Hullo Ladies,
Winter seems to be upon us with a vengeance the past few weeks, and suddenly the countdown to Christmas is here. How did we get to December so quickly? Every year, like so many people, I plan to get organised early – and what happens? Not quite panic, but soon will be!
Both Cynthia and I enjoyed taking and organising the Christmas meeting, which this year came earlier than usual, and we hope you thought it was absolutely lovely. So good to see us all together, chatting away and enjoying a delicious meal, served by the College, together with crackers. The visit from Father Christmas and his little Elf helper giving out our Christmas presents for everybody there was a lot of fun. Thank you Father Christmas and your Elf! Our production of Rosemary Robbins Aladdin pocket Panto was different and hilarious for our rehearsals, and we hope you all enjoyed it too. We understand from the grapevine that she has a few more up her sleeve – watch this space, it might happen again!
Inner Wheel here in Cirencester is still going strong, everyone seems to enjoy our meetings, thank you to President Liz for organising them all.
It just remains for both of us to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Bright and Healthy New Year, and see you all in 2016.
So it’s “goodnight” from her, and “goodnight “from me.

Rosemary and Cynthia
Gloucester Interclub Tuesday November 10th
Nic and I arrived on a drizzly November morning at Brickhampton Golf Club and were met by the usual warm Inner Wheel greeting and the weather outside was forgotten. All the usual formalities were dealt with before our lunch and then seventy of us sat down to a very enjoyable meal of roast gammon with all the trimmings, followed by a frangipane tart and ice-cream. The President introduced the speaker, Rosemary Prosser, and promised us a good laugh. Rosemary was a police officer for ten years and told many funny anecdotes, rather disproving the old saying that a copper’s lot is not a happy lot! After ten years she was due to go on a training course and after that there was no guarantee that she would be posted back to Worcester where she lived so she retired to raise a family. At the end of her talk she made a plea that we should all take tick bites very seriously, it is more of a problem these days as the deer population, which carry the ticks is much larger, people are walking in the areas where the deer graze, and are not aware of the dangers, she advocates woollen socks or trousers tucked into socks. This was a sobering end to her talk, but too many people are unaware of the problem. Gloucester Interclub was most enjoyable and well worth attending. Mary Murphy

Combined Charties Fayre at The Corn Hall Monday 16th November
We had a stall once again this year at the Combined Charities Fayre at the Corn Hall. President Liz and Vice President Nic set the stall up first thing in the morning and other ladies took their turn during the day. Business was quite slow at first but it did pick up later on in the day and there was great friendship between the stall holders. The chosen charity for this event was Fly2Help which is a local charity based at Cotswold Airport that inspires positive change through the wonder of flight. It was established in 2006 by a group of passionate aviators to deliver cost-effective experience days to people living with life trauma. All the items on the stall were donated and £162 will be sent to the charity. Thank you to Sheila Rees from the Hospital League of Friends for organising the event.

International News
The I.W. International year runs from November to November as reports have to be sent to District then Association before Christmas. I have sent off the International Report to District and felt pleased with the amount of money raised for the 'Lights for Learning' project, 'Hope and Homes' and the 'Mercy Ships Charity'. 64 pairs of Spectacles have been sent to the 'SightSavers Charity', knitted Teddy Bears have been given to Luke Simon for the 'School in a Bag Charity' and knitted hats sent for the Premature Baby Unit in a Zimbabwe Hospital. Used postage stamps have been sent to the Albatross Appeal. Thank you to all the Club members who have so generously contributed again this year. Anne Lumb
District Meeting Highnam Village Hall November 17th
I met Liz Tovey and Liz Armitage at Stratton House and we set off for Highnam, the journey was uneventful, last time the A40 was shut. We arrived early and found some seats together, saving one for Mary Murphy. The meal was very nice and there was a good choice of desserts. The meeting started on time at 1pm. President Eileen welcomed us all and we had a minutes silence for Penny. Each of the District team gave their reports and were seconded, and agreed by the voting delegates. President Eileen asked if there was anyone who could translate or write a letter to the Inner Wheel Clubs in Paris to show our support after the atrocities that happened there the Friday before.  VP Nic Hewlett

Down Ampney Village Hall Thursday 26th November
Our soup kitchen was held at Down Ampney Village Hall again this year and President Liz and Liz A arrived early, together with their husbands, to set up the tables. Liz A, Annie, Jenny and the two Judy’s very kindly made six different delicious soups and VP Nic took the money at the door. For a moment we thought we would have lots of soup left over but more people came than were expected and not one drop was left. The new Judy took care of the raffle ably helped by her husband Rob, many thanks to all the ladies that donated raffle prizes. Jackie, Judy and Liz A took charge of the kitchen taking the soup orders from our very professional waiters Rotarians Peter and Chris. Soup was followed by cheese and biscuits and fruit and then our guest Gemma Sills said a few words about our chosen charity for this event The Gloucestershire Deaf Association. Everything was tidied away in next to no time and once again it was a very happy occasion making a grand total of £450 for the charity. As President I would like to thank everyone for all their help and for making the day so special.
**Lord McColl’s Wedding**

On Saturday November 21st, Alec and I went to the Palace of Westminster to attend Lord McColl’s wedding. Having got through the very tight security arrangements we made our way to the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft. It was a wonderful service, conducted by the Rt Rev George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury. The bride and bridegroom entered together to the accompaniment of Handel's 'The arrival of the Queen of Sheba.' The hymns 'Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord' and 'Love divine, all loves excelling' were sung with great gusto, and the address was based on the meaning of the word 'cherish.' The happy couple left the chapel to Jeremiah Clarke's 'Trumpet tune in D.' We then made our way to the reception in the House of Lords, where we met and chatted with many friends. The bridegroom told us that he and his new wife were not going away immediately because there were several important votes coming up in The Lords! 'Mercy Ships' was mentioned several times during the speeches and it wouldn't surprise me if the new bride - a professor of orthodontics - isn't taken to a boat called 'Africa Mercy' and asked to deal with teeth whilst the bridegroom carries out abdominal surgery, a honeymoon with a difference!

Lord McColl still has a very soft spot for our club because it was as a result of coming to speak at our Interclub that he was invited to speak at Rotary District Conference and then at RIBI Conference which resulted in Mercy Ships being taken on as one of the Rotary charities. They have since raised an enormous amount of money and many Rotarians have been out to help on the boat.

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Friday 4th December** Mulled Wine and Mince Pie morning at Cynthia and Alan’s house 10.30 - 12pm. Parking available at The Nelson Pub.

**Wednesday 9th December** – Rotary Christmas Dinner at the RAU. Inner Wheel members invited. 7.30pm **Black Tie and Posh Frocks.** £17.50.

**Wednesday 16th December** – Rotary Carol Service at Kemble Church. 7pm. Free refreshments after the service.

**Friday 8th January** Inner Wheel Day at Jenny’s house 12 – 2pm. please bring a plate of food to share.

**Wednesday 13th January** Rotary guest night RAU 7.30pm.

**Wednesday 27th January** Inner Wheel Club meeting 7.15pm. **CORINIUM HOTEL** guest speaker Stephanie Allison, meeting hosted by Judy Martin.