



ASSOCIATION OF INNER WHEEL CLUBS IN GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

issue
26

summer 2008



READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!

*Blackpool
2008
Conference Edition*

*Tardis
Lands On
Opera House
Stages!*



“Communicate Our Vision”

FROM THE NEWS DESK

Conference is over, cases unpacked and ankles back to their normal size. It's time to tell those who couldn't go what happened.

Along with the general news, the Publications Committee have worked hard to ensure readers catch the buzz and flavour of Blackpool 2008.

Association President Audrey's Tardis arrived spectacularly to great applause and delight, and Audrey led the Conference with great charm, poise and gentle humour.

IIW President Kamala Ramakrishnan urged us to make the plans for growth which will shape the future path of Inner Wheel.

There were so many good things enjoyed at Conference, top of the list being the friendship as old friends met and new friends were made. The importance of Conference is the great strengthening and inspiration members take back to their Clubs. If you have never been to Conference, consider giving it a try and join in the fun in Belfast next year.

Rae - Email: raeogden@hotmail.com



Obituary

Joan Jollans Past Association Editor

It is with sadness that I report the death of Joan Jollans, a Past Association Editor, at the age of 87. Joan died on 26th January 2008 and there was a Service of Thanksgiving on 5th February 2008 at Guiseley Methodist Church where Joan was a former Lay Preacher. After the death of her husband Bill last year, Joan moved to Norfolk to be with her family. She was a member of the IW Club of Huddersfield where she was President and was Chairman of D4 in 1978/9 before moving to Leeds. She was President of the Leeds Club in 1984/5. Joan transferred to the Aireborough Club to make attending meetings easier. She will be missed by all members of D4.



Elaine Shires, MoC D4.

Ding! Dong!

When Sandra Maizels was D.26's Chairman, her talk to Clubs about Inner Wheel was illustrated by handbell music played by the members.



After putting on white gloves to protect the bells, members were given two or three bells each and shown how to produce a sound. Then they played a simple peal to get used to reading the notation, which was by numbers arranged on an eight lined grid, with Sandra pointing the way on the central chart. This was the ultimate in teamwork.

An analogy was drawn with an Inner Wheel Club. If every bell represented a member, it was clear that some had more to do than others, since the committee are more active. However, without the less active bells, the whole piece would be incomplete, so every bell was equally valuable, just like the members of a club.

Without the bells in the middle, the ensemble became very ragged as parts of the tune disappeared. These bells represented the members who never came, or those who said they would do something and then didn't! It affected everyone as the teamwork was spoiled.

Why was District needed? Trying to play by themselves not one club made it to the end of the piece, thus proving that District was needed to co-ordinate and lead the way! Everyone went home smiling having learnt a new skill, and having had a few home truths illustrated in an amusing and acceptable way.

PDC Sandra Maizels, Aylesbury D26.

Charity Midnight Walk

Ten Hereford Wye Valley members decided to take part in the Venus Challenge, organised to raise funds for St. Michael's Hospice. The Club was especially keen to support the hospice as Margaret Hardy-Bishop, a much loved member and our incoming Senior Vice President, had received wonderful care at St. Michael's until her death in June.



The 10 kilometre walk, for women only, up to a maximum of 500 walkers, was modelled on the Moon Walks held in New York and other cities, and was held on Friday 28 September. The "warm-up" session caused considerable amusement to the IW members present when it became apparent that President Margaret Foord had no co-ordination and was totally incapable of "lunging", "stepping" and "punching" in time either with the music or the other 499 people in the room!

It was fine at midnight when the Mayor of Hereford sent the walkers off. Rotarians from Hereford's two Clubs acted as marshals along the route, and our members thoroughly enjoyed themselves, getting round the route in a little over 2 hours.

Generous sponsorship allowed President Margaret, accompanied by some of the walkers and Brian Hardy-Bishop, to hand over a truly magnificent sum to the organisers at St. Michael's Hospice in memory of Margaret.

Liz Hodgkinson, Hereford Wye Valley, D 10.

Photo - Courtesy of Rotarian Stewart Gilbert

Walkden Monument

Along with the general public, local dignitaries and children in Victorian dress, our members attended a ceremony to mark the refurbishment of Walkden Monument, a project organised by the Rotarians. After the death of Lady Harriet, Countess of Ellesmere, in 1866, local people paid for the erection of this monument to commemorate her life as a liberal benefactor and tireless worker for the betterment of women and children. It was fitting that the Duke of Sutherland, a descendant, should honour the unveiling by his presence.

Joan Berry, Walkden D128.

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The Association President writes:

Dear Fellow Members,

Time is rushing by, and the Inner Wheel year is now in its last quarter, but there is still so much to do. The Association Conference is over, but the next one is already being organised.

Once again, I must thank Conference Chairman Anne Thatcher and her Committee for all their hard work over the past twelve months. I would also like to thank everyone for their friendship and support, and for the many cards and good wishes I have received. It is very humbling to know that so many wish you well.

It has been so very interesting visiting the Districts throughout GB&I and attending the Rallies.

The framework has been similar, but none have been organised in exactly the same way, and that is as it should be.

The Tardis is not going to appear many more times, but I do hope that you all work together, and remove any Daleks in your midst, keep your Club alive, and enjoy your Inner Wheel.

In friendship *Audrey Pollard*



Urszula meets the Prince



Llandeilo County Primary School managed to get one of the plots assigned to schools in the walled area of the National Botanical Gardens in Wales in 2006. They planted and propagated seeds at school before visiting their allotted space in June that year to plant out the propagated vegetables and flowers, along with other items, such as

potatoes, that went straight into the ground. Later, after harvesting their crops, the children spent a day preparing and cooking all manner of things before enjoying the fruits of their labours, by having a feast. In March 2007 they were told that an important visitor was going to visit the Gardens later and as their plot had been so successful, the school was invited to prepare the ground for next season's planting. His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, chatted to the children and spoke to Urszula Haines, Past President of Llandeilo IWC who was fortunate enough to speak to the Prince about the previous year's work. He had already heard about the feast and was very interested in what they had done, both with the propagation and in the cooking of the produce. "Although it was a school event, I wore my Inner Wheel badge with pride" said Urszula.

Yvonne Peregrine, Llandeilo D15.

A Diamond Meeting



Red, white and blue was the dress code with shiny (plastic) tiaras for members at their monthly meeting on Tuesday 20th November which coincided with the Queen and Prince Phillip's 60th wedding anniversary.

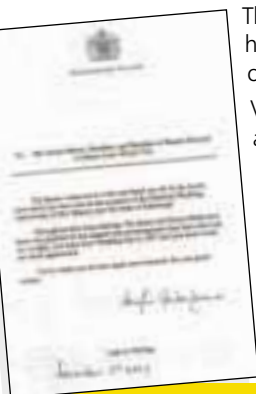
At the Club's request President Elaine Morris had posted a congratulatory card to the 'diamond couple' a week earlier and much to her surprise and everyone else's, received a charming letter from Buckingham Palace in response from a lady-in-waiting.

The evening began with mulled wine to toast the health and happiness of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, followed later on with mince pies!

Vivienne Foss of ARC (who also wore red, white and blue) then received a cheque, the money being raised at a fashion show put on by the Club in August.

A second letter was received from the Palace after the card had been opened on the official date. We were all amazed at this!

Elaine Morris, Bourne End and Cookham Inner Wheel Club D9.



Conference Committee 2007-08



Front row left to right, Gill Rowley, Pam Byford, Audrey Pollard, Anne Thatcher and Myrtle Buchanan

Back row left to right, Enid Law, Linda Elkin, Anne Deadman, Soozie White, Wendy Lea and Maxine Halford

Constitution Committee 2007-08



Front row, Barbara Marriott, Audrey Pollard and Myrtle Buchanan

Back row, Lorraine Stott and Jackie Olive

The VFEST Waste Rescue

I was given a lot of 'street cred' when I mentioned to the young people I know that I went to the VFest at Weston Park in August. The 'cred' disappeared very quickly when they realised that I saw none of the pop artists!

I was helping Mike Cardy and his team from International Aid Trust to rescue as much as we could from the littered festival site before the bulldozers went in. Mike's people collected as many tins of food as they could to give to the homeless. Also drink cans and bottles of wine, left unopened, were collected up.

The site was like walking into a nuclear disaster area where all the humans had been wiped out, but the evidence of their existence was still there. Brand new tents and clothes were still there, new sleeping bags, ground sheets, inflatable mattresses, vacuum packed bacon, sausages, tinned baked beans, brand new wellies, camping chairs and everything you would need to make the two days go well, including a new 'ghetto' blaster!

This salvage operation is a result of Rotary District International Chairman, Alan Holdcroft visiting the site three years ago and realising what terrible waste there was and wondering how it could be used. He and Brewood Rotary Club applied for and obtained permission to collect as much as could be used for both local, national and international causes. This continues annually and this year over 200 people went in on the Monday afternoon to help and about 150 on the Tuesday.

There are 8 campsites and the bulldozers start work on clearing the site almost as soon as the popsters go. Bulldozers push everything in their way - tents, camp beds, camping stoves, etc. into a heap and it is then put into lorries to go into landfill. We only cleared two and a half sites out of the eight because of the time constraints. How much more could be achieved with more helpers I wonder? Volunteers are allowed, under the supervision of Brewood Rotary Club, to be there between 3.00 and 7.00pm on the Monday and 9.00am and 6.00pm on the Tuesday. What has not been collected by then goes into landfill.

Valerie Campbell, District 21 Overseas Service Committee Chairman, Wednesbury IWC.



Contact Valerie for details if you want to help this salvage operation next time. Ed.

Quite an announcement!

Many times, I've been told, the more you get involved, the more you will enjoy the club. Isn't that the truth! Gathering the news involves surprises sometimes and we had a good laugh in March with the announcement that our latest and youngest member had successfully potty trained her daughter!

Rosie Clements, Belfast D16.

"I strongly believe that friendship is the cornerstone or lynch pin of all that we do"
Quote from Association President Audrey Pollard



A mother with HIV holds her newborn baby at Fajikunda Health Clinic, near the Gambian capital Banjul. The status of her baby is unknown. Her identity is protected because of the stigma and discrimination that persists around HIV.

© UNICEF UK/Gambia 07/Helen Aikman

Inner Wheel and UNICEF field trip to The Gambia

In November 2007, Pam McConnell, Association Overseas Service Committee Chairman, went on a UNICEF field trip to The Gambia. The main purposes of her visit was to see the treatment and care available to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT).

The first place we visited was Fajikunda Health Clinic, outside the capital Banjul. Their PMTCT programme started in 2004, and has had a profound impact on the transmission of HIV from mother to baby. Alongside normal antenatal services, the clinic offers counselling and HIV testing. Women are given medicine and are advised on pregnancy, labour and care for their newborn baby. Since 2004, the clinic has helped 125 mothers with HIV and only one baby has been born with HIV. This is a great success story.

Next, we visited Basse Health Clinic in the Upper River region of eastern Gambia. The Basse facility offers similar services to those at Fajikunda, but faces different challenges due to its rural location. Many women live in remote villages with no means of travel to the clinic. Outreach stations have been set up, but only one site provides PMTCT services. The other main challenge is the lack of health workers. Currently, there are only seven health workers to support the entire region. With more staff, the clinic would be able to ensure that more babies are born free from HIV.

The field trip was invaluable in highlighting the issues around PMTCT and the great work that UNICEF does to help those affected. However, we need your help to deliver more success stories like Fajikunda Clinic.

Almost every minute of every day, a baby is born with HIV. Without treatment, most of these babies will not see their second birthday.

Please support this appeal and ensure that more babies are born free from HIV.

A few words from Pam McConnell

As you can imagine, the visit we undertook to The Gambia was a great eye-opener to the conditions and challenges that have to be overcome in order for Gambian babies to be born free from HIV. It was inspiring to witness the dedication of health workers on the PMTCT programme and to see the programme working in both urban and remote rural settings. There are many problems to overcome, especially in rural areas, in order to achieve the goal of all babies being born free from HIV.

Anything we can offer to support this programme will have a tremendous impact for good on the lives of many Gambians and the future of their yet-to-be-born babies. I am so grateful for the support and enthusiasm that has already been shown by the membership for this project. Thank you so much for all that you are doing to give so many babies the chance to be 'Born Free'.

Pam McConnell

Association Overseas Service Committee Chairman

How your money can help:

- £1.84 pays for a pregnant woman to have an HIV test
- £13 provides a baby's HIV test
- £84 pays for testing, support & medicine for mum and baby

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Seaside Trip



To celebrate our 60th anniversary, members and friends left Batley for three days on the East coast.

Our Social Secretary had organised the visit with great precision, and our departure was smooth and jovial as we set off in our chauffeur driven coach. The sun shone, the sea breeze was invigorating and the smell of the sea gave everyone an appetite for the delicious food on offer at our hotel in Ravenscar.

Wednesday was cloudy and damp, but our spirits were not, and we enjoyed a full day visiting a honey farm and a wonderful drive through Dalby Forest. Back at the hotel after dinner we enjoyed good company, and a brain-teaser of a quiz.

The next day saw us heading down to Whitby. We all went off exploring and met up after for a pre-arranged 'fish tea'.

Back home everyone was in high spirits after such a lovely few days.

Sandra Massey, Batley D4.

Reminiscences of Early Days

My mother (Mrs Gordon Bradley of Putney District 13) was a very keen and active member of Inner Wheel from 1924, as a founder member, until her death in 1977. When she was first President of her club (circa 1927) Putney Rotarian Benson wrote an Inner Wheel prayer for her which has been widely used throughout District 13 ever since. Some other Districts, I believe, also uses it.



left to right DC Pat Leigh D14 and Ida Barfoot President of Wallington

The prayer, which I always use in my club and which is still so relevant today, is as follows:

**"Father accept our thanks we pray
For blessings showered on us each day
And may Thy love in friendship seal
All members of the Inner Wheel!"**

My mother, who was Extension Organiser of District 13 immediately after the war, formed 41 clubs in this country and 2 overseas. Would that were possible these days! In 1936/37 when my father was Governor (District 13) mother was invited to chaperone 25 daughters of Rotarians aged between 17-25 on a trip to America for six weeks, sailing on the the Queen Mary 1, to meet President Roosevelt and visit many places of interest. She felt very honoured to be chosen. We felt she was brave too, never having travelled alone before, let alone to another country. I wonder if any of those young ladies became members of Inner Wheel?

Through my mother I feel privileged to have met most of the founders of the movement; Mrs Golding, Mabel Dixon, Gladys Young and many more of these forward thinking women who prepared the way for our organisation to which I have been fortunate to belong for just over 57 years.

Ida Barfoot, President 2007/2008 Wallington, D14.

Arboretum Visit

Past Association President Jean Matthews and Past Association President Norma Friar decided to meet up for lunch. What better place to visit than the National Memorial Arboretum, which is equidistant from both their homes. They spent a most enjoyable day there and they plan to return very soon.



APP Norma Friar, D21.

Pamper Day

It seemed like a good idea to have a Pamper Day at Celtic Haven Spa. A show of hands indicated an interest, followed by intense discussion selecting from the list of treatments available. Should it be a facial, manicure, pedicure, full or half body massage and, of course, the most important issue of all – what is on the menu for lunch! The date was fixed for January with everyone looking forward to their chosen treatments. All went 'soothingly' well until someone suggested we should try out the Jacuzzi. Screams and laughter could be heard for miles when a displacement of water caused a tidal wave. (It must have been too much Christmas pudding).



Did we have fun? Shall we do it again? You bet.

Marcia James, Pembroke D15.

COUNTING ON PEACE

One is the love that I'm feeling in my heart
Two is the reaching out and helping love to start
Three is for a message, a message that I care
Four is for the courage to spend it everywhere
Five is a helping hand for those who are in need
Six is for the job that comes with each good deed
Seven is accepting that we've many points of view
Eight is for the patience to work our problems through
Nine is a wish for freedom that would bring us all release
Ten is for this dream of a world all joined in PEACE.

Robert Alan

This thought provoking poem was read out at Hounslow Club's Day of Peace.

Thelma Batt, Editor D14.

Anne's Century

One of the founder members of North Fife Inner Wheel Club, Anne Cunningham has knitted 100 blankets for Rachel House, CHAS's home at Kinross.



(CHAS is Children's Hospice Association Scotland). She has made blankets over many years and they are very popular with the children.

Anne is second left in photo (dark jacket) with Rachel Cheer from Rachel House on the right (in red)

Eveleen Garvie, Editor D1, North Fife D1.

A GREAT DAY OUT

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RNIB 'Talking Books Service'

Julian Fellowes Chairman of the Talking Books Appeal writes



I cannot imagine how it must feel to be denied the pleasure that books can bring. Books have always played such an important part in my life that I believe sight loss, especially sight loss in later life, when it is unexpected and unprepared for, must be one of the most devastating and isolating experiences.

These days, we are often told that all sorts of other forms of entertainment have overtaken books - cinema and

television, radio and the Internet. But there is something about the unique, creative part of reading, where everyone must make the film of what they are reading inside their own heads, that seems quite irreplaceable by these "easier" pleasures, and happily reading does seem to be enjoying a resurgence. Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan have had tremendous success with their own book club, while leading brands Costa and Orange sponsor important awards, and there are literary festivals springing up across the land. How excluded from all this must those with sight loss feel?

This is where audio books come in. Not only do they allow anyone with sight loss to participate fully in the world of books, but they can do so autonomously, controlling their own reading, deciding what to read and how long they wish to read it, without the help or intervention of a friend or carer. One of the most depressing aspects that those with sight difficulties must feel is when they are made to feel dependent. One of our specific aims in the Talking Books Appeal, indeed for RNIB as a whole, is to empower and return choice to blind and partially sighted people.

Many people lose their sight after childhood, and do not have the opportunity to master Braille. For them audio books are simply essential.

Unfortunately, quite apart from being expensive, recorded books on the open market are almost always abridged to fit a regular CD, tape or gift box. We think it important to leave the decision to skip or abridge to the reader, and so RNIB has always been committed to providing complete, unabridged books recorded by professional actors, and we have the largest collection of complete and unabridged audio books in the UK. That is why it is RNIB's most-loved service and why it is so close to my heart.

However, despite RNIB's impressive work in this area the number of titles available remains small. There is a reasonable chance of finding a best-selling novel or some of the more famous works of literature, but if you are interested in history or science or biography or any one of a thousand other topics, there is much less to choose from. Only 4% of the books published in the UK ever find their way into any form that can be read by those with sight problems - audio, large print or Braille. As Chairman of the Talking Book campaign, I feel this is quite unacceptable and I am totally committed to making a significant increase in the choice available.

That is why I am enormously grateful to the many Inner Wheel members who have so generously supported this cause. I know how effective your organisation can be in raising awareness. I know of the wonderful work you do, and have done, in so many different areas. The Inner Wheel does make a difference and it is very heartening to know that you are making a difference for us. Your sponsorship of Talking Books will bring joy to thousands, and for years to come. Thank you.

A story I often tell is that, during the 1850s in the American South, it was a criminal offence to teach a slave to read. The reason for this was simple. A literate slave meant trouble. Because with knowledge would come strength. The truth was as clear to the slave-owners then, as it is to us today. Literacy, and the availability of books, is the first steps to empowerment.

Yours in friendship Julian Fellowes

Bookmarks

A lot of hard work by school children made these lovely bookmarks and raised awareness for RNIB.



Changing lives in Romania

Bringing life-changing aid to the children of Romania is no problem for Hereford Wye Valley Inner Wheel Club - they have been doing it for a decade.

Hope Carriers Trust is a charity based in Hereford. It collects 'essential' items from the community then transports and distributes them to the poorest families living in the Oradea area of Romania. At Christmas, Club members make up shoe boxes bursting with gifts, goodies and essentials both for the children and their families.

In fact, the scheme has been so popular that other Clubs in the north of District 10 are now providing goods for transporting - many being gifted by grandchildren of IW members to help those less fortunate youngsters. Hope Carriers Trust has also helped start a new school and recently furnished it from redundant items taken from schools in the county which were upgrading their premises.

Oradean families live in one of the poorest areas of Romania. There is little in the way of state support for this region, but the aid and assistance that Hope Carriers Trust brings allows the families a positive outlook for the future. Progress has been staggering from these simple gifts from Inner Wheelers - and continues to make a real difference.

Eileen Gilbert, Hereford Wye Valley D10.



A right dance!!!

The Barn Dance was great fun with a lot of laughter. Most of us joined in with the dancing (or was it prancing?) We were not really sure what we were doing!

Julie Batt, Banstead D14.



Night Out

At President Sheila's Night held at Leopardstown Golf Club in Dublin over 70 guests attended. The entertainment after dinner was a song by six members to a theme from 'My Fair Lady'.

Peggy Pim, Dublin D16.



Ye! Ha!

For our joint Presidential Festival, Inner Wheel and Rotary took the theme of 'The Wild West' and everyone joined in the fun!

Margaret Barnard, CC Carshalton, D14.



Hospital Eyes Help



For seven years my Rotary eye surgeon husband and I (a GP) have had the thrilling experience of working for the British charity, the Impact Foundation.

In Bangladesh we live and work on the floating hospital Impact has had purpose-built, and have a very interactive time with the other staff seeing outpatients, teaching and operating. There is water as far as the eye can see, and most people go from the cradle to the grave without ever seeing a doctor. They believe blindness is the 'will of Allah' and our first challenge is to persuade them it can be cured.

I spend time off the boat in the little villages teaching the traditional birth attendants (TBA's) who do 99% of all the deliveries here. We use pictorial laminates as they cannot read and already the infant mortality rate has come down. In Nepal where we work this is by as much as 58%. When a million children still die at birth this is an important advance in the regions Impact works in!

Dr Mary Lynette Moss, Basingstoke D11.

Eagles Wings Aid



To our Overseas meeting this year, we welcomed a speaker from the small charity Eagles Wings. We were truly moved and humbled by seeing pictures of the desperate plight of babies and children in Siberia, Africa and India. We saw how Eagles Wings had managed to build a 40-bed home for street children in Kenya and a 50-bed home for Tsunami orphans. The final pictures of smiling children clutching their teddies and blankets were inspiring. Our knitters are working with renewed enthusiasm.

Pauline Robertshaw, Elland D4.



SPONSORED CHARITY WALK FROM LONDON TO HOLLAND

During the last 2 weeks of September a number of Inner Wheel ladies along with Rotarians and their partners from Inner Wheel District 25, did a sponsored charity walk from the Sierra Leone High Commission in London to Leeuwarden in Northern Holland to raise funds to build an orphanage school, and toilets and washing facilities, in Sierra Leone, at the Grafton War Wounded Village.

Pat O'Keefe, Guildford D25.



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In the first picture is a patient arriving in a sorry state with her brother and probably abandoned by her husband. In the second picture (on the right) she has already found a friend and knows that she will be cured within 3 weeks!

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Hints and Tips

- Don't worry if you do not have a shredder for your confidential papers. Simply immerse the sheets into a bowl of warm water and after a few minutes you can squeeze the water out making it into papier mache. The ball can then be put in with your compost or placed in with your normal refuse.
- Put Vaseline around the tops of plant pots to stop slugs from eating tender plants.

D11

Nyumbani and Lea Toto Projects

I was the only Inner Wheel member in the 2006 Rotary team. Nyumbani Orphanage had only one death in the 12 months prior to our visit, which clearly demonstrated the success of antiretroviral (ARD) drug treatment and proper nutrition (essential to survive the rigours of drug treatment), plus of course the staff's loving care. The children require frequent antibiotic treatment because of their impaired immune systems. These children are surviving and doing well. Without the treatment and care they would have had a life suffering from AIDS, leading to premature death.

We visited the Lea Toto clinics in the five slums in Nairobi. Children on the programme receive ARDs and nutritional supplements when they attend the clinic each week. Trained social workers regularly visit the homes of the children.

Most recently, a village, Nyumbani Village, situated about 3 hours' drive from Nairobi, is currently under construction for surviving teenagers, their siblings and carers – a total of 1,000 people. The village has been designed and developed as a model which could be replicated elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa. It is intended that the village will be weaned off external support in 5 years.

I am particularly looking forward to visiting Nyumbani again in February 2008 to see our District 1 Inner Wheel house.

Susan Coull, Montrose D1.

Drink Can Warning!

A woman went boating one Sunday taking with her some cans of coke which she put into the refrigerator of the boat. On Monday she was taken to the hospital and placed in the Intensive Care Unit. She died on Wednesday. The autopsy concluded she died of Leptospirosis. This was traced to the can of coke she drank from, not using a glass.

Tests showed that the can was infected by dried rat urine and hence the disease Leptospirosis. Rat urine contains toxic and deadly substances. It is highly recommended to thoroughly wash the upper part of soda cans before drinking out of them. The cans are typically stocked in warehouses and transported straight to the shops without being cleaned. A study at BYCU showed that the tops of drinks cans are more contaminated than public toilets, ie full of germs and bacteria. So wash them with water before putting them to the mouth to avoid any kind of fatal accident.

D7.

Knock Knock

A conscientious minister decided to get acquainted with a new family in his congregation and visited them one evening.

After his knock at the door, a voice from within called out: "Is that you Angel?"

"No" replied the minister. "But I'm from the same department".

The Real Reason

We encouraged our 18-year-old daughter to find a job to help pay for her college education. One day she came home with five applications, and later that evening we read them.

Under 'Previous Employment' she listed 'Baby-sitting'.

And under 'Reason for Leaving' she wrote 'They came home'.

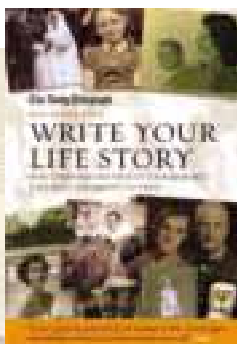
Writing Your Life Story?



For 17 years Michael Oke has personally guided more than 250 clients in their writing, producing beautiful leather-bound books for family and friends to enjoy. Small paperbacks and hardbacks are now also available from as few as ten copies at a time.

Mike's latest book, *Write Your Life Story*, is the essential guide for anyone looking to undertake such a project themselves.

Mike and his team also provide guidance via home visits or correspondence to ensure that you receive a few high quality volumes to be treasured for generations. So whether you've yet to put pen to paper, have written your manuscript already, or are somewhere in between, phone Mike for a chat and a free information pack on **01869 232911**.



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The rate of climate change astounds
So fossil fuels are out of bounds.
Producing carbon's not for us:

No coal, no oil, no gas! Each bus,
Each train, taxi and car must be
Propelled by electricity
From sources that will do no harm.
We'll harvest power from a farm
Of windmills standing tall and high,
White-silhouetted 'gainst the sky-
Line, harness wave power from the sea
And tidal boom, then later we

To Physics will apply our minds
And make good use of other kinds
Of fuel, from nuclear power station
Or solar-panelled generation.
Now aviation is a curse
That only makes the matter worse:
Our carbon footprints must reduce;
Imperative to put to use
New bio-fuels - rape, sesame,

Crops modified genetically.
To save the planet is our aim;
Our lives will never be the same.
To spare the Earth's ecology
Requires new technology
But we, each one, can help repair
The damage to the ozone layer
If we're prepared to take a stand.
Toxic emissions must be banned!

Now we shall cycle, walk to school
Or work; 'twill be our golden rule.
We'll dig allotments, plant a tree
To keep air pure and carbon free.
For life aquatic and terrene
The climate must stay safe, serene.
We've really got to get it right,
Not waste our water, heat or light;
Dispel pollution, keep things clean.
From now on we are going green

Barbara Gillett, Plymouth D129.



Floral Art

To celebrate Inner Wheel Day, we had a most enjoyable evening trying our hands at floral art.

(Luckily we have some experts!) The posies we made were given to the residents of a Sheltered Housing Complex.

Elaine Coates, Brechin D1.



Is it a record?

Publications Committee member, Thelma Pacsoo, had the misfortune to break her great toe. A plaster cast was put on her foot at the hospital. Later, when the toe had healed and the pot had been removed, the consultant showed her the report of her previous visit. It read:

'Big toe wrongly potted so new 4ft plaster applied.'

(It should have read 'forefoot' of course.)

Thelma is thinking of applying to the Guinness Book of Records for the largest right foot in the world – after all, she has documented evidence!



Conference 2008 Reports SONGS OF PRAISE

Over 2700 Inner Wheel members and guests, who were eagerly anticipating a friendly and lively Conference, packed the Opera House for the traditional 'Songs of Praise'.

The Reverend Anthony Hick, President of Cleckheaton Rotary Club, led the prayers and delighted everyone with his Address on the topic of 'Neighbours'. Much laughter ensued as he recounted various neighbourly disputes and possible ways to avoid them.

Association President Audrey Pollard's reading entitled 'The Two Pots' was a thought provoking tale of 2 water pots. (The story is printed in full for your enjoyment.)

RIBI President Allan Jagger, read from Corinthians Chapter 13 - verses well known to most of us.

The superb District 4 Choir, with Choir Mistress Rosina (Robbie) Morgan, gave 4 beautiful renditions, which included 2 pieces by Don Besig.

Accompanied throughout by the excellent Blackpool Salvation Army Fellowship Band, music and harmony filled the hall.

Valerie Flower



THE SHEILA CRAINE WALK

Blackpool Town Hall and the Grand Theatre were the two venues chosen for this year's Walk, with 160 members taking part.

The Grand Theatre was designed by Frank Matcham in 1894 and is reputed to have a ghost called 'Charlie', who didn't dare venture out in the presence of so many Inner Wheel members! Tour Guide, David, gave information on 12 panels, depicting flowers of the month, discovered last year hidden under layers of brown paint. President Audrey tried out the Royal Box!

At the Town Hall, the Mayor's secretary was on hand to answer questions. Members were welcomed into the Council Chamber where they could admire the stained glass windows, paintings and beautiful ceiling and were permitted to wander through the Mayor and Mayoress' parlours, view the Archives and the collection of silver.

Thank you to Margaret Crossland from Thornton Cleveleys Club for organising the Walks and supplying the information for this report.

Valerie Flower



MAYOR'S WELCOME



Councillor Robert Wynne, the Worshipful Mayor of Blackpool, welcomed us all with pride to his home town. He pointed out that his position was unique in that his father had been mayor in 1972 and this was the first time that father and son had held the position.

Addressing Inner Wheel was a nerve racking experience but as he came from a family of formidable, politically active ladies, he coped very well! Indeed his great grandmother was one of the founders of Girton College, Cambridge.

Inner Wheel's association with Blackpool goes back nearly seventy years and great changes have been seen in that time. Blackpool is undergoing the biggest regeneration and building work in its history. There will be an entire new front with five separate events arenas capable of holding 18,000 people. There is an £81m investment in the tram infrastructure and funding for a new university.

The mayor concluded by thanking us all for coming not only for the business we bring but for the friendship we generate.

Linda Moyes

The Two Pots

An elderly woman had two large pots; each hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, but the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection. It was miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, the pot spoke to the woman one day by the stream. 'I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house'.

The old woman smiled, 'Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?'

That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them.

For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house'.

Each of us has our own unique flaw but it is the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding.

Executive Committee 2007-08



Front row, Phyl Fennelly, Audrey Pollard and Myrtle Buchanan

Back row, Rae Ogden, Barbara Marriott, Pam Byford and Pam McConnell

GOLF COMPETITION



It was a crisp, sunny morning and there was a competitive feeling in the air at the Lytham Green Drive Golf Course.

Organiser, Barbara Hood greeted Association President Audrey and presented her with a stick of Blackpool rock. Then it was time for the 25 ladies to tee off.

The Association Rose Bowl awarded to the player with the highest number of Stableford points, went to Di Davidson (Stirling Club) - 34 points. Francis Martin (Kirriemuir) was 2nd with 31 points and Jill Hutchison (Lincoln) was 3rd with 29 points.

Sue Driver from Millom Club received the Veterans Salver - 18 points.

The Scratch Shield was won by Jocelyn Haigh from Elland Club, with the Best Gross Score of 95.

Longest Drive on the 11th Hole and Nearest Pin on the 15th Hole, Theresa Dowsett from Taunton Club with a distance of 4metres 56cms.

Meanwhile eight Inner Wheel husbands were 'doing their own thing' elsewhere on the green!

Later Association President Audrey and Vice President Myrtle briefly visited the Lytham Green windmill and the sand dunes at St. Anne's.

Valerie Flower



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A headmaster taking assembly shouted 'Why is it that every time I open my mouth to speak, all I hear is fools talking?'
Heard recently on the radio (D4 magazine)

Aled Jones



Entering to enthusiastic applause, Aled Jones, smiling broadly, attired in suit and tie, looking the epitome of every mother's dream of the man she'd like her daughter to marry, remarked that he felt overdressed, as the last time he'd been on the Opera House stage, he was only wearing a loincloth. He was playing 'Joseph' at the time. Blackpool was dear to his heart, he said, as he met his wife on the North Pier, when asked to choose a pretty girl to be photographed with him. Conscious of having just eaten he apologised "I'm sorry my breath smells of onion." Not the best chat up line, but it obviously worked!

Through his answers to questions, from members, we heard of his life from his days as a boy treble and the recording of 'Walking in the Air'. Overcoming the adolescent problem of a broken voice, he studied at the Royal Academy of Music and Bristol Old Vic, becoming an actor. After resuming his singing career and now a regular presenter on both radio and TV, he told of his time on Strictly Come Dancing, during which he lost well over two stone and was delighted that many present had voted for him. He admitted to feeling a little flat after it ended, but was glad to be back to being a real Dad. Through Songs of Praise, he said, he had met many inspirational people, from all walks of life, which had deepened his faith. He told of his delight at raising £250,000 for Children in Need by agreeing to sing at a private event with Katie Mehlua. Everyone laughed as he recalled that it looked like it was to take place in Australia, but the final bid came from Wigan! On playing with Chris de Burgh, he said it had to be drums, as he couldn't get a peep out of a trumpet!

Other varied questions gave a good insight of Aled the man, but all too soon it was time for the final question "Why are you not singing?" Rapturous applause greeted the answer "I am!" and as his melodious voice, so full of emotion, filled the hall, many confessed later to a tear in the eye and a lump in the throat.

Thelma Pacsoo

TO UNICEF

Helen Aikman accepted a cheque for £13,567 on behalf of the UNICEF Born Free HIV Appeal and heartily thanked members for all their efforts. She told us that HIV deepens poverty and fragments families by killing parents and children. Almost every moment of every day a baby is born with HIV and yet effective treatment costs just under £1. Together we can make a difference to children worldwide.

Linda Moyes



THE RNIB TALKING BOOKS SERVICE

The writer Joanna Trollope was delighted to receive a cheque for £23,024 for President Audrey's chosen charity "RNIB Talking Book Service." Joanna told us that she is very short sighted and a writer so Talking Books was a natural charity for her to support.

As well as saving lives, it is important to save sanity and for many blind people the talking book service does indeed save their sanity. She is also enraged that VAT is charged on audio books.

RNIB uses almost exclusive technology so that huge volumes can be recorded on one disc.

She concluded by saying you never need to feel lonely with a book. You find companionship and knowledge and we are offering this through supporting "Talking Books."

Linda Moyes



IIW President Kamala's Visit to Conference

In a hard-hitting speech to Conference, International Inner Wheel President, Kamala Ramakrishnan, said that she had approached the event with a mixture of anticipation and reservation as she had met many presidents from GB&I over the years and she had learned a great deal from them.



Inner Wheel is at a crossroads as we are finding it difficult to attract young members.

Communicating our vision is vital but we must not lose the original vision of friendship and service, a great vision. We are too low key about what we do and must make our work interesting to the media to attract publicity. We need to become more professional and either hire PR agencies or invite journalists or women in the field for professional help.

We need to get rid of old ideas and practices that are out-dated and ask how we can change, how we can adapt and how we can grow. Kamala concluded by saying that only the members could decide whether our organisation would live or die.

Linda Moyes

RIBI President's Message

Allan Jagger reiterated the words of our International President when he used his speech to stress that Inner Wheel and Rotary had to change. Communication is every thing, otherwise dreams will remain dreams if we don't have a plan. We must go back to core values and face the many challenges which lie ahead.

We give hope to people less fortunate than ourselves. Hope is our vision and hope is communicating our vision.

Inner Wheel and Rotary can and should work together to ensure our future. In GB&I 4% of Rotarians are women and many couples are joining Rotary. However Inner Wheel cares for its members whereas in Rotary they now have committees to end disputes between Rotarians!

He concluded by reminding us of the reading in our Songs of Praise. 'Three things last forever: Faith, Hope and Love but the greatest of these is Love'.

Linda Moyes



ROTARACT

Emma Donovan, Vice President of Rotaract had the daunting task of following Frank Carson. This she did with aplomb.

She told us a little about the history of Rotaract but said that the organisation was in the same predicament as all other service organisations, namely struggling for members. On the plus side, she was able to report on a club that had been down to one member but which was now one of the largest in its District with 21 members.

Emma said she had three main reasons for joining Rotaract: an instant social life, helping in the community and raising money for charity. She had been on the Rotary Mission Challenge to Africa through Mercy Ships and hoped to do more for that stricken continent. She concluded her address with a poem written by Mark Bennett, RGBI Publicity officer, and felt it could equally apply to Inner Wheel. It was called 'The Value of one Member'.

Linda Moyes



CHILDREN WITH LEUKAEMIA

Frank Carson accepted a cheque for £9,820 on behalf of "Children with Leukaemia" which was donated during the offering at "Songs of Praise."

Frank entertained us royally with a series of gags but there is a more serious side to him. He supports numerous charities and has helped to raise £130,000 for the Belfast Royal Victoria Hospital Children's Cancer Ward. Indeed in the next week or two a new wing in Newcastle's Hospice is to be named after him! He was delighted to accept our cheque for a cause dear to his heart.

Linda Moyes



Frank jokes with M.o.C. Elizabeth Swinton'

THE ADDRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT 2007-2008

AUDREY POLLARD



The dimly lit stage suddenly came 'alive' - the Tardis had landed! Association President Audrey Pollard stepped from the Tardis, accompanied by the relevant lighting and sound effects.

Seated in The Arena were Audrey's guests - her family. Richard, Audrey's youngest son, has the distinction of having already attended many Inner Wheel Club meetings, as he was taken along to Club meetings when a baby. Husband,

Dennis was singled out for special praise - and his new found housekeeping skills! Also welcomed were daughter Sue, Richard's wife, Vivienne, son Michael and sister Sandra.

Referring to the three objects of our Organisation - Friendship, Service and International Understanding, Audrey felt everyone would go away with a greater understanding of these, particularly the friendship and having listened to all the reports, was sure we would all be in awe of the amount of service given. Through visits to projects overseas, we are becoming more aware of how other people live and more understanding of their needs.

She wished everyone to go to their next Club meeting and make it clear to those who never attend a District meeting or Association Conference, what has been achieved by members in GB&I, as it is so easy to remain in the enclosed cocoon of the Club and not see the wider world. Daleks are not needed, but members who are Willing and Hopeful for the future and prepared to take Office.

The President's Charity for the year is RNIB and it is hoped to raise enough money for each District to sponsor a Talking Book, and to buy

some Daisy Talking Book machines. The books can cost between £1,000 to £2,500 to produce and about £450 for a Daisy machine. Audrey hoped everyone would support this.

The wonderful display of Bookmarks was impressive and had involved the Inner Wheel within the community, through the schools and libraries. Although these activities had been time consuming, we were reminded once more that 'If it is to be, it is up to me'.

Everyone has something to offer and no one has to be perfect to take office. Edward John Phelps, born in 1822 said, 'The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything'. We all have to adapt and the words 'We always do it this way', should not be automatically accepted. In a letter to a friend, John Clare, an English poet wrote, 'If life had a second edition, how I would correct the proofs'.

Mother Teresa said loneliness and the fear of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty. Audrey had experienced such generous hospitality as she travelled around the country and felt Inner Wheel members to be very fortunate as we are not alone - we receive friendship and support from one another within our Organisation.

President Audrey had delivered her address with a friendly smile, in her usual serene and calm manner. The members applauded her warmly, in appreciation of all her efforts on behalf of Inner Wheel.

Valerie Flower



The Horseshoe Stalls

The sun shone through the windows in the Horseshoe, lighting up an atmosphere of friendship and anticipation. Ladies streamed in to register for the 2008 Blackpool conference and descended on the stalls in their droves.

The Inner Wheel Sales stall with the bookmarks celebrating Talking Books for the Blind drew gasps of admiration for the fantastic efforts of all the children involved. The Overseas "Hanky Panky" stall experienced brisk business with the sale of hankies and the chance to win a prize with the purchase.

Further round the Horseshoe, the Marie Curie charity was publicising their 'Blooming Great Tea Party', offering tea and cakes and reported that over sixty clubs had already signed up to host a tea party.

Overseas charities were represented by everyone from Rotary Aqua boxes to Mercy ships, Soundseekers, Sight Savers and Water Aid whilst GB&I charities ranged from Debra to Macmillan nurses.

What a scene! What a start!

Linda Moyes



What is the collective noun for a group of IW members? I think it must be a friendship.

Association Editor's and Home Service Report

Rae Ogden

In her first report to Conference as Association Editor, Rae Ogden, began by telling members that she had broadened the scope of the magazine with the introduction of a Talking Magazine for our blind and visually impaired members. This had been well received with many positive comments and letters.

New posters were introduced to help promote Inner Wheel and raise its public image and a new commemorative plate is now available. Also we now have an established Association website.

Before presenting the Home Service report, Rae thanked everyone from the Association President, Audrey, to the printers for all their help and encouragement in her first year as Association Editor.

Rae then summarised the huge volume of activities and fund raising events undertaken by members.

World Inner Wheel Day was celebrated in a variety of ways from knitting, sewing and distributing gifts to entertaining the elderly or handicapped children and of course food was consumed from frugal lunches to food hampers.

Rae was intrigued to hear that one club provided disposable baby wipes for a Royal Marine Commando group serving in Afghanistan.

Joint projects and assistance to Rotary was manifested in all kinds of social, fund raising and community events. There were gala dinners,

garden parties, cruises as well as croquet, skittles, curling and golf. Santa received a great deal of help and, despite poor summer weather, there were barbeques, treasure hunts and duck, frog, camel and donkey races.

Help was given to flood victims and lone parents as well as disadvantaged children.

Assistance was given at a Health Awareness Day, all kinds of concerts, litter picking and gardening.

Visiting the sick, the elderly and the housebound gave much needed personal contact.

Underprivileged children enjoyed holidays, and toys and Easter Eggs were given to children in Care Homes. Children were also supported through Witness Support in courts, work in family centres, after school clubs and Mother and Toddler groups.

The quality of life of disabled people was augmented by poppy collections, Talking Newspapers, collecting milk bottle tops for wheelchairs, supporting a sensory garden and befriending the mentally disadvantaged.

The sick were looked after with trolley shops, mobile libraries, and tea bars. Assistance was given with telephone calls and letter writing. "Linus" quilts and "Pets as Therapy" gave security and comfort.

Sponsored events were numerous from walking, cycling and trekking to belly dancing and even silence.

Whatever the activity or service given, members had MADE A DIFFERENCE and by COMMUNICATING OUR VISION locally, there was "hands on" personal service and funds raised in excess of £1,242,278.

Not all clubs submitted returns so the true figure cannot be seen. However on average, each district supported at least 103 charities financially and 20 to 30 of these were national charities.

Association Editor, Rae, concluded her report by leaving us with this thought:

"Look outward for service and inward to care for each other."

Linda Moyes



Publications Committee 2007-08



Front row, Rae Ogden, Audrey Pollard and Linda Moyes.

Back row, Thelma Pacsoo and Valerie Flower.

'Get Togethers' in Blackpool

Across Blackpool, in a variety of venues, ranging from small hotel suites to large function rooms, Inner Wheel members from the length and breadth of Great Britain and Ireland met together to renew old friendships and to make new friends. Entertainment in numerous guises added to the enjoyment, with many a quiz, on diverse subjects exercising 'the little grey cells'. One District tested everyone's knowledge of Inner Wheel. Judging by the puzzled frowns and animated whispered debate not everyone felt confident in their answers, but as members were reminded 'It's only a game.' Amusing poems, songs and sketches were for many the order of the day, causing much laughter and great enjoyment. Association President Audrey was warmly welcomed wherever she went and on being invited to say a few words, remarked that her wish was that 'Everyone will go home from Conference feeling that Inner Wheel is super.' A wish surely fulfilled.

Thelma Pacsoo





Pam McConnell, Audrey Pollard and Helen Aikman

With a kaleidoscope of pictures on the screen behind her, having thanked the Association Executive, Warwick Square staff and her committee, Association Overseas Service Committee Chairman Pam McConnell, gently smiling, as always, with great sincerity and a touch of humour, told of the help given around the world.

Whilst many clubs held meetings and invited knowledgeable speakers so as to be better informed, some members went themselves to see first hand the needs of those overseas. Africa and Eastern Europe figured largely in reports, but members also travelled to India, Pakistan and Africa to visit Projects for helping HIV and Aids victims, villages needing reconstruction, street children and orphanages and their needs assessed.

With no simple solution to the many needs, members looked to what could be done which, Pam said, resulted in a tremendous amount of goods, expertise and money being provided, with great impact. This included over fifty young people currently continuing their education through sponsorship with school equipment supplied for many more. 15,630 garments, knitted with love, brought warmth. 2275 special teddies and 8537 brightly coloured shoeboxes delighted young recipients. 1287 Baby bundles, 812 gift bags and 13,135 pairs of spectacles brought joy. Shelter and Aqua boxes were generously packed with good quality goods and food, clothing and other supplies, amounting to thousands of black bags and boxes were gathered, stored in every available space, then sent to over 50 different countries. 7076 blankets were created from an endless supply of knitted squares, with well over 2,000 squares still waiting to be sewn together. (Pam's comment, that this was a job she tried to avoid, brought much laughter). Recycled items including 1799 inkjet cartridges, 284 mobile phones, foreign coins, over 2000 postcards and some 748 lbs of stamps, all raised much needed funds and over 100 sewing machines, with the necessary notions and fabrics brought the possibility of self sufficiency. Links with clubs around the world ensured that greetings were sent to every continent while, as members travelled around, clubs in over 13 countries were visited.

In the raising of funds, food featured regularly, remarked Pam, with varied international cuisine as well as established English favourites like Fish and Chips or Cream Teas on the menu, but Champagne served with Shepherds Pie, was a novel idea. Stalls selling cakes, bric-a-brac, quilts and other goods made by members using their creative talents raised superb sums, as did. Talks, fashion shows and raffles. Games were played such as skittles, dominoes and beetle. This was not the usual beetle, but a World Toilet Day game and there was much laughter when Pam showed the scorecard for this featuring a drawing of a toilet, with each part allocated a score. Often clubs collaborated with Rotary on a Casino nights or Donkey Derby and as Pam said, "Where would Santa be without the fairy on his sleigh?" In total a superb £349,387.96p was raised in diverse ways, too many to list, with over 350 charities receiving monetary aid.

Pam finished by remarking that Overseas Service is, to many members, a vital part of their Inner Wheel life, and that she wanted to say a huge 'Thank you.' on behalf of those whose lives are dramatically changed for the good because of what members do.

Thelma Pacsoo

PS My grateful thanks to all those who bought and gave hankies for the Hanky Panky Stall, and those companies who donated prizes including The Rubens Hotel, Dobbies Garden Centres, Starbucks, United Biscuits, Tangerine and Cafe Direct. The stall raised a magnificent £2,167 at Conference.

Pam McConnell

Overseas Service Committee 2007-08



left to right Jeanne Dorsett, Sheila Halliday-Pegg, Audrey Pollard, Pam McConnell and Brenda Lowe

Executive Committee 2008-09

President: Myrtle Buchanan - Londonderry D16
Vice President: Pam Byford - Maldon D24
Immediate Past President: Audrey Pollard - Cleckheaton D4
Treasurer: Phyllis Charter - Newent & District D10
Constitution Chairman: Barbara Marriott - Dumbarton D23
Overseas Service Chairman: Pam McConnell - Bolsover D22
Editor: Rae Ogden - Rugby D6

THE AGM

With 3 Proposals and 6 General Motions to debate, this was never going to be a quick AGM. After the usual introductions and reports, which were interspersed with words of thanks from President Audrey, the standing orders were read.

The Proposals for changes in the Rule Book were then voted on.

The Chairman and 1st Vice-Chairman shall not be members of the same club and the 1st Vice-Chairman

and 2nd Vice-Chairman shall not be members of the same club - For 795, Against 7.

Honorary Membership as stated in the IIW Constitution, subject to a limitation of 2 years, to be re-elected each year - For 771, Against 47.

All nominations for District Office should be forwarded to the District Secretary (some clubs may have more than one person who wish to put their name forward for the same office) - For 671, Against 89.

General Motion 1 proposed the Conference Fares Pool be increased by 50p from £1.30 to £1.80 - For 798, Against 22.

The specific needs for young carers motion - For 808, Against 3.

Delegates voted in favour of the Opt Out system for transplants - For 610, Against 196.



The Elections Committee after counting the votes. from left to right: Lorraine, Elaine and Jean.

To request that the Government reviews the costly licence to send unused drugs to third world countries - For 767, Against 53.

To urge better care for people with dementia - For 817, Against 2.

Putting in place legislation to ensure Primary Care Trusts give equal treatment to patients, regardless of costs - For 782, Against 5.

President Audrey gave all items due clarification throughout and many members came to the microphone to pass on their views. President Audrey urged Districts, Clubs and members to write to the agencies concerned and air their views. It was a well conducted business meeting, without any frills or frippery!

Valerie Flower



ALL CONFERENCE PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE HAWKINS

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Web: www.stevhawkinsphotography.com

Borrow money from pessimists – they don't expect to get it back!

Association Treasurer's Report

Pam Byford

Is it really three years since giving my first report? I started as Treasurer in name only then found myself actually doing the accounts.

At times it was hard work and very daunting especially when it came to the VAT but I have enjoyed the past two years immensely having gained so much knowledge and understanding working on the figures.

There are so many people to whom I am very grateful. Without their help and understanding I know I could not have coped.

Over the three years, there have been the Executive, the Finance Committees, the staff at Warwick Square, District Treasurers and Members of Council, but most of all two very special people.

Stephen Hunt of Smith and Williamson has been my mainstay. His calm efficient approach and sense of humour has, almost, kept me on the straight and narrow. I cannot thank him enough for all his patience and help.

Last but not least my husband Graham - it has been a hard three years for him. I cannot thank him enough for his support and kindness; he has been a tower of strength. He has computerised programmes for the girls in the office that have not only made their jobs easier but my job and any Treasurer that follows. Thank you so much Graham for everything.

Finally my sincere thanks to Elizabeth Bayley and Teresa Marklew, this year's Finance Committee and all the District Treasurers and others for all their help manning the Fares Pool table, the Sales table and for counting the collection money, a great team.

I will now present the accounts for the Inner Wheel year 2006/2007 starting with the **Income and Expenditure Account Summary**.

As you can see despite the rise in Capitations **Membership dues** increased only slightly with membership down by nearly 800.

Investment interest is slightly down; this is net of corporation tax.

Irrecoverable VAT has dropped dramatically; Stephen Hunt recommended we use an alternative method of calculation and apply for a rebate. It is uncertain at present as to whether we will receive it. This gives us a surplus for the **General Fund of £5,864**.

Sales were good this year both at Conference and Leicester the cost of sales is up with the purchase of pens, pencils and trolley key rings that have proved popular.

We have a further surplus of **£8,582** added to the General Fund.

Conference Income looks lower as last year's figure showed net cost of Gala and Gaelic evenings and Stormont.

Expenditure decreased considerably giving a profit of **£36,153** to the Conference Account.

Conference Fares Pool once again made quite a loss.

The cost of exterior decorating gives a deficit on the **property repairs and maintenance** fund.

Finally the expenditure on the **Convention Fund** is nil as there was no IIW Convention this year.

As you can see at the bottom of the page we have a **surplus of £40,725**, depleted due to the deficit on the Fares Pool fund and the payment of exterior decorating.

The Balance Sheet.

Net Assets and **Total Funds** further down under **Represented** by total **£397,327**.

Administration. Staff salaries increased slightly and the recruitment of the new Secretary/Administrator cost **£6,600**.

Rule Book It had been suggested by the previous secretary that this be printed in house; this proved to be a mammoth task for the staff plus it was not feasible to store the amount of paper needed. It was suggested a smaller quantity of new rulebooks be ordered for new members, with existing members receiving an amendment sheet therefore cutting the costs.

The previous rulebook had been written off over three years. The amount shown for this year is the total payment.

Postage and Telephone increased considerably due to the Royal Mail amended pricing structure; this figure includes postage on rulebooks.

The **Magazine** cost is slightly lower taking into consideration the rise in postage and the payment to Dixon and Target the previous year.

Audit and Accountancy fees increased due to the quarterly added help I have received and the extra work undertaken to obtain a VAT rebate.

There is a slight increase regarding office equipment as one computer and printer was replaced.

The increase in **Miscellaneous expenses** is largely due to the **£1000** allocated for maintenance on the Arboretum that had been agreed by Council.

Administration overall is down by £4,500.

Travelling and other expenses.

This takes into account hotel accommodation. The increase is partly attributed to where members travel from plus I travelled to London several times a month to do the accounts plus extra hotel accommodation when first learning the accounts. I soon found it more expedient to travel to London each day rather than incur the extra cost of hotel accommodation.

The Finance Committee when examining the accounts re the VAT needed further hotel accommodation; hopefully if we receive a refund this will cover these costs.

Although there is this added expense for my travel, the secretary does not receive the same salary as her predecessor due to the fact the accounts are not now part of her workload plus with the new format in the office the Treasurer does not and will not need to attend the office as many times.

Insurance decreased by £2,400 and will drop even further this coming year.

The increase for Travel and other expenses is **£3,000**.

AGM expenses also rose by £3,000; hotel accommodation cost more in Bournemouth than Belfast.

Conference registration fees rose by £53,000 stemming from increased numbers and an increase in registration fees.

£825 debit shown in **Grants receivable** was due to the fact that the actual subvention received from Belfast was less than anticipated.

Conference income is down on the previous year as there was no subvention from Bournemouth Council.

Expenditure is less by £62,000; the TV and sound system decreased considerably being back to back with Rotary;

General Expenses are mainly the proportion of expenses against Conference as seen in previous years. I did not quite understand this method of percentage but working in the office I have seen that a huge proportion of staff time is spent on Conference. Again most is self-explanatory with the same general increase in most items, **Conference Magazine** includes **postage/packaging**.

Working papers and handbook increased due to an exceptional attendance in Bournemouth.

General Expenses this year increased by **£3,500**. **Transferred to the Conference Fund** is a surplus of **£36,153**.

Income of Conference Fares Pool increased slightly with the 10p increase per member but once



again by losing members the income was not as much as anticipated and delegates' fares cost **£31,161** making a loss yet again. **Tangible Fixed Assets.**

Long Leasehold Premises shows a figure of **£70,742** the property actually being worth a lot more.

Office Equipment. Here you will see a figure of **£32,400**. The Association policy is to depreciate office equipment over 5 years but as most of our equipment is computer equipment we never actually sell them but scrap them.

Stephen Hunt suggested in these years accounts he shows the cost and fully written down depreciation as a disposal.

As this is the first year, the figure is large as it accounts for disposals since we started. In future it will be the Assets purchased five years ago in this box.

As they are fully written down it has no effect on our profit but is just a balance sheet presentation adjustment.

Stocks are down after a greatly increased sale of Tote bags and General Guides.

Debtors show the **VAT** we received after the final quarter of this year, next we have money received after the end of the year for Presidents Charities.

Earlier I mentioned the **£825** that was debited to the Conference account, **£42,000** was shown on last year's Balance sheet but we received only **£41,175** in October 2006.

Creditors: This is the money still to be paid to **Presidents charities**, the **Corporation Tax** increase as described earlier on, the nil band on the first £10,000 that no longer exists. **Accrued expenditure**, a potential liability as the supplier has never submitted an account but could do so in the future, by law we have to hold the money indefinitely.

Funds: This shows the balances in each account and as you can see each account is healthy apart from the Fares Pool.

Finally on the following page we have the **Memorandum Account of Charities** giving the final total donated to the 2005/2006 charity British Heart Foundation and the total to date for the 2006/2007 charity Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

I have tried my best to put the Association Funds in credit and due to careful management by everyone, (some will say I have been mean), the **Capitation for 2008/2009** will remain at £12.50 and the **Conference Capitation** will remain at £1.

I will be very sad to finish working on the accounts; really I am a hands on person not happy giving reports, however I know I will be leaving it all in the very capable hands of Phyllis Charter who I wish every success.

Thank you President Audrey for an excellent year and my very best wishes to Vice President Myrtle for 2008/2009.

I will miss working with Eileen, Soozie and Lisa they are such fun while being extremely conscientious.

Pam Byford

Finance Committee 2007-08



Front row, Pam Byford, Audrey Pollard and Myrtle Buchanan

Back row, Teresa Marklew and Elizabeth Bayley

Mark Pollock

How strange to await the entry of a renowned speaker with one's eyes tightly closed, but having been asked by Association President Audrey to do so, that is how a packed Opera House greeted sportsman and entrepreneur Mark Pollock.

"Keep your eyes closed," he said, "and consider the challenges that blindness brings such as how to read your watch or find your way to the door. Some might think they can't handle it, but I suspect most would do something about it."

In 1998, on the crest of a wave, an international rower, preparing for his finals at Trinity College, Dublin, a fantastic job waiting with an investment bank in London, Mark's world came crashing down, when he suddenly lost his sight and learned that he would never see again. That was then 'a life stalling moment', but is now, in his words, 'an inconvenience'. This transition however was not easy. Loss of sight meant loss of identity. No longer the student, rower or graduate, he thought life was over.

In a gentle, yet straightforward way, he told his audience, who listened in rapt attention, of his anger and frustration in those early days, before he took on the challenge of his disability and started not

only to rebuild his life, but to exceed his previous achievements, attaining a Masters Degree in Business Studies, developing his own business, winning medals while rowing for Northern Ireland in the 2002 Commonwealth Games, completing six marathons in one week in the Gobi Desert and racing in the world's most extreme marathon at the North Pole. Mark's inspirational and motivational account of his life changing actions, made his audience feel both humble and yet uplifted. Short film clips underlined the dangers he faced running. He paid tribute to the 59 people who, in various ways, had made his participation in the North Pole project possible. To prolonged applause, he finished by saying "We all face challenges, the context of which is not important. What is critical is the decisions we make and the actions we take. All should take this to heart, stop making excuses and (in the title of his inspirational book) 'Make it Happen'"

Thelma Pacsoo



All Our Yesterdays

With an amazing array of costumes, many necessitating quick changes back stage, in a programme designed to evoke memories, from the heyday of Music Hall through to the Seventies, the Timeless Theatre Company kept their audience entertained. From the very first 'On Broadway' routine, the two male and two female vocalists supported by a team of four girl dancers, had everyone involved and the whole theatre resounded to the singing of 'Whip crack away' in the 'Calamity Jane' selection. With a varied programme of soft ballads, swing numbers and full musical staging, interspersed with gentle gags, that brought relaxed laughter from the audience, the show was all too quickly over. Encouraged by shouts of "More", their encore had the audience, joining hands enthusiastically waving them in the air, realising perhaps how appropriate the words were for Inner Wheel - 'You're always there to lend a hand, in everything you do, that's the wonder, the wonder of you.'

Thelma Pacsoo



GET AHEAD HATS

Beryl Otley was born in Poppleton and lives at Dutton Farm. Her Father was a Kentish man and her Mother came from Hampshire, but it is the Yorkshire roots of which Beryl is most proud. She certainly comes across as a straight talking, down to earth Yorkshire woman with a strong personality and a desire to succeed.

Wearing one of her own beautiful creations, Beryl gave a brief account of her life before she formed 'Get Ahead Hats'.

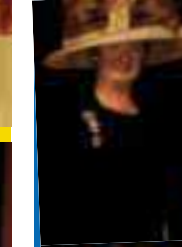
After marriage, business consisted of parking a lorry full of houseplants, to sell beside the A59 near Blackpool. Later, Beryl had 2 children and she and her husband supplied nearly every B&Q, Homebase and other DIY Centres with their houseplants.

However, as her daughter Jane was about to get married in 1982 she found it difficult to find a hat to match her apple green suit and so her interest in hats began.

Initially, Beryl purchased 10 high quality hats and these were hired out. She later went on to design her own creations with the help of a milliner. Having found a niche in the market, 'Get Ahead Hats' certainly filled it!

Many gorgeous, elaborate hats were modelled on stage by a professional model and some very elegant Inner Wheel members.

Valerie Flower



PRESIDENT'S EVENING

THE EMPRESS BALLROOM

'Just want to dance the night away', sang the versatile Alison Jane's Chequers Band and it seemed everyone in the magnificent Empress Ballroom agreed, as whatever the rhythm, from the Valetta to the Twist, members, some sporting tiaras, others swathed in bright red, all dressed in their best, took to the floor, until with Association President Audrey and her family in the centre, everyone joined hands for 'Auld Lang Syne' making a perfect ending to an excellent conference.

Thelma Pacsoo



Razzmatazz and all that Jazz!

Five multi talented musicians, with a numerous assortment of instruments, commenced the entertainment in The Pavilion by wandering around the tables, intermingling with Inner Wheel members as they played. This was stimulating, dynamic music and it wasn't long before the dance floor was full of bopping ladies!

Once on stage, the group continued to delight everyone with selections from Louis Armstrong to Roy Orbison and Robbie Williams, even giving a rendition of 'The Stripper' at one time - there were 'no takers'!

Valerie Flower



Inner Wheel Commemorative Plate

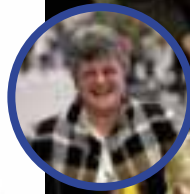
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On the buses!

Overheard on the way back to the hotels on Wednesday night at the end of the 2008 Conference -

- 'I've loved it all - even leaving my shoes at home didn't matter.'
- 'What a fantastic Conference!'
- 'I always thought conferences were dull, but it's not true'.
- 'Oh, the food! - Don't let on at Weight Watchers - I might have to give it a miss next week!'
- 'That was a good one! One of the best!'
- 'This was my first time but I'll be going to Belfast.'
- 'Have you bought the hat for something special?'
- 'My mother will never believe what we've done in Blackpool!'
- 'It's alright. He's coming but he's just had to go!!!!'



Fun at the Pleasure Beach



COPY DEADLINE

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Zone A	1, 2, 3, 16, 19, 23, 128
Zone B	4, 5, 6, 7, 21, 22, 127
Zone C	8, 9, 10, 15, 18, 24, 26
Zone D	11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 20, 25, 129

Valerie Flower
Rae Ogden
Thelma Pacsoo
Linda Moyes