IN THE LOOP

The Newsletter of the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland

Edition 2 - November 2026

As the Autumn leaves begin to fall, I'm travelling over the miles to attend your District Rallies and Charter Anniversaries. Each one is different, but the warmth, hospitality and welcome that I have received from them all is phenomenal. I'm truly amazed as I go around at the vast amount of work that members continue to do for their local community and internationally. This is Inner Wheel at its very best.



The Knit & Stitch Show held at Ally Pally in October was a huge success, with a total attendance of 25,000 ladies. The catwalk certainly put Inner Wheel well and truly in the spotlight. I thank the ladies who bravely modelled their outfits on the catwalk showing off their beautiful scarf outfits. The Inner Wheel stall looked fabulous and was ably manned by members over the four days, with help from our administrator Melanie on the Thursday afternoon. We received a tremendous amount of interest from the public, lots of leaflets were given out and lots of questions and answers given. Hopefully all the hard work will pay off with an influx of new members.



As Districts and Clubs now look forward to preparing for Orange the World I wish you well on your walks and coffee mornings. Please keep safe.

Registration is open for our Conference, which will be in Cheltenham, and I look forward to seeing many of you there next April. Full details are on the Association website.

Love Pat xx



Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in GB&I Conference in Cheltenham 12th to 14th April 2027

For further information, including details of accommodation in Cheltenham Ladies' College, please visit our website https://innerwheel.co.uk/

International visitors should please contact our Association Office by email: admin@innerwheel.co.uk

The Inner Wheel Stand at the Knit & Stitch Show

Alexandra Palace, October 8th-11th 2026

As well as our lovely ladies being selected for the catwalk, we were delighted to be offered a large promotional Stand for Inner Wheel at the Alexandra Palace for the duration of the four-day event. This was a significant opportunity for our organisation to share what we do with over 25,000 visitors, over 80% of whom were women. The Stand design was created to attract crafters of all types, showing beautiful examples of the knitting and quilting undertaken by our members ready to be donated to local, national and international charities. We also displayed 'The Story of the Scarf Challenge' with photos and dressmaking dummies dressed in some of the outfits, as well as a short video of our models playing on repeat.

Hundreds of visitors came to chat to the team at the Stand, with huge numbers asking about membership and searching our wall map of GB&I for the location of their nearest club. We were able to gain insights into the areas where an Open Evening might have the potential to establish a new club. Contact details were requested from those entering the 'Button Jar Competition' and these ladies will be sent further information via the Office. We are thrilled that donations for President Pat's chosen cause; suicide prevention, came to over £630.

My sincere thanks go to all those who helped me with the extensive



preparations for the Stand over the summer, worked hard to help us complete the 'build-up' and 'break-down' on time, donated or loaned treasured items for display, or stood for long hours to ensure that everyone visiting us was handed a leaflet, received a friendly smile and heard a positive message about Inner Wheel. Your fabulous teamwork helped to make this an incredibly uplifting experience and allowed us to make the most of an amazing opportunity.

Now, we need to be ready to extend a friendly Inner Wheel welcome, to anyone who comes calling!

Linda Clarke
Association Membership & Development Chairman



The wonderful opportunity we were given to promote Inner Wheel at the Knit and Stitch Show at Alexandra Palace was also an opportunity to see the scarf outfits up close and really appreciate the talent, hard work and attention to detail that had gone into their creation.

The call had also gone out for buttons to fill an old-fashioned sweet jar. Loughborough club members managed to collect an amazing 2056 buttons, which inspired one of their members, Teresa Pollard to write the following poem:



'Bright Buttons, Big Impact: Filling the Inner Wheel Jar!
An email pinged, and the hunt was away—
A call for some help on a rainy day!
"Find buttons of blue, of yellow and gold,
To fill up the jar that the Inner Wheel hold!"
While bank holiday rain did nothing but pour,
Old button tins rattled and spilled all over the floor.
Into the rust-buckets, fingers all dived,
As the Great Button Search spectacularly thrived!
Out popped a mustard-flower, out popped a navy square,
And a big shiny gold one from who-knows-where?
Shapes of all sorts and shades by the dozen,
Passed from a neighbour, a friend, or a cousin.
Then clatter and clack through the letterbox slot,
Envelopes tumbled with all they had got.
Stuffed to the brim for a wonderful cause,
Deserving a round of gigantic applause!
It takes just a spark to get things moving,
With everyone sorting, searching, and grooving.
A glass jar filled up with colourful art,
And a great big community right at its heart!'



Around and About Clubs in GB&I

Throughout Great Britain and Ireland members are serving their local communities, supporting charities, making friends, and having fun. The following items are just a few of the many that could have been included – please keep sending them to your District Editors or Zone Leaders.



Motherwell and Wishaw (D2) member Joyce undertook a zip-line challenge to raise funds for CHAS (Children's Hospices in Scotland).

There were **3302** buttons in the Jar on the Inner Wheel Stand – the lucky winner has been notified.

D129 members 'wearing' some of the donated bras they had collected, which are then delivered to Mish Bra Bank in Wadebridge as part of their sustainability effort. The bras are then passed to Against Breast Cancer charity for sale or recycling.





Members of the Inner Wheel Club of Whitchurch (D21) promoting Inner Wheel while manning a stall at their local car boot sale.

Congratulations to all those clubs marking the 70th and 80th anniversary of their Charters being granted. More about this in the next edition of the Newsletter.

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Raising funds and awareness



Inner Wheel Club of Kingston (D14) member Cindy did a ‘Blindfolded horse ride’. Members were assured that Cindy was blindfolded and not the horse! She was supported by Sue Ansari (Deputy Mayor) and Odette Battarel (CEO of Kingston Association for the Blind). A partially sighted volunteer rode with her. It was a challenging ride but, as Cindy said, she could take her blindfold off, but a blind person couldn’t. Cindy raised a large amount of money for Park Lane Stables RDA in Teddington.



Corstorphine Inner Wheel Club Members Liz, Shelagh and Lesley dressed the part and completed the BIG STROLL part of this year’s Kilt Walk in support of St Columba’s Hospice Care.



Members of District 9 enjoyed themselves by holding a ‘School Day’, role playing staff and pupils, recreating lessons with a twist, drawing, painting, singing and writing and enjoying a school dinner. They had great fun while raising money for Dementia Action from sales at the tuck shop and harvest shop.

Orange the World Campaign 25th November to 10th December 2026

Don’t forget to share your club’s plans and they will be added to the Planned Activities Map.

UNiTE in Action – Her Safety, Our Priority

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Pat's Progress during September and October 2026

September 1st to 3rd Committee Meetings
September 8th District 127 Rally
September 9th and 10th District 7 Pre-Rally and Rally
September 14th-15th Conference Working Party in Cheltenham
September 21st to 28th National Representative meeting in Izmir, Turkey
October 1st Constitution Committee Meeting
October 5th District 4 Rally
October 6th to 7th Council meeting at Yarnfield Park
October 9th Knit and Stitch Show Alexandra Palace
October 11th and 12th District 12 Pre-Rally and Rally
October 13th and 14th District 17 Pre-Rally and Rally
October 15th and 16th District 26 Pre-Rally and Rally
October 20th Inner Wheel Club of Banbury 80th Charter Celebration
October 21st and 22nd District 6 Pre-Rally and Rally
October 26th District 24 Pre-Rally
October 27th District 24 Rally and District 8 Pre-Rally
October 28th District 8 Rally



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