

Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain & Ireland

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Patron: Sian Lloyd
Lady Claire Macdonald, OBE
Secretary/Administrator: Melanie Nicholls

14th June 2021

Dear Friends,

Well, this is my last letter to you all as your President. We have been on a very strange journey over the last two years. We have had to face many challenges and disappointments but we are still here "yma o hyd" as we say in Wales!

Last year I had visited 17 of the Districts by the time everything was shut down in March 2020. Since then, by means of Zoom, I will have had the privilege of being present at 18 District Rallies. These visits whether they be physical or virtual have been so interesting and have demonstrated the great feeling of friendship and service throughout our Association. I am amazed at the way the District Chairmen and their Executive Committees have arranged the Zoom Rallies bringing them as close as possible to the "real" thing. Candles have been lit, cakes have been cut and toasts have been drunk. There have been church services, interesting speakers and first class entertainment and even break out rooms for friendly chat at the end. On some occasions hats have been worn but I am pretty certain they were very few high heels as we sat in the comfort of our homes!

I must thank the members who have been so loyal to our Association throughout the period of the pandemic. Sadly, we learn that there are clubs contemplating closure and some of you may be leaving us - if that is the case thank you for your contribution and best wishes for the future. I hope, as many of you as possible, will find nearby clubs to join, if that is not the case, I hope you will stay within the Inner Wheel family by becoming Members at Large. I am pleased to say that the Executive have received several requests from Districts recommending members who wish to continue their membership in this way.

As an Association we are about to embark on the next three year Social Project. Under the umbrella theme of "Strong Women, Stronger World" the Governing Body had suggested that we look at the issues of mental health so Clubs in GB&I are encouraged to support the charity MIND over the next 3 years.

I wish my successor Betty all the very best in her role as your Association President and I hope she will be able to return to more normal ways. I know she has exciting plans for her Conference in Bournemouth and so let us hope we can all meet there and enjoy one big reunion together.

I would like to end this letter with a word of thanks. First to my fellow members of the Executive and to Melanie for all their help and advice, to the teams of District Chairmen over the last two years and to all the members for their support and kindness to me throughout this time. The gifts, cards and messages have brought me great joy and sustained me through difficult times. I wish you all the very best for 2021 – 2022 and hope we will all meet again soon.

Yours in true Inner Wheel Friendship,

Enid
Association President 2019-2021

President:
Mrs. Enid Law

Vice President:
Mrs. Betty Roberts

Immediate Past President:
Mrs. Ann Acaster

Treasurer:
Mrs. Karen Davies