

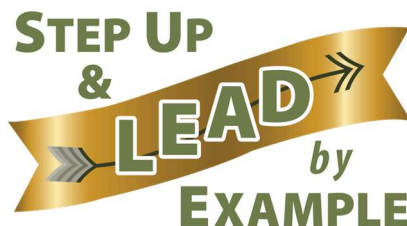
TWENTY'S TIMES



News from District 20
Somerset, Dorset & W. Wiltshire
June 2026



Inner Wheel at the Heart of
the Community for over 100 years



International theme 2025-2026

Your District Executive Committee 2026/7

Joint District Chairmen (& Immediate Past Chairmen)



Rita Jolliffe
Sedgemoor



Mo Hodges
Yeovil



Carol Price
Taunton Vale

Member of Council



Janet Fulford
Shepton Mallet

Treasurer



Mo Hodges
Taunton Vale

Secretary



Jean Binns
Taunton Vale

International



Angela Snow
Taunton

Joint Editors



Jenny Jones & Desi F
Shepton Mallet & Chard

Membership



Desi Fradgley
Chard

Greetings from your District Chairmen

Having three of us sharing the job of District Chairman has proved successful and we have worked together and taken responsibility for five clubs each throughout District 20.

We had hoped that someone or several members would come forward to help our District and enjoy being a member of the District Executive - sadly, this has not happened: therefore, for the coming year only, we have agreed to carry on as your District Chairmen. Not only are we carrying on with this important and very enjoyable role, but we do have other jobs within the District and in our Clubs, which can be challenging at times.

If you value your Inner Wheel, we must have members volunteering to help keep District 20 going. Remember if we do not have a District, we do not have clubs, or you may be put into neighbouring Districts which is not what any of us want. Please think seriously about this and let any of the Executive know if you are interested. We are delighted to welcome two new members this coming year, Angela Snow who will be taking on International and Jean Binns who is going to become the Secretary.



Rita Jolliffe



Mo Hodges



Carol Price



All Around District 20

Bridport

On 18th March 2026 our dear friend and present Joint President, Irene Smith, died.

She had been a member of Inner Wheel for many years and we will all miss her cheerful character and infectious laugh. One of Irene's joint presidents and long standing great friend, Jenny Conway, spoke at her Thanksgiving held on 27th April at Burton Bradstock church and this is how she summed up her memories of Irene.



- she lit up a room with her bubbly personality, her wicked sense of humour,
- her infectious laugh,
- her love of life and the fun we had with her at our national conferences.

Irene has been such a large part of our club's history for many years and has been President on no fewer than four occasions.

However, at one Conference in Bournemouth, the theme of our last night was Putting on the Ritz. About a dozen of us went dressed up wearing black trousers, white shirts, back top hats and of course black canes with silver knobs. We walked from our hotel down to the BIC laughing all the way, much to the amusement of passers-by. We made a grand entrance onto the floor of the ballroom, formed a circle and did an improvised dance. Before long, a very handsome young man, who happened to be the son of the National President, leapt up, pinched Irene's hat and cane and joined us in the dancing. He said that we were having so much fun, he wanted to be part of it. He then led us on a conga all around the BIC! We were giggling so loudly on the way home that cars started hooting at us!

I know I speak for all our members when I say that we will miss her deeply. She was a truly wonderful friend.

Taunton Vale

So, like the early intrepid explorers we began the new Inner Wheel year 25/26 with Handover at Jean Binns, but with a slight twist. With not one President this year but 11 of our members offering to each cover a month with finding speaker and running meetings. The committee would keep the ship afloat in the usual way, with invites to members to join them at any meeting. Well ladies it worked and it worked well. A very successful year, speakers from a variety of organisations. Beginning with an update on our 2 Himalayan girls that we have supported since they were 7/8 years old & are now moving into their final year of senior education, young women now with ambition in teaching and the army.

The Pearl lady was fascinating and despite the hiccup of venue a most enjoyable evening, so the year continued with talks by members relatives on topics ranging from the Ravages of the Sun on our Skin, to a Ceremony Officer talking about officiating at weddings.

After Christmas we had to reactivate our brains with a quiz, on Caring for the Environment. March was our Interclub with a talk from St Margarets Hospice fund raising organiser. Four of our members ventured to Llandudno to Conference, a most enjoyable time, interesting speakers the AGM of course and meeting with fellow members of Inner Wheel.

The following month we heard of the Trials & Tribulations of a farmer in 2026. As I write this, we look forward to our out meeting at the Shoe museum in Street, our AGM & yes, Handover, but this time to only one member as the President for 26/27, me!

As incoming President, my calendar for the year is almost complete thanks again to members for finding speakers and a committee all eager to keep the ship afloat, or the wheels turning. My vision for the year is, hopefully to grow in membership, but importantly keep the fellowship and contributing to the community as actively as ever. Still knitting blankets, making bags for the Beacon centre, hospital shop, trolley, and many other members involved in voluntary work. *Jennifer Bird*



A Chilly Llandudno!

Taunton

“Reflections on the Year.”

*From Joint Presidents
Margaret Blackaller
and Marlene Ewens.*

We have had a varied and successful programme throughout the year, with International events such as ‘Orange the World’



foremost in our minds. Working together with other voluntary organisations to raise the profile of Violence Against Women & Girls was particularly rewarding, especially seeing all our walkers gathered in Vivary Park dressed in orange and ready to walk through Taunton handing out leaflets. It was a very special day, made even more meaningful by the publicity we received in the local press and through our radio interview highlighting this important issue.

Our Autumn Soiree, held at Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club in aid of our chosen charity, the League of Friends of Musgrove Park Hospital, was another highlight of the year. With over 90 people attending, the evening was extremely successful, creating a wonderful atmosphere with great music while raising valuable funds for our charity.

Similarly, our recent Fashion Show proved to be a tremendous success, with the relief and excitement of selling over 100 tickets. The enthusiasm and support from all the models we chose was brilliant, and special thanks must go to the staff at Taunton & Pickeridge, who were amazing on the night, together with Tracy, owner of Kanya, who organised the fashion aspect so professionally. It was another excellent fundraising evening, with everyone enjoying a fun and relaxing time.

Coffee Mornings and Friendship Lunches have continued to be an important feature of our year, alongside attending meetings at IW

District level. Our Interclub also attracted a large gathering of IW members and other local groups from around the County.

The IW Association Conference in Llandudno, provided a broader perspective on the huge amount of work and support Inner Wheel contributes within communities throughout Great Britain. There were interesting speakers and, once again, an excellent opportunity to meet with other clubs within the district.

A great deal of thought, effort and planning went into all these events and activities, but it has certainly all been worthwhile. *Margaret & Marlene*

Liz Reeves continues: Our Club is currently going through a time of member growth and many other positives, and Theresa and I would hope to maintain this momentum in order that the Club enjoys another year of happy fellowship, though Marlene and Margaret will be a hard act to follow!

We are arranging a full programme of events and speakers which we hope will be relevant to everyone in the Club. No major fundraising events are planned at this stage other than a Big Breakfast in Trull Memorial Hall, in aid of our chosen charity for the year, St Margaret's Somerset Hospice. Our Inter Club meeting will feature a presentation by a husband-and-wife team of skydivers, and we expect to continue with periodic social events such as a cream tea at Bicknoller, visit to a musical, a West Somerset Railway trip for a fish-and-chip lunch in Minehead, the annual Bridge Challenge against Taunton Vale. So hopefully another busy and highly enjoyable year lies ahead.

Mendip

For a club of only 13 members, we have had a busy and successful year, with all members participating in as many events as possible. My aim for the year was to enjoy Inner Wheel through friendship, which I am pleased to say we have achieved.

Our first event of the year was a BBQ which had to be held inside due to inclement weather but the fellowship was just as good. We were joined by some past members and partners and some Mendip Rotarians and partners. All proceeds went to Water Survival Box and our donation was matched by Big Give.

In addition to our monthly club meetings, it was decided that we would have a monthly 'activity' in which all members could take part if they were able. These included a walk from one member's house – along the Strawberry Way – to another member's garden for a cream tea, a walk on Burnham Beach followed by lunch, a visit to King John's Hunting Lodge Museum in Axbridge, followed by afternoon tea and a Christmas shopping trip which included lunch (there's a theme here!).

We have had a few sessions making breast cushions and we have also provided shoeboxes for Samaritans Purse to Ukraine and the Philippines. Some of us were pleased to join the Taunton Clubs in their Orange the World walk. Four of us (and 1 husband) litter picked one Saturday morning in a lay-by on the A38 – filled 10 bags in just over an hour!

As always, the support from members of the Inner Wheel Club of Mendip has been amazing and I thank them all sincerely.

Alison Webb



Sarah Scott - Once again, the Inner Wheel Club of Mendip are recycling Presidents. I was first President in 2010-11 and I am pleased to be given this opportunity again. As we are a small club, we rely on input from all members, and I am sure I will be well supported in the coming year.

I hope to continue as other Presidents have managed their years. in working together as a team and enjoying the friendship in our club. To that end, I am looking forward to serving the community where we can and continuing our monthly activities, such as coffee mornings, walks and other events that interest all members. I am particularly looking forward to the club holding a Christmas Coffee morning – it will soon be here again!

Wrington Vale

The 2025/26 Inner Wheel year started with a really new approach to club life. We'd ended the last year as a club with no names (nominations) for a committee. We had NO President- STOP how will we cope? We had no plans, then the discussions and votes started. Suggestions came, the only one nobody agreed with was, us giving up! District gave advice and it was decided we could move forward as a President/committee free club.

And we have, what a good year it's been. We've had fun & friendship, we've helped within the community and we've thrived on laughter and cake. We've been a Maverick Club, sadly no Top Gun pilots to help lead us but the highly effective Chris, who undertakes the "Miss Money Penny" secretarial role with Pru as the Moneyman. The other decisions are made by discussion and then arranged by whoever has suggested. Kate did Christmas, Emma and crew did a Soup & Pud, Ann & Angela did the social lunches. They were the busiest.

Soup & Puds, was a lesson learnt from Mary Berry - eat a soup followed by lots of tasty puddings. This event whilst a fun event was a fund raiser for a member of the IW & Rotary family who sadly died from Motor Neurone Disease. (MND)

Blankets for Ambleside dialysis unit @ Weston General Satellite Unit. As a dialysis patient I'm always cold. My Mum knitted me a lovely blanket to take along when I first started my treatment. There were so many comments made that every year knitted & crochet blankets have been donated to the unit. The colours and the quality are second to none. The patients love them and keep warm. The staff appreciate them. So, this too will continue. And mine, it came home with me when I started my home dialysis.

A Blossom Walk plus cake & coffee.

Fish & chip followed by a beetle drive

Downtown Abbey premiere lunch and watching of the film.

All this with a couple of lovely fun and laughter filled social lunches.

Wellington

Seven members recently undertook a sponsored walk from the town centre to The Skylark where they were joined for lunch by non-walking members. The total sum raised was £850, which will be donated to The League of Friends of Wellington Community Hospital to improve the range of services offered at the Hospital.



Sedgemoor



Our members really enjoyed the OTW stall held at the Artisan Market in December. Lots of lovely things made and sold with the money going towards women who have suffered violence and abuse. We also sold items for the Purple Community Fund at the same time.

Our incoming President Robbie is looking forward to a year of fun and fellowship raising money along the way for causes close to her heart.

Sedgemoor Interclub attendees were welcomed by June and Mo as well as at the sign in desk, were well fed and amusingly entertained by Carmela of La Belle Boudoir, Taunton. Carmela is very supportive of ladies who have had breast procedures and has lots of options to help them look and feel good. However, anyone can go for a fitting there as she has a huge selection of bras, swimwear etc. We actually learned quite a lot about why our bras feel uncomfortable and why a Proper fitting is so important.



Yeovil

A different year with a team of past Presidents taking club meetings. This has resulted in some interesting speakers, first from the Fire Service advising us on safety in our homes to a speaker from the Yeovil Olympiads who told us of local athletes representing England at the Olympic Games. Some more informal and social meetings included an M&M game which allowed us to find out more about our members and a lunch party at a member's home. Fund raising began with a tea party for Breast Cancer Now. We had a stall at the Rotary Pre-Christmas Fayre supporting local charities and promoting Orange the World. On World Inner Wheel Day we held a coffee morning in support of Yeovil4family Welcome Hub, which supports displaced people from countries including Ukraine and Afghanistan. To help retain our newer members, a coffee morning was held to gather their views and ideas for new pursuits. Our Knit & Natter group has gone from strength to strength,



and we have produced many items including pocket teddies and crème egg Easter chicks given as gifts to the Food Bank and to Paragon for families in refuges. 26 teddies are ready for dispatch to Teddies for Tragedies. Our book club continues to thrive. We enjoyed cinema screenings of Downton Abbey–the Grand Finale and Hamnet at Westlands, and a visit to The Longest Yarn at

Sherborne Abbey (pictured) which was a knitted display of World War Two garments etc.

We took part in the District Skittles competition reaching the final. Our annual social with Chard and Crewkerne was full of friendship with a fun game of Skittles and a quiz.

Shepton Mallet

We began with a Bring and Share Supper at Gill's beautiful home and garden. Rain soon saw us off to Gill's magnificent dining table where we were all able to eat and chat. Then in August our outing saw us at

Crockerton Nursery where we lunched, shopped and walked around the lake (well some did)!

Speakers have included, Rotary President, Keith, Tony Quinn with a talk on Water Survival Box (with box), Mike Thompson on the Strawberry Line which will link us with a cycle path/footpath to Weston Super Mare one day and finally, but not least, our own District Chairman, Rita who reminded us of the good works we have all been involved in.

In the meantime, we have enjoyed our meals while planning Orange the World, a Santa Beetle, reminiscing on our eldest Member, Doreen Bailey, who sadly died in December and attempting Play Your Card Right and other silly games and quizzes.

We have welcomed back Janis Hurrell to our fold this year

WE WON The Skittles by 4 pins- a tense but exciting game against Yeovil Club, ably captained by Wendy, one of our younger members.

And finally, we will have a table with Rotary at Collett Park Day in June, advertising ourselves with a display of work and charities supported.



Liz Weelen

Chard

President Lynda Le Taylor has enjoyed an interesting year which started off with an Afternoon Tea at Chard Museum & Heritage Centre. The curator learned more about Chard from our local ladies than he could have imagined. He was enthralled and wants us to return this summer. We supported the Chard Community Show case for local organizations which we initiated several years ago and is now being run but the Town Council. We have been particularly interested in supporting the youth of Chard this year and any organisations that provide activities and helps them stay off the streets.

The Bingo we held were enjoyed by all who attended (except one player who complained at the end of the last one, she hadn't won a prize and she *Always* wins prizes – notice the plural!!)



Our skittles team fell at the first hurdle (Yeovil!) and our Quiz teams have enjoyed taking part in various community quizzes, neither excelling nor disgracing ourselves.

We've welcomed two new members to the club and presented Eileen Davies with her Honorary Membership certificate.

Next year we are delighted to have another first time President, Kate McElligott, who will be encouraging members to become much more involved in the club and Chard itself. Although we have been prominent in the community over the years, we must be willing to adapt to Chard's changing demographic.

We are looking at adding some more accessible meetings; sometimes at a local venue and sometimes at members' homes. This will allow much more flexible drop-in sessions for members who may not be able to commit to an evening meal and will also add to the stock of ideas to give a different perspective on local issues. The focus this year is very much on communication with our local community - which, to put it mildly, has been struggling over the last few years as more and more houses are being built with little infrastructure to support the growing numbers.

Kate's personal interests since moving to Chard some 12 years ago are unpaid carers, dementia and adult social care. Caring for her mother (sadly no longer with us), who had dementia, she experienced the somewhat isolated life of an unpaid carer; very much a case at the time of 'not knowing what she didn't know' in a place with which she was unfamiliar. She now volunteers for the Chard Carers' Support Group, helping to run the group. After this, joining the Somerset Dementia Partnership started to improve communications around all things

dementia and, from that, she was asked to be part of the Working Together Board, which is organised by Adult Social Care.

Taunton Vale

We recently had two members of Taunton Vale



celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the same day. Helen and Dick Foster and Di and Henry Besley who sent these photos with a note:-

“Thank you Inner Wheel

for the magnificent card. Henry and I had a wonderful 2 days in Bath celebrating with the family.



It's not every day The King and Queen have breakfast with us!!
Love Henry and Dianne”.



Was enjoyed at Nuova Italia Restaurant, Ilchester!

Past District Officers Lunch



Westbury

This year for the first time we had two Presidents, Maureen Boyd and Chris Bristow to lead us for a full year, thank you both for all your work. We continued to have stalls at the Christmas Tree festival, when our theme was Orange the World, Christmas fete and the summer fete. We supported Rotary at the Imber Ultra and Kids Out, held 'soup and puds' and skittles days, made cakes for the Alzheimer's group, and donated to local foodbank. Easter Egg Hunt was a big success as was the Quiz night which this year was in aid of Guide Dogs UK. Hilary Reid, a local resident has for many years trained guide dogs and is a great supporter of our quiz night and this year brought along Elsie her latest puppy.

Our annual trip was to Littlecote Manor/Hotel, the weather was kind and a good time was had by all.

As for the year ahead I leave that to our new President Jackie Pikes message and I know President Maureen Boyd shares the same views.

'Taking on the Presidency of the Inner Wheel Club of Westbury, this time with Maureen, is an honour I am pleased to accept for the third time. Our club is an example of the objects of Inner Wheel. We are all good friends who apart from our regular club meetings enjoy getting together for walks, lunches, and holidays.

Serving the community is equally important and we will continue to support the foodbank, making cakes for the Alzheimer's teas, knitting and raising funds for local and International charities with quizzes, an Easter Egg hunt and local stalls. Our committees are working hard on new ideas.

I hope my time as President will see the club continue as positively as it is now.

Julie Street



PAST DICTRICT CHAIRMEN

1972-73	DOREEN ABELL	BATH
1973-74	TINKER MEYERS	DORCHESTER
1974-75	MURIEL OWEN-ROBERTS	LANGPORT & SOMERTON
1975-76	JOAN FITZMAURICE	TROWBRIDGE
1976-77	MARGARET GRIFFITHS	WRINGTON VALE
1977-78	MARGARET PALMER	MENDIP
1978-79	LILIAN PENDRY	BURNHAM ON SEA
1979-80	MARGARET HUGHES	CHIPPENHAM
1980-81	JUNE CORSIE	MIDSOMER NORTON & RADSTOCK
1981-82	JOYCE FLETCHER	WELLS
1982-83	AUDREY WHITE	BURNHAM ON SEA
1983-84	LINDA HIGGINS	TROWBRIDGE
1984-85	PAMELA SHEPPARD	BURNHAM ON SEA
1985-86	AUDREY DOIG	TAUNTON
1986-87	MARGARET BARTLETT	GLASTONBURY & STREET
1987-88	JEAN BATH	BRIDPORT
1988-89	VALERIE BELL	YEOVIL
1989-90	PAMELA SMALL	WRINGTON VALE
1990-91	DIANA DAVIES	MIDSOMER NORTON & RADSTOCK
1991-92	BETTY PLAYLE	CHIPPENHAM
1992-93	PAMELA COPPARD	YEOVIL
1993-94	JUNE STENNING	SEDGEMOOR
1994-95	DOREEN BAILEY	SHEPTON MALLET
1995-96	ANGELA SAUNDERS	YEOVIL
1996-97	FREDA THACKWAY	FROME
1997-98	SHEILA WAGG	MIDSOMER NORTON & RADSTOCK
1998-99	PAULINE ALVIS	WRINGTON VALE
1999-2000	PAULINE CHURCHILL	GLASTONBURY & STREET
2000-01	FRAN PEARSON	WARMINSTER
2001-02	MARGARET REAY	WEYMOUTH
2002-03	LESLEY BENT	MINEHEAD
2003-04	MAVIS HUGHES	LANGPORT & SOMERTON
2004-05	MARGARET BERRY	BATH
2005-06	SHEENA GRACIE	WEYMOUTH
2006-07	SHEILA AXTENS	WELLINGTON
2007-08	ANN ADAMS	WEST WOODSPRING
2008-09	VAL HELLIN	DORCHESTER
2009-10	TRYPHENA CAMPKIN	WELLINGTON
2010-11	ANGIE HORNE	WEST WOODSPRING
2011-12	TRICIA HARRIS	CREWKERNE
2012-13	LYN HARRISON	SHERBORNE
2013-14	RITA JOLLIFFE	BURNHAM ON SEA
2014-15	LINDA QUINN	CHELWOOD BRIDGE
2015-16	CAROL PRICE	YEOVIL
2016-17	KATE LEWIS	FROME
2017-18	LYNNE EVANS MBE	SHEPTON MALLET
2018-19	PRU WITTER	WRINGTON VALE
2019-20	MAUREEN NETHAWAY	YEOVIL
2020-21	MAUREEN NETHAWAY	YEOVIL
2021-22	PAM BREWSTER	FROME
2022-23	SAM CHAPMAN	BATH
2023-24	JANET FULFORD	SHEPTON MALLET
2024-25	FRAN ALLEN and PRU WITTER	WELLINGTON
2025-26	RITA JOLLIFFE and MO HODGES and CAROL PRICE	WRINGTON VALE SEDGEMOOR TAUNTON VALE YEOVIL