



ASSOCIATION OF INNER WHEEL CLUBS IN GB&I



CHRISTMAS 2020

Cannot visit Santa This Year? What about a Personalised SANTA VIDEO?

- Closing date for Santa Requests is 2nd December 2020
- Videos will be sent by wetransfer.com by 23rd December 2020

The Inner Wheel Club of Bolsover
 have managed to persuade Santa to make a limited number of short (about 1-2 minutes) *personalised* videos for those little ones in your life.
Christmas is a magical time so from the information above, he will talk directly to your little one/s !
Its nearly as good as seeing him live on his Sleigh.

We ask for a Donation of

- £5 per video for a single child.
- £7 for up to 5 siblings

} All proceeds will go to local Inner Wheel Club Charities

What we will need:

- Your Child / Children's First Name
- Why have they been GOOD this year?
- What they have written in their letter to Santa.
- Any special message wanted from Santa?
- And your email address to send the video via WeTransfer.com

£5 / £7

Cheques should be made payable to "Inner Wheel Club of Bolsover" then sent with the required information to:
IW Of Bolsover C/O 110 Bamford Road, Inkersall. S433DS
 Questions may be sent to:
iwbolsover.president@gmail.com

DISTRICT 9's COMPETITION

There are Inner Wheel ones, self coloured ones, flowery ones—so why not Christmas ones! Of course we are talking about MASKS—our must have article for shopping etc. District 9's scheme was to run a competition and 10 of the clubs submitted designs to the District Executive to be judged. I certainly would not like to have had the responsibility of selecting a winner!

Congratulations to Erica Stockwell of Thame who won a prize of £100 for her chosen charity, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf.



The Inner Wheel Club of Bolsover has certainly managed to ensure that Santa is able to bring a bit of joy to the local children this year. Not only that - local charities will also benefit from the scheme.

Thank you, Santa for going all technological and ensuring social distancing!

Inner Wheel Club of Truro

Fundraising for charities has sadly diminished but the ladies have managed to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care by holding virtual events and selling unneeded articles to each other over the internet. Their cupboards will be bare considering all the 'Clearing Out' that's going on! Bottle tops, metal ring pulls and used stamps are collected for charity; shoe boxes have been dispatched to Eastern Europe; members are knitting blankets and children's clothing for overseas and continue to support the refuge in Truro.

Undaunted, they are planning next year's events and are even organising a Christmas party over the internet. Another piece of good news is that the club is now twinning with an Inner Wheel Club in France in the town of Figeac.

On her own—clearly socially distanced - Club President Marjorie Edwards, placed the customary Poppy Wreath at the memorial in Truro.



INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 CYCLE TOUR ROUND THE CLUBS

Imagine cycling around all of the clubs in your district! The Chairman of District 2 cycled 20 miles a day on an exercise bike and covered 321.5 miles in 16 days. She began with her own club in Galashiels and 'visited' all the clubs in the district, before returning to Galashiels in the Scottish Borders.



The three charities she raised money for were: Riding for the Disabled; District 2's nominated charity, Edinburgh Young Carers and Guillain-Barre Syndrome Research. This rare and serious condition affects the nerves, causing numbness and muscle weakness, pain and problems with balance and co-ordination. It can be treated and most people will recover, but some are left with long term problems.

As the District Chairman said, "Please don't think that you can't do anything as we're not physically meeting at present – be inspired"

DISTRICT 4 CHAIRMAN WALKS FOR CHARITY

When District Chairman Pat Mirfield took over her role, she decided that she wanted to walk 2.6 miles each day for 26 consecutive days from 1st July. She invited members of the District to sponsor her.

On 1st July she walked in Roundhay Park and completed 2.74 miles, a total of 6,425 steps. Pat finally completed her walk on 26th July having walked 176,416 steps and over 26 miles. Pat was met by members of Aireborough Club in Horsforth Hall Park on the completion of her walk.

In November Pat went to Smart Works and handed over a cheque for £1,000. This charity's aim is to help with dressing and coaching unemployed women for job success. 65% of the women they help get the job within a month.



NEW CHALLENGES FOR DISTRICT 24



Made Christmas Crackers

jigsaws Attempted ballet exercises

Played bridge online via

Zoom Discovered how to make cupcakes and other things in Microwave London walks done virtually on computer Changed to online banking

Zoom baking session with grandchildren Learned NOT to feel guilty about sitting in the sun reading Set up What's App group for people to keep in touch

Delivering medicines to vulnerable people Growing cucumbers—not always successfully Discovered various craft kits Made own envelopes from pretty paper - these were much appreciated Started to buy more eco-friendly items Learned how to listen to Podcasts

Cut husband's hair (Still talking to each other!) Learning macrame Started to photograph local wildlife Investigated local public footpaths Answered questions on local radio

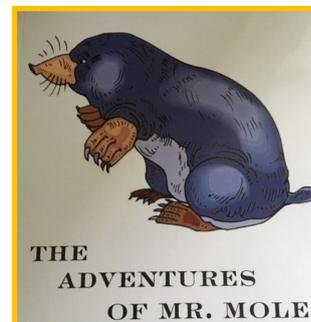


Built Chicken Coop

Zoom singing rehearsals for online concert Making a quilt of memories Took part in online pantomime Discovered the joys of



Made paper garlands



Wrote children's book

THIS IS A SMALL SAMPLE OF THE 55 LOCKDOWN "FIRSTS".

What will you remember as your greatest achievement during the pandemic? For me to date it is 14 sweaters both hand and machine knits. Next thing is to construct a new chest of drawers to keep them in. Not ALL for me though!

Captain Tom Painting

What a wonderful idea!

Diane Warburton, a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Hertford, District 26, used the lockdown time to do an amazing painting of Captain Tom. She had chatted with her friend Barbara Doherty, MBE and life President of the Isobel Hospice in Welwyn Garden City, who said she could use the portrait in a fundraising auction for the Hospice. So, that is where the first portrait went.



Because she wanted to use her paintings to raise the image of Inner Wheel, she then did a second portrait for our District Chairman, Brenda Lowe, with a view to doing a fundraiser. Brenda contacted a friend who is a fundraiser for the Lister Hospital in Stevenage and so the second portrait is going to hang in a portrait gallery there. The presentation will probably be in the New Year.

We are hoping for Captain Tom to sign the second one as this would increase the value at auction.

Diane is an amazing artist and has also had one of her other paintings chosen to be in one of the town's very busy underpasses



Brenda Childs supporter of Isobel Hospice (L)
Diane Warburton (R)

A Different Christmas

**New words, new ideas have entered our mind,
There's Lockdown and face masks of many a kind.
There's rules on our meetings, avoiding the crowd;
All parties are halted so what IS allowed?**



**We're still buying presents – but mainly online,
With many shops shuttered – we're CLOSED says the sign
And Santa's gone virtual – and -ZOOM - he'll be there
The reindeer are furloughed; they feel it's not fair!**

**The street decorations - there's no one to gaze,
For many, this year is the one to erase.
But wait – there's a twinkle – a tree with its lights
To bring us some cheer in these dark winter nights.**

**We're told there's no singing as carols are banned.
Our choirs have been silenced all over the land.
The churches are empty – it's really so strange,
Our prayers – bring a vaccine so all this can change.**



**And soon it is Christmas – that can't be denied,
So much will be different – the whole world wide.
But let's not forget then the birth of that boy
With shepherds and wise men to spread forth the joy**

**Away from that manger – the message still good,
We do need our Christmas to lighten our mood
Tis quieter, tis different yet should bring some cheer
And herald good tidings as we reach a new year.**



Dotty's Ditty can be sung to the tune of a well-known carol. But which one?



Chocolates from Chelmsford for local food bank



Lynne Day IW
Brigg D127

Climbing Ben
Nevis— 8736
stair treads

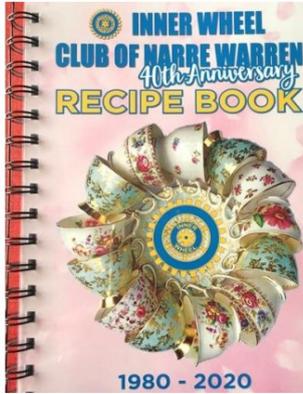
It is hard working
from home says a
feline from Hull
Kingston D 127



Reading Maiden Erlegh D9 clearing leaves
the day before lockdown began!

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF MARLOW'S LINK WITH NARRE WARREN, AUSTRALIA

We were delighted to receive a copy of Link Club Narre Warren's 40th anniversary Recipe Book. It's beautifully presented with lovely colour pictures.



It's being passed round Club members so that all can enjoy it and try new recipes from 'down under'. There are also some great quotes and cartoons in it. As their President Margaret said, it not only recognises the wonderful years of service and friendship given by their members, but the proceeds will be

donated to the Inner Wheel Australia National Project - Cord Blood Research. We are hoping to be able to link up with Narre Warren over Zoom at some point.

Did you Know?

In the Inner Wheel Club of Loudoun (District 23) members haven't been idle during these strange times, with many taking part in litter picking, sponsored walks, beach clean-ups and collecting toiletries for Women's Aid amongst other activities.

We invited pupils and students from the five local Primary Schools and Academy in our area to join us in a recycling scheme which involved putting empty crisp packets from school into collection boxes which we provided, emptied and stored until collected by the Recycling Scheme. The pupils were delighted that the money raised was donated to one of their favourite charities, Children in Need.



Did you know it takes 480 crisp bags to weigh one kilo? 32 kilos of crisp packets were collected and therefore 15,000 crisp bags did not go to landfill!

District 15 Chairman Helen Starkey's Charity Coast Path Walk

Not to be beaten by the restrictions placed on us owing to Covid, District 15 Chairman, Helen Starkey came up with an idea to raise funds for her chosen charity, Wales Air Ambulance. She has been walking the Pembrokeshire Coast Path in stages and documenting her journey with lots of photos which webmaster Vicky and



Koala who is from Kalgoorlie Boulder District A40 Western Australia.

District Editor Karen have been posting on Facebook and our website. The Path is 187 miles long and Helen set off on her first walk on Saturday 11th July from St. Dogmaels with her companion, Kal Junior, the



Helen recently completed her 12th walk and has so far covered 83 miles. Just another 104 to go!

Another Marvellous Marathon

June from the Inner Wheel Club of Chipping Sodbury has been doing a marathon. She is **88 years old** and dependent on a walking frame. She has recently recovered from her third hip operation!

So far she has raised about £3,000 in support of the local Food Banks and Medical Aid Films, an International charity helping to combat the spread of malaria in Zambia.

This typifies the determination of so many Inner Wheel ladies to help raise funds even in these strange times!



Isabel Cordier, a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Dunoon (District 23) crochets Octos for a charity 'Octopusforpreemie'. These are given to premature and special care babies. The babies hold the tentacles which stops them pulling and removing any tubes.



PEDAL POWER FOR CHARITIES



Here is the story of one member's adventure on wheels—told in her own words!

I'm Marg Morris, a member of the Inner Wheel Club of Worcester Severn. I'm a keen cyclist. I have a hybrid bike and recently have increased my distance to 20 miles in one trip. During Lockdown I had an idea to cycle to Shropshire to see some friends. My husband thought it would be a good idea to increase that to reach Llangollen, 100 miles away and to do it for charity.

Our Inner Wheel President's Charity this year is the 'Magg's Day Centre' for the homeless and my husband's Community Service chosen charity is the 'Worcestershire Breast Unit Haven'. My daughter Katie, a very experienced cyclist, would accompany me.



We set off on the 22nd September and it took us four days at an average of 25 miles a day. We crossed the Clee Hill, Wenlock Edge and the Long Mynd; we cycled in temperatures of 20 degrees, in torrential rain and very high winds. We dodged massive storm clouds which covered some areas of Worcestershire in inches of hail! We reached Llangollen on Friday the 25th to a great welcome from Association President Enid Law and some of her members of the Llangollen IW club.

Also, we raised £3,000 to be divided between the two excellent charities.

Welcome to 2021

Liskeard & Looe District 129

Liskeard and Looe club members started by considering an on-line photographic competition and then realised we could use the winning entries to produce a 2021 calendar. We decided to run the competition and sell the calendars in aid of Cornwall Air Ambulance.

We had four categories: landscape, nature, humorous and pandemic. A local professional photographer acted as senior judge and advised the rest of the judges. Some excellent photos were submitted so that the winning and runner up entries made for a good calendar. The four winners were presented with a mounted print of their photograph.

Club members all helped to encourage entrants and sell calendars. Despite not being able to see the lovely reproduction of local views in person, most of the 250 print run has been sold. Calendars sell at £5 each (plus postage) and can be ordered from rutheroach@hotmail.co.uk.

Competition fees paid for part of the printing costs and so we are pleased to be able to present a cheque to Cornwall Air Ambulance for about £850.



TIME STOOD STILL!



Like all clubs, life has been anything but normal this year for the members of the Inner Wheel Club of Gloucester (District 10) and at the time of writing (October 2020) it still feels like time is standing still. We have been waiting - to see friends and family –to get to the hair salon, chiropodist, doctor or hospital appointment, for the next food delivery or parcel, to see the grandchildren, for the plumber to call – most of all for the lockdown to be over and for the virus to go away.

Club and committee meetings moved to Zoom, friendships were sustained and our spirits were lifted through WhatsApp conversations and shared hilarious You Tube videos. But with many members self-isolating and the restrictions of the lockdown preventing our usual social and fundraising activities, we wondered how were we to support our annual charities?



Then a member had the bright idea to hold a lottery to guess the time the pocket watch stopped. How appropriate! With 12 hours on the face and 60 minutes in each hour we would have 720 minutes to sell at £1 a minute. It took two months to sell them and then the day of the big reveal arrived. One lucky member had chosen the right time and won her prize.



Dare Devil Twins

When I was a child, my twin sister, Jenny and I often dared each other to do crazy things. I remember hanging upside down in the local bus shelter and as the bus slowed down, jumping off and horror of horrors walking along the wall surrounding the church to name a few of our activities.

Two years ago with some friends Jenny went on the Velocity Zip wire in North Wales. She couldn't get home quickly enough to challenge me to have a go with her. Sadly Jenny started radiotherapy and could not join me on the wire and my husband is not inclined to try such activities, so I was on my own!

9am saw us at the venue. Husband Ron sat and had a sausage bap. I thought maybe not! So I sussed out the amenities— at 76 a necessity especially when feeling a little nervous. The weather was glorious with clear views in every direction, a blue sky and little or no wind.

So Friday 18, with Ron wielding the camera from ground level, I took up the challenge. First we had to be weighed and then kitted out with a harness contraption; it turned out to be the sling which would be attached to the Zip Wire, then helmets. At each stage we were checked twice to make certain nothing came adrift when travelling at speed. Then we were off to the practice run, after which some drop out. My group of 12 all stayed.

After this was a lorry ride to the top of the slate mountain and the long wire. The longest and fastest in Europe. Why do we do these things? Soon we were at the start - more checking then lying head-first on a flatbed we were hooked up and after 3, 2, 1 we were away..... when I opened my eyes the view was a bit blurred, the speed and maybe they were not open fully.... Minutes later having handed back the gear, I was sitting eating a bacon bap, I had done it.

This time I hope the 'Young Minds Trust' will benefit. My sister wants us to do it together when her treatment stops and we'll think of some other charity as we grow old disgracefully.

PS I had my hair dyed purple for the occasion.

Isabel Sinclair - Inner Wheel Club of Buxton D5



**Reading
Maiden
Erlegh
D 9**

**Sewing
for Santas**

**Rotarians
needed 10
Santa suits
so each
person
has an
individual
one!**

Brrrrrrr.....

Diana Sargeant of the Inner Wheel Club of Bromley did a sponsored swim, as it is Bromley's 88th year. She suggested that any monies raised could be split between the Club President's charity, The Chartwell Cancer Trust at our local hospital and District 12's charity, Air Ambulance.



Starting in August, the 8th month of the year, she set herself a challenge to swim 88 lengths of her swimming pool (25ft long) each day for 10 days.

She accomplished that target in the allotted time and hoped that this will be a start for our charity as well as District's.

GOSPORT DISTRICT 11

Ladies of the Inner Wheel Club of Gosport held a somewhat unusual meeting in early summer—resulting in a swim in the Solent. They enjoyed this so much that they felt a dip was definitely on the cards when they visited a house where there was a swimming pool. Well done, ladies! Here's hoping for plenty of swimming time in 2021!



Amphill and District (D26)



Many clubs have found that they could no longer do their annual Christmas tree display in the usual places.

As the Amphill Christmas tree festival was cancelled this year, our local Estate Agent, Country Properties allowed us to display a small tree in their window.

An excellent piece of publicity for Inner Wheel.



A DIFFERENT LIFESYLE

Inner Wheel Club of Guernsey District 11

Things in Guernsey are rather different to the UK and elsewhere and we have been living restriction free since June, the only exception being that our borders are strictly controlled and all arrivals have to self isolate for 14 days and be tested during this period.

Our geographical location has also allowed us to visit other islands within our Bailiwick for a "staycation" which has become a very popular pastime for members and their families. Our members enjoyed a day out in Herm, an island 3 miles away, in early autumn and they were blessed with a lovely sunny day to walk, swim and enjoy



No social distancing!

this paradise island.

We have been able to hold 2 business meetings so far this year with excellent speakers at both meetings which were very well attended and we have also inducted one new member.

As we get nearer to Christmas our Club members are focussing on the many service aspects of the Club. Over 30 members, working on a rota basis, assisted the Rotary Club in checking shoe boxes, as well as providing many boxes and items themselves. 5717 boxes have been shipped to District for onward transportation to Eastern Europe in the near future.



Filling shoeboxes together

In December we will be working with the Rotary Club to provide 600+ presents for deserving local children through the Tree of Joy Scheme. We will also be assisting at a magical Winter Wonderland event for over 150 children with Autism.

It is lovely to be able to report on the near normal work of a Club within GB&!

CHRISTMAS 2020

GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS

Here comes our Covid Christmastide,
A dose of hope is on its way,
Raise your glasses to it reaching us
In time for Christmas Day.

We're searching for a miracle,
Stop! Pause!..... For it's here
In the gifts we can all make happen
To bring others Christmas cheer.

The gift of love to melt cold hearts,
That's what Christmas is really for,
Relationships healed and mended,
Friendship's smile at every door.

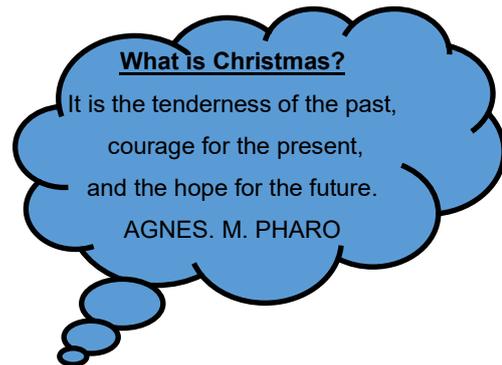
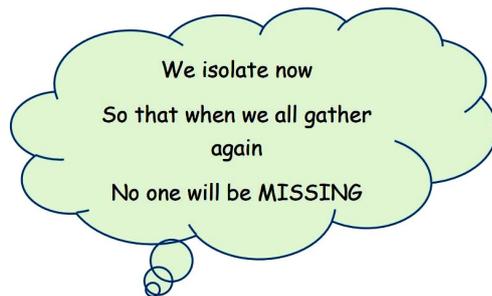
The careful treatment of our planet,
The cleansing of polluted seas,
Reverence for all living creatures
Nurture of our ancient trees.

The gift of shelter to the homeless,
Sanctuary to the dispossessed,
Land for wandering refugees,
Justice for all the oppressed.

Let's grow the ideals of Inner Wheel,
Friendship and Service to the fore,
Values that guide each of our actions,
United we do so much more.



The Inner Wheel Club of Truro—Christmas Poem 2020



One of the positive things coming out of this is that we're really discovering the importance of community. It is something we have always known but we are realizing again afresh. Maybe good things will come from this."

Terry Waite CBE who should have spoken to us at the Belfast Conference

I hope you have enjoyed the Christmas newsletter and look forward to hearing what you do for World Inner Wheel Day in January. Please send pictures and articles no later than 31st Jan to:

dotty23iw9@yahoo.com