

TWC CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE for the NEW YEAR, 2023

Wishing our Members, Patrons, Partners and Supporters a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

As we ended 2022, we were delighted to come together in person to enjoy our **Christmas lunch** in the elegant surroundings of The Army and Navy Club after a 3-year hiatus. The joy in seeing old and new friends face to face was the best Christmas present. We were honoured to be joined by our Patrons from Nepal, Indonesia and Palestine, and Representatives from China and Sri Lanka. Our President, Lady Butterworth gave a warm welcome to our members and guests from FIWAL, Commonwealth Countries League, KCWC, AWA, Corona Worldwide and others. The enchanting music played by talented young pupils from the Wellington College Woodwind Ensemble added to the Festive Joy.

It also gave us the opportunity to present gifts of gratitude to *retired Honorary Treasurer Elizabeth Yates*, and to *Thelma Akrawi, Membership Secretary and Trustee* in recognition of their excellent service to TWC over the years.

For our first event of 2023 we will be celebrating the **Lunar New Year, The Year of the Rabbit** on the **1st of February** (see attached flyer). The Events team are also busy preparing a host of exciting events throughout the year, including a **trip to RHS Wisley Gardens**, and some interesting Speakers. Please do check our website for further updates. **Zoom Coffee morning** quizzes will also continue, kindly prepared by our phenomenal quiz master Jenny.

Do join our friendly WhatsApp Group, or Facebook Closed Group. Please contact me at chairman-twc@outlook.com for details. Updates about events and the work we support is regularly posted on these platforms.

Sad News: It is with regret that I inform you of the passing of our dear member Ann Grace who was 103 years old. Ann was very much an active volunteer with TWC in the 1960s and 1970s, and she remained as a Member to the end. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her family.

On behalf of The Women's Council, I would like to thank you, the members, for your **ongoing support**. Since 1992, The Women's Council has provided funding for over 500 women and some men from 24 countries throughout Asia, Asia Pacific and The Middle East to learn vital skills in the field of disability and inclusion. This has helped improve the lives of thousands of children and their families in those countries. ***This would not have been possible without your*** kindness and generosity, which enables us to sponsor training programmes with our partners, **ADAPT** in Mumbai led by Dr Alur, and **SETI** in the Middle East under the guidance of Dr Alaa Sebeh. **In 2022, ADAPT celebrated 50 years** of outstanding work in the field of disability and inclusion with spectacular Golden Jubilee celebrations. Please do visit our website at www.womenscouncil.org.uk to see photographs and videos of the wonderful work at **ADAPT** and **SETI**, including **TWC's** video reflecting on 2022.

I would also like to express my personal thanks, appreciation and gratitude to all our Trustees and Committee Members for their commitment to TWC, with a particular mention of our new Honorary Treasurer, Louisa Tam, and committee member Lalita Mehr, who joined us last year. Our sincere thank you also to one of our Members for a generous donation.

We intend to make this a very special year for TWC and I look forward to meeting you all at TWC events in 2023. ***Have a very Happy New Year!***

Rajni Rijal