

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

Greetings once more. Another month has gone by so time for another Newsletter! I hope you have all kept safe and sound during the wet and stormy weather – I would just love to have some quiet settled weather and a bit of sun for a while! Also to be able to venture forth without immediately encountering mud and large puddles. How many of you heard about the Tesco lorry that got stuck in Ashford last Sunday? Early that morning the main road just beyond the Ashford turning was closed temporarily and traffic was being directed up through the village. Unfortunately nobody thought to stop the lorry so here it is stuck in the bend just below the church. It took several hours and a winch to get it out, with predictable traffic chaos ensuing!



Club News

This month's meeting was on November 7th and how wonderful for Sue to be able to induct five new members into the club. A very big welcome to Marilyn Lee, Hilary Clarke, Maggie Sherriff, Terri Causer and Betty Barker – I'm sure we wish them all many very happy years with us, and so good to see the club thriving so well!



Pat B told us that she and her husband Peter had taken a fully laden car with 41 shoe boxes (2 more than noted last month) and a lot of bedding to CR2EE – a wonderful result. More on this later in the Newsletter.

After lunch we had a really excellent presentation by Phil Walker from South West Blood Bikes. Phil explained that South West Blood Bikes is a charity run entirely by volunteers and funded entirely by donations.



They provide a free, out-of-hours transportation service for essential medical supplies, such as blood, plasma, platelets, pathology samples and breast milk to hospitals and hospices throughout Devon and beyond by working in relay with other Blood Bike groups. This is all without any charge to the NHS, The volunteers are all advanced motorcyclists, trained to the highest standards and using specially equipped motorcycles, operating in all weathers 365 days a year.

After the talk Sue presented Phil with a cheque for £100 which was made up of donations in lieu of presents for her recent birthday and quite a few members also gave donations. Following this we were all invited to inspect Phil's motorbike which was parked outside, and the picture shows one of our new members trying it out!

Inner Wheel Quiz

Our Quiz, which has become established as an annual event, was on 14th November at the Bowls club, and it was a lovely friendly and well attended evening. As before, Richard Smith was an admirable question master, this year ably assisted by scorer Ralph Gordon, and Sue White's team were the winners. We had supper with salad and home-made desserts beforehand and we finished with a raffle. The proceeds will go to 'Smile Train', but I have not yet heard about the amount raised. Many thanks to everyone who helped, especially Richard and Ralph who were both presented with a bottle, Margaret and George Kempton who ran the raffle, the kitchen team and all who provided desserts. Thanks also to the Bowls Club and their bar staff.



Then on 23rd November, Louise, Pat B and myself went to Torquay to celebrate their club's 90th birthday. The Livermead House Hotel already had its Christmas decorations up so was looking very festive, and most Devon clubs were represented. Guests also included the Torquay Mayor, the District Chairmen from Cornwall, Somerset and London, and past National President Betty Roberts. We arrived in time for coffee in the hotel's very comfortable lounge and a complementary pre meal drink. After a very nice lunch, the birthday cake was cut by Torquay President Joan Bailey and their oldest member, 103 year old Joan Nott who also blew out the

candles and even gave a short speech. The meeting concluded with various greetings and toasts, wishing the club well for the next 90 years! Altogether a very happy day



At the entrance



Pat with four District Chairmen



Future Events

A busy time is ahead - our next meeting on 5th December will be our Christmas Lunch to which husbands, partners, friends and members of other local IW and Rotary clubs are invited and as always this promises to be a lovely festive occasion. Louise is going to read a Christmas poem and after lunch we will be entertained by the Appledore singers who I think are also going to lead us in some Christmas carols.

The following week there is the District Christmas meeting on 13th December which this year is at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum, and will start with the traditional table top sale in the morning, before a festive lunch and a short meeting in the afternoon.

The day after is our Annual Christmas coffee morning, which again will be at Lorna Boaden's home, and raffle prizes are requested for this.

Then thinking a little further ahead we have our annual Friendship lunch on 13th January which is the closest Saturday to Inner Wheel Day (10th January) that we remember each year. Husbands, partners and friends are

Other Club Activities

Community Service: The Pilton School reading scheme continues and the Freedom Centre will welcome some festive contributions, but nothing containing alcohol please.

International Secretary

Pat has sent the following message:

'Many thanks to one and all for your help and contributions to the Christmas shoeboxes, bedding and clothes for CR2EE, for onward delivery to Moldova and Ukraine. We took a car jam-packed with 41 shoeboxes, bedding and clothes to Exmouth the day after our last meeting. Peter and I had a lovely day driving down the motorway and continuing through a beautiful Beech Grove with the sun shining on the golden leaves to the storage unit in Exmouth. Whilst delivering the load we met Hugh Scudder, the main organiser of the charity, who was very helpful unloading, and highly appreciative of all our contributions. I expect you have all seen his letter of thanks and the CR2EE Newsletter. We then enjoyed a bowl of delicious soup at Powderham Castle Bistro, the House being closed for a private event but walked around the grounds and along the Exe estuary, thoroughly enjoying our day out.

All the Christmas cards are now sold and I have nearly 20 knitted bees to send to Association for the International conference in Manchester next May, when they will have a pin added and be distributed to members from overseas who attend the conference. If you are still making a bee do let me have it at the Christmas Meeting so it can go to the District Christmas Meeting for onward transmission to Association at the Council Meeting in January. I have put my name down to home-host international members before and/or after the Manchester conference next May and although we are a long way from Manchester and therefore may not get any takers, Devon and Cornwall are a beautiful area of our country for members from abroad so some may take the opportunity to visit. I am still collecting stamps, which Lepra no longer take but I now give to Oxfam. I think most other things can be recycled in local shops – I know Superdrug collect the pill foil packets, Tesco Ink cartridges, and most opticians recycle old spectacles.

I am not sending Christmas cards o Inner Wheel this year, so Happy Christmas to you all and I will probably see most of you before Christmas. Yours in friendship Pat'

Thanks, Pat

As a reminder Pat also continues with her Monday morning Zoom keep fit sessions and would welcome new participants – if anyone is interested please contact Pat.

November - the month for remembrance



Pat's lovely picture of the anchor of remembrance at Appledore

A rather depressing statistic and a sad reflection of the current time quoted in 'The Week' magazine –

41% of UK adults actively avoid the news, up from 24% in 2017

Did you know that this month's full moon is called the 'Beaver moon'?

The origin is obscure but is either because beavers are very busy building their winter dens or because it's the time native American Indians hunted them.

Sorry, no room for anything else this month – best wishes from Bridget

A few Jokes and Quotes

Autobesity – the phenomenon of cars getting bigger and heavier – result is they are too long and wide for standard UK parking places

'How pleasant is the day when we give up striving to look young – or slender' – *William James*

'Money is like muck, not good except it be spread' – *Francis Bacon*

'One of the delights known to age, and beyond the grasp of youth, is that of Not Going' – *J. B. Priestley*

No sunshine, lots of rain.
No warm days, snow
again.

No bugs or bees,
No leaves on trees.
You must remember,
This is November!

