



Forfar Loch

And so into June my final month as your DC.

After a couple of days at home it was time to pack up the suitcase again for another journey - this time by car & ferry to Ireland. It would have been lovely to combine this quick hop over the Irish Sea with a few days spent with family in Dundalk/Carlingford - but that was not to be - at least for me - as I needed to get home to prepare for our District Meetings and AGM. The timing of everything this year has been just so tight!

Thursday 5th June with Tim, left **Forfar** at 5am, to drive south to **Cairnryan** to catch the ferry to Belfast. We have done this journey many times and know the benefits of being early and almost first aboard and booking the Stenna + service to get a more comfortable lounge & snacks on the voyage. Good crossing - but no sleep - and first off the boat in Belfast - beating all the heavy lorries etc coming out of the port.

I had arranged to meet my hostess once off the ferry and **Jeannette Sproule** and her granddaughter were there as promised in the ASDA carpark near the ferry port. So I went off with Jeannette while Tim went in the opposite direction - to meet up with his daughter, Liz and sailing friends in Carlingford.

The **PreRally** was held in **Whitehead Sailing Club** and was just delightful - both the venue and the occasion. **District 16 Chairman Judith de Fleury** is a member of the **Carrickfergus Club** but lives in Whitehead and she & her family have a long association with the sailing club. It was a fine summer evening and the view up the Antrim coast from the picture windows upstairs was spectacular - see below



Inner Wheel
District 1 Chairman
2024-25



Whitehead sailing club



Painted houses - Whitehead



The **Carrickfergus** members provided us with an excellent buffet supper - hot & cold dishes , salads, desserts, cheese etc and a friendly relaxed evening was had by all, meeting up with many “old” friends and of course making many new ones. Very convivial company, Jude had invited 4 prospective members to attend as well and very few tasks for the members as Jude had roped in her 2 daughters to serve & wash up after the meal!



with Jeannette Sproule - my hostess



with the D16 Exec & Carrickfergus members



DC Judith, DC Jean & Carrickfergus President Lauraine



with Patricia Perry of the Ballymena Club well known to many of us in D1



Jeannette Sproule (Association Conference Chairman) with Club Secretary Jennifer Davidson



Jeannette, DC Jude, 1st VP Doreen Cairns & Jennifer



Doreen, Patricia & Jeannette

Friday 5th June - The **District 16 Rally** was held in the **Grand Central Hotel** in **Belfast**. There were around 60 attendees from clubs all over Ireland - with a great deal of chat & catching up going on. First we were served coffee, then prosecco, before a delicious lunch. Association **Vice President Pam Boyes** came over for the day and gave Heather's address and greetings were also give by the new **Mayor of Mid & East Antrim, District Governor 1160 Rotary** and **Rotary President of Carrickfergus Rotary**. I was very happy to bring **District 1's greetings** - the only DC to travel over for the event. This was a lovely event enjoyed by all - full of Inner Wheel friendship. Closing the Rally, **DC Jude** invited all members to go up to the magnificent **23rd floor** to enjoy the breath-taking view of the city - which of course we all did - and another hour or so was spent enjoying tea, coffees and cocktails! What a finale to a lovely day!



DC's Jean & Jude with Pam



D 16 Executive with Ass Vice President Pam Boyes



Top Table Guests



with a group of attendees



with Jane Adam - now President of her Belfast Club - formerly of Dundee IW.



bringing greetings



the incredible view from the 23rd floor!



Grand Central Hotel



Cocktails or mocktails !!??

..... and then the ferry back that evening to Scotland!

Saturday 7th June - after an overnight B&B in Stranraer - we drove back home - having been in Ireland less than 48 hours! Quite a tight time frame but so glad to have been able to go & be part of these lovely events. My thanks for excellent hosting & hospitality - & Tim managed some time catching up with friends and family too!

Tuesday 10th June - **District Executive Meeting** in Dundee at the Invercarse Hotel. Lots of business discussed - so pleased to have **Jane Benson, incoming District Secretary** with us as an observer. Plans made on how we conduct the remainder of our Discussion Paper held over from the March Meeting - so we gain as many views as possible from members.

Wednesday 11th June - **District Meeting and AGM** in Dundee at the Invercarse Hotel. A very animated discussion and sharing of views on the way forward for District took place before lunch. Post-its were used to gather views and Gladys will send out all these to clubs. A proposal by Mairi Cuthbert was discussed with the District Executive and others in the hall giving their views. ***Should Mairi wish this to go forward as a proposal for Llandudno then this will have to be voted on in August - so can clubs please be aware of this & discuss over the summer.*** In the afternoon we held our **business meeting and AGM** with reports given on all aspects of a busy but highly successful year for District 1. A **thank you message from Heather** for the flowers sent recently was shared with members. And all too soon it was the handover and change out of the old executive to the new one! Here are some pictures from the day.



Stepping down from the District Executive are IPPP Annetta Anderson



Handover of Chain of Office to incoming District Chairman 2025-26 Lynda Taylor of Montrose Club



and District Secretary, Gladys Johnston - both having given 5 years of excellent service to our District.



Lynda receiving beautiful flowers from her club - presented by Helen Griffith, Club President.

Those taking on new posts on the District Executive 2025 - 26



1st Vice Chairman
Nanette Thomson (Stirling)



2nd Vice Chairman
Trish Douglas (Montrose)



District Secretary
Jane Benson (Dunfermline)



**International Service
Chairman**
Margaret Darling
(Montrose)



**Immediate Past
Chairman and
Membership &
Development Officer**
Jean Hale (Forfar)



Monday 16th June - Proposed meeting with Doris (Webmaster) and Brendon our D1 and Association web host & web designer postponed due to ill health. Association Editor Di & I had the pleasure of meeting Brendon when she was up for our Rally. Brendon has recently moved to live near Cupar so popped over to meet us in Forfar. a first face to face meet up after quite a few years working together on the web site. Sadly Brendon was taken unwell and rushed to Ninewells hospital at the weekend - so get better soon.

Wednesday 18th June - **Forfar Inner Wheel Club Meeting and AGM** - the last meeting before our summer break. Reports were heard of a busy but very successful year - with a fashion show raising funds for 9 local charities; a huge collection of goods for Ukraine via TASH; and coffee mornings/afternoons for Arthritis Action and the RNLI. In addition the club had celebrated its 75th Birthday in February . Everyone had enjoyed the recent District Rally held in Forfar and the club and hotel has received many compliments from visitors. I was able to thank the club for everything they have done to support me this year.



Forfar Club members in the Royal at their meeting - the room looking very different without the Rally finery and decor!

Friday 20th June - Informal lunch meet up with incoming DC Lynda to pass on boxes of “stuff” which go with the job!!! Banners, Candle of Friendship & chain of office already handed over - a chance to chat over upcoming year and make final arrangements for train travel to the Association Assembly held in Yarnfield next week.

Sunday 22nd June - on duty with Forfar Club members at the Forfar Rotary's **Strathmore Classic Car Tour**. For the second year running we have provided teas/coffees to contestants & spectators at the start of this fabulous fundraiser in aid of CHAS. The weather stayed dry but a tad windy but we served up a steady stream of customers and our President Susan was called upon to start off the event - way to go Susan !



Monday 30th June - journey with District Executive members to Yarnfield for our Association Assembly.

And so, we come to the end of my year as your District Chairman. I have enjoyed every moment of it - from the club visits, the Conference, the travel around our spectacular District & way beyond, all of the Rallies, the events, meetings and fundraisers - it has been truly memorable - an experience I shall treasure forever. The warmth of the welcome I have received from all of you has been outstanding and I thank each and every member for their contribution to keeping their club, our District and Inner Wheel vibrant and inviting to a new generation of women, and for all you do within your own communities and far beyond. I thank you so much for the wonderful support you have given the RNLI this year - our District Charity. Soon we will have a total of what District have raised - and I shall arrange a cheque presentation as soon as possible.

In the meantime , enjoy your summer

with love & in friendship

Jean xx



Jean Hale, District Chairman 2024-25, Inner Wheel District 1