



**ASSOCIATION OF INNER WHEEL CLUBS  
IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND  
DISTRICT 12**

## **Scene South East**



**Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Kitty**



International Theme for 2019-2020



Issue No 161 Spring 2020

## **INNER WHEEL OF SIDCUP MEMBER KITTY ANDERSON 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY - OCTOBER 2019**

Kitty Anderson

Our oldest and longest serving member of Inner Wheel celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in the company of family, friends and Inner Wheel members, with a lunch party. A string quartet entertained everyone during this most enjoyable afternoon.

This was the very first 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for most of the attending guests.

Kitty became a Member of Inner Wheel in 1956 when she joined the I.W. Club of Monmouth transferring to the Inner Wheel of Sidcup when she moved to Bexley in Kent.

Kitty regularly attends Inner Wheel meetings and is responsible for the member's attendance book.

Still fiercely independent, Kitty intends to continue attending Inner Wheel meetings, Club and District functions for as long as she is able.

Congratulations Kitty on your 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and 63 years as a member of Inner Wheel.

Janice Spragg

Club Correspondent Sidcup

[Congratulations Kitty and Best Wishes from all members of District 12 –ED](#)

### **Home Service Reports**

A big Thank you to everyone for getting the reports to me –mostly by email which made the collating easy.

I am so impressed with what everyone gets up to

From Beach cleaning to Speaker for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital to Walking the Catwalk at Fashion Shows, there would appear to be nothing we won't do to support the numerous charities and communities within the District, and from the number of photographs of members eating I am surprised at how fit everyone seems to be with walking and dancing and 10 pin bowling as well!

**The Total of Charitable donations from D12 to GB&I charities for 2019 -£40,270 .60.**

I think that we should be very proud ourselves -District Editor Sandra

## Greetings from District Chairman Liz Lister

Dear Inner Wheel Friends

I hope you enjoyed your Christmas and New Year and have survived the horrible storms, wind and rain.

I cannot believe we are now nearly 8 months through the current Inner Wheel Year – it's true that time flies when you are having fun!

I have now visited 16 of our 21 clubs. It has been a privilege, and inspirational, to meet you all and see how your Inner Wheel Clubs function. Although there are many similarities, each club has its own unique character, but always held together by friendships and support, and laughter. I've been welcomed to members' homes, restaurants, pubs, village halls and always enjoyed great hospitality and food for which I thank you wholeheartedly. I am relieved to report that I 'dipped' on Boxing Day.



It was cold and windy, the sea was very rough, the current strong and the coastguards were at the ready to rescue anyone in trouble. Not reassuring for someone who is afraid of water but my daughter and grandsons came with me for moral support. We charged down the beach with nearly 400 other dippers, including three ladies who also

supported Porchlight, to dip into the waves. I confess that my hair and top half stayed fairly dry but the rest of me got wet. Thanks to all the sponsors I am delighted to say that we have raised over £1200 for Porchlight. Thank you all very much for your support.

The next few months will be busy with the Quiz and Conference in April, and the Rally in June. I hope to see you at the Quiz and Rally, both of which should be good fun, and look forward to enjoying Belfast with those of you who are able to go.

I also look forward to several anniversary celebrations and Interclubs, and visiting the remainder of the clubs.

Yours in Inner Wheel Friendship

### **Inner Wheel Club Ashford (14) President Jenny Parkin**

In December Ashford held a Christmas wreath making morning, with 45 people attending. (FAB photo but GDPR says no-ED)

including our District Chairman Liz Lister who won our raffle!

We all had fun and laughter creating amazing wreaths also enjoying eating mince pies and drinking teas and coffee.

We raised money for the Kent M.S therapy centre in Canterbury, the centre offers therapies to help improve the lives of people living with M.S and provides a space to relax and socialise.



Busy Catering Ladies

Linda Alexander

### **Inner Wheel Club Broadstairs (22) President Anni Bignold**

President Anni Bignold hosting the joint Thanet Inner Wheel Clubs Coffee

Morning to celebrate Inner Wheel Day on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020



What a lovely -  
sensible Inner  
Wheel idea!

Friday 10 January  
A 'Joint' Inner  
Wheel Day (Thanet  
Clubs: Margate,  
Broadstairs,

Ramsgate and Westgate and Birchington) celebrating at the home of Broadstairs IW President Anni Bignold. All members from each of the Clubs were invited. all needed to take 3 raffle prizes and suitable donations for the food bank. Cost £2.50 for coffee, cakes & biscuits in aid of Porchlight.

Article from Pat Robson- Margate

Photograph Dorothy Reid –Broadstairs

## **Inner Wheel Club Bromley (11) President Carole Dickinson**

We have had a relatively quiet start to our 87<sup>th</sup> Year as an Inner Wheel Club after a busy time last year. We had been sad to say good bye in June to one of our stalwart members, Barbara Leeds who has moved further into Kent but we were delighted to visit her new home for tea in August using the train to take the strain! Our adopted soft toy, Fred Bear come along too for his first outing as a member of the Club. Later in the month many of us were warmly welcomed to the Rotary Summer Barbecue, an enjoyable occasion much appreciated especially by those who no longer have husbands in Rotary giving them the opportunity to catch up with old friends and remember happy times. We were also pleased to attend a Rotary meeting in September to hear an update from a representative of the Michael Project in Zimbabwe which both Clubs have supported for many years and with whom we have a special relationship.

Members always enjoy the opportunity to combine lunch with our monthly meetings so we had a good turnout for lunch at a pub near Sevenoaks for our October meeting. However, we had to send our apologies at the last minute for the District International Rally as both our drivers were suddenly taken ill with severe colds and chest infections making it difficult for those relying on lifts to attend. In January illness struck again and we had to postpone our Inner Wheel Day meeting but members were asked to give some thought to the International 3 year Project focusing on Children and Women combined with District 12's Period Poverty and to bring some sanitary products along to the next meeting to deliver to District at the March meeting.

We were very pleased to welcome District Chairman Liz Lister to our November meeting preceded by lunch. We much admired her determination to brave the English Channel for a sponsored Boxing Day Dip for her chosen charity Porchlight. We were a little sad to hear that Bromley is now the smallest club in the District. Recruitment is difficult but we have many years of friendship to reflect upon as well as the helping hands we have given to numerous worthy charities both large and small, local and worldwide during our long association with Inner Wheel. District Chairman Liz reminded us that these qualities were some of the most valuable attributes of Inner Wheel. Last year we had donated funds to CASPA, one such local charity supporting

Autistic Children and in October we were invited to the opening of their Community Café which we had helped to equip. It was an opportunity see the excellent work the Charity performs moving forward to help young autistic adults with valuable work experience. It also gave Inner Wheel the chance to demonstrate the help we give to local charities as we were asked to explain to the assembled guests our involvement with CASPA.

Once again, we all thoroughly enjoyed a soup lunch at the home of member Eve in November. It has become an annual event in our calendar as it is always a pleasure to attend this happy and relaxed occasion which is the highlight of the autumn programme. Eve has hosted this event for 20 years and we all much appreciate her hospitality.

In December we again joined forces with Rotary when some members attended their annual Christmas dinner and several Rotarians and wives supported us at our Christmas mince pie and coffee morning helping to raise funds for our chosen charities this year including Moorfields Eye Hospital. Both events were happy and appropriate occasions with which to end the year.



Diana Sargeant

### **Inner Wheel Club of Canterbury (41) Presidents Anne Arnold and Imogen Sayer**

Before the start of the autumn programme we welcomed a representative from Chipembele, our overseas charity for the year, which operates in Zambia, who told us about this Wildlife Educational Trust. The proceeds from the showing of the film "Fisherman's Friends", followed by afternoon tea, were donated to Chipembele.

We heard the story of Kent told through apples, ale, art and architecture by Dick Bolton.

Former District Chairman, Ruth Portway gave us a graphic account of her experiences working on the Tall Ships of the Jubilee Sailing Trust.

We ran a game entitled "Treasure Island" at the International Service Rally in



November in aid of the International Charity 'Footsteps'.

At our Christmas lunch we made donations to the Pilgrims Hospice in lieu of exchanging Christmas cards - a tradition for several years.



On World Inner Wheel Day, we welcomed members of both Faversham & Herne Bay clubs to a Frugal Lunch and a Bring and Buy, with

a raffle for Porchlight, District Chairman Liz's Charity this year and we heard from a member of the staff about all the valuable the services they provide.

Another Frugal lunch was held to raise money for Chipembele, one of our members (who has been associated with the Betjeman Society from its inception), entertained us with readings and background information on the poet's life and works.

We provided refreshments for the participants in the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition held in Canterbury which involves teams of students from different schools in the area.

2020's Interclub Lunch at KCC Cricket Club will welcome Ed Sayer, son of our Joint Chairman Imogen. Ed has worked for 20 years in Conservation and Wildlife Management in Africa and runs the Northern Luanga Conservation project in Northern Zambia - his talk is on "Rhino and Elephant Conservation in Africa".

Before the end of the summer we look forward to hearing more about the projected Kent Medical School, and enjoying a Quiz and Fish and Chips evening, where the chip van drives to the venue and the food is cooked on the spot. This is a fund raiser for our Home Charity the Salvation Army in Canterbury.

There is a visit planned to a croquet club to learn about the game, and also a visit to a local vineyard.



We continue to make heart cushions for use by patients with breast cancer. A number of other Inner Wheel Clubs have taken up the idea after reading about this on Facebook.

The bear presented by District Chairman Liz to Club Presidents at the beginning of her year in office has been named Thomasina.

She is much travelled and has returned home from some exotic places with a photograph as proof.

Diana Forrest

## **Inner Wheel Club of Cranbrook and Hawkhurst (10) President Jenny Eva**

We have just eleven members at this time ,still meet up twice a month –a social meeting with coffee or an outing at the start of each month and two weeks later our business meeting with a meal.

Our members attend the District meetings and the rally and we are planning to attend the Quiz.

We had a stall at Hawkhurst Christmas Fete and a Christmas tree in the Hawkhurst Church Festival.

Despite the chilly and very wet and windy weather this winter our members celebrated Inner Wheel Day by sending greetings to those clubs at home and abroad with whom we have contact

We are planning our 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations with Dinner and a speaker on an evening in May

Marion Luckhurst



## **Inner Wheel Club Crayford and Danson (15) President Sheila Grainger**

Outings have included an evening at the Orchard Theatre to see the 'Footloose' production by DOADS which was a toe-tapping extravaganza. Lunch was enjoyed at Hall Place with a visit to the Art Exhibition as well. The October meeting was the Interclub with lots of visitors and a speaker about the Community Fridges that are being set up in the Area. We were able to give a donation for this.

In November we were pleased to welcome a member's friend who told us about the club's International Charity- Starfish-Malawi. Bridget is Treasurer for the Charity and the last time she had gone out to Malawi the club provided her with many packs of knickers for the girls attending the schools. Bridget told us about the sanitary pads –the design and materials required and we have been collecting micro dusters and waterproof sheets for them to make the pads as Bridget is due to go out to Malawi in March.

Christmas Decorations and Soup and Cheese Lunch at Secretary Judith's in December was fun with Club Correspondent Sandra and one of our new members Joan advising on design and material for the Christmas table centres and door wreaths.

2020 Inner Wheel Day was celebrated at Past M of C Elizabeth's home – for coffee and chat.

A lovely sociable morning together.

An Annual event in the Clubs programme in



**Joan Bishop our new Member advising**

January is a Burns Lunch with Members and friends gathering for Lunch of Haggis with 'Tatties and Neeps', Cock a' Leekie soup then Cranachan for dessert (The Haggis arrives from the Mull of Kintyre courtesy of District Ed's school pal who is the Butcher in her home village).

Sue -soup maker and hostess advised that the soup recipe was from a diet cookbook - Mmm really!

We look forward to welcoming everyone to the 'Soup and Fun' day in March. Quiz searches underway and raffle prizes getting organised.

Sandra Wheeler

## **Inner Wheel Club of Deal (36) President Jennifer Van Lens**

Our District Chairman, Liz Lister, had the shortest journey of her year to visit our club in September because she is a member of the Deal Club. Lunch was provided by the committee and a speaker from our President's chosen charity, The Blackbird Project, also joined us.

At the end of September our President Jennifer Van Lens, DC Liz Lister, Club Correspondent Pam Misson and member Barbara Cox travelled to our contact club, Béthune in France, to join them for the their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.



**DC Liz, Francoise Tabet (Bethune), and President Jennifer at 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The event was held on a river boat which travelled as we all ate canapés and drank wine on deck in the evening light to admire the views and then below for presentations.

Overnight we were accommodated by their

President plus one of their members. It was a good weekend to cement our friendship following their visit to us for our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

President Jennifer organised a joint mystery excursion with the Dover club stopping on the way for coffee at Makenade's, a farm shop, where we all enjoyed the opportunity to shop then going on to the Faversham Golf Club for a superb lunch. The day was very enjoyable and was something we would definitely repeat.

In the run up to Christmas we held our usual fundraising coffee mornings once again the hostesses choosing the charities Headstart and Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.

Twelve members of our club attended the International Rally and all agreed that the variety of ideas for fundraising were amazing and the atmosphere was so warm and friendly. The day certainly showcased the best attributes of Inner Wheel. The amount raised was a testament to the events success.

We all got together for our Christmas lunch and went home with our secret Santa gifts.

Our bear, Pebbles, joined committee member Janet Barkway along with her husband and friends for a Rhine Christmas cruise; he certainly became a hit with the captain and crew. He is now joining DC Liz Lister on her visit to Australia.

Club members met at a local restaurant /bar for coffee on International Inner Wheel Day; it was a very social event with a friendly quiz, lots of chat and a toast to Inner Wheel.

We look forward now to a busy calendar of fundraising and the fellowship of District events.

Pam Mission

### **Inner Wheel Club of Eastbourne Sovereign (20) Presidents Pam Wood and Judith Cooper**

Where do I begin? So much has happened in this last Six months... September began with our new addition, little 'BEPPO', a once homeless and nameless bear. His name was drawn out of a hat with all members having donated first then adding a name of their choice to the hat. BEPPO has since with various members been on many adventures. He has even been to Peru, Vienna and is now in Grenada, not to mention Staffordshire and Yorkshire. (Such a lucky little bear)

In September one member did the Starlight Stroll for our local Hospice, and our joint president, Judith, organised an amazing lunch at her village hall in aid of 'Starfish Project' .

October saw us packing shoe boxes and preparing our tombola for the International Rally in Ditton.

November twelve of us went to the theatre, with an enjoyable meal beforehand, and sixteen of us had afternoon tea at our local garden centre on another day.

December we celebrated together with Husbands and Partners at our Christmas Dinner and a quirky quiz, was enjoyed by all.

now here we are in January, with Inner Wheel Day being enjoyed with nearly all our members having a lovely meal at the Hydro. We hope to continue to have our friendly casual coffee mornings, lunches and afternoon teas whilst enjoying catching up and discussing world news as well as collecting and raising monies for our different charities.



Beppo- passport, money and Beppo 'Christmas in Vienna  
ticket all ready for Peru

June Christophi

**Inner Wheel Club of Faversham (11) President Amanda Hopkins**

The Inner wheel year started with a Barbeque at the Physic Garden, the President's chosen charity. This was followed in early autumn, with the now yearly event of a coffee morning in the garden of Tom and Marion Gates who kindly host and allow us to use their facilities for our charity fundraising. Much coffee and cake was consumed all in aid of the president's charity. These two events raised a nice sum of money and our president presented this to the charity at an event towards the end of the year.

As usual in December the club held the Christmas Party, when we welcome some guests to join us to enjoy the festive meal. During the evening we were challenged with a tenable style quiz which caused great competitiveness amongst the tables. Although Santa did not put in an appearance a sack full of presents ensures all left with a gift.

In January, Faversham joined Canterbury and Herne Bay to celebrate Inner Wheel day with a frugal lunch

Laurel Neame

### **Inner Wheel Club of Folkestone (25) President Ann Brame**

October began with an enjoyable visit from D.C Liz Lister who gave us an inspirational talk reflecting Inner Wheel. October also saw several of our members enjoying a coffee morning held by a member in her home during which we packed much needed shoe boxes ready for dispatch to children and adults abroad for the Christmas season.

We have enjoyed some very interesting speakers since September including a talk and video presentation by Rupert Labrum who guided us through his gruelling and challenging experience of having competed in the 'round the world clipper race'.

We also learned about the art of stained glass with the speaker creating a magnificent bird for us.

Our most recent speaker in February enthralled us with his talk about a beautiful Privately owned country house called "Goldenhurst" which is near Folkestone. We were amazed to hear of the history of the house and its occupants and visitors over the years from the 16th Century when it was a farm to the present day. These included many famous well known stars of stage and screen and including Churchill.

Several of us attended the District Rally although this year we did not have a stall, we managed to spend a great deal of money and appreciated the effort which had been put into all of the stalls.

An exciting Christmas lunch was held at the local Golf club with entertainment from a Soprano singer who gave us a rendering of various songs from the shows.

A member held a coffee morning in her home for President Ann's charity "Medical Detection Dogs."



Assistance was given to Folkestone Rotary Club to pack over 100 bags of food for the needy people of Folkestone.

As always in January we enjoyed carrying out our Frugal lunch of soups and crumbles all

### **Members with some of the Bags**

created by Inner Wheel members. Many people attended and much money was made for Food Stop at the Rainbow Centre in Folkestone. A cheque will be presented in February.

Since January a group of us have been meeting at the bowling alley in Ashford to practice and hone our skills in readiness for the ten pin bowling competition. We have found this fun and an enjoyable worthwhile experience -one which can be recommended.

We can also occasionally be seen in the local hostelry having a bite to eat before returning home.

Dolly Mallinson

### **Inner Wheel Club of Gillingham (18) President Di Bursey**

We started the year with a new member, a soft teddy bear called MAGIC. which is going to pop up at all our meetings and events. He was named MAGIC as this is the initials of one our President's Charity this year.



Our first fund raising event was a Music Hall singalong and dinner . This was very well supported by Rotarians, friends and families and everyone enjoyed the event.

On Tuesday 8th October District Chairman Liz attended our meeting and gave a wonderful talk.

We have since had several speakers, a stall was run at the District Rally, a wonderful Christmas lunch at a local restaurant and Inner Wheel members supported The Rotary Club of Gillingham with their Christmas float, also standing outside a local supermarket and shopping centre, with collecting tins then counting and banking the money collected.

This year so far we had a frugal lunch for Inner Wheel day with delicious soups made by our members followed by some delicious tray bakes,



Also a talk by the NSPCC -a charity close to our President Di - money was donated by raising monies with gorgeous teddy bears.  
Lynn Porter



### **Inner Wheel Club of Gravesend (25) President Glenys Davies**

Here is a belated photo of our visit to Spadeworks in September. As you can see several members stocked up on their gardening supplies



We continue our coffee mornings on the first Monday of the month at Millbrook Garden Centre. At our Club meeting in September our speaker was Carol Stone on the Mildmay Hospital who gave an

interesting account of the hospital which has been a charity for over 150 years, specializing in HIV for over 30. She was thanked and given a donation for the hospital. In October our Treasurer Sue Muckley held a coffee morning in aid of the school in Goa that our CISO would be visiting in the New Year and at our Club meeting we completed our planning for our stall at the international Rally.

Many of us also attended the funeral of PDC Edna Bennett a truly inspiring member of Inner Wheel.

In November we all wore blue, and our crocheted blue flowers that Secretary Martine Hodson had made for us, to the International Rally. As always, our

stall looked amazing with our 68 filled baskets and was well admired. **See centre spread for Rally Photographs -ED**

At our Club meeting we had an interesting, and sometimes amusing, talk on chaplaincy at Rochester Prison from Peers Carter who was given a donation for the Ellenor Hospice.

Some members also attended the Gravesend Rotary Christmas Dinner. Our soft toy, a little blue bear called Percy, which President Glenys had chosen from District Chairman Liz's 'collection' is continuing his travels. He has already been to Switzerland dressed in his hat, scarf, gloves and boots knitted for him by PP Joan Styles, and he also wore them for his visits to the Christmas markets in Lubeck and Neumunster, Germany with PP Ruth Portway. He was handed over at the end of December to CISO Marion Keeble for her visit to Goa in January – where he definitely won't be needing his winter woolies.



On Inner Wheel Day we met at the home of PP Joan Styles where we had an excellent tea and a raffle to raise money for the District Chairman's charity Porchlight.

We continued our celebration of Inner Wheel Day at our Club Meeting day when we had soup and

desserts beforehand and a special birthday cake at tea-time to celebrate member Greta Goatley's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. We have our plans in hand for our District 10-pin bowling match, our annual lunch with Gravesend Rotarians and various other events.

Ruth Portway

## **Inner Wheel Club of Herne Bay (31) President Rosemary Dawkins**

Herne Bay Feb report 2020

The speaker for our October meeting, was Graham Perrin from "Serv Kent Bloodrunners". A very interesting explanation of their operations throughout Kent. He explained that after 6pm and at weekends and Bank holidays there is no hospital transport, so the Bloodrunners collect, blood, platelets, plasma and sometimes breastmilk and other urgently needed items and take it to where it is needed. In this area it is usually our three main Hospitals. All of the riders deliver using their own vehicles and paying for their own fuel. A very worthwhile cause. Also a good speaker with a worthwhile cause that I did not know about.

The Wit and Wisdom or just a Quiz Night? The Beltinge Hall was our venue this year. Mr Brian Steele was the Quiz Master and we were supported by other local IW groups, friends and family from around the town, making up about 12 tables. A good time was had by all.

Six of us went to the District Rally at Ditton in November. We had a 'previously loved' stall and had not much to bring home at the end. We booked a stall at the Herne Bay "Winter Wonderland" fair, held in Wimereux Square in November. This was to raise awareness of Inner Wheel.

We held an afternoon of crafting with much laughter as we made Christmassy items to sell at the fair. Decorated logs and wreaths and other ornaments. It was a worthwhile exercise as there were many people who visited our stall who had not heard of Inner Wheel, A double bonus. A good number of our members joined the now Annual Santa run, for charity along the seafront, hundreds of Santas, really a splendid sight. We made a decision to alter our meeting times until April to be at lunchtime instead of evenings as it made travelling easier for most of the members. We joined Faversham and Canterbury members for our joint "Inner Wheel day" celebrations always a good meeting with a frugal lunch and a speaker. Sandy Winkworth

## **Inner Wheel Club of Isle of Sheppey (21) Presidents Julie Playle and June Westwood**

Looking back now, the months of November and December last year seemed to fly by in a whirl of activity for our club. First of all there was a coffee morning which was held to prepare items for our table at the forthcoming International Rally, an event attended by a number of our club members. Closely following this was a fundraising Fashion Show put on by



*Travelling Trends* on 14<sup>th</sup> November. It was very successful in that over 70 tickets were sold, many clothes were purchased, and a raffle was held to boost the funds for the chosen charities of our Joint Presidents. It was also an enjoyable social event. The photograph shows four models, the first being Jazmyne (a young friend of two club members) and the other three being club members Lynn O'Meara, Carole Bancroft and Philippa Doucy. It was agreed that, in spite of their nerves beforehand, they were excellent and we thank them all.

Two days later we were collecting at our local Morrison's store and found the shoppers to be very generous with their donations. We were also fortunate and very pleased when a popular Elvis tribute band, *Taking Care*



*of Vegas*, offered to do a collection for our charities during their performance at the Criterion Heritage Centre in Blue Town, IoS. As always the performance was very well attended and we extend our grateful thanks to the band members and those who donated.

At our monthly club meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November we were delighted to welcome District Chairman Liz Lister who spoke passionately about her chosen charity, Porchlight. During the meeting our Porchlight 'ambassador' was given the name Peggy Porchlight before being passed to Club Secretary Linda Taylor who was due to fly to Australia a few days later. (More of this later.)

The Rotary Christmas Ball, which has become a joint endeavour with Inner Wheel, came the day after this meeting. Those attending the Christmas Ball enjoyed it very much and we were pleased to receive half of the proceeds for our Joint Presidents' chosen charities.



We held our Christmas Lunch on 9<sup>th</sup> December at the Abbey Hotel. It was good to see so many members there. There was also a Christmas Tree Festival in Minster Abbey from 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> December and it was decided that we should include an Inner Wheel tree for the first time. The decorations had been made by artistic club members at a coffee morning in November. President Julie produced the designs for the decorations which publicised our club and the charities we are supporting this year. Also in December some club members attended a Beatles event at the Great Danes. This is becoming a bit of a tradition now and members are looking forward to repeating it in December this year.

On Inner Wheel Day a number of club members and friends celebrated friendship with a jolly morning get together in the café at our local Stones Garden Centre.

Now more about Peggy Porchlight, who had wonderful holiday with many new experiences. **Who can say** that in a matter of weeks they had seen Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open, ridden a kangaroo, been up close to a cassowary, seen a Tasmanian devil, attended a gymnastics class, seen Frozen 2 on a very hot day, spent time on a Christmas tree, shared Australian Christmas celebrations, touched a snake, had fun in a play park with young friends, saw Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge, visited Singapore and when they couldn't book an afternoon tea at Raffles, had a cuddle with the doorman instead?

**Answer: Peggy can!**

Pam Hayes

### **Inner Wheel Club of Maidstone (37) President Sheila Mason**

At our September meeting a lady from Involve gave us a very interesting and informative talk. In October the lady from Chambers Farm who was due to tell us about flower farming was unfortunately unable to attend. However, extra time to socialise meant that a pleasant afternoon meeting was held.



Our Inner Wheel annual Inter Club lunch was held at West Malling golf club in November and was well attended by club members and guests



from other clubs in our District.

Vice President Jane Yate's brother in law David gave a fascinating talk about Hero Rats. These are larger than our domestic rats and intelligent enough to be trained to find land mines in countries in Africa that have yet to be

cleared. They can now also to detect TB in people.

We again enjoyed Christmas celebrations and especially our Christmas lunch when spouses and friends joined us at West Malling Golf club.

On Inner Wheel Day seventeen ladies met for coffee at the Heart of Kent Hospice coffee shop to celebrate.

At our first meeting of 2020 a member of Kent fire and Rescue gave a talk on safety in the home and made helpful suggestions on how we could keep live more safely. He told the meeting that KFR service would be pleased to make home visits to offer advice and would install free smoke alarms.

Sadly our friend Linda Amuro, who had been an active member and was newly appointed secretary died in September. To commemorate her work and friendship the club presented a teak garden bench to the Goodman Centre for Dementia Care in Bearsted. Linda had been a volunteer with Age Concern for many years and the Centre were delighted to accept the bench in her memory.

We were also sad to learn of the passing of one of our oldest members Ann Larking who died in November after a short illness. Ann had been a member of Inner Wheel for 43 years serving as President and for many years on the catering committee responsible for our annual Charity Lunch.

Lynda Wicken

## **Inner Wheel Club of Margate (15) President Sylvia Pulling**

**ZOOM! Here comes Captain Pugwash!!**

**The Margate Club's 'Super-Bear' has just completed a round-the-world trip! His latest adventure included sun-bathing on-board ship on way to Singapore, Dubai, Australia and New Zealand – see photo! He does however, prefer 'home' – but without the rain!**

Our bric-a-brac stall at the International Rally was extremely popular; busy and profitable for a very worthwhile Charity. The informative slide presentation was first class and encouraged us all to spend a little more money for the Charity involved.

Our Annual trip to De Bradlei Wharf in Dover was, once again, a good excuse for shopping at very reasonable prices, followed by a really good lunch next door.

Pat President Chris Buffrey brought along her friends and fellow-singers for an hour of Carols before our Christmas Dinner Meeting – with superb food supplied at Lesters – followed by some really corny jokes told by President Sylvia, ensuring the evening ended in a great deal of laughter.

Inner Wheel Day was, once again, celebrated at the home of Barbara Copper; with soups made by three members followed by a truly wonderful rice pudding – with nutmeg - and skin! This early 2020 – very cold outside – with members circumnavigating fallen trees and a car crash - to reach Inner Wheel warmth surrounding us at the home of Barbara and Roy.

We now look forward to a trip to Garden Centre in Ashford followed by our Silent Auction in April.

*Personal message from Club Correspondent – Pat Robson.*

*On the evening of our Silent Auction last year, following a good money-making evening and a wonderful meal with lots of friends at the Bowls Club; I arrived inside my car to find I could not locate the starter – I had had a stroke! How very fortunate that two of our members are retired nurses – nothing could have been more comforting, sitting inside my car whilst the ambulance was called – with two experts! Twenty minutes later I was in the ambulance, My car was collected and family were waiting at hospital following phone calls from Inner Wheel members Two weeks later, sent home from Stroke Ward at QEQM (wonderful attention and assistance) with a walking frame and special glasses. Membership of Inner Wheel- I have attended every Meeting I wish to – picked*

*up from home (still with large walking frame) and returned at the end of the event. Past District Chairmans' Christmas Lunch? Picked up and travelled more than 100 miles round trip with a lovely lunch too! Never made to feel in the way at either Club or District level. Given all the help I could possibly wish for. Thank the Lord for my membership of Inner Wheel. Thank you – all of you!...Pat*

### **Inner Wheel Club of Ramsgate – (25) – President Margaret Searles**

In October the festive season began early with a 'Christmas Theme' Sales table organised by our International Officer. As members from other clubs were visiting our meeting, a generous amount was raised.

Fun and games were had at the Christmas meeting with a raffle being held to raise money for the President's charity fund, and Christmas cards being distributed.

Inner Wheel Day in January was held in a member's home for a frugal lunch. At the request of our local women's refuge, many household items were collected for the ladies to be given when they are rehoused.



Also, in January twelve members enjoyed a showing of the ballet 'Sleeping Beauty' at the Vue cinema at Westwood Cross.

February saw us once again having our big fund-raising event with a coffee morning with a basket raffle as well as cake, book and puzzle stalls. This was held in the lovely home of one of the members and was very well attended by many members from other clubs as well as our own. We were pleased with the amount raised shared between the President's charity and International funds.

In March, several members will be donning the yellow hats while collecting for Marie Curie.

Margaret Read

## **Inner Wheel Club of Sidcup(23)- President Sue Dowswell**

District Chairman Liz Lister visited our meeting in October and spoke to the club about IW matters and her chosen charity Porchlight. Our other speakers were Pauline Bennett who was a charity worker with Cancer Research UK and recounted amusing stories about her time working for the charity in Essex. Chris Hare spoke on '40 years without a proper job' with a collection of anecdotes from his working life as a theatre manager. We had a return visit from Paul Holloway, the Mayor of Bexley's chauffeur, who regaled us with more tales of his life on the 'chain gang'. This time he brought along the mace and the coat of arms for closer inspection. He informed us that some London Boroughs have dispensed with the position of Mayor.

We continue with our regular well supported film afternoons, happy hour and coffee mornings. Members take part in regular gentle walks and a small group are continuing their walk along various sections of the Thames path.

The highlight of October was IW member Kitty Anderson's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday party held at the Bulls Head Hotel in Chislehurst and attended by her IW friends and large family for an amazing occasion and a truly fitting tribute to a wonderful lady.

An enjoyable visit was arranged to Kew Gardens to see the lights.

Members had a christmas lunch and an evening get together at Pres.

Sue's home with festive food, drink, quiz and Secret Santa gifts.

Members have been busy throughout the year and 14 boxes were sent to Blytheswood Care.

Members took part in the Poppy Collection at a local supermarket. The club enjoyed the International Rally at Ditton with a spectacular stall

selling cakes, jams, pickles, sweets and Xmas decorations which had been made by members.



World IW Day was attended by 15 members who enjoyed delicious food while completing a blanket and cutting stamps and watching a CD on the Falconer Trust.

After an urgent appeal from the Falconer Trust home in Zambia for dry food, the club collected various items which were taken to the Falconer Trust's UK depot in Norwich by IW member Marjorie Hollingsworth and her husband for the long journey by ship to South Africa and then by road to Zambia. Sidcup IW have been supporting this small charity for many years.

We are sad to report the death of P.President Peggy Jenkins in December. Peggy had been a member for many years and although no longer able to attend meetings remained interested in the club's activities. She will be sadly missed.

Janice Spragg

### **Inner Wheel Club of Tunbridge Wells (33) President Helen Richardson**

On September 17<sup>th</sup> District Chairman Liz Lister came to dinner at our President's home and enjoyed a presentation at The Royal Wells Hotel by our President's charity representing Juvenile Arthritis Research, 15<sup>th</sup> October we had a talk by Mary Smith entitled "A Schoolgirl's War" Several members attended the District Meeting at Ditton and our club provided teas and coffee at the International Rally.

19<sup>th</sup> November an art restorer gave an informative talk and three new members were enrolled into our club.

21<sup>st</sup> November a charity coffee morning/bring and buy was held at our President's home and raised £500 for her charity JAR.

10<sup>th</sup> December was Christmas fun and games. Glass painting was demonstrated and everyone present showed their artistic abilities by painting a glass.

16<sup>th</sup> December our joint Christmas Dinner with Rotary was held at The Royal Wells Hotel with a musical theme.

11<sup>th</sup> January 2020 our club celebrated Inner Wheel Day at our President's home with a soup and pudding lunch with partners. Over 40 attended bringing contributions of food for Nourish Food Bank in Tunbridge Wells which weighed in at 44 kgs. £286 was raised on this occasion for JAR.

21<sup>st</sup> January another new member was enrolled and presented with her



badge at our meeting at which we were entertained by Pat Bryer on Joyce Grenfell.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> we had a countryside walk followed by supper which was to discuss details of our next walking holiday with Rotary to Jersey.

On February 5<sup>th</sup> ladies from our club met at the bowling complex to take part in the annual bowling competition.



On February 16<sup>th</sup> Inner Wheel joined Rotary to marshal the Tunbridge Wells Half Marathon for which we share an income towards our charities.

On February 18<sup>th</sup> we had a talk by Anna Astin on Women of the First World War.

Our latest activity is entitled Knit & Natter where a number of members meet in various

homes to take part in knitting a selections of useful items for needy people.  
Beryl Wright

### **Inner Wheel Club of Westgate and Birchington(34) Jacquie Agnew**

In October, we enjoyed a 'Sound of Music Singalong' at the Westgate Community Centre. It was a very enjoyable evening! Many thanks should be extended to the duty chefs on the night who provided frankfurter sausages and strudel for 60 people! Not on the same plate! Well done to those who dressed up as Nuns, 'Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes' and special mention to Carla's husband who braved the evening in 'lederhosen'!



Julie Andrews herself graced us with her presence, there was a parade of people who had dressed up, and several visitors from other IW clubs such as Herne Bay and also other people from the local area. The first prize

went to a lady who was dressed as a nun, including the wimple and stout shoes! We even had some musicians in traditional costume! We were all equipped with song sheets and various articles mentioned in the songs, such as 'Doe a Deer' and 'sleigh bells' and 'snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes'! We raised £458 after expenses!

Two ladies who joined us that evening have since come to a couple of meetings with a view to joining us. We have inducted one new member so far this year, but there are a couple more in the pipeline, hopefully!

Many members travelled to Ditton for the International Rally. We enjoyed the



whole event and particularly enjoyed running our bottle stall. Before Christmas the post boxes in the area were decorated by a group of keen knitters, organised by our own Karen, and they brightened up the whole area. It has become our custom each year to enter a decorated Christmas Tree into the St Thomas Christmas Tree Festival.

We have continued to meet up for a CAMEO (Come and Meet each Other) in various venues.

Perhaps the most unusual was the Mad Hatter's Tea Shop, which was decorated in High Victoriana, where we enjoyed delicious cakes and chat.

We were delighted with the soft toy given to us by DC Liz. Ours was a horse, which was named 'Giddy up'. Each member chose a name, which went into a hat and that was the name pulled out. Several members have taken him on holiday with them and there has been loads of photos taken of him on his travels.

Many members were delighted to join the other Thanet clubs for a joint World Inner Wheel Day. This was the first time that the Thanet clubs have got together for WIW day, but it proved to be very enjoyable and so we are hoping to repeat the exercise each year. The money raised will be donated to DC Liz's charity, Porchlight.

Hazel Hedges

## International District Rally November 2019

It also seems an age since The International Rally in November and I know some of you were concerned about food wastage and I can let you know that I contacted a local soup kitchen and they were able to take the majority of the "leftovers". They welcomed the ham, quiche and bread and said their customers would be very pleased with the cake. I also took the remaining juice and butter for them to use. I was so pleased to be able to do this immediately after the rally. So, I hope this answers any concerns.- Pat



Deal Stall with District Chairman Liz

## Rally Report

The Hall was so colourful and the variety of stalls was wonderful and very inventive. Thanks to Jackie and Fran, the flower table decorations added to the colour and ambience of the day.

The schedule was a little different this year and we were treated to the thought-provoking presentation from Mary and Martin Print - wow did they grab our attention! They both spoke with such passion and enthusiasm about their work in Kenya.

Thank you to Marion Keeble for giving us her personal reflections on her visit to Kenya with Footsteps International.

District Chairman Liz then formally opened the rally, and everyone joined in with gusto! I could see bottles, sweets and other items being won by so many members. And there were bargains to be had from a couple of stalls.

Shirley could hardly keep up with counting the money!

**I am so pleased to tell you that there was a total profit of  
£3180.16 on the day.**

What a wonderful amount, and Footsteps International have been sent the balance as £500 was presented on the day. This enables the charity to use the monies with immediate effect.

Martin and Mary have sent this message

*"Once again, please pass on our thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the Rally a success and to make us feel so welcome.*

*'Today we received news of Edward Makori, a street boy who we took into our Sunshine Centre way back in 2004. He graduated from Masai Mara University in December with a 2.1 degree and now has started working at Eldoret International Airport - hopefully the start of a high-flying career! "*

Thank you to you all for making the rally such a success. -Pat



## Some of the Stalls and Folk

Maidstone Tombola



Herne Bay Jumble Stall



Gravesend Basket Stall

Broadstairs Mystery Parcels





Margate Stall



Violet off to her new home



Canterbury Treasure Hunt Stall



Dover Champagne Stall





Lunch is Served



Sidcup Cake Stall



# Welcome to New Members



Eastbourne Sovereign  
welcomes Jainee Fisher



Tunbridge Wells welcomes  
Pamela Collins



Tunbridge Wells new member Denise Standen



Crayford&Danson welcomes Sue Van de Veer



## **CELEBRATIONS**

### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

#### **DIAMOND**

Ramsgate -Margaret and David Read in July

Ruby

Canterbury -Sheila and Harry Cragg in January

#### Special Birthdays

Phyl Hazell 95 – August

Gillingham

Sue Fewtrell 70- August

Rosemarie Barnes 80-October

Barbara Fermor 90 -February

Eastbourne Sovereign –Barbara Burt 90

(sorry Barbara I misspelt your name in last issue –ed)

All birthdays and Anniversaries are printed with the permission of all those named

## OBITUARIES

Ashford Celeste Muir

we are sad to announce the death of Celeste Muir .

Celeste was a much loved and respected member of Ashford Inner Wheel for many years, she was a local GP. and had many stories to tell, she retired in 1995 but was involved with many clubs in the Ashford area -such a character and so full of life.

will be sadly missed by us all.

Linda Alexander

Sidcup Peggy Jenkins

On 27<sup>th</sup> December 2019 we received the sad news that one of our longest serving members, P. President Peggy Jenkins had passed away. Although she was no longer able to attend meetings, she always kept up to date with our Club's news and activities and she will be very much missed. Many members of Rotary and Inner Wheel attended her funeral which was a most uplifting occasion and a truly fitting farewell to an outstanding lady.

### Condolences

Mollie Nottage on the death of her husband Dennis on 23rd December 2019. They would have been married for 70 years in 2020.

Gill McVie on the death of her husband Sandy on 8th January. He will be greatly missed by our Rotary Club as he was a font of all knowledge and an important supporter of our Inner Wheel a club.

Beryl Wright Tunbridge Wells Club

President Pam Wood

Janice Elms with  
President Sue

Jean Beech with  
President Lilly Doody