

Springtime 2026 News from D20



March 6th International Women's Day Event



Members from around our District attended the International Women's Day event held at the Bath & West Showground. In addition to the display featuring IW, there was an interesting panel of inspirational speakers with Rebecca Pow as Master of Ceremonies.

The theme for the day was **Give to Gain** and speakers included Janet Montgomery, High Sheriff of Somerset, Lisa Agosto, Fuss Free Foodie, Alice Fox-Pitt, Estate manager and Racing pundit, Alexia Robinson, instigator of Love British Food and Tessa Armstrong, founder of the charity Voices for Life.

Sharing unique stories, touching speeches, powerful talks on inclusion and giving top tips it all reinforced what Inner Wheel does best, playing a part in the Community and giving of one's time and self to help others.



Llandudno – March 23rd 26th



Tuesday began with the Service. We were accompanied by a District Choir one of whom was Association President Pam Boyes. The reading of Desiderata and the playing of "The World In Union" by Kiri Te Kanawa was most enjoyable and the message of the service was as that of the whole Conference "Reach and Inspire for a Better World."

- The First Session saw welcomes from a very friendly Mayor of Llandudno and the IIW President Kay Moreland who is Australian. She was very quietly spoken but encouraged us to step up and lead by example.

- In the evening we were entertained by “Welsh of the West End” - 5 singers all of whom have starred in musical theatre. We were treated to beautiful singing, especially “Bring Him Home” which brought the house down and the ABBA Finale.
- Following the AGM the next morning, the Third Session started with an end of term feeling. President Pam bounded onto the stage wearing her mini dress made of 3 conference scarves. She admitted that she had had it made and would not be competing in the competition but Patrick Grant, the afternoon speaker, was unscripted and had a great rapport with the audience.

The Conference finished with a small concert from Ruthin Junior School choir. They were very good but all in Welsh. Just one in English would have helped. President Pam then declared Conference closed then we were told by Pat Russell that next year’s Conference will be in Cheltenham from 12th- 15th April 2027.

Many thanks to Liz Weelen from Shepton Mallet for this super report and to Mo Hodges for the composite picture.

Taunton

- International Coffee Morning held at Bishop’s Lydeard on Saturday 7th March and organised by Elizabeth Wyndham. It was very well attended and a superb £463 was raised for Medecins sans Frontieres.
- played Yeovil in a skittles semi-final at The Globe in Somerton. Though narrowly beaten by just one point, the Taunton ladies enjoyed a very friendly, social occasion even being presented with squares of flapjack to curb their hunger until a late lunch after the match! 😊
- Inter Club lunch meeting on March 17th at Taunton Racecourse. The occasion was attended by members and guests who were regaled by ecologist Jenny Bowen on her “Trials and Tribulations of working in Africa”
- Fashion Show for Musgrove Park hospital.



After expenses, we made almost £1,100 for the League of Friends which was good and we were pleased. Also managed to get on BBC Somerset Sounds when Simon Parkin did a live interview with Marlene at home. Managed to give a good plug about Inner Wheel and the charity work we do.

Taunton Vale's wonderful walk along Steart Marshes with lunch afterwards, great fun



Wellington



At our Inner Wheel Day Coffee Morning in January, our member Carole (seated left) gave a demonstration of sustainable wreath making, using ribbons and offcuts of fabric and wool. We were each given a frame as our 'homework' to bring to our March meeting. Members produced some

beautiful wreaths with an Easter theme, incorporating ceramic eggs, fluffy chicks and even a palm cross. Our secretary Sue (standing third left) caused much amusement with her valiant attempt with just one piece of ribbon and a ceramic egg!

Yeovil

Gifts for the community at Easter. Easter chicks knitted by our Knit and Natter group, together with teddies donated to member Joanne. Given as Easter gifts to the charity, Paragon, and to the Lords Larder and the Welcome Hub at the Gateway in Yeovil. Easter cheer for the children.



We welcomed new member Sue Baxter in April and hope she will enjoy all Inner Wheel has to offer.

Geoff Cole spoke about Yeovil Olympiads Athletic Club's part in promoting athletics locally and nationally, with a number of athletes going on to represent England. His talk was tinged with sadness as he started by remembering our dear friend and member, Barbara who had played such a part as a volunteer at Yeovil Olympiads. He gave an insight into the history of the club, and how a petition set up to save it when Somerset Council threatened closure. This attracted a lot of local and national press, resulting in Yeovil Town Council taking responsibility.

British Gas chose Yeovil Olympiads as part of its "Energy for Tomorrow" project in the lead up to the Paris Olympics, funding solar panels and other energy efficient systems to upgrade the club house.

The club is now setting up a charity "Friends of Yeovil Olympiads" with athletics in Yeovil leading the way.

Mendip

How lucky we are to live in such a beautiful part of the country, but nothing brings you back down to earth faster than the site of litter. So Mendip Inner Wheel ladies rolled up their sleeves becoming 'Litter Pickers' and cleaning up a lay-by on the A38 as part of the 'The Great British Clean Up.' 10 bags of litter were collected and members enjoyed good exercise and camaraderie with a great result. We'll do it again.



Chard

A recent speaker gave us –

An insight into working in the Royal Household!

Jackie, a friend of our President Linda, started work as a social worker, but in about 2006 she changed tack becoming a guide for the City of London, Westminster and Hampton Court leading to a job at Windsor Castle for over 12 years.

- Her job included guiding and security which she thoroughly enjoyed and she regaled us with various stories of events that happened to her, such as inadvertently shutting the Queen's runaway corgi in the kitchen as she thought it belonged to one of the members of staff! Luckily, she ran into HM who asked if she'd seen it and all was resolved.
- She had lots of little stories of that nature showing how human The Family is and how well the staff were treated.



Here are some of the presents she received at Christmas (a F&M pud every year, but one kept for posterity!).



Westbury

- For the 4th Year running we have held our popular Easter Egg hunt. It is a free event for children under 7 and this year has been the most successful with 50 children (plus adults) taking part. Not only do the children have a lovely time but the parents learn more about Inner Wheel with our local Lidl store very generously donating the chocolate bunnies.
- Our next big event is the annual Quiz night on 24th April. which has also proved very popular.

- Member Marjorie Kilpatrick held her last coffee morning for us. Marjorie has held regular coffee mornings for many years. This year a brilliant £170 pounds was raised which she asked to be donated to our local hospice Dorothy House.
- Jo Earny organises our club trip away every year. We are all looking forward to going to Warner club Littlecote House in May.
- We continue with our monthly lunch out - making cakes for the local Alzheimers group and the book club.

We are all looking forward to the visit by District Chairman Mo Hodges to our meeting in April.

Wrington Vale

- Met twice in January firstly for a coffee morning at a members home and then towards the end of the month we enjoyed a rather riotous Beetle Drive at the Railway Inn, how competitive can one become when handed a dice, a pencil and a beetle card, oh yes I forgot to mention the food, fish and chips yummy.
- In February we welcomed husbands to our meeting, it was good to catch up over lunch.
- Then came March when we held a business meeting at the home of one of our members when we decided who would be our officers for 2026/27 before we enjoyed soup and a pudding.
- Our most recent meet-up in April involved yes, food, but also a walk along the sea front at Weston S Mare it blew a hoolie but our intrepid band braved the elements before going inside for sustenance.
- We have plans for May and June, a blossom walk in one of Thatchers orchards and a garden visit and then in June a supper and AGM at the secretary's home.



It seems to be all eating and drinking for our club but we have and do support a women's refuge, have helped with craft work with First Group, knit squares for blankets and support one another. Wrington Vale Inner Wheel club marches on!

Here's hoping you enjoy this Springtime round up across D 20 - there were lots of Easter egg hunts as well as The Conference and the IW display for International Women's Day.

Now all we want is a resume of 25/26 for the magazine due out in June.

And Coming Up ---

Skittles Final - Wednesday May 20th at the Cross Keys Inn, East Lydford, Somerton, TA11 7HA between Yeovil and Shepton Mallet.



Golf Competition



Wednesday 9th September to be played at Vivary Park Golf Club

First tee time 12 noon. The fee is £19 plus £1 for some 'wonderful prizes' 👍 😊. There will be food but a decision to be made nearer the time.

Desi and Jenny
Joint Editors D20