

# Atherstone Inner Wheel



# December Newsletter

President Marjorie Owen

2023 – 2024

## News from Marjorie O

Wendy, Marlene and I went over to Ansley Church to decorate our Tree.

It is called '**Shine a Light**' over 100 lights and 100 baubles decorating it. I put a photo on the Association Facebook page and we have had many lovely responses, one from Ass President Anthea and 36 likes so far. The church is open for viewing every weekend until Christmas £2 entry which is donated to the Hospice.

Our Toy Tombola and Bottle stall at the Dickens Event did quite well, the group of us there didn't get too cold, we all had lots of layers on. The 100 plus toys went very quickly as usual, not as many as last year but the children were thrilled to get a Prize.

100 sweets were given out as a little bribe to come and have a go. Start collecting again please.

The 100 bottles were probably too expensive but we have sold almost all, £400 raised so far for MND. The others we hope to sell at Jennys' Coffee Morning next week, along with her Special Glasses.

There is a change to our January meeting, now a Bring and Share Book Buffet Lunch at Marlenes' on the "4th January, where we will have lots of books to sell.

Family news, Malcolm is almost fully recovered from his hip surgery, grandson Ethan has cost him a lot of money winning 5 medals in the Terry Freeman Open Swim meet at the Pingles. Alicia is enjoying a hairdressing and beauty course at NW College, Will is on his 2nd year Apprenticeship.

My swimming friends in Pembrokeshire were in the sea again this weekend, very cold but they were all very enthusiastic about dipping, the hardest part they said was getting dressed with numb fingers. Our caravan is now closed for the winter, I may get some swims when we are away in January. I should complete my 100 dips for 100 by June 2024.

I think I am SO pleased not to have been there dipping last weekend!!

My best wishes to you and your families for a wonderful Christmas and a Healthy Prosperous 2024

***Thanks Marjorie, so do you think Alicia is ready to practice her hair dressing skills on us yet???***



**Currently searching for an adult Elf on the Shelf that moves around the house at night mopping floors & doing laundry.**



## ***News from Ann***

Where has the month gone, I have been looking back over my diary for November as I wasn't sure I had done much to report. I know I have mentioned before that I record with a team of readers for Talking Newspaper, I thought I would say a bit more about what we do. There are 4 teams and each team takes it in turns to record an edition of the newspaper each week. It is getting more difficult to find articles in the local newspapers so we bulk it out with some magazine type items e.g. Theatre productions that have audio description, health issues, perhaps a poem or short story and we always try and finish with something to make people smile. We used to record on to cassette tape but changed to recording via a laptop and burning the recording on to a master USB stick which is then copied and sent out to approximately 40 listeners per week. Trevor is now Chairman of the small committee for Nuneaton, Bedworth and North Warwickshire branch, I am also on the committee; and we meet every two months to see if there are any issues that need dealing with.

The National Talking Newspaper Federation held their Annual Conference in Coventry this year so Trevor, me, the Secretary and Treasurer of our group went for the day. It was extremely interesting and the speakers inspirational for anyone who is suffering with sight loss. I would have loved our listeners to have been there but unfortunately that just wasn't possible. It was also interesting that all Talking Newspaper Groups are having the same problems in getting enough local news to be able to fill up the recordings. There were some ingenious things that were recorded and we came away with some ideas to try with our group.

We are holding our AGM and Christmas buffet on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December where all our listeners and volunteers are invited to come and get to know each other a little better and we just hope the weather isn't too icy for people to be able to get to the United Reformed Church in Nuneaton where we have the buffet and also where the studio is located. If anyone has any local items of interest that you would like put into the Talking Newspaper please let me know.

Happy Christmas and we pray for a Peaceful New Year

Ann

## **News from Kim**

Hello everyone,

Another month whizzed by in a blink. We are still in Whangarei and enjoying the peace and quiet.

Sadly I missed Aria's ballet concert. Rachel sent a photo and video of one of the dances. So cute - but I have no idea which one was Aria. Too far away and all dressed the same haha!!!

Nothing is quick to happen anymore. A crack appeared in my windscreen over 2 weeks ago and it takes 2 days for a replacement to come from Auckland then 2 weeks before it can be fitted!!!

Our washing machine stopped working when it had a full load. David managed to get it through the cycle, but it took 3 hours. He ordered a new machine. Of course the Black Friday sales had ended - then he had a call about when it was available and delivery dates - in January!!! So, he cancelled that and rang everywhere trying to find a place that we could buy a machine and get it the next day.

Yesterday 1<sup>st</sup> December - we picked up the new machine. I've plumbed machines in, in the past and it was simple. This one took over 3 hours!!!

... At last, we read the Beginning instructions. We followed them but it wouldn't do what it was supposed to, and every few minutes stopped and beeped. David went through everything and eventually realised the tap hadn't been turned on!!! I thought he'd done it, he thought I had! Yay - it now works and a successful load was washed. I was dreading going to a laundrette. It's years since I used one. Lots of funny/odd experiences using them.

You can't really tell too much, here in Whangarei, that Christmas is almost here. There are a few simple Christmasy things in shops but nothing like in UK. I expect in Auckland it will be a lot more like UK.

We are returning to Napier for Christmas. Hopefully we will be at our daughters for Christmas Day. We are not banking on anything though, after the last few years, when things didn't pan out how expected for one reason or another!!! The main thing is to enjoy being with Aria and watch her enjoy her presents.

There was a Martin Clune programme the other day that I happened upon, and he was in Alaska and visited a unique island, Kodiak Island, off the coast of Alaska. It was so interesting to learn about the bears there. They are a subspecies of the Brown bear, as are Polar bears.

**Kodiak bears are the largest bears in the world.** A large male can stand over 10' tall when on his hind legs, and 5' when on all four legs.

Though Kodiak bears are often touted as the world's largest land carnivore (meat eaters), they are really omnivores (using a variety of foods). They actually spend more time eating grass, plants and berries than meat. Fish are an important part of their diets, but few Kodiak bears expend the time or effort necessary to chase and kill mammals.

Kodiak bears are a unique subspecies of the brown or grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos middendorffi*). They live exclusively on the islands in the Kodiak Archipelago and have been isolated from other bears for about 12,000 years.

Cubs are born in the den during January or February. Weighing less than a pound at birth with little hair and closed eyes, they suckle for several months, emerging from the den in May or June. Most cubs stay with their mothers for 3 years.

Kodiak bears begin entering their dens in late October. Pregnant sows are the first to go to dens, males are the last. Males begin emerging from their dens in early April, while sows with new cubs may stay in dens until late June. Some males may forego denning, staying awake all winter.

I hope Researchers find answers to this...

Researchers from NASA and the medical professions are very interested in denning physiology. They are trying to figure out how bears can sleep for up to 8 months without eating, drinking, urinating or defecating, yet when they wake, they have lost little bone mass or muscle tone and have no signs of uremia. Understanding this could help astronauts during extended space flights or patients who are bedridden.

As early as the 1930s, biologists and ranchers were exploring ways to reduce the number of cattle killed by bears. At one point, bears were shot from airplanes, and a 9-foot high bear fence was proposed to bisect Kodiak Island and create a "bear-free zone." All active efforts at bear control in Kodiak ended in the mid-1960s.

Concern over reduced bear populations prompted sportsmen to petition the Federal government to protect bears and their habitat on Kodiak. The results of their efforts were stricter regulations and creation of **Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge in 1941.**

Today hunters kill about 180 Kodiak bears each year under tightly controlled regulations. About 5,000 resident hunters apply each year for a chance at purchasing one of the set amount of bear permits that are available. Hunters who are not residents of Alaska must hire a professional guide to be with them at all times.

Have a great Christmas IW meeting.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Love Kim 🐼 ❄️ 🧑‍🎄 🍷

## Our Stall at Dickens



## News from Tracy

I attended a Nuneaton Rotary talk last week from a female police officer speaking about road safety and I found it really informative. She highlighted the below article I wondered if you would be interested or know someone who would like this -

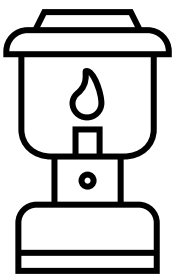
### **Mature Driver Review**

There is no legal age to stop driving and the partnership wants to support older drivers to make informed decisions and continue to drive safely.

Partners work in collaboration with IAM RoadSmart to provide free Mature Driver Reviews, worth £69, for mature drivers aged 65+ and residing in Warwickshire. The aim of the review is to give the driver advice and reassurance over their driving ability; it is not a test. The reviews have been carefully designed to help drivers renew their confidence, receive an informed and trusted opinion on their driving, improve skills and reassure family members. During the 60-minute, informal session, a qualified IAM expert will accompany the driver in their own vehicle, on roads that they are familiar with, offering advice and support.

The Mature Driver Review and, if recommended, further support and training will help drivers continue to drive for as long as it is safe to do so or support them with alternative choices if required.

To book a Mature Driver Review call 0300 303 1134 and quote `WCC` or visit [www.iamroadsmart.com](http://www.iamroadsmart.com)

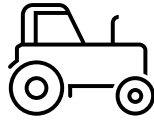


### **Anyone heard about the Lantern trail?**

In Arley, starting at the Arley Community Centre.

Meet at 4pm, trail starts at 4:30pm – Saturday 9 December

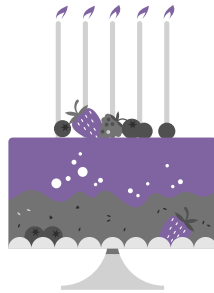
After the walk through Dafferns wood there will be hot drinks and refreshments, Santa, and you can join in with Christmas carols. Free to go along, dogs on leads welcome but not in the community centre for the carol singing. The pathway may be muddy so bring suitable shoes and torches or lanterns.



The tractor run this Friday and Saturday, we will be going to Witherley on Friday to watch them at 8pm, they will also be in the Market Square on Saturday.

## **December birthdays**

**None in December**



**Next person to bring the raffle prize -**

***Ann***

***Coffee morning at Jennys***

***13<sup>th</sup> December – 10 am***

***See you there!***

***Thank you for the contributions, have a Merry Christmas!***