

## INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023

Well, another month has flown by, and after our short burst of summer at the beginning of September it does now seem that we're properly heading for autumn, and our current Inner Wheel year has started in earnest. Spare some thoughts for all the victims of the two terrible North African disasters in Morocco and Libya – maybe as a club we should donate to one of the disaster funds. We have also just commemorated the first anniversary of the Queen's death on September 8<sup>th</sup> – looking back to last year's September newsletter see I devoted quite a lot space to this, and singing 'God save the King' still needs a bit of thought.

### Club News

It was lovely to meet up with everyone again at our club meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September, and we welcomed Di Pennifield as a re-joining member as well as several visitors, some of whom we hope will join the club in due course.

After lunch our speaker was Tara Jones from the Fern Centre, and below is a summary of what it provides (taken from their website and somewhat modified).

The Fern Centre was made possible by the generous contributions of the people of North Devon and is funded through our hospital charity, Over and Above. The Fern Centre offers information and support to those affected by cancer as well as their families by offering a warm, welcoming environment providing comfort and care away from the clinical setting. Please feel free to drop in to The Fern Centre at any time to access information, support or just to have a chat with one of our Volunteers.



The Fern Centre also has three en-suite accommodation rooms available to relatives of patients being cared for throughout the hospital. This service allows relatives to be near their loved ones when they are needed the most. Tara ended her talk by inviting us as a group to visit the centre, which Sue will try to organize one evening, and she also gave the vote of thanks.



### District Social get together at Waie Inn

Ten of our members travelled to Zeal Monachorum on September 19<sup>th</sup> for an informal lunch and here is Gay's report of the day: Despite a very rainy grey day that was considerably cooler than the recent weather we have enjoyed lately, seventeen of us from across District 17 gathered at The Waie Inn in Zeal Monachorum to enjoy a very social get-together for lunch. This is an unofficial addition to the District Calender and is a chance to catch up with District friends. We meet and chat with no business, speakers or agenda. We order a bar snack and we all have a lovely time talking about

holidays, families, hobbies, health in general and very little about Inner Wheel - except that it was Inner Wheel Friendship that had brought us together in the first place! Long may this new tradition continue. *PDC Gay Ross*

## Barnstaple Fair Proclamation and Rotary Fair Lunch

Sue in her capacity of IW President, together with her Guest Maureen attended the annual Barnstaple Fair Proclamation at the Guildhall on the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> September. The Fair itself dates back 1000 years and the ceremony for nearly 200 years, and includes extending a hand of friendship from one of the Hall windows. Afterwards there was a procession through the town and lunch at the Barnstaple Hotel. The following day the Barnstaple Rotary club had their customary Fair Lunch at the Park Hotel to which the Barnstaple



Mayor Louisa York, representatives from the Showmen's Guild, other local Rotary clubs and Inner Wheel were all invited, with Sue being a guest on the top table. After the lunch the Guest Speakers were



Louisa York who gave a short talk about 'Barnstaple and its Fair Today', and Peter Christie a very entertaining talk entitled 'The Seamier Side of Barnstaple Fair' describing the goings on of various ne'er do wells at past fairs as reported in the press of the time. Altogether a happy celebratory occasion.



## Future Events

Our next club meeting is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October when Roger Bartlett, Operations Manager of the Freedom Centre will speak to us and I'm sure will outline all the services that the centre provides. Then, two weeks later, Sue is having a Coffee Morning at her home with a book sale and raffle, and the Autumn District meeting is on October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Imperial Hotel, Exmouth, which most of you who are going have already signed up for.

Thinking a bit further ahead please make a note in your diaries for our quiz evening at the United Services Bowls Club on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

## Other Club Activities

### Community Service

The Pilton School reading scheme has started again, and don't forget to bring items for the Freedom Centre to the October meeting.

## International Secretary

Pat has sent me the following message:

*'A big thank you to all who have contributed to the Christmas Shoeboxes, both actual contributions and your help at the Craft Meeting. A very successful craft meeting was held at my house on the 12<sup>th</sup> September when we covered shoeboxes and recycled Christmas cards, not much interest in knitting bees for International Centenary Meeting at Manchester! I will send along a pattern and wool to the next meeting if anyone is interested in knitting bees, they are very quick to make and there's still time to send them to Association for next year.*

*The Christmas cards, all completed, will be on sale at the next meeting. We have 34 covered shoeboxes, 15 complete, and some need just one or two items to complete, and others are half full, so do bring along any items you have collected for the Shoeboxes to the next meeting, when Bridget will collect them or if you prefer you could give a donation to Maureen, which could go towards the transport of the shoeboxes to Moldova, and/or extra items we might need. Items for boys are particularly needed and your lovely knitted scarfs, mittens or hats. Also tights and socks fill up small spaces. Pat – International Officer'*

**Amigos** – Here is the latest letter from Brenda, the trainee we are supporting:



Dear

June

Hello, how are you doing? Think you are doing well back to me I am also okay

I am very happy for your support towards my study at motive

I am very happy for the things that we are learning how to use industrial sewing machine which make human work easy, how to use embroidery machine

I thank you for your support and I pray that you should continue with that spirit to support another trainee from the coming year.

May God Bless my lovely friend

Thank you.

Brenda Ajiya.



# September

**September** – start of the new year for schools and universities (for those not affected by RAAC concrete at least!), evenings are drawing in and some churches have their harvest services at the end of the month.

## *Autumn Fires*

In the other gardens, and all up the vale  
From the autumn bonfires, see the smoke trail

Pleasant summer over, and all the summer flowers,  
The red fire blazes, the grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons! Something bright in all!  
Flowers in the summer, fires in the fall!

*Robert Louis Stephenson*



*This month's funny road sign*

## *Adam*

Adam was hanging around the Garden of Eden feeling very lonely, so God asked Adam 'What is wrong with you?' Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to. God said that he was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman.

He said, 'This lady will gather food for you, she will cook for you and when you discover clothing, she will wash them for you. She will always agree with every decision you make and she will not nag you and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement.

She will praise you!

She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to care for them.

She will NEVER have a headache, and will freely give 'love' and whenever needed, compassion.'

Adam asked God, 'What will this woman cost?' God replied 'An arm and a leg...'

Then Adam said, 'What can I get for just a rib?' Of course, the rest is history.....

This next item comes from a list of 'the laws of life' and I will quote more of them next month. I went to a concert last week so this one particularly resonates with me –

## *The Law of Theatres and Sports Arenas*

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle always arrive last.

They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, drinks, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of a performance or the game is over. The folk in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs and stay to the bitter end of the performance.



*Pat's picture of the Valley of the Rocks*

**Room for just one quote:** 'Whatever life throws at us, our individual responses will be all the stronger for working together and sharing the load' – *The late Queen Elizabeth II recalled by grand-daughter Princess Eugenie.*

Best wishes to you all, Bridget