



# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

February 2026



A very Happy 2026 to you all and welcome to the second MEMBERSHIP MATTERS bulletin for this year. Everyone will now be acutely aware that our reduced membership is affecting all of us, not least financially. Membership and Development must be the **MAIN PRIORITY** for **US ALL**. There are things that your club could try to help raise your membership numbers – look at the ideas from **Just One Thing** that have worked for others. If you enjoy your time in Inner Wheel, please help by inviting new ladies to join us or form a new club in your District or maybe ‘step up’ to take on a role in your Club – we shouldn’t keep all the fun to ourselves! Let’s spread the word and allow IW to continue making the world a kinder place.

In Friendship *Linda* P.S. Photos of your M&D events are always welcome at; [clarkewildings2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clarkewildings2@hotmail.co.uk)

## Good News!

There is great work going on in D22, to create two new Inner Wheel Clubs in the very near future. One group has been meeting regularly and hopes to get to the magic number of 10 potential members very soon!

District Officer Lyn writes:

*“In December we had a special evening with a Festive feel to it at the request of the ladies who brought, Santa hats, mince pies, chocolates and non-alcoholic drinks. We had a lovely night.”*



Meanwhile, in D13 the seeds are being sown for our first E-club in GB&I, with young women from the London area and others who live further afield.

We wish all these ladies every success in 2026 – **Are you inspired to establish a new club in your own District? We are working on a ‘blueprint’ to help you.**



Alongside welcoming new club members, we are always happy to celebrate the achievements and service given by valued members over many years.

D5 have recently awarded Long Service Certificates to:

**Barbara Wilson - 50 Years**

**Pam Thorne 40 Years.**

**Beryl Edwards 45 Years**

**Kathleen Walker over 40 years**

**Cynthia Garlic 50 years**

**THANK YOU & MANY CONGRATULATIONS LADIES!**

## MEMBERS @ LARGE – Can we do this better?

**To help your M@L feel fully involved and get the most from their membership, you might try;**

1. Nominating someone in the District to keep in contact with M@L, by email or phone. This could be the Member of Council, or another member.
2. Making sure that M@L in your District get invited to District events and District Meetings and then sending them the minutes afterwards.
3. Supporting a M@L with travel to special club social events.
4. Sending out invites for your District Rally and information about the Association Conference.
6. Having a Zoom for M@L so that they can enjoy an annual virtual ‘visit’ from the District Chairman.
7. Notifying the office about ALL membership changes, including those involving M@L (this is essential to keep the database accurate and updated).

**Let’s make sure all our M@L feel valued and can really enjoy their membership!**



## Orange the World

What an incredible response, from all of you, in raising awareness about the issue of violence against women and girls. You really rose to the occasion!! The photos on the Association website will give you a taste of the range of activities. From post-box toppers, to gifts for women’s aid, leaflet drops, school visits and awareness walks, through to public buildings lit up in orange – do go online and take a look and .....

**THANK YOU FOR STEPPING UP!!!**

## JUST ONE THING – Your feedback is rolling in!

Here is a small taster of the many great 'tried and tested' ideas which are helping clubs in GB&I – can your Club or District try one of these in 2026?

"We have rekindled interest and greater social interaction by holding a monthly walk in different locations and on different days, followed by an informal coffee get-together, for walkers and non-walkers."

"A new system using playing cards is used to find our seats at meetings – you find the matching card and enjoy the company of whoever you are sitting with. This has helped to build new friendships."

"Changed time of winter meetings to lunchtime, has relieved anxiety about driving in the dark or bad weather."

"A photo book of members is being compiled, and members are encouraged to wear their name badges so that new members can get to know others quickly and easily within our large club."

"We put leaflets in our local Estate Agent so that people moving to the area are aware of Inner Wheel."

"Our club discusses and picks a supportive action every month. Our members have become more aware of the welfare needs of others."

"To encourage established members to engage fully in the running of the club, a sub-committee was introduced to help the President run events this year, and a small committee to help the ISO with fundraising."

"Our club entered a scarecrow festival competition to increase awareness of IW – the scarecrow, named Mary (after 'Mary's Meals') was later donated to decorate the garden of a lady with dementia."

"A poll of members requested 'more fun and less formality' so this has been the focus. Members have taken turns to arrange social events and friendship has grown. Now some members have said they will join the committee next year."

"We have started a Facebook page to update information for members, spark interest in the community & expansion in the near future."

"Put an IW leaflet through the letterbox when a new neighbour moves into your street or invite them in for coffee!"

"A stand in the foyer of our local supermarkets, meant we could give out leaflets and talk about IW."

"Those who drive were asked to offer lifts to the ladies who are less mobile. This has enabled several long-standing members to continue in the club."

### Inner Wheel members are: **SUSTAINABLE, ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS**

**BUT..... DID YOU KNOW?**



#### **Spare Stoma Care products**

Unwanted supplies for stoma patients in Kenya can be donated to the charity founded by Gill Castle, via [chameleonbuddies.org.uk](http://chameleonbuddies.org.uk)

#### **Blister packs from medication**

Cannot be recycled in bulk, but are accepted in small individual quantities at Superdrug stores – with a pharmacy

#### **Ring pulls**

Your ring-pulls from drinks cans will create goods, to be sold in aid of poverty-stricken families in the Philippines, by the 'Purple Community Fund'

**Check the new 'Recycling Grids' on the District pages of the Association website for more information.**

#### **Good quality used Bras**

Can be donated to the charity 'Smalls for All'

**Welcome to these NEW MEMBERS for 2026.**

Wishing you all many happy years in Inner Wheel!



### **GROWING THE INNER WHEEL BRAND – The Next steps**

We are aware that some clubs are still finding it tricky to edit our Toolkit Templates, which are a key resource to help us improve our visibility in the communities we serve, to 'grow the Inner Wheel brand' and provide a recognisable and unified style across GB&I.

We have been discussing 'next steps' with the professionals who developed the Toolkit Resources with us.

Our committee are now updating the MEMBERS AREA of the website, to make things clearer.

**PLEASE BE PATIENT – REMEMBER, WE ARE NOT EXPERTS AND WE ARE ALL UNPAID VOLUNTEERS.**



**YOU CAN CONTINUE TO PLAY YOUR PART:**

USE THE TOOLKIT FOR ALL YOUR PUBLICITY MATERIAL

SHARE YOUR COMPUTER SKILLS TO ENABLE MORE CLUBS TO ACCESS THE TOOLKIT RESOURCES



### **See you in Llandudno!!**

The Membership & Development Committee will have a stall at Conference 2026.

Visit us to chat about your club and share how you are tackling your challenges.

Pick up our flyers, get support and take home some new ideas for your club to try.

AND REMEMBER TO .....

Buy a ticket or two for our **JAM JAR RAFFLE**, supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities (perhaps you will win one of our **fabulous prizes!!**).