



Inner Wheel

in Great Britain and Ireland

Inner Wheel response to Coronavirus

With social distancing rules in force throughout Great Britain and Ireland, Inner Wheel at all levels is at present unable to hold physical meetings.

But the show must go on!

Meetings are being undertaken using Zoom and other video-conferencing methods. Members are keeping in touch by phone, email and social media.

Weekly meetings on Zoom have enabled the Association Executive to continue working and the opportunity to retain our friendship, fellowship and feel a part of the team.

This newsletter shows a small sample of the ways in which Inner Wheel members in GB&I have met of challenge of continuing to help those in need.

In friendship, Betty



Drawstring bags have been made by the thousand all over Great Britain and Ireland for nurses to carry their dirty uniforms home and pop them into the wash – bags and all.

What a tremendous effort, not just the sewing, but sourcing sufficient fabric.

Above, bags made by the Inner Wheel Club of Forfar (District 1).

Many clubs have taken on the challenge of producing face masks. These are being donated to care homes and others who might need them. One club member has made many masks and the club is selling them to raise money for the local foodbank. Who says Inner Wheel members cannot ‘think outside the box?’

Bike delivery for face masks made by the Inner Wheel Club of Inverness (District 1).





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Some ladies have even made complete sets of 'scrubs' for hospitals and care homes. I have been told by one member that to sew a complete set of scrubs takes in the region of five hours. Nursing staff have commented on how colourful some of their colleagues look in these donated items. Sourcing of fabric again is a major challenge, but one that is being overcome.

Pictured above the Inner Wheel Club of Larne (District 16).

Along with knitted straps, knitted hearts have been made, one for the patient in hospital and an identical one for the family at home. Visiting those in hospital or care homes at the moment is not permitted, but a heart to show we care is always welcome.

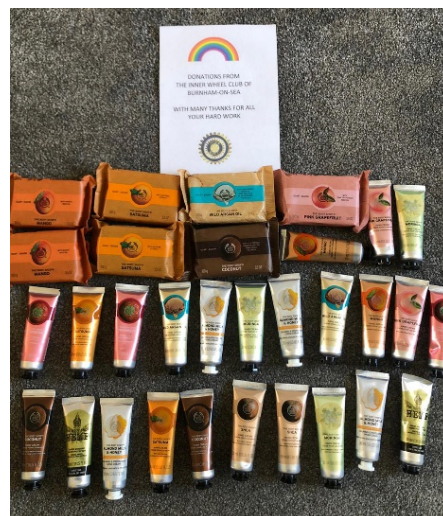
Pam Boyes District 5 tells me that their Book Club meetings have also been transferred to Zoom. This has attracted some members who might not have wished to venture out in the evenings.

We have heard how uncomfortable masks can be, especially on the ears! Knitted or fabric straps with large buttons at the end make a perfect way of holding the mask in place, in relative comfort. We have been producing these also.

Below, headbands made by the Inner Wheel Club of Thetford (District 8).



Nurses have benefitted from donations of hand cream. How necessary after all that hand washing! Such a thoughtful way to show our thanks to these dedicated people.



Above, hand creams donated by the Inner Wheel Club of Burnham-on-Sea (District 20).



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With the elderly and vulnerable confined in their home's loneliness can be a major problem. One club has set up a team of volunteers to phone residents for a friendly chat. Just a phone call can make such a difference.



Above, garden furniture donated by the Inner Wheel Club of Manchester (District 5).

A collection of garden furniture has been purchased for a care home. I hope the residents enjoy sitting in the sunshine. Socially distancing of course!



Jigsaw puzzles and games have been collected for care home residents who are confined to their rooms for now.



The bakers amongst us have been busy providing sweet treats for hospital staff to enjoy during their brief moments of rest.

While all this excellent work has been going on, clubs have also been making sure that their members are not forgotten.

Singing is known to be a great stress reliever, and surely, we can all sing.

Liz Norris in District 5 is conducting weekly Zoom sessions for the District Choir. There have been technical difficulties, but Liz has overcome these.

I am sure the ladies look forward to Wednesdays each week when they can sing, chat, and see each other, albeit on a screen.

