

E.NEWSLETTER I.W.DISTRICT 12



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CONGRATULATIONS - £12,750.00 RAISED



Joint District 12 Chairmen

2020 – 2021

Sheila Cragg from the Canterbury Club & Christine Davies from the Tunbridge Wells Club

Here we are – end of June – and we have chaired our final meetings: The Summer District meeting (looking back over the past year) and the Annual General Meeting (looking to the future).

What mixed emotions!

Part of us is sorry to be leaving the hot-seat – but we do recognise the need to look to the future and to keep that wheel turning.

It was a most unusual year, but we are proud of the many achievements made across the whole District. We all learned to adapt our digital skills and to be more caring and more aware of each other! The pandemic was indeed hard for so many of our members, but Inner Wheel proved to bring some sort of stability to all our lives.

As Joint Chairmen we managed to meet each other face to face for just the second time in the year, when we went to Rochester Airport to present the District 12 cheque to the staff with the Air Ambulance. It was a very special day DESPITE THE RAIN and the face masks!! We were amazed at the magnificent amount raised by Inner Wheel members and their families and friends and could never have imagined it possible, but, of course, generosity is an inbuilt characteristic of all Inner Wheel members.

We are so pleased too at the legacy we leave behind, having launched the £500 prize for a leading student at the newly created Kent and Medway Medical School. As a women's organisation we have asked for this to be presented to a student in the sphere of Women's health issues. The first award will be made in September and District 12 has pledged the same amount for the following 4 years.

Well done everyone – Keep that wheel turning – and enjoy Inner Wheel as it continues with its good works in our local communities. Thank you for allowing us the honour to represent you over the past 12 months and to 'lead the change'. Now we look to the future, supporting our incoming District Chairman for the next 12 months.

Christine and Sheila



CLUB REPORTS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

Inner Wheel Club of Bromley

As the restrictions have relaxed slightly we have been able to hold our monthly meetings outdoors in May and June in the garden of our President, Jeannette Ralph, and it has been so good to see everyone face to face again.

In May we welcomed District Chairman, Christine Davies, for afternoon tea and although it was a cold windy day we wrapped up warmly and had a very enjoyable afternoon. We appreciated Christine making the trip on such a day and learned a few things about recruiting new members to give us food for thought.



This month we had an outing to the home of one of our members, Eve Reynolds, who lives in Ightham and on the day it was sunny and hot. We always look forward to going to visit Eve as it is an outing into the country and Eve makes us feel very welcome in her lovely home providing delicious food.

Our AGM was held in our President's garden again and we invited a speaker, Michael Douglas, from The Chartwell Cancer Trust at our local hospital which was Jeannette's charity for this year. Michael told us that he had leukaemia in 2003 and that was where he first had experience of the cancer unit. Whilst there he recognised that there were many things he could do for them and when he recovered he started up the charity. He gave a very interesting talk when we learned of the excellent work that is being done in the unit and the advances that are being made in cancer treatment. Jeannette then presented him with a cheque.

In this issue I am including a photo of the Kent, East Sussex and Surrey air ambulance which was landing in a recreation ground in Bromley to attend a bad accident there. Our area is usually covered by the London air ambulance but as it was unavailable Bromley benefited from having the air ambulance that District raised funds for.



In the expectation that things were becoming easier we started tentatively to make some plans for the next Inner Wheel year. We will remain optimistic and hope that normal Inner Wheel activities will be resumed in the not too distant future.

Dorothy Blair

Inner Wheel Club of Canterbury

We have survived the year through Lockdown and Our President has made it a very interesting one with expert speakers. Most of the time we were ZOOMING of course, like everyone else. However, once the weather and Boris allowed, we were able to meet up for real with coffee mornings for 6, a club walk on the sea front in glorious weather and finally a wonderful HANDOVER meeting. After holding the business meeting via ZOOM we then adjourned to our member Ann's beautiful garden where we met again for real and traditionally enjoyed bubbly and strawberries. Here a new member Alison Wellard was inducted by our President Pauline. Pauline then installed her fellow new joint President Liz Jackson who will share duties with Pauline, who is carrying on for a further year. Congratulations to them both. Canterbury club has done extremely well with their fundraising throughout the lockdown. Here is a picture of our President and two members with a cheque to be presented to "Smile Train" at our next social event.



President Pauline inducting Alison Wellard



Joint Presidents Liz Jackson and Pauline

Happy Handover



We are really proud of 2 very special members. Sheila Cragg who has completed a most successful year and shared role with Christine Davies, as DISTRICT CHAIRMEN. Pat Wakeham has also shared her jobs between DISTRICT TREASURER and our most efficient secretary.

We also have 2 members who have celebrated their DIAMOND WEDDINGS.

They are Joan and John Hill and Alison and Alan Bowman.

Congratulations to you all. Pauline

Inner Wheel Club of Cranbrook&Hawkhurst

Firstly, we should like to congratulate our member, PDC Marion Luckhurst for being a member of the Inner Wheel for fifty years. Marion was originally a member of Battle Club and joined Cranbrook and Hawkhurst when her husband was transferred here. She has taken many jobs - both for the Club and for District.

In common with most clubs, we have had a difficult year, meeting outside and at a distance when we can and basically "treading water" until things improve. We have still managed to support several charities, both at home and abroad and hope to soon take part in local charity events again.

We are changing the venue for our business meetings to another local hotel as the previous meeting place can no longer accommodate the club. This will be for a trial period and will be confirmed during the coming year.

Inner Wheel Club of Crayford &Danson

Our AGM and Handover took place in the lovely garden of Secretary Judith who also provided members with a lunch.

It was lovely seeing everyone for 'real'!

The handover was unusual as Past President Sheila Grainger handed over the collar to incoming President Elizabeth Martin. President Mandy Berry moved house on the Friday before the meeting, she had been waiting for this to happen for months, the move was to the other side of the Thames and M25 so she was unable to return for the occasion, she sent greetings to the club and wished Elizabeth well as she took up office

Past President Sheila and Incoming President Elizabeth with the Club Collar



President Elizabeth and Secretary Judith presenting the Olive tree to Past President Sheila



Due to lockdown like all of the clubs we have not been together for months and not only did President Mandy never actually wear the President's collar, but Past President Sheila only received her token of appreciation for her term in office at this year's Handover.

We hope that there is room in Sheila's new garden for the wee 'Olive tree

Congratulations to

President Elizabeth and husband Jack who are celebrating their Diamond Anniversary in July .

The District Editor apologises for the poor photography –I was in charge of the camera!!

Member Christina Bentley's final instalment of Impossible is at the end of the reports

Inner Wheel Club of Deal

Like many other club's we have continued to meet via zoom, but we have still enjoyed speakers at our meetings. One who was very interesting was Joy Stephens, a local author and speaker who talked on the initiative that she and her husband had set up in Nepal: 'Off the Beaten Treks'. Her talk included photographs and gave us a good insight into the structure of society of Nepal and their efforts to help the Nepalese who find themselves at the bottom of the ladder.

Our President Jennifer Van Lens who is researching her family tree also gave us a short talk about her relative whom she discovered had been at the Battle of Trafalgar.

We have continued with our zoom coffee mornings and even joined together for coffee outside and an afternoon tea, the situation improves slowly.

We held a raffle among members with the proceeds going to our late member and Past District Chairman Liz Lister's charity, Porchlight.

Our International Officer Gillian Heath organised a Zoom fundraising quiz for the Indian Covid Appeal. It was good fun as every answer was a family name such as Aunt Sally and Uncle Tom Cobley. I must confess to pinching the quiz and using it for my family quiz night as it was so good.

As the club is about to embark on the new Inner Wheel year it is hoped that the country will soon be back to normal or maybe a new kind of normal, but I know everyone will embrace it wholeheartedly.

Pam Misson

Inner Wheel Club of Dover

Times are so extraordinary that at our May Zoom meeting, President Shirley Blackman remarked to members of our Club that she had not presided over a face to face meeting during the whole of her year-long Presidency. Alas, this situation continued into June when members were at last able to hold simultaneous

coffee mornings for up to six people in their own homes. Now we are looking forward to the end of July when hopefully Shirley will formally hand over to Mary Sherrad face to face. In addition we are eagerly anticipating three further events:- a walk on the pier followed by a fish and chip supper, a train ride with a cream tea and an extra supper meeting in August. Perhaps we shall make up some lost time.

At least Zoom meetings spare speakers from having to make long journeys. This was the case for Neil Sadler, a retired Chief Inspector of Police, who lives in Haywards Heath and served for 30 years, retiring in 2008. In his talk entitled "a policeman's lot can be quite an interesting one" he entertained members with many light-hearted anecdotes including the fact that his warrant number was 006 which led to many predictable remarks. Neil challenged members to recall signature tunes from TV dramas including Z Cars, Bergerac, Hawaii Five-0, The Bill and Morse. Neil's favourite TV programme was The Sweeney where the gift of Granada cars (to be used only by the good guys) proved to be the best piece of advertising that Ford had ever achieved. For a time in the early 2000s Italian police were provided with Lamborghinis and other high- performance cars confiscated from criminals. They could not be overtaken until the prohibitive expense of running and maintaining such vehicles ended the practice.

Changes in uniform were noted. As a sharp contrast to waterproof cap, skirt, handbag to compensate for lack of pockets and containing a small truncheon, which policewomen wore in 1978, Neil's daughter's present uniform is much more practical although heavier to wear. Trousers have replaced skirts together with a weapon resistant gilet. A belt with pockets for first aid kit and torch is worn and handcuffs may be carried, together with a metal expanding asp (truncheon) and pepper spray.

Neil described the effective power of Tasers.

When asked about the differences between Policing then and now, Neil said that he regretted the passing of the old- style contact with the public where officers knew local people but that system had been too expensive to maintain and so manpower was now much reduced.

Rita Hunnisett

Inner Wheel Club of Faversham

In June for the first time since March 2020, the ladies of Faversham Inner Wheel met in person at the home of our President Christine. We were lucky that it was a nice evening and we were able to enjoy a lovely meal prepared by the President whilst relaxing in her garden and catching up with everyone. During the evening, Christine presented one of our members, Dot Neame, with a special recognition award for being a member of Faversham Inner Wheel for the last 45 years.

Laurel Neame – Club correspondent

Congratulations to Dot –Ed



Dot with her 45 year Certificate



Garden Party at President Christine's

Inner Wheel Club of Folkestone

It's amazing how this year has rolled on in spite of everything. Of course, we haven't had as many activities as usual but seem to have jogged-on and kept in touch.

At Folkestone the most 'stand out' item during this lockdown winter has been our Walk 88 Challenge when most of our members WALKED short or long distances ~ a really good way to keep in touch safely.

We had afternoon tea (not more than 6) at smart places and then, when rules were lifted just a bit, we met in members' lovely gardens, with coats on, and gossiped ~ lovely to be face-to-face.

ZOOM was the way in which we regularly kept in touch and how good was it, when we got used to it? At least we could see each other and a certain number of interesting bookcases/shelves, dogs and cats and ornaments.

Many events were, of course, cancelled but the above kept us going.

For that I thank the Inner Wheel and all its members - helping to bring us through this pandemic and teaching us new skills in the process

With Best Wishes from Inner Wheel of Folkestone

Ann Brame

A Little Bit of District 12 History from District Chairman Sheila

When Association President Enid attended our Rally in May, she reminded us that there were 11 Clubs from District 12 in the original 79-ers (Clubs in existence before the formation of the Association). Since that time, four of those Clubs have closed Bexhill, Chatham, Rochester and Tonbridge.

We STILL have 7 Clubs that continue to this day - Bromley, Canterbury, Folkestone, Gillingham, Margate, Ramsgate and Tunbridge Wells.

Well done, ladies. Long may we continue to keep the wheel turning

Inner Wheel Club of Eastbourne Sovereign



President Judith handing over the collar to Presidents Val and Pat



Helping out with refreshments at Butlers Farm



Past Joint President Judith and New Joint President Pat thanking Hayzen for letting us have our handover in her beautiful garden and for making the afternoon so special

Slowly life is beginning to improve, the Covid restrictions have become less and we, as in Inner Wheel ladies, have been able to do what we do best.... COFFEE mornings.

We have continued with the Zoom monthly club meetings, which have been very successful in their own way, nothing like meeting up in person, having that social contact.... better than not meeting at all.. I'm sure normal service will resume shortly .

Further to my last report back in March, a couple of members were able to help "Family Support" with serving refreshments at an open garden in Herstmonceux.... Cakes were made by other club members and it is hoped to continue with more open gardens during the summer months

Our handover was also very successful, rather wet but the rain did not dampen our spirits. We met in Hayzen's garden, where she had erected three marquees and a very large umbrella. We were able to space ourselves according to the Covid rules.

Rotary President Faiza joined us and brought greetings from Eastbourne Sovereign Rotary Club, but sadly she told us that the Rotary club was closing and this would possibly be her last engagement .

We have asked her to join us.... Watch this space...

Tea was a picnic in boxes, well more like a banquet.... Sandwiches, sausage rolls, quiche, scone, brownie, etc etc not forgetting fresh strawberries... A glass of bubbly to toast the Queen plus numerous cups of tea...

Splendid afternoon

Despite not meeting up we have still managed to support our charities, perhaps with smaller donations but still I'm sure all gratefully received. We have managed to laugh and put the world to rights albeit on Zoom... And the knitting continues..... Let's hope the next Inner Wheel year will have us back socialising and running... perhaps not the latter

June Christophi

Inner Wheel Club of Isle of Sheppey

These have been sitting in my in-tray for a while and I thought now was the time to share them,..who can sooo relate to the sentiments ,except it is more than an inch for me!–Sandra

A couple of amusing 'Lockdown' poems written by Isle of Sheppey club member, Carole Bancroft.

Inching Up

Just had an amazing surprise
I have gone up one inch in my size
But my biscuits are small
No calories at all
Unless what they say is all lies.

At eleven, a very small snack
And the coffee is usually black
The biccy is small
So no problem at all
But my skirt won't do up at the back.

To recover from my great remorse
I just ate some chocolate because
It is good for the brain
And to keep me quite sane
I had some more chocolate of course.

C.E.B

A Sin?

Though they say it's a sin
I took to the gin
And with lemon and ice
It's really quite nice
Just a tonic so Covid won't win.

C.E.B.

Inner Wheel Club of Margate

How glad we were to return for our Annual Beetle Drive at the home and garden of Sylvia and Bernard Lemon. A great deal of laughter followed Elsa's constant screams of delight ..or dismay! Tubes of Smarties were produced for winners of each 'set' and £40 was raised, and sent, to our local Riding for the Disabled Stables, this being the Charity chosen by Association President Enid .

Well - wow - yippee! an Outing to Herne (Canterbury) Garden Centre!! Truly, we were so glad to be 'out' and to be together. Our 'light' tea was the gift of Elsa to celebrate her birthday shortly.

July 20th - now to look forward to, this is the date when Barbara and Roy welcome us for our 'take our own' Annual Lunch in their delightful garden....weather permitting!

Story from Sylvia - but true this time!!

Last week, Sylvia and friend Annette walked down the hill into Broadstairs for a delightful wander! However, facing an uphill walk home - and breathing becoming a problem - they decided to catch a bus...but...the wrong one! Happy to take the known scenic route BUT following the coast round to Margate...and, realising this was to be some trip!! - they asked the driver where they were going-' Blackpool today' was the reply! Fortunately, he was a helpful fellow and dropped them off in Cecil Square (centre of Margate). They then phoned Annette's husband for a lift back to Broadstairs.....their outing, scheduled for an hour or two in total, became a trek, but ,all is well that ends well and the scenery was stupendous!

Pat Robson

Inner Wheel Club of Maidstone

While still not being able to hold club meetings in person Maidstone Inner Wheel has continued with Zoom gatherings to keep in touch and conduct business. In addition to zoom coffee mornings a series of fundraising coffee mornings were held Val Noakes and Marion Dobbies homes and tea parties in Chandrika's garden and conservatory. These have provided very enjoyable opportunities for members to get together.

This Inner Wheel year has been the strangest in memory and challenging for our joint Presidents Elizabeth and Jane. But despite various ladies health difficulties we are very grateful that none of us has suffered from Covid. We are now looking forward to Maureen Trelfer and Fran McGills Presidencies and a brighter future post lockdown with the opportunities to resume club events. With a bit of luck we hope to meet again in Hollingbourne later in the summer.

Despite the restrictions of the past year we have managed to raise funds in various ways to support Kent and Sussex, Porchlight, Cobtree Playgroup and Emmaus.

Lynda Wicken

Inner Wheel Club of Sidcup

The Club has been continuing with our weekly coffee mornings, committee meetings and club meetings via Zoom.

Members of our walking group have been busy with walks in the grounds of Ightham Mote, Eltham Palace and around Danson Park Lake. On each occasion a great deal of conversation went on over coffee and cake.



It was lovely to hold our first face to face coffee morning in the garden of incoming president Helen Bacon. There were 12 members present, two of whom had not been out since March apart from medical appointments. It was reassuring to see them chatting happily outside in the sunshine and enjoying being together face to face after such a long time and we hope that this is the beginning of the relaxation of the covid rules.

We are planning to hold our next club meeting in July at our regular venue face to face, taking the appropriate required precautions.

Janice Spragg

Inner Wheel Club of Tonbridge Wells

Although it has not been possible to hold Inter Club events over the last eighteen months there has been cooperation between Clubs!

When Joint Chairman Christine made her Zoom visit to Gillingham Club a member asked if any one could sew together the 400 squares she had crocheted. Christine offered the talents of a few Tunbridge Wells members if no one from Gillingham could help. A few weeks later a large bag of squares landed on Christine's doorstep and the photos show the results! In total five baby blankets were made which will go to Baby Basic Charity in Bromley and eight knee blankets for various Care Homes in the area. Great cooperation between two Clubs. Perhaps there are more ways Clubs can work together?

The last two months have proved to be busy. At our May meeting we were entertained by harpist Margaret Watson who not only played a wide selection of music but told us about the history and workings of the harp. Zoom really came into its own as we could see the harp so clearly on our screens. Our June Meeting, AGM and Handover was interesting as it was a Non-Handover! All our Officers are remaining in place for another year due to the Pandemic!



President Pam was delighted to hand over a very substantial cheque to Tunbridge Wells Age UK recently. This was her charity for the year and money



has been raised in a variety of ways throughout the year. A fantastic effort from all members.

Our 'Rule of Six' Coffee Mornings and Tea Parties remain popular as do our Fit and Friendly Walks. Our Knit and Natter get togethers seem to produce a huge number of blankets, baby clothes and mini hats for the Age UK Big Knit Project. Recently we all learnt to use circular knitting needles to knit a hat, There wasn't as much nattering during that session!

We continued our association with Tunbridge Wells in Bloom by planting the summer bedding in a local horse trough - wearing our smart tabards to help promote Inner Wheel!

We are looking forward to the coming year when we hope we will all be meeting face to face at our main meetings.

Mary Ranson – Club Correspondent



Inner Wheel Club of Westgate & Birchington

As Jacquie's Presidency was interrupted by the Covid Pandemic, it was decided to keep our entire committee in place for this year. Jacquie's charity, 'Beach Within Reach' suffered from the cancellation of our big fund raiser event, which should have occurred to coincide with the VE Day commemorations. We had planned an evening of 40's style entertainment, food and clothes, and were really looking forward to it. Jacquie has decided to keep the charity for this year in the hope that we shall be able to hold some fund-raising events. 'Beach within Reach' is an appropriate charity for a seaside club, its purpose being to provide specially adapted wheelchairs with large balloon tyres, which enables disabled people access to the beach, whether it is stony or sandy, and also it can go in the sea. They are available at our local beach areas for free hire. Despite the fact that we were unable to do our usual fund-raising, we managed to raise over £700.

We haven't been able to meet normally, since the lockdown, but have enjoyed many Zoom meetings. Some of these have been social when members were able to chat and catch up with news, we also enjoyed an evening playing 'Name that Song' which was organised by Jacquie.

We had planned to meet for social gatherings either online or in members' gardens, we hoped to be able to have a full coffee morning/meeting in September 2020 in Jacquie's lovely garden, which allowed for social distancing! However, the lockdown rules only allowed meetings of up to 6, so three coffee mornings were held at 3 different homes for up to 5 other members, which was most enjoyable.

During the lockdown we have kept ourselves busy, with many of us involved in various charitable activities, such as helping with the food bank, and delivery of prescriptions, etc. and of course, we have made a major effort to source material and sew 'Scrubs' for the NHS. Every month when we meet, we hold a raffle at £1 a head. All the profit from the raffle goes to our 'Disasters Fund', which is kept separately from the ordinary charity account. Then when there is a disaster or trouble of any kind, we can donate a sum quickly. As we felt that the coronavirus pandemic was likely to be the most disastrous event in most of our lifetimes, it was important to help in any way we could.

A few of us joined the 'Margate Scrubbers' who were making 'scrubs' for the QEQM. They were also making scrubs for 'Hot Hubs' with some local GP's dealing with possible coronavirus patients, several local care homes have been issued with the scrubs as well. We donated £200 from our Disasters fund and several members also generously donated, they were not sewers but wanted to help. This raised the sum donated to just over £450. We sourced 160 metres of royal blue material and tapes for the drawstrings and thread. This made 60 sets of scrubs. Margate Scrubbers have taken orders for specific colours and sizes, so that they can conform to the usual uniform colours. The first 40 were delivered to the maternity unit at our local hospital, QEQM, with a further 20 going to the Pilgrims Hospice.

One member, Carla, told me, 'I have been knitting hats for premature babies and Memory Box blankets for many years now and they all go to the QEQM Maternity Unit. In addition, as a keen gardener, I seeded too many tomato and runner bean plants, so I put them outside my gate asking for a contribution to the NHS and the lot went. I got £40 which was paid to the NHS via the Inner Wheel.'

Well done, Carla!

Some of our members have contributed the amount of money that would have been spent at our meetings, on our dinner, or at our CAMEO's on coffees, to the charity instead.

A number of our members were obliged to 'shield' and have not been able to go out at all until quite recently our Welfare Officer, Sue has been keeping in touch with everybody with regular phonecalls, letting members who have no internet access keep up to date with our activities.

We have continued to hold Zooms whenever possible for both committee meetings and club meetings, when we were allowed to get together in small groups in the Summer, we were able to enjoy several coffee mornings or afternoon teas in members' gardens.

During the Zoom meetings we have played several games, including a version of The Conveyer Belt, from the Generation Game, -we had to remember a large number of items going past us very quickly. A real test of our failing memories!

We enjoyed a Zoom Christmas Social when we all wore the obligatory Christmas jumper and silly hat! President Jacquie organised several games, one of which had us running all over the house for various items in a 'Virtual Treasure Hunt', and at the end of the evening, -Carol Singing

Inner Wheel Day was celebrated with gifts of Daffodils



money for both the District Charity and the Rotary charity, which was the Viking Unit for Chemotherapy, at our local hospital, which had treated Hazel, and Macmillan Nurses., They were pleased to raise just over £1,000 to be split between the charities, and warmly thanked the members of the club for their sponsorship.

We have had talks on Cairo and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and we took part in the District Quiz on Zoom coming, a very creditable, 4th. Some of our members, once 'double-jabbed', have been volunteering at our local Vaccination hub.

Hazel and her husband, Chris, who is the Rotary President, undertook the '88 Challenge' and walked 88 miles to raise



We held our AGM in President Jacquie's beautiful garden, when President Jacquie was presented with a craft voucher, a plant, some 'fat quarters' and a certificate to commemorate her '2 years in office'. However, our handover to Founder member, Iris Harvey, our new President, was delayed until she recovers from her unplanned trip to hospital. We plan to restart face to face meetings at our usual venue in September, when we will be delighted to welcome 3 'refugees' from Herne Bay club, to join our ranks. Our numbers dropped somewhat over the lockdown period due to the sad passing of Wendy Mitchell and Jean Lewis, and several other members moving or retiring, but we look forward to our new Inner Wheel year with renewed enthusiasm.



Carla Latchford was 80 years old in June -Best Wishes from the club

In Memorium

Wendy Mitchell

'Whenever I have spoken to anyone in our Inner Wheel Club, or in District 12, about Wendy, the first thing they all said was 'She was the life and soul of the party'. She will be very much missed at our meetings because she could find the funny side of most situations and had a ready wit! Members always liked to sit on the table with Wendy because you always knew it would be a very entertaining evening! She was very kind and was often the first to offer to help with any events, even though, in her later years, her health was poor and she was often in pain.

Wendy was President twice for our club and as usual her Presidential year was always a fun time. In the year of our quarter-centenary, she shared the Presidency with Iris Harvey and they made a very good team. Although Wendy didn't join the District Executive, she became the assistant to the District Editor, in charge of collating the Home Service Returns. This was a very valuable job and saved the District Editor a great deal of work. In fact, when her house caught fire, I am told that she went into the building to rescue the District Home Service Returns which she had been working on at the time. She found them a little bit scorched but safe! Service above and beyond the call of duty!

It was her sense of fun, her obvious joy of life and her kindness that united to make her so well-liked, and despite many trials in her life she would always find the good in everything and not concentrate on the bad things of life. I never once heard Wendy complain about her lot but always saw a smile on her face, and a ready laugh! She will be sorely missed!

Jean Lewis

'Jean joined Westgate & Birchington Inner Wheel in 1984, on her retirement from work. She had previously been a member and past President of Crayford Inner Wheel, (now amalgamated into Crayford and Danson) and although she wasn't a founder member of Westgate & Birchington she did attend the Charter Dinner in 1983, as they had already planned to retire down to Westgate.

In 1985 Jean joined the committee at Westgate and Birchington Inner Wheel and became Club Correspondent between 1986 and 1988. Jean was usually at District meetings and became the Deputy Delegate for our club in 1987/8. She was Vice President in 1993/4 and took over as President in 1994/5.

More recently she was forced to take a back seat in Inner Wheel as she was nursing Max, her husband, but she tried to get to every meeting and was always a strong supporter of any events we held. She also liked to support events and interclubs held by the Crayford club. She tried to support Deal club's events and interclubs, because Dot Boardman who was the founding President of Westgate & Birchington had retired to Deal. After Max's death she was again more active in supporting the club's activities and even re-joined the committee for a few years, where her extensive knowledge of Inner Wheel was always valuable.

In May 2017, she was proud to receive a certificate commemorating 50 years outstanding service to Inner Wheel, it was presented to her by the then District Membership Officer, Hazel Hedges and President Rose Brightling. Crayford club merged with Danson club in June 2017, and they chose to have an Afternoon Cream Tea at the Strawberry Fields Tearooms in Birchington to commemorate the event, Jean was delighted to be invited as their guest that day. Jean has been a popular and valuable member of Westgate & Birchington Inner Wheel for many years and she will be very much missed.'

One of our Founding Members, Liz Hobcraft, recently lost her husband, Rotarian Roger Hobcraft. All the members of her club send their sincere condolences on her loss.

My 'Impossible' Experience! - The Final Chapter - Christina Bentley Crayford & Danson

After a very early breakfast at the hotel, we were escorted to the BBC Studios, all clutching numerous outfits on hangers and battling against the cold and strong winds.

Upon arrival, all of our clothes were put onto large rails and, one by one, we were called to choose from the three outfits that had been selected for each of us to get changed into.

We were subsequently ushered through 'makeup' and 'hair' and then escorted to the studio where we sat in our allotted spaces. While our microphones were being fitted and sound and lighting checks were being carried out, our remaining outfits were being scrutinised by one of the cameramen who was checking for anything that might cause visual problems.

When all checks had been made and we had received our instructions, our host, Rick Edwards, eventually arrived and we had lift off! The whole filming process was very interesting and the contestants were mostly more concerned about not making total fools of themselves rather than winning the prize money, with one or two notable exceptions (regular and experienced quiz contestants).



They recorded four episodes that day which was physically 'hard going', especially considering all the changes of outfits, hair, makeup etc. which were necessary in-between episodes (to give the illusion that we were there all week). More importantly, having questions fired at us at great speed was mentally exhausting and there was precious little time allocated for the luxury of breaks.

As the first game started with all 21 of us in play, I found myself concentrating on the questions and answering as quickly as I could, rather than wasting any time on taking note of how well (or otherwise) I was doing against all of the others. So, I was somewhat surprised when I found I had somehow managed to get through to playing a grid for the semi-finals (twice) and then on to the final (once). The finals pitted three of us against each other, all vying for a chance to play the money grid. When it came to my turn at a final, one of the other contestants who had also got through, was like lightning on the buzzer. So,

although I could answer most of the questions, I just couldn't get there before him. As it transpired, even if I had got through, I would have fallen foul at the final hurdle as I would not have been able to answer those particular questions on the money grid. The final for the following game consisted of three really slow contestants who were unable to answer many of the questions leaving great big gaps of silence. I remember wishing that I had been up against them instead, as I could have beaten them to the buzzer every time. Interestingly, when it was broadcast, the clever editing made it look just like the previous fast paced rounds, with all the silences and unanswered questions slickly removed.

The final episode of Impossible was filmed early the following morning and I spent the remaining time visiting the nearby Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. I was absolutely thrilled to have been able to see the famous Salvador Dali painting 'Christ of St John of The Cross' there, before I had to wend my weary way back home.

But I was content, as I believed I had achieved my goal; which was 'if and when' I got an opportunity to 'big up' Inner Wheel International, to grasp it with both hands and run with it. I did, of course, have months of worrying that it had not made it to the 'final cut', something I knew I would only find out to when I watched it on television myself..

Would I do it again? Maybe, maybe not.....who knows! Yours in friendship. Christina.

BREAKING NEWS

Do you have an artistic flair ?

Could you design the logo for

International Inner Wheel Convention 2024 –Manchester

A request has been made for a suitable logo to be designed for the Convention in 2024

The only guidance so far is that the Inner Wheel logo must be incorporated in the design

Entries either snail mail or Email to me by the 1st November 2021 for forwarding to Association Editor by the 14th November 2021

All Photographs in this Issue are reproduced on the understanding that permission has been granted by the subjects for their use.

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

