

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023

Hello once again and welcome to the August Newsletter. After the bumper edition last month this one will be a bit shorter as there is rather less news. I hope you've all had time to relax during the summer before everything starts in the autumn. If any of you went abroad on holiday I hope none of you got caught up in the severe heatwaves and forest fires.

Club News

As usual for August there was no club meeting this month but many of us enjoyed Sue's hospitality at her home in Fairview either for coffee in the morning or tea in the afternoon. She also had a bring and buy book sale that was very popular and most of us came away with some fresh reading matter! I've included some pictures – sorry I couldn't get that many people in at once, but we all had an enjoyable and sociable time.



Lovely to see Christine following her rather troublesome knee surgery, and hope she's fully recovered. (sorry for the not very good quality of these pictures)

Future Events

Our next club meeting is on Tuesday 5th September when our speaker will be from the Fern Centre, one of Sue's chosen charities. The centre, which is in the grounds of the North Devon District Hospital, provides complementary services for cancer patients and their relatives, and is supported by the hospital's Over and Above charity. There are also three bedrooms for relatives of seriously ill patients so they can be close to their loved ones. A group of IW ladies accompanied their Rotary husbands on a visit there recently and were very impressed with what is offered, so a very worthwhile charity to support.

Also, be ready to pay your annual subscription which unless there are any changes I don't know about was agreed to be £50 for the next year. There is an informal District get together at the Waie Inn on Tuesday 19th September, and the Autumn District Meeting on Tuesday 24th October at the Imperial Hotel Exmouth.

Other Club Activities

Community Service

The Pilton School reading scheme should be starting again in September, and don't forget to bring items for the Freedom Centre to the September meeting.

Inner Wheel Garden

The garden is looking absolutely glorious at the moment so again congratulations to those who look after it.



International Secretary

Pat has sent me the following message and I am also republishing the list of items for the shoeboxes which again are going to Moldova:

At our September meeting I should be pleased to receive any contributions you might have towards the Christmas shoeboxes for Moldova. Also, actual shoeboxes. I have 20 so far and I will be having craft meetings at my house on the Tuesdays following our September Club Meeting to cover and fill boxes, and if there is interest, to knit bees for international and make items for our Christmas stall at the District Meeting on 12th December. Pat



For any age you could consider

Hats	Gloves	Socks / Tights
Underwear	Tee Shirts	Cuddly toy
Tooth Paste	Tooth Brush	Shampoo
Hairbrush	Soap / Shower Gel	Deoderant
Calculator	Cheap watch	Jigsaw puzzles
Chocolates	Sweets	Biscuits
Paints boxes	Crayons	Colouring books
Pencils	Exercise books	Calculator

For Girls

Dresses
Tights
Dolls
Friendship bracelets
Beads
Craft items
Glow Sticks
Hair Clips and slides
Lip gloss
Purse
Jewellery

For older ladies

Hand cream
Head Scarves
Perfume

For Boys

Lego bricks
Toy cars
Wallet
Torch
Glow Sticks
Airfix type models
Magnifying glass

For older boys

Pen knife
Razor / shaver
Shaving cream

For older gentlemen

Aftershave
Mini tools
Coffee

August – a time for relaxation and holidays, and probably for us in North Devon, a time to avoid anywhere near a beach!

A number of meteor showers occur in August, the most well known being the Perseids and given this name as they appear to originate from the constellation Perseus. The peak time for them this year was 12-13 August, but you need very dark conditions to see them. They are caused by particles hitting the Earth's atmosphere from a dust cloud arising from a comet named Swift-Tuttle, and very occasionally can cause bright fireballs. Having said all that I've never seen them – probably not looking long enough at the right time and often the weather conditions are against us anyway! There are a number of myths, legends and associations with the Perseids:

Perseus was a hero who beheaded the Gorgon Medusa and later married Andromeda according to Greek myths. They had nine children together and the word 'Perseids' is derived from the Greek word 'Perseides' which refers to Perseus' descendants.

In some Catholic traditions, the Perseids are also known as 'the tears of St Lawrence' due to its peak roughly coinciding with the date the Saint achieved martyrdom.

Two short Summer Poems

Warm Summer Sun by Mark Twain

Warm summer sun,
Shine kindly here,
Warm southern wind,
Blow softly here.
Green sod above,
Lie light, lie light.
Good night, dear heart,
Good night, good night.

Fireflies in the Garden by Robert Frost

Here come real stars to fill the upper skies,
That though they never equal stars in size,
(And they were never really stars at heart)
Achieve at times a very star-like start.
Only, of course, they can't sustain the part.



Having found the internet a rich source of funny road signs last month, here are two more:



Some jokes and quotes:

'Following the recommendation by the Information Commissioner's Office that Latin words and phrases should not be used in public life, as so few people understand them, I trust that the "Exit" signs will be removed from all public buildings.' – *Philip Goddard*

'An Anglo-French conference on fishing rights in the Channel was equipped with simultaneous translation delivered through headphones. The French decided that a particularly knotty point could only be settled by discussion with the local fishermen. Their spokesman said, "We will have to leave this to la sagesse Normande." This was translated as "We will have to leave this to Norman Wisdom." The French were baffled by the hysterical laughter from the British.' – *John Crooks*

'When women gossip, we get called bitchy, but when men do it's called a podcast' – *Sikisa Bostwick-Barnes*
'Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work' – *Thomas Edison*
Hot off the press from the Edinburgh Fringe and seen in the 'I' newspaper – 'I started dating a zookeeper, but it turned out he was a cheetah!' – *Lorna Rose Treen*



Pat's picture this month shows corn stooks rather battered by the weather

Well, that's about it for this month.
I look forward to seeing you all again when we meet in September.
Look after yourselves and enjoy the rest of the summer.
With best wishes from
Bridget

