





Derry Walk



## CRITERIA OF MARGARETTE GOLDING AWARD

The successful Margarett Golding Award recipients have

- generally been involved with a variety of charities or organisations
- for a very long time,
- often involving a great deal of commitment on a very regular basis.

Their work must be

- completely unconnected with InnerWheel membership, or Inner Wheel service.
- Alternatively or in addition, they must have made great personal sacrifices for the benefit of others.

The criteria for success are set high so that the award remains a truly significant marker of an individual's commitment to others.

**Nomination Form** is available:

<https://forms.gle/pwUqX5KrMsRn13Q59>

Any nominations must be sent to IIW Admin before the IIW Executive Committee Meetings, **minimum 2 weeks before**. See the IIW Calendar for the dates.





# UNWANTED CURRENCY → SCHOOL MEALS



## Donate your spare foreign currency to help feed hungry children with Mary's Meals!

Mary's Meals serves nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest countries. The promise of a good meal attracts these hungry children into the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future.

Mary's Meals can turn your foreign coins and notes into meals for hungry children. We can also take British coins and notes that are no longer legal tender.

Organise a collection at your workplace, school, church or simply around your home and Mary's Meals will provide envelopes and boxes for collections and instructions on how to make your donation.

If you donate a foreign currency other than Euros or US dollars, our currency partner will add 5% to your donation.

For more information on collecting your currency or to request envelopes/boxes please email:

[info@marysmeals.org](mailto:info@marysmeals.org)

[www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

Mary's Meals, Craig Lodge, Dalmally, Argyll, Scotland, PA33 1AR.  
A registered charity: SC022140

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AIMS OF  
INNER WHEEL  
TO PROMOTE TRUE FRIENDSHIP  
TO ENCOURAGE THE IDEAL OF PERSONAL SERVICE  
TO FOSTER INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

## DIARY DATES 2025-2026

Thursday 6th March 2025  
**District Meeting (2) – Craigavon Civic Centre**

31st March – 2nd April 2025  
**GB & I Conference, Harrogate**

Thursday 5th June 2025  
**Pre-Rally for District Chairman's Guest, Executive and her Club**

Friday 6th June 2025  
**District Rally - Grand Central Hotel Belfast**

Thursday 19th June 2025  
**District Meeting (3) & AGM - Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk**

Thursday 5 March 2026  
**District Meeting 2 - Radisson Hotel, Sligo**

23 March – 25 March 2026  
**Association Conference, Llandudno**

Friday 5th June 2026  
**District Rally - Ashburn Hotel, Lurgan**

Thursday 25th June 2026  
**District Meeting 3 & AGM - Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk**



# District 16

- |                  |                |               |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Ballymena     | 6. Dublin      | 11. Portadown |
| 2. Ballymoney    | 7. Enniskillen | 12. Sligo     |
| 3. Belfast       | 8. Larne       |               |
| 4. Carrickfergus | 9. Newry       |               |
| 5. City of Derry | 10. Omagh      |               |

*Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the District 16 magazine*