



## Welcome and Greetings from District Chairman Gail Elhinn



As we approach our centenary, it is a good time to reflect on the impact that Inner Wheel has had since its formation in Manchester in 1924. In 104 countries, with 108,000 members, all devoted to serving our communities by raising funds and providing service, we have had a significant impact on the lives of the people whom we have helped.

While we may be concerned about a reduction in membership numbers, in many parts of the world, where women have struggled to be heard, the Inner Wheel has provided a fertile soil for the growth of their talents. We must remind ourselves that we are part of a worldwide women's organisation, without which many charities would struggle.

In 2024, we will host the convention in Manchester under the leadership of our International President Trish Douglas. I think that the success of this event will have much to do with the success of Inner Wheel G.B. and I urge you to participate, if you are able, in an event which I believe you will find interesting, inspiring and reinvigorating.

In the spring, we will have our own centenary celebration; I hope that this will be well supported. As you all know, this is my second term as District Chairman. It is an honour to serve the District in this special year but, in some ways, a great pity that it was not possible to find a member who was willing to serve for the first time. My greatest fear is that it may fall to me to disband the district at the end of my term of office. Please don't let that happen. You all know how much we do and how important that work is.

You have many months to think about this and remember, I am relying on you.

I look forward to my club visits, as I am sure that they will be as enjoyable as they were the first time around.

*Yours in friendship*  
Gail Elhinn

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF INNER WHEEL

To promote true friendship • To encourage the ideals of personal service • To foster international understanding

## The New District Executive - 2023/2024 will be:



### Introducing the newest member of the District Executive - Aileen Hargreaves who will be the District International Officer.

I am delighted to once again serve on the District Committee, this time as District International Officer. Spending time at the Association Assembly, as usual, proved to be very useful and I enjoyed meeting my peers from other Districts.

Hearing about disasters around the world has sadly become all too frequent and we strive to provide help in as many ways we can to as many charities as possible but often feel frustrated that we are unable to do more. The consequences of the disasters are far reaching and impact greatly on family life, children's health, development, and security which is

of great importance and the disruption can last for many years long after the disaster occurred.

The three-year Social Project that IIW has promoted is "Strong Women, Stronger World" and to encompass that I have chosen the Hope House Haiti Charity which was founded following the devastating earthquake in 2010. I have arranged for a speaker to attend our International Rally who will give us an overview of the charity and how our donations will be put to use.

## District Rally 16 June, 2023

### *Hollingbury Golf Club*

The weather on the day was sunny and hot; the view, from Hollingbury Golf Course Club House, of the South Downs above Brighton and the sea beyond was lovely and the heat was tempered by the cool breezes generated from the height of the Golf Club above sea level.

The staff at the Golf Club were friendly and very helpful: Godalming's President, Janet Baker, must only eat gluten free food and, on establishing that the message hadn't been passed to the



Golf Club, the Chef immediately went out and bought gluten-free bread and cakes and these were put on a separate table from the main table on which the Afternoon Tea was presented. Additionally the staff happily helped Inner Wheel members negotiate the 'geography' of the Golf Club.



The Rally began at 2.30pm with a Service of Dedication conducted by Dave Brooks, a lay minister at the nearby St Matthias Church, Brighton. The service began with Association President Karen Davies and District Chairman Katharine Butcher lighting the Candle of Friendship. Throughout the service the District Choir, conducted by Wendy Sawyers, sang a beautiful and apposite selection of hymns and anthems - now and then joined by the congregation - and Dave Brooks gave an address on the subjects of Duty and Service, both of which are central to the Aims and Objects of Inner Wheel members. The Service ended with the Dedication Prayer, said by all.

After Katharine's Daughter Bea, the official photographer, had taken the necessary photographs to record the occasion, Katherine welcomed all to the Rally and introduced the Guests: Chairman of District 12 Judith Cooper, Chairman of District 13 Kim Tanner and Chairman of District 14 Jenny Blake, after which she and Association President Karen Davies again lit the Candle of Friendship. This was followed by Grace and we sat down to a huge spread of sandwiches with different fillings, scones, jam and cream and a multiplicity of cakes, accompanied by tea, coffee and cold drinks.





After Tea we had the 'business' of the occasion, duly announced by the excellent and tireless District Secretary, Pat O'Keefe, who conducted the Roll Call of Clubs represented at the Rally. Then Hove Club President Trixey-Ann Forster welcomed all to the Rally with a few well-chosen words about the Brighton area, followed by each District Chairman bringing Greetings from her District. Association President Karen Davies then gave her Address and First Vice Chairman, Gail Elhinn, gave a Vote of Thanks to Karen, whereupon Katharine presented Karen with a gift from District 25. Immediate Past District Chairman of District 25, Jennifer Pierce, gave a Vote of thanks to Katharine for her hard-working year as District Chairman and Katharine's closing remarks ended with a Final Toast to 'International Inner Wheel'. Then we all went home, having had an enjoyable Afternoon Tea and lots very congenial Inner Wheel Friendship.



# Out and about in the District

## Inner Wheel Club of Chichester

*President Jan Jones*

We have enjoyed interesting speakers at our monthly meetings.

*Christine Iverson* discovered a love of the hedgerows after moving to a Sussex Downland village, so she volunteered at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum as an apothecary. She became fascinated by the superstitions of hedgerow plants. She runs a workshop at Tupenny Barn which teaches how to make the most of your common garden plants.

*Nigel Gossop* gave us a fascinating talk on the life of Mary Mitford, who was born in 1787 in Alresford, daughter of George Mitford and Mary Russell, a descendant of the aristocratic Russell family. As a teenager Mary won a lottery worth £20,000 but through her Father's reckless gambling and high living he squandered her fortune and that of her Mother too. The village of Three Mile Cross in Berkshire was Mary's home for 30 years and she drew on her observations of the location for many of her essays. She is best known for 'Our Village' which appeared in *The Lady*. After her Father died in 1842 a subscription was raised to buy off his debts, and she moved to Swallowfield and died after being injured in a carriage accident in 1855.

April found us hosting a Bridge Drive organised by our President, which filled twelve tables at Lavant Hall. The Committee served a full English Afternoon Tea of sandwiches, scones and cakes. A very profitable raffle was held and the afternoon provided a substantial sum for the Hospice, our President Jan's charity.

**Zena Macdonald**

*Club Correspondent*

## Inner Wheel Club of Cuckfield & Lindfield

*President Aileen Hargreaves*

The last three months of the Inner Wheel Year have been quite busy. April was our 38th Birthday meeting, we celebrated with a delicious cake made by our member Joan Lunn. Our speaker, Sarah Oldridge, gave us an interesting insight into the history and development of Kew Gardens, which she accompanied with some beautiful pictures.

May was an out meeting, and we were blessed with sunny weather, rather important when visiting a garden. Luctons Garden in West Hoathley was lovely, and after exploring it we enjoyed each other's company and views of the garden as we indulged in great cakes and tea. Possibly I should have named this report gorgeous gardens with cake.

Sadly, two of our members have died, Shirley Schaufler and Dorothy Bolding, they had been active and long-standing members of Haywards Heath Club before joining us when their club closed.

June 3rd was Lindfield Village Day, and several of our members, led by Sally Mackenzie and Sue Landauer, manned a stall raising funds for Hope House Haiti, a charity that has always faced huge challenges which do not appear to be improving. The stall comprised crafts made by members and small items of china and glass.

On Wednesday 7th June we held our AGM, when we looked back over a year that included welcoming two new members, Jenny Pearson and Jane Miles. A year that felt as if, at last, we are back to normal and looking forward to the new year ahead.



Our stall at **Lindfield Village Day**, with Sue Landauer, Joan Lunn, Sally Mackenzie and Moira Kinnear manning the IW stall at Lindfield Village Day, and Wendy Sawyers and Diane Negus enjoying **Luctons Garden**.

**Eileen Sawyer**  
Club Correspondent

## Godalming

*President Janet Baker*

Our annual charity quiz in Godalming Masonic Hall took place in March and was the usual sell out. Teams were fiercely competitive for the prize of a bottle of wine for each winning team member, but of course it was the glory that counted! The ploughman's supper was very well received, and the raffle table groaned under the weight of a huge number of prizes. Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice in Farnham was the major beneficiary of the evening.







We celebrated the Coronation in style with a lunch of Coronation Chicken and red, white and blue flowers in crown shaped vases on every table. We all continued the colour scheme in our outfits and tiaras were the order of the day. Our speaker, Richard Shenton of the Wey and Arun Canal Trust even joined in, with blue suit, white shirt, and red tie, but no tiara!

Retiring President Janet Baker then held a very popular garden lunch with eighteen members enjoying a fund raising event in aid of the local food bank. Janet also invited a nearby garden club to enjoy tea in her garden and raise more money for the Phyllis Tuckwell cause.

Members have also attended District meetings, the Conference in Blackpool and the District Rally. Our busy summer continues with a planned strawberry tea in aid of the BookBus.

President Janet Baker with our speaker Richard Shenton from the Way and Arun Canal at our Coronation Celebration lunch.

**Hilary Reid**

Club Correspondent

## Inner Wheel Club of Guildford

*President Shelia Danson*

In February our club helped Rotary Channies with refreshments for their Youth Speaks Event. It was a great evening of debate between young people, from 12 to 16 years. We were amazed at their skill, passion and the knowledge they all projected.

Over the last few months the club have had some interesting Speakers, eg Humanimal Trust, for which we had our best attendance this year (some 17 members!) and The Naked Pharmacy: we weren't quite sure what to expect by the title, so Kevin Leivers, the founder of the company, explained how he created it in 2016 with Strength, Purity and Evidence being at the heart of the company's products and business. Phil Darley from Chiddingfold Butterfly Conservation enlightened us with her special interest - the



Whitewood Butterfly found in the church grounds. She has also walked the Oaken Wood Transect for 8 years and Clicks (counts) hundreds of species of butterflies.



In March we had a visit from District Chairman Katharine Butcher and her companion Silla Collington. Katharine's talk was about scrapbooks. She showed us an old one of the Hove Club with black and white photographs and then her club's present scrapbook. This looked very different with butterflies and flowers around the photos. Katharine likened this to the change in Inner Wheel

over the years. We are less formal but this does not mean our basic principles of Service and Friendship have changed, and this was made very obvious when we were unable to meet because of Covid-19 and yet we still made sure that all our members were all right. Katharine explained that to-day we tend not to print off photos and put them into a scrapbook, however this seems a pity as the history our clubs will get lost as time goes on. Members and guests had a nice afternoon tea and we presented Katharine with a cheque for her charity Children on the Edge. Bonus: the Raffle was won by Silla.

The 3 way final skittles match was held in April between Guildford (last year's winning club) and Hove and Cuckfield & Lindfield. Congratulation to Hove who are the winners 2023. It was a very close competition: Guildford came Second and Cuckfield & Lindfield Third. Everyone enjoyed a pub lunch at the Bull Inn, Henfield after the competition. Judging by all the noise and laughter everyone had a good time while enjoying a pub lunch at the Bull Inn, Henfield after the competition.

One of our longstanding members, Guildford Past President, former District Chairman and current District Secretary Pat O'Keefe and husband Peter have recently celebrated their Diamond Anniversary. Ahead of the big day Pat and Peter attended Association Conference held at the end of March in Blackpool where they took advantage of the privilege of dancing in the Tower Ballroom. On the journey home they spent a few days in Shrewsbury, a town that they hadn't visited before, which was fascinating. They then had a celebration with family and friends in April.

**Marion Flanders**  
Club Correspondent

**Hove**  
*President Trixey-Ann Forster*

Well what a year Trixey-Ann has had. One of her first duties as President was to congratulate the new District Chairman on her year of office and wish her well. This was because the





incoming District Chairman, Katharine is a member of The Inner Wheel Club of Hove. Did you know that when Trixey-Ann was club President the last time, one of our members from our club was also the District Chairman - Sheila Hinton!

We were delighted to induct a new member and we tried out The Hove Club for lunch. Like many clubs we have struggled to find a suitable venue for our meetings. It has given us an excuse/opportunity to go out for lunch to investigate all the lovely restaurants and cafes that Hove has to offer.



We all came together for Inner Wheel Day and donated items for the foodbank in our area. A Christmas party at The Tollgate was a great success

We won the skittles for about the 100th time!

We have met up for coffee, cake and gossip! Our in-coming President is 'infamous' for her coffee and walnut cake!!!

The weather has been fantastic and we've been able to have our committee meetings outside – thank you to Brenda (our club secretary) for the use of her garden and house.



We arranged lunch in November for the District Meeting and the jacket potatoes were devoured!

We have collected toiletries and cosmetics for the goodie bags that were delivered to The Gateway in time for Christmas – one of Trixey-Ann's chosen charities for her year.

We celebrated the King's Coronation with a 'Coronation Tea' ...egg sandwiches and scones, jam and cream.



One of our members went up to London to be a part of the Coronation Celebrations and she said the atmosphere was amazing. Her main priorities were a good position on The Mall which had access to toilets, food and drink and had good viewing spot. She got up at 4.00pm and along with thousands of others was in position by 5!

She said that there was much camaraderie, sharing of coronation stories along with food and coffee. She had wanted to be a part of it as her parents had been in The Mall when the Queen was crowned!



*Concert at the Royal Albert Hall*



Finally to celebrate the ending of our President Trixey-Ann's year, we were treated to a performance from the Sompting Morris Women. Trixeyann had invited them into her garden to dance for us at an afternoon tea. This has been a long awaited event!

We were spoilt....there were about six dances in all and the star of one of the dances was Trixey-Ann's own granddaughter Ivy who loved waving the handkerchiefs in time to the music. It was fascinating learning about the history of 'Morris Dancing' and in particular the Sompting Women Morris Dancers

We wish Betty (our incoming President) lots of fun and friendship for her year.

### **Katharine**

Club Correspondent for The Inner Wheel Club of Hove

## **Inner Wheel Club of Lewes**

*President Christine Fogden*

On March 16 2023 at the District meeting at Ashington we provided the lunch for the Clubs and ran a cake stall.

District Chairman Katharine Butcher came to our meeting at ASK on April 4th, where our President was pleased to induct a new member, Mary Beattie.

We went to Dean's Place Alfriston on May 17th for a delicious Cream Tea, much enjoyed by all who came.



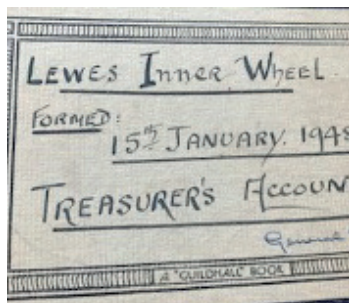




Then once again at the District Meeting on May 18 we ran our cake stall.



We are delighted to say that we still hold our first Treasurer's Report book for our inaugural meeting of January 15, 1948 and some Minute books for Club Meetings and separately for some Committee meetings – nearly all handwritten. These are now deposited at The Keep, the Records Office for East Sussex, and will be available for inspection there.



**Sue Tompsett**  
Club Correspondent

## Inner Wheel Club of Midhurst & Petworth

*President Chris Barrett*

The last few months of Inner Wheel year are as follows:

February saw a very successful Macmillans Quiz with 90 tickets being sold; the Ladies of Inner Wheel worked hard for this worthy Charity. Rotary efficiently ran the bar and an enjoyable time was had by all.

March: Members are still knitting for the Happy Baby Community, making jumpers and a blanket. Also in March eight of our members attended the Conference at Blackpool. As



there was uncertainty with the trains due to strikes a Mini Bus and driver were hired to take and collect us from Blackpool. We all enjoyed the days and evenings of the Conference, the highlight being our trip to the Tower Ballroom, of Strictly fame! Once again we are ladies dancing in a circle. Thoughts rekindled of our youth.

April: Bees are being knitted for the Convention in 2024.



May: A plant sale and coffee morning was held in aid of ISO funds. Many of our members are very able gardeners which showed in the amount and quality of the plants sold. Having bought a variety of plants, we settled in the beautiful and interesting garden of our ISO to enjoy coffee and cakes. Members of the community were also taking advantage of the morning and learning how friendly Inner Wheel ladies are. Perhaps one will ask to join in the future.

June: Rotary arranged a walk in the woods at Midhurst and invited the Inner Wheel Ladies. Nature was really bursting forth, as can be seen in the photo. We not only admired the freshness and beauty of the season we were educated as to the past use of part of the wood. At one time houses were built to house people with infectious diseases. The name of these houses was Pest Houses! After an enjoyable walk uphill and down dale, Inner Wheel ladies and Rotary retired to the leader's colourful garden for a Fish and Chip supper, well deserved after the exertions of the evening.

July: Our Inner Wheel outing this year will be to Leonard's Lee Gardens at Lower Beeding where we can view and admire the gardens before enjoying a delicious tea.

Linda Payne  
Club Correspondent

## Inner Wheel Club of Seaford

*President Mary Morris*

Inner Wheel Member, Jan Livingstone, held an afternoon tea and tabletop sale of craft wear produced by the Crafty Ladies, a group within

Seaford Inner Wheel. The tabletop included crafts such as homemade jewellery, aprons, neck pillows, and items such as ribbons and cross

stitch samplers donated by Seaford Rotarian, Geoff Lowles, which belonged to his late wife Margaret, who was a Crafty Lady. Books and jigsaw puzzles were also donated by members. The 24 ladies who attended were treated to a selection of cakes and biscuits washed down with copious cups of tea. Everyone enjoyed the cheerful atmosphere, having a chat, and forgot the terrible weather outside. All donations will go to the chosen charity of Seaford Inner Wheel.

Five members of Seaford Inner Wheel attended the Annual Conference at Blackpool. After a Service of Friendship and a greeting from the Worshipful Mayor of Blackpool, Councillor Katheryn Benson, the conference was addressed by Zenaida Falcon, the President of International Inner Wheel,

and Garth Arnold, Rotary International Chair in Great Britain & Ireland. The first keynote speaker, Adam Henson from BBC Countryfile, spoke about animal, staff and land welfare, and advances in farming technology. The second keynote speaker was Lynne Baird MBE who after her son, Daniel, was fatally stabbed, has campaigned for Blood Control Kits to be available to provide the necessary first aid to reduce blood loss until professional medical help arrives. The next morning, after a motivational address by our Association President Karen Davies, the last guest speaker, 'Chizzy' Akudolu, delivered a thought-provoking explanation of her mental health issues. The next gathering in 2024 in Manchester will be the 19th International Inner Wheel Convention – Celebrating 100 years.



On 19th April, former Presidents of Seaford Inner Wheel Club, Jennifer Pierce and Moira Quinnell, were interviewed by Len Fisher on Seahaven FM on 'Community People with Len Fisher'.

Moira explained that Inner Wheel was formed on 10th January 1924. Originally only partners and daughters of Rotarians were allowed to join, but nowadays any woman over 18 can join. Inner Wheel is a worldwide organisation with over 108,000 members in 104 countries.

Jennifer continued “The club supports local and international charities through its fundraising activities. Examples of local charities supported include Homelink, St Wilfred’s Hospice and RNLI. International charities such as Mary’s Meal, Sight Savers, and WaterAid have also been supported.”

Within the club there is a crafty ladies group who fundraise by making crafts, such as knitted hats for premature babies in Ukraine, and following disasters such as the recent

Turkey earthquake as well as the Trevor Mann Baby Unit at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.”

On 24th April Seaford Inner Wheel held their 75th Anniversary Inter Club Tea attended and catered for by Seaford members, other Inner Wheel Club members and guests. The guest of honour and speaker was **Dame Felicity Lott DBE, FRAM, FRCM**, a renowned soprano who spoke about her career in music presenting examples of her works.

**Marilyn Ross**

Club Correspondent

## Looking Ahead

### Our new Association President is Anthea Tilsley

Anthea is looking forward to strengthening the membership and promoting Inner Wheel and all it represents in this special and exciting year. She has chosen BEAT which is the UK’s eating disorder charity. Founded in 1989 as the Eating Disorders Association, our mission is to end the pain and suffering caused by eating disorders. You may remember some years ago Past Association President Zena Coles chose BEAT as her charity.

Di Hylton – Association Editor; Melanie Nicholls ; Admin Assistant and Rhys Tilsey (Anthea’s grandson) are doing a BEAT Big Sky Jump on behalf of Inner Wheel in September. Sponsorship is invited however small.



# District 25 Meetings for Gail's Year 2023/2024

Incoming President's lunch	Friday 23rd June 2023 – Bolney Stage 12/12.30pm
Annual Assembly - Stafford	Tuesday 4th – Wednesday 5th July 2023
Executive Meeting	Wednesday 19th July 2023 – Bolney Stage - 11.00am
Assembly & District Meeting	Thursday 27th July 2023 – Ashington Community Hall opens at 11.30am, Peer Group meetings 12.15pm – B.Y.O. lunch - District Meeting 1.30pm
International Service Rally	Thursday 19th October 2023 Ashington Community Hall Open 11.30am - Lunch 1.00pm
Executive Meeting	Wednesday 8th November 2023 - Bolney Stage - 11.00am
District Meeting	Thursday 16th November 2023 Ashington Community Hall District Chairman's Charity Speaker Opens 11.30am – Lunch 12.30pm Speaker 1.30pm – Business meeting 2.00pm

# District 25 Meetings 2024

Finance Meeting	Wednesday 24th January 2024 – Bolney Stage – 11.00am
Executive Meeting	Wednesday 6th March 2024 – Bolney Stage – 11.00am
District Meeting	Thursday 14th March 2024 – Ashington Community Hall Opens at 12.00noon – Lunch 12.30pm Meeting starts 1.30pm
IIW Convention	7th – 10th May 2024 in Manchester
Executive Meeting	Wednesday 15th May 2024 – Bolney Stage – 11.00am
AGM & District Meeting	Thursday 23rd May 2024 – Ashington Community Hall Opens 12.00noon – Lunch 12.30pm AGM and Meeting starts 1.30pm
District Rally	Tuesday 18th June 2024 at Barcombe Village Hall, Lewes

For further details or for contributions, please contact Gillian Staerck

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