

E.NEWSLETTER I.W.DISTRICT 12



ISSUE 8:MAY 2021



PDC Elizabeth Lister : In Memoriam

I had the great privilege of being invited to attend the Service of Celebration of Liz's life, held at Barham, near Canterbury in March, representing the membership of Inner Wheel District 12. Sadly, as Covid-19 restrictions were in place, only 30 people were permitted to attend, instead of the many who would have wished to have been there.

Members of your District Executive have many happy memories of the time they spent with Liz, planning and working for the benefit of D.12. Her enthusiasm for Inner Wheel was infectious and who could forget the warmth of her smile!

Sheila Cragg

District Quiz 2021 – Tea Time Teasers

In April 2020 when we had to cancel the District Quiz, as we were in the first Covid Lockdown, little did we think there would be any likelihood of not being able to meet in person for the Quiz in April 2021. As you all know that was the position in which we found ourselves. Sheila and I have made every effort to keep as many meetings and events in place during the last difficult months so we made the decision to go ahead with the Quiz on Zoom. Sheila had more confidence in my technological ability than I had but we decided to give it a go. The Executive

members all rallied round and took on responsibility for various parts of the organisation from question writing to scoring to Question Master to adjudication, it really was a Team effort.

We were absolutely delighted when fifteen Clubs registered to take part along with twenty supporters, more than have attended the Quiz at Ditton for the last few years! This gave me some worrying moments as it meant we needed to use seventeen Breakout Rooms, usually the time-consuming part of Zoom organisation. And I was right to be worried! The start of the Zoom Quiz was rather chaotic. However, once the initial problems were sorted things went fairly smoothly. From feedback and many appreciative emails, it appears everyone had a very enjoyable time. A very big thank you to everyone who supported the Quiz by taking part and

congratulations to all the Teams for doing so well. Special congratulations to the winning Team from Canterbury Club.



It was agreed the proceeds from the afternoon would be divided between the winning Team and a charity of the District Chairmen's choice. Sheila and I decided to give our £75 to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme which we thought was a very appropriate charity at this particular time. We are delighted

that Canterbury Club have decided to donate theirs to the same charity. This means that we not only had a most enjoyable afternoon but a very worthwhile charity has received £150. Thank you to every one of the 82 members who took part.

Christine

Joint District Chairman

April proved to be a busy month - the AGM of the Inner Wheel Association AND the AGM of International Inner Wheel, held at the Convention, streamed far and wide from Jaipur in India.

We were delighted that District 12 had 23 members registered at the Convention - a special opportunity, showing that the pandemic did - briefly - offer a silver lining. It was great to feel a part of a large world-wide organisation of over 4,400 delegates.

Congratulations to everyone who took on the enormous task of running the event digitally! We loved it! (More reports at our Summer District Meeting)

Sheila and Christine

Inner Wheel Club of Bromley



Apart from our walk in Keston last year the last time we met outdoors for afternoon tea was in Diana's garden and she has forwarded a photo of some colourful Spring flowers to cheer us up. We are impatient for restrictions to ease and to have another face to face meeting, 2 metres apart, in her lovely garden again!

Another quiet time for Bromley since the last time I had anything to report but we are so glad that we can keep in touch with each other by Zoom.

We held our meeting in February and on 2nd March we took part in our second quiz and afternoon tea which we used as a fundraiser compiled once again by our President's daughter. This time there was a clear winner, our secretary Diana, and we managed to complete 2 rounds which was a big improvement on our last quiz. We concentrated this time and there was not so much talk!



On 19th March we held a Red Nose coffee morning which again was a fundraiser during which no business was discussed but it was an enjoyable fun day. Unseen in the photo are two of our members who didn't have access to their computers but joined us on WhatsApp.

Another Zoom meeting was held in March which was a business meeting and among other things we decided to try a bingo session for the first time in April which will be a first for us.

Two of our members have become great grandmothers in the past few months, President Jeannette was happy to welcome Lyla Rose to the family and Vice President Eve was delighted with the arrival of Poppy. Congratulations to both families.

I hope I'm not speaking too soon but at last some of the restrictions seem to be easing and we are hoping to do more in the coming months.

We were sorry to learn of the passing of our oldest member, Miriam Rogers, who joined the club in 1955 and was a dedicated and loyal member of Inner Wheel for 60 years. One of Miriam's close friends has sent an obituary.

Obituary

Bromley Club is very sad to record the death of *our longest serving member* Miriam Rogers. Miriam was born in November 1925. Not many of us knew that she had served in the army during the second world war, as a Lance Corporal in Ordnance, at times in charge of a group of English speaking POWs who apparently worked in the offices. Miriam keeping in touch with one of them by letter after the war. Her high intelligence and realistic acceptance of human behaviour made her observations and advice in difficult times, and circumstances, very valuable to those fortunate enough to enjoy them through the years. Always enjoying the friendship and fellowship of Inner Wheel, she served as President of Bromley club four times, in 1970-71, 1992-93, 2001-02 and 2005-06, remaining involved and interested following her move to Blackheath, enjoying the independent, sheltered life in her flat, making new friends, after three years and a number of health issues Miriam moved into the nursing home there, where she was lovingly cared for until her death this month.

Marilynn Clipston

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF CANTERBURY



Pauline Pybus, President of Canterbury Club sits comfortably in front of Heart cushions made by members BEFORE the COVID pandemic. Sadly because of the current restrictions, they have not yet been gifted to the local hospital as was the intention of the club. They are intended for the comfort of ladies after breast surgery.



Pauline is surrounded by Easter eggs gifted by Canterbury members, to the children currently staying at the "Rising Sun Refuge" in Canterbury.



Photograph of Patsy Kerr who has been a member of CANTERBURY INNER WHEEL for 55 years

Patsy Kerr followed in her Mother's footsteps- when her Mother, Mrs S Jennings was President joining Canterbury Inner Wheel in 1965. Patsy became President for the first time in 1970 and again in 1986. She has been a stalwart member of the club and still attends our Zoom meetings with a little help from her daughter.

Inner Wheel Member 45 years



Joan Knight joined Crayford Inner Wheel Club in 1976 where she enjoyed 32 years as a busy member. In that time she served on the District Executive as Secretary and Chairman. On moving near to Canterbury she has been a member of Canterbury Inner Wheel Club for 13 years.



45 Years ago Irene joined Margate IW Club, later in the early 80,s she moved to the Canterbury Club she held many Offices including Overseas Organiser and President. Because of her dedicated service to Inner Wheel Irene was honoured by Canterbury Rotary with The Paul Harris medal in 2008. Canterbury Club is very proud of her.

In 1976, Irene Roe was District 12 Overseas Chairman. During her time in that role, she made her charity "IMPACT"

As a result, over time the large amount of £13,983.67 was raised by Inner Wheel clubs of District 12.

This was enough to partially fund a HEALTH DOME in MAMARY in the BURDHWAN district of WEST BENGAL in India. This was one of 3 Domes constructed in remote Villages. They were all equipped with electricity, water and toilet facilities and refrigeration for storage of drugs and vaccines.

Patients who had been treated on board the lifeline HOSPITAL EXPRESS TRAIN were able to receive further treatment at the Domes. Here they would receive primary health care, maternal and child care, immunisation and improved nutrition and health education. These health centres came about because local people were so keen to prevent the Lifeline Express train from leaving their villages they would lie across the train tracks in desperation. Much needed mid-day meals were provided for children under 5 helping to reduce the huge problem caused by malnutrition in this group.

In line with IMPACT'S philosophy of empowering local people and minimising dependency on Foreign Aid, IMPACT no longer supports the Domes as they were handed over to local authorities several years ago. Inner Wheel Clubs of District 12 should be proud of the help and support they provided to set up one of these much need centres. Let us hope they are currently helping to support villagers in the very difficult Pandemic conditions occurring in India today.

Pauline Banks

Inner Wheel Club of Deal

Whilst still feeling the loss of our member and PDC Liz Lister, our club has carried on with determination to do our best and always keep the memories of Liz in our hearts. It is heartening to see the Just Giving page has reached £5000 with more to come. A Zoom race night held by The Rotary Club of Deal and supported by our members raised £875 which was split between two cancer charities, both with a connection to Liz.

Some of our Zoom meetings have been very interesting with the addition of a speaker; in particular Simon Rees, the owner of Rees and Rees Jewellers with premises in our town, talked to us about his work making bespoke pieces of jewellery, some from scratch and others designed and made from customers heirloom items that are no longer fashionable. We all enjoyed looking at examples of his amazing workmanship. At our Easter meeting many of us made and wore Easter Bonnets which added a floral touch to the meeting.



Another long service certificate and a bouquet of flowers were presented to Lilian Hubble on her birthday. Lilian has been a member of Inner Wheel for 45 years and is our top contributor to Operation Sunshine by way of knitting jumpers and hats. The latest collection from Lilian contained 15 jumpers and 151 hats. Even though Lilian is in her nineties she shows no sign of slowing down.



Our President Jennifer Van Lens signed the nation's book of condolence for HRH the Duke of Edinburgh on behalf of our club.



On International Women's Day Jennifer also delivered a personally designed thank you card to our pharmacy in town that had become a Covid-19 vaccination hub and on a later visit was very pleased to see the card hanging up for all to see with our Inner Wheel logo and a red rose of friendship.

Our Friday zoom coffee mornings are still popular. An invitation was sent to our two contact clubs of Bethune (France) and Sweden and we were very pleased to see members of Bethune join us. We have two or three French speakers in our club so it makes it easier for Bethune members who do not speak English. Our club has developed close ties with the French club since our reciprocal visits since 2019.

The District Quiz proved to be very entertaining; our thanks go to all concerned in the organisation of the event. We were pleased that we did not come last!

As we look forward it will soon be the start of another Inner Wheel year, we hope that life will get back to some kind of normality when we can all meet together once more and do what we do best.

Pam Misson

Inner Wheel Club of Dover

In spite of Lockdown, members of Dover Inner Wheel have continued to maintain their contacts with each other through three Ring-arounds, virtual coffee mornings and meetings, with one member enabled to join in by phone rather than Zoom. Sadly, we have mourned the deaths of two valued members – Margaret Wright, our International Service Officer and Carol Dryden, twice former President.

Three of our members, Shirley (President), Elizabeth and Lyn attended the Virtual Convention from Jaipur in India. There were over 4414 delegates from 75 countries. This was held over two days and covered the business of the organisation. There were tours of highlighted Indian cities, cooking demonstrations, yoga, shopping, international dance shows. It also showcased international projects being undertaken by members of Inner Wheel throughout the world.

This was the first time that the event went virtual and was organised over the last couple of months due to Covid 19 and members being unable to travel. This event is held every three years and it will be hosted in Manchester in 2024, the year in which Inner Wheel will celebrate being 100 years old.

The Club recently competed in the District Quiz – Teatime Teaser - which the participants and supporters enjoyed and were not sorry to be spared the evening return journey from Ditton where it usually takes place.

Five members also attended the virtual District Meeting in March where they watched a visual tribute to Past District Chairman Liz Lister and also a very good presentation from Hilary Edridge about the new Kent and Medway Medical School, for which, of course, District have donated a £500 annual prize aimed at women's health issues.

Our speaker in April was Judy Anderson, Legacy Development and Talks Outreach Manager for Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (GOSH) and one of 150 administrative members of the charity. In her talk Judy explained how continuous fundraising is essential to maintain the extra work carried out by the hospital in addition to its support from the NHS. The philosophy of the hospital is "The child, first and always" which includes support for the whole family and accommodation is available for a 100 families to stay overnight or longer. Interiors are designed to be colourful, non-institutional and reassuring. About half the patients are from outside London and some also attend from abroad as GOSH is recognised as one of the world's leading children's hospitals.

Children are admitted up to the age of 18 around 30% are under 4, all experiencing rare or complex conditions. During the pandemic, which has inevitably limited visitor numbers and confined children to their rooms, the play teams have devised new ways of occupying children with, play packs, walkie-talkies and computers. They aim to provide love in action, being sick but not being sad.

Research is now ongoing into the effect of Covid 19 in children, and how the virus is transmitted, a surge in admissions is expected due to further complications.

Judy's informed presentation gave an insight into the vast amount of work and facilities provided by GOSH and enabled members to understand why fundraising is essential.

We are tentatively hoping to meet each other in person for our Handover at the end of June. During the pandemic our usual venue has been refurbished and we shall be interested to see the result.

Obituaries

Our Dover Club is grieving the loss of two members:

Carol Dryden who served as President on 2 occasions in the late 1990s and early 2000s and also Margaret Wright, our current International Service representative who was a member of Canterbury Club for many years and transferred to Dover 3 years ago when Margaret and Ian moved to Dover.

Sheila Cope

Inner Wheel Club of Eastbourne Sovereign

Inner Wheel Life continues much as it has over the past twelve months, weekly Zoom coffee mornings, monthly Zoom meetings, weekly email from our President Judith, and phone calls...

However on our February meeting we had an inspiring speaker, Martin CEO from "Family Support Work" They are a charity and they provide emotional and practical support to families in need. This includes listening, advice, advocacy, food parcels, support groups and play activities. They stay with a family until they get back on their feet.

We were all so saddened by the number of these families that there are in this area, we decided to do a collection. This then enabled us to purchase, with the help of Morrison's, 76 Easter Eggs and to hand over a cheque which will allow Family Support Work to treat the children to some fun days out in the summer. Photos show Pat Brockman (organiser and instigator) collecting the Eggs from Morrison's and Joint President Judith presenting the said Eggs to Martin...



Another of our members Louise Cheeseman has lovingly knitted the chicks, popped an egg inside of each, lambs are standing guard... all to be given to a local nursing home...



Hopefully we will all soon be able to meet up face to face not just for our monthly meetings, but to resume our coffee mornings, have our raffles, our knit and natter, and a few outings.. More importantly to come back to District, meet up with friends new and old... June Christophi..

Love the Chicks - I think I need to do a D12 knitting pattern book for all the amazing work that is being done ..Sandra

Inner Wheel Club of Folkestone



IW Folkestone at the start of our Meetings for 6 in the lovely new garden of Rosemary Milsted. We were even blessed with a little sun as we caught up on our latest news and gossip.



An interesting story involving Maureen Foreman, a well-established member of our Folkestone Club who has close ties in Hong Kong.. She supports and helps to organize SUNBEAM CHILDREN'S VILLAGE, situated across the border in South China and has done for nearly 18 years. They take in mostly school-age children who have been orphaned or from one-parent families and provide a secure home, a happy childhood and the chance of a successful future.

After taking part in our Club Inner Wheel 88 Challenge, Maureen suggested we do something for

Sunbeam 21 – in recognition of our opening 21 years ago. A virtual mission was set up and those joining

would need to exercise for 21 days during April and cover the distance between Hong Kong and the Children's Village 189km - not quite what Maureen had in mind!

However - a great success - 117 individuals, mostly from Hong Kong, but also from across the world have been exercising either walking, running, cycling, or swimming, Maureen is virtually walking across South China but in reality is trudging round Folkestone, Hythe and Dover in the company of Folkestone members who are keeping her company.

Maureen completed the 189km three days early and has reached Qingyuan, her final destination. She is off to Hong Kong on shortly for a well-earned visit! Photograph attached - hope you enjoy this.

YIF Ann Brame

Inner Wheel Club of Gillingham

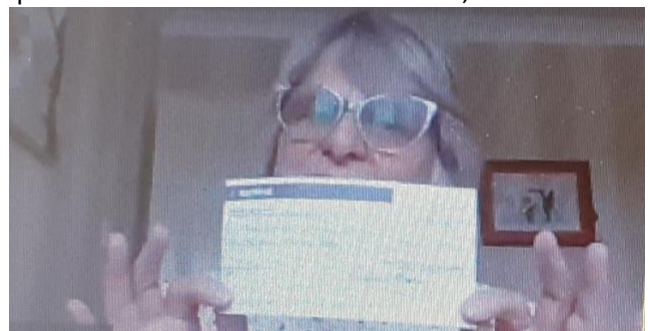


After listening to Pam Mellor (main photo) give an informative presentation on the work of the charity "Holding on, Letting go" Sue Fewtrell (President) showed Pam the cheque for £600 raised by Sue on a sponsored bike ride. Sue had prepared for the ride by slowly building up her stamina, wearing padded shorts and buying a new saddle! The cheque will be sent to help the charity continue their valuable work.

"Holding on, Letting go" is a small Kent based charity which aims to support bereaved children and their families. HOLG was conceived by a

group of counsellors, social workers and other professionals working in the area of palliative care. They were contacted by several agencies to ask for support for bereaved children who were not under the hospices' umbrella; namely those who had experienced a sudden bereavement. There was no service available for these children. HOLG run non-residential weekends that includes activities of the creative and musical type that are designed to help the children to hold on to those precious memories of their loved one, whilst learning to let go of the sadness.

Sue chose to support the charity as she and her husband, Barrie, both volunteer their time to support the charity at week end events. Sue praised the work of the charity and told the group about the support they receive as volunteers so they, in turn can support the children at this difficult time.



Lynn Porter

Inner Wheel Club of Gravesend

Sadly Gravesend Club has had to cancel the 75 years celebration due to be held on the 17th May 2021
JDC Sheila sent the Club the following message of Congratulations and Good Wishes -ED

*Dear President Glenys,
I am sure it was a decision that had to be made with a heavy heart, but the day of the celebration was perhaps too close for comfort given all the uncertainties.*

*Needless to say, I congratulate you all on your long and distinguished history over 75 years.
Well done! Your Club has been well to the fore in giving service to the District Executive and we are particularly grateful to your Past District Chairmen, Valerie Martin, Wendy Smith, Ruth Portway and Joan Styles, who have all been so ably supported by your Club members.
Thank you all - and have a very happy 75th birthday when it comes!*

*YIF,
Sheila
Joint District Chairman D.12*

Inner Wheel Club of Isle of Sheppey

My report is very short but sweet.

During the lockdown a lot of our members knitted squares which were made into blankets (about 20 in all) and forwarded to Operation Sunshine.

As well as our monthly zoom meetings we also held virtual coffee mornings which were very popular amongst our members.

Everyone seemed to have a very quiet Easter but we are all looking forward to meeting up with family and friends very soon.

Glenda Brown

Inner Wheel Club of Maidstone

Since Christmas we have been able to hold a virtual treasure hunt, a coffee morning and several business meetings including talks on zoom. At the February meeting Pam Ratcliffe compiled a quiz that exercised the little grey cells but was fun. In March we were delighted to welcome a visit from District Chairmen Christine Davies and Sheila Cragg when Velia LeQuelenec was inducted into the club. With the lifting of lockdown restrictions we are looking forward to some 'real' coffee mornings starting in May.

This year Pat Moss and her husband Brian celebrated their 60th, Diamond Wedding Anniversary in March and our joint President Elizabeth Hext and her husband Roger will celebrate their 55th, Emerald Wedding Anniversary in May. Jennifer Jeffery will celebrate her 80th birthday in June.

Lynda Wicken

Inner Wheel Club of Margate

Reports from the Front Line: Margate Club – to 23rd April 2021 (all together here as Correspondent has been out of action)

Amanda: No actual report from our member, Amanda Voizey, but...I am sure you would all wish to know of Amanda's constant attention to the League of Friends at Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother's Hospital. Amanda has been Treasurer for many years. We are all aware of her attention to detail and her amazing ability to ensure constant care of funds. We all wish Amanda another successful year with the League of Friends and thank her for her continuing care of finances within our own Club. *(submitted by Club Correspondent, Pat Robson)*

Barbara: Our Inner Wheel Club is pleased to support 'Operation Sunshine' a Folkestone based charity that sends donated goods to Zambia. One of our members, Barbara Copper, works at the charity and was pleased to be able to resume after the lockdown. So, with an early start it was off to the Depot last week to support the rest of the team there who are heavily involved in starting to clear the backlog of donated goods. Bags of clothing are all separated and sorted into storage containers at the rear of the warehouse and designated for schools, orphanages, and hospitals in Zambia. With sufficient goods to fill a shipping container they are transported by lorries every few months to Southampton and then onward to Zambia. On arrival at the docks in Zambia, they are sorted following a Customs inspection and then onto transports to various villages. Because of the recent blockage in the Suez Canal, shipping containers are extremely hard to secure, so there is a temporary halt on goods being received until the backlog is cleared and the containers are back in place. Barbara's efforts are well recognised in Margate Club and are grateful for her unending work.

Shirley: Normally taking care of our monthly bookings at Lesters – but – not right now!.. Walking to Reculver and back? No problem! 25 miles each week is her normal aim! Visiting countryside, seaside and all area in between. Shirley looks after her beautiful garden too..now I know how she keeps that figure!

Naina: has a grandson – Arlo, now 18 months old and lives in Surrey...we all remember her concerns prior to his birth. Naina represents 'St James' Wealth Management' and passes her time calling on clients – having discussions in their gardens. If I had any wealth, I would cheerfully let her manage it for me.

Joy: has been so very unwell following a long stay in hospital before Covid crept in; but is now improving slightly each day. Next month, we have been invited to join her for a cuppa and to look at her plants for sale. Joy is well-known in District 12 for the variety of plants grown and sold in aid of Charity each year.

Jackie: As schools have been closed, there has been very little to do other than care for her dog and cat, plus the garden. Jackie walks every day and chats to all who pass, she has made a friend of an elderly gentleman who is, unfortunately, going blind but enjoys the chat. When really good weather, Jackie walks around the fields.

Elsa: works as a cook at Lourdes, a Home for the elderly behind Ursuline Convent. Anyone who has eaten Elsa's food will know how very tasty she makes all food...so important to the Elderly too.

Sylvia P: We ladies have had an amazing growth spurt of our hair during lockdown. I am amazed no-one has come up with a recycling unit for human hair.. There must be a hair mountain growing somewhere.....

Q: Why did David Hasselhof change his name to The Hoff?

A: Because it was less hassle!!! (Sylvia closes all meetings with a 'funny')

Rowena: During Spring last year, whilst Rowena was holidaying in the New Forest, her daughter presented her with twin boys by emergency 'C' section. You can imagine how they raced to the hospital! One has a heart condition and is now at nine months old; and has been to Guys for a CT scan and Bronchoscopy recently and awaiting an operation. He is a placid, smiling baby -in contrast to his brother, Joseph, both are very loved.

Sylvia L: During the Pandemic, we have had two new great -grandsons. Both their fathers are football mad one problem- different family members support different teams, Chelsea, Crystal Palace and Arsenal. Sylvia has knitted hats and scarves for the babies, being very careful with correct colours for the appropriate team.

Deidre: Unfortunately, Deidre's son Martin, lives in Jersey – so no visit for past seven months. A big surprise this week, her niece, Denise – from Borden nr Sittingbourne - phoned as she was on her way to visit for a few hours, great excitement!. They had a lovely walk along the sea front and a cuppa at small café on cliff tops. happiness reigns once more

Pat: Very little happening as I cannot participate in Zoom meetings! My fault entirely but my sight is not good. I am due for an ophthalmology appointment next week. However, my church life has spread a little and I now attend a bright and happy group in Minnis Bay with the help of a wonderful lady who picks me up each Sunday. Lockdown was bearable because several members included me in a mobile phone link-up. We could chat and message and send cartoons too which gave me a happy group to mix with. A bit like Inner Wheel really!

Susan: I was expecting another birthday in lockdown but wonderfully this year the birthday fell on the first day of restrictions easing enabling me to sit in my garden – and friends' gardens- sipping tea and eating cakes in a woollen coat and scarf but how wonderful to be able to chat again and, surprisingly, making me very tired.

Inner Wheel Club of Sidcup

We continue with our monthly meetings via Zoom together with our weekly coffee mornings for members to get together and chat and catch up with members' news.

Our speakers at the March meeting were from the Rotary partner charity Shelter Box. The husband and wife team, part of the volunteers from Devon, gave an interesting and moving report on how the charity is adapting to deal with the current pandemic. Their talk ended with an award winning film about one of the individuals who had been helped by Shelter Box.

Members have been regularly meeting as walking partnerships and recently visited Great Comp Gardens and Greenwich Park. Nearer to home members have been visiting the walled garden at Sidcup Place. The garden is maintained by a group of community volunteers and Sidcup IW and Rotary members are part of the group. The garden is enjoyed by many residents in the Sidcup area. Members are looking forward to being able to meet up face to face in gardens as soon as the regulations permit.

We are regularly invited to our Rotary club's meetings when they have an interesting speaker and vice-versa with IW.

The club entered a team in the District Quiz competition via zoom which was an interesting experience.

While out walking in a local Sidcup park 2 members were excited to spot a Little Egret. On researching the Egret, they found that a small colony established itself in Dorset in 1986, together with a colony in Lincolnshire. Originally these birds come from South America and Africa.

Members walking in Greenwich Park amongst Cherry Blossom on their way to the Rose Garden



White Egret



President Sue admiring the Magnolias at Great Comp Gardens on a recent walk with Sidcup Members

A lovely Photograph –Thank you Helen –ED

Inner Wheel Club of Tunbridge Wells



Most of our members have had two jabs of the COVID vaccination and very appreciative they are

too. Nevertheless, all our activities follow safety rules. Just before Easter it was delightful to meet up again in groups of six for coffee mornings. Hot cross buns, coffee and happy chatting on a bright sunny morning lifted

our spirits after the winter lockdown. It was followed up by groups meeting for afternoon teas with homemade cakes.

We continue to meet outdoors in groups of six for walks and lunches. Penshurst Place and Eridge Park are our popular beauty spots.

Zoom meetings continue to be so beneficial for so many members. Our mental well-being is sustained by monthly quizzes and knit and natter. We have knitted numerous blankets for local care homes and baby clothes for the Baby Basics Charity. Our new knitting venture is for our President's charity Age UK. The 'Big Knit', as it is called, challenges us to knit hats for Innocent Drink Bottles. Age UK receives 25p for each hat and we have until October to complete this project so we are confident that we will knit several hundred.



We continue to raise money for the District Charity, Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. The physical challenges include walking 88 miles, jogging 88 kilometres, cycling 88 miles, swimming 88 miles, an 88 netball shoot or

being very creative and making 88 craft items.

We have had two excellent guest speakers on Zoom to our Main Meetings. Frances Carlow who lives in France gave an excellent talk on the Origins of Pearls. Outlining the three categories of Pearls and how to test for real or faux pearls and of course discussing some of the most beautiful and expensive pearls, many owned by Elizabeth Taylor!

In contrast a talk by Don Cockrill MBE, Senior River Pilot for the Port of London Pilotage Authority, gave us a thrilling film and Power Point presentation of his job and how important the skills of the pilot in guiding commercial shipping into the many ports and harbours around our coastal waters. Partners were invited to this meeting and I think they found the talk very interesting. We are looking forward to our next meeting when our guest speaker will be the Harpist Margaret Watson.

Mary Ranson

Inner Wheel of Ramsgate

Our 87th birthday in February was celebrated with us having "a cup of tea and a piece of cake" on a zoom meeting! We hope for better things for our 88th.

On a very windy day in April, 7 members met at Patricia Fletcher's house in Birchington to go for a walk on the sea wall at Minnis Bay, the sun was shining but it certainly blew the winter cobwebs away. A further walk in May is planned to go from Dumpton Gap to Broadstairs.

Finally, 'lock down' eased for Oasis, the Women's Refuge, to be able to collect the kitchen items that we had collected for them. They were very grateful as this enabled them to give a starting kit to their ladies when they are re-housed. . Also, "Operation Sunshine" were able to receive the 14 blankets and an assortment of little hats and jumpers that had been knitted.



Our president's chosen charity is the local lifeboat institution, and we are hoping to be able to present a cheque to the coxswain personally.

As Association has recommended that we do not meet indoors until July, we are holding our AGM in the President's garden followed by a picnic. If necessary, we shall wear our waterproofs and take umbrellas!

In July, an outing has been arranged to participate in the historic tour of the village of St.Peter's, Broadstairs. This is

an award-winning event with local members of a voluntary group dressed in costume depicting many events and places of the past.

In August we are holding our first fund raising event with a frugal lunch. Also, in August a social evening has been arranged playing croquet, followed by supper at the local croquet club.

It does seem wonderful to start planning for the future!

Margaret Read

Inner Wheel of Crayford and Danson

The next chapter of Christina's TV debut!-Sandra

After a journey fraught with problems, one rather dishevelled Inner Wheel member arrived in Glasgow expecting to be the last contestant to arrive. It turned out that there had been numerous problems on the rail network and so they were still waiting for several others. The last applicant eventually arrived then we were ushered to a fleet of taxis and set off for the BBC studios.

Once we had passed through BBC security and been given 45-minute briefing, we were escorted to the BBC cafeteria so we could have some much needed food and something to drink. We were all expecting to be taken to the hotel for maybe a 'swift drink' before retiring to our rooms, but no, that wasn't what happened, there was to be no rest for us yet!

The contestants were swiftly ushered back to the 'Green Room' where we were told that, as it was going to be a very long day tomorrow, they would be collecting us from the hotel at 7am sharp (straight after breakfast) as we would be recording at least three or four episodes, leaving the remaining one or two for the following day. We thought the production team had already decided who was going to be seated where in the recording studio, but they were now busy tweaking it since having met us in the flesh. The little photos of each of us were being furiously moved around a large pin-board until they were happy that they had got the mix right. Ok, we thought that must be it for the night it was getting on for 9 pm and most of us had been travelling all day. Wrong again, we were given some coat hangers with our respective names on them and told we were to be taken to the hotel (mercifully next door to the studio) where there would be a room set aside for us all to iron all our clothes ready for the morning. Yes all fourteen outfits that we had each been asked to bring with us.

Once I had checked into my room and hung up my clothes on the labelled hangers, I decided that if any creases had not dropped out overnight, I would deal with them in the morning (having earlier noticed an ironing board tucked away in the Green Room). Although extremely tired, I thought I would take myself downstairs for a few minutes (just to be sociable), have one drink and then 'hit the hay'. Once downstairs, I found about sixteen people struggling to get the creases out of their clothes with very little success; I soon realised that although steam irons had been provided by the hotel, they had not been given any water to put into them. These lovely but exhausted people were by now becoming very agitated about it. I did what any Inner Wheel member would do in this situation and went in search of a solution. The place was deserted, but I eventually found someone 'hiding' behind the bar and asked her for a jug of water. Amazingly they didn't have a jug but were prepared to give me a glass of water, I explained why that wouldn't do the job and suggested they gave me a clean teapot instead.

Once back in the Ironing Room, I got the other contestants to form an orderly queue so I could fill their irons up from the teapot. There were definite tones of the Mad Hatters Tea Party developing and we were soon laughing at the surrealistic spectacle of fully grown people queueing up clutching their irons, desperate for a few drops of water from a teapot to power some steam. When I said that I had no intention of using an iron that evening, they all cracked up completely and fell about laughing at the absurdity of it all.

Ironing done, and a quick drink downed, we all dispersed to our respective rooms, still laughing and wondering what delights the morning would bring.

To be continued.....

Thank You Christina –it sounds a bit like a Boot Camp! -I just hope you hit the jackpot - Sandra

I am including the following Letter from Association President Enid –I know that it has been forwarded to Club Secretaries but maybe not all members have had access to it.

To make it fit I have cropped the Header and Footer –sorry Sandra

19th April 2021

Dear Friends,

What an exciting week this has been for our Association! On Wednesday we held our first ever virtual A.G.M. and my thanks go to all those who made it possible. The Reports showed that despite these difficult times members have continued to provide service, both at home and abroad, and have kept up a chain of friendship.

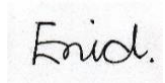
I was so pleased that all four Proposals were carried, three of which have important repercussions in terms of membership. The most significant was the adoption of Proposal 3 which means we can go ahead with forming the i-Wheel club. This will allow us to reach out to an entirely new generation of members who find attending club meetings inconvenient but who can connect with each other digitally. We owe a debt of gratitude to Sarah Keegan and M.O.C. Liz Norris from District 5 for all their hard work in bringing this about. It now means that they can meet with members of our Association Executive to discuss the way forward.

Following on from this, many of us enjoyed the first ever virtual Convention at the weekend when over 4,000 members from all parts of the world were able to meet online to hear key-note speakers and the discussions on the Proposals, all in the splendour of the Indian setting.

For us as an Association, the icing on the cake came at the very end when it was announced that our bid to host the Centennial Convention in 2024 in Manchester. How proud we will all be to welcome our friends from all the countries of I.I.W. to the birthplace of our movement. Huge congratulations to Pam McConnell and her team for bringing this to a successful conclusion. We will all have a part to play as hosts to this exciting event.

We have been through some dark days, but I am sure we can look forward to much brighter ones in the future. Let us put the logos of the last two years together and show that “Together we Can” “Lead the Change”.

Yours in Friendship,



Enid

Association President Enid Law 2019-2021

International Inner Wheel 2020/2021 Theme - “Lead The Change”

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If there are a number of members needing ‘Snail Mail’ perhaps you could ask members to print off one copy for a non- email member and post it.

When I send out the issue as a pdf you can print it off as a booklet which uses a lot less paper.

Once again many thanks to everyone for their contributions to this Issue. I hope that there is something for you all of you to enjoy.

Yours in Friendship

Sandra ,District 12 Editor

