



# CHIT CHAT

News of the Inner Wheel Club of Cirencester

FEBRUARY 2019

## *Judy's Jottings*

What a shock it was to see all that snow! We did go out on foot but, when it was too icy, I took the opportunity to spring-clean my cupboards and drawers! I must say I am really looking spending half-term week in Fuerteventura with all our family. A bit of sunshine is just what we all need!

Since our January Chit Chat, Liz A, Karen, Maria and I have been to the Food Bank store under the (new) Baptist Church. We had a guided tour from Rachel and Clare and were all impressed with their organisation. They were delighted with our very generous cheque from money raised at the Soup Kitchen in November. As we are a Women's organisation, I specifically asked if some of it could be used for sanitary products to alleviate "Period Poverty" in Cirencester. That evening, 23rd January, we had our very successful joint meeting with Rotary when Barbara Cooper told us all about her amazing career in the RAF. She is certainly a lot more than "The Lego Lady"! Congratulations to Beryl for getting the report about it in the Standard! Several people have told me they have seen it!

On the 30th, I took Audrey to the Corinium Hotel for the 5th Wednesday meal with the Rotary wives and lady members. This is always a very pleasant evening. It is good to know that Liz Tovey and Claire Beaman are going to continue to organise the 5th Wednesday meals when Susan is President of Rotary next year. All Inner Wheel members are welcome to attend.

Our meeting this month on 27th will start with the induction of Jan Thomas. I'm sure, like me, you are delighted that Jan is going to join us. After our meal we will have a short Business Meeting and then we need to discuss next year's committee. I am delighted to report that we now have a full committee for 2019/20, with me doing a second year as your President if you all approve!! It is brilliant news to know that we have continuity for our club when we all get so much out of it. After the Business Meeting, I have asked members to bring along photographic memories to share with us. It will give us something to look forward to!

The next District Meeting is on Monday, 18th March at the Farmer's Club in Gloucester. Mary Murphy and I are going. Would anyone like to join us? The closing date is 1st March, so we can send the cheque after the Business Meeting.

Nic is kindly organising our Interclub on 30th April and she will tell you all about it at our meeting on the 27th. I have booked Dr Gillian White to talk about "Bess of Hardwick and Hardwick Hall". Gill is a lively and humorous speaker who really brings history to life. I'm sure you will enjoy listening to her.

We are 2/3 through this Inner Wheel year! I would like to thank you all for your help and support. We are doing a good job in keeping Cirencester Inner Wheel afloat when other clubs are struggling. Thank you all!

Keep well and keep warm!

Yours in Inner Wheel Friendship

**President Judy x**



## **VISIT TO THE FOODBANK**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January Judy, Liz Armitage, Maria and I went to present the cheque for the money raised at the Soup Kitchen to the Foodbank in Cirencester. It was a really good amount which will make a real difference to the wonderful work done by the charity.

We met at the foodbank warehouse which is situated in the basement of the new Baptist Church which allows so many worthy groups to use its amazing facilities. Rachel Brindley, the Foodbank manager, gave us a tour of the warehouse and explained the process of sorting all the donated food. Several volunteers were hard at work sorting the food into "use by" date order so as little food as possible is wasted. The food is then allocated into boxes for families of differing sizes and taken to the distribution points in Cirencester, Tetbury, Fairford and Lechlade.

There is a healthy supply of food at present as over Christmas the level of donations increases. The problem arises in the summer when people go on holiday and are not therefore donating in the supermarkets. Those who are struggling have extra mouths to feed when children are not at school and the foodbank also struggles to satisfy the demand at this time.

Many people think that anyone can just turn up and ask for food, but this is definitely not the case. The boxes are only given out to those who have the appropriate vouchers which are given to them when they are assessed by a variety of professional agencies. The help is limited as it is intended to support a family over a short time if redundancy, illness, or late benefit payments leads to an emergency situation. Interestingly, they also provide welcome home packs for the elderly when they are discharged from hospital and these packs are packed by early-onset dementia patients.

We were all very impressed by the dedicated team of helpers and the professionalism with which the centre is run. There is a growing need for this service, and it is good to know that the members of Inner Wheel in Cirencester have made a real contribution to such a worthy cause.

***Karen Lambert-Humble***





### **JOINT MEETING WITH CIRENCESTER ROTARY CLUB**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January saw us welcoming Rotary, as our guests, for the meal at RAU. We had 27 Rotary members, 13 Inner Wheel and 3 guests.

After a delicious meal, the speaker was Air Commodore Barbara Cooper CBE. Her talk was about her illustrious 40-year career in the RAF. She started her career in air traffic control for 7 years and later in the administrative branch. Highlights include having served as a staff officer to the head of the RAF, being awarded the CBE in support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gulf War and being Commandant of the Air Cadet Organisation. She was responsible for 45,000 teenagers. When Barbara retired from full time service 6 years ago, she was the most senior female officer in all the three British Armed Services.

We heard many interesting stories about her visit to Russia and USA to name two. She now works as a part time reservist in the RAF judging appeals for service complaints. ***BERYL JONES***

### **OUR CLUB MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY**

#### **A SHORT BUSINESS MEETING AND PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES**

I know some of you like to escape to warmer climes in February, but I hope many of you will be able to come to our meeting on 27th February. We will have a short business meeting with reports and then we need to discuss plans for next year. After that, I hope you will bring one or two photos to share with us. Preferably not recent ones but of you growing up or getting married or whatever you would like to share with us and talk about. I will be inducting our new member, Jan Thomas, at the beginning of our meeting and I am sure you will all make her feel very welcome.

## **DISTRICT MEETING AT FARMERS' CLUB, GLOUCESTER ON MONDAY, 18TH MARCH**

Mary Murphy and I will be representing you as Voting Delegates at the District Meeting but would anyone else like to join us? It's a good way to find out more about Inner Wheel and we always have a delicious lunch. Cost is £13.50 and the closing date is Friday, 1st March. This time we are meeting earlier at 11.30am to share fund-raising activities. Let me know asap if you would like to join us. Thank you!

## **CIRENCESTER ROTARY CELEBRATING 90 YEARS!**

### **CHARTER NIGHT ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH**

Please save the date! All Inner Wheel members are invited to join Rotary to celebrate their 90th anniversary. This will be a black-tie event and rather special! 6.30pm for 7.00pm.

## **OUR INTERCLUB AT THE BOUTFLOUR HALL, RAU**

### **ON TUESDAY, 30TH APRIL 12.00 FOR 12.30PM.**

As last year, we are holding our Interclub in the Boutflour Hall at the RAU. This is right in the middle of the car park and all on one level with its own toilets! Our speaker is Dr Gillian White - an amusing and enthusiastic speaker who really brings history to life. I have chosen her talk on "Bess of Hardwick and Hardwick Hall". The talk outlines Bess's remarkable life and then explores the architecture and contents of Hardwick Hall. Gillian was curator/ collections manager at Hardwick, and she specialises in the history and visual arts of late medieval and sixteenth century England. I have heard her speak on several occasions and I'm sure you will enjoy her talk.

### **MESSAGE FROM ROTARIAN PETER TODD**

*"Please pass on my sincere thanks to your members for their kind thoughts on the farewell card. I have greatly enjoyed my time in Cirencester, and we are now looking forward to the next "chapter" of our lives, down by the seaside."*

# **CONGRATULATIONS**

**TO US ALL FROM DOROTHY CREE, EDITOR OF THE ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE**

"Cirencester has a lot going on. They seemed pleased that I included the article on the Butterfly Garden. I did not know the exact origin of IW Day, but this little snippet could prove VERY useful! Could you please compliment them on the friendly and informal nature of their newsletter? It instantly makes one feel part of the group."

**Well done to our editor and producer, Gaille, and to all members who have contributed to Chit Chat!**

*President Judy*

## CLUB DATES FOR FEBRUARY/ MARCH 2019

- **Wednesday, 27th February** - Dinner and short business meeting followed by photographic memories.
- **Tuesday, 12th March** - Club Committee Meeting at Judy's
- **Wednesday, 20th March** - **Rotary Charter celebrating 90 years** at Stratton Hotel, 6.30pm for 7.00pm. Black Tie event. All Inner Wheel members invited.
- **Wednesday, 27th March** - Our International Evening at RAU with speaker.

## INTERCLUB DATES FOR 2019

- **Cirencester** - Tuesday, 30th April (lunch) - RAU
- **Clevedon** - Tuesday, 7th May
- **Malvern** - Wednesday, 8th May at the Worcestershire Golf Club, Malvern Wells
- **Pershore** - Tuesday, 21st May

## DISTRICT DATES FOR 2019

- **District Meeting** - Monday, 18th March at Farmers' Club, Gloucester, 11.30am with lunch at 12.30pm.
- **District Fellowship Lunch** – Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, Farmers Club, Greville Close, Sandhurst Lane, Gloucester GL2 9RG. 12.30pm. Cost £13.50 per head.

**Please note the final date for contributions to the  
March Chit Chat is *Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.***

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT ...

**Women are half the world's population  
Working 2/3 of the world's working hours  
Receiving 10% of the world's income,  
Owning less than 1% of the world's property!**

For any comments, contributions or requests please contact me,  
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