



Hello everyone! I hope you all had a very happy Christmas and New Year, with hopefully time to rest and recharge your batteries, and that the storms haven't done any damage.

I rather like this quotation for the new year:

'New is the year, new are the hopes, new is the resolution, new are the spirits, and new are my warm wishes to you all. Have a promising and fulfilling New Year!'

Two more quotes:

'May my best used attire in the New Year be a smile'

'I was going to give up all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered no one likes a quitter!'

Club News

As usual we celebrated Inner Wheel day (which is 10th January) with our Friendship Lunch held at Goodleigh Village Hall on 13th January. This year is special as it is the centenary of the founding of the Association at Manchester on 10th January 1924 with Mrs Margaret Goulding as the first president, and June had a display to celebrate this. One of the ways to mark the centenary is with the 100 for 100 challenge for which President Sue has asked us to knit squares to make kitten blankets for Cats Protection, and some of these are in the picture but this project is ongoing.

As is customary we served homemade soups with bread, butter, pate, cheese and grapes and there was a fantastic turnout of over 60 people including husbands, partners, Rotary members and friends. There was an extremely well supported raffle, a short quiz and after the meal Jenny Woodley entertained us with some amusing poems in her inimitable Devon dialect. The takings for the days were an amazing £667 which is going to South West Blood Bikes. A huge thank you for everyone's contributions and to everyone who came





which made this day live up to its name.

Future Events

The postponed visit to the Fern Centre is now taking place on Thursday 25th January at 6.30 pm. As asked in June's recent email, please let her or Sue T know if you wish to go. Some of us went there recently when Rotary were shown round and it's well a visit.

We next meet on Tuesday 6th February back at the Barnstaple Hotel as usual, and this is our birthday meeting when Louise in her capacity as District Chairman has her 'official visit' and speaks to us.

Then, on 20th February President Sue has a coffee morning with a book sale and raffle at her home at 10.30am.

On March 5th we have our annual Business Meeting when the club officers for the following IW year are nominated, so do have a think about whether you

would be prepared to serve on the committee.

Finally, a date for your diary – the Spring District Meeting and annual Skittles Competition is on Tuesday 12th March at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum which is always a fun day, and if you don't know the way there are plenty of people who do, and we always car share, so do think about coming.

Other Club Activities



Here's Sue's picture of knitted squares – I'm not sure if there are 100 there but it looks like a good number! Pat Bunch also continues her weekly keep fit Zoom sessions so please contact her if you'd like to join in.

Community Service: The Pilton School reading scheme continues, and the Freedom Centre continues to welcome our monthly contributions. No picture of the IW garden plot but hope to have a picture of early Spring flowers to show next month.



A poem for the New Year

'Into the Unknown' by Minnie Louise Haskins

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,
'Give me a light that I may tread into the unknown'.
And he replied 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'
So I went forth and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And he led me towards the hills and breaking of day in the lone East.

Two winter jokes:

What do you get when you milk a cow in winter? *Ice Cream!*
How do mountains keep warm in winter? *They put on their snow caps!*



Thank you to Maureen Ireland for these next two items:

As the Americans gear up for their next election I wonder if the victor can make any such comparisons to previous presidents (but I pray not assassination whatever we think of them)

Lincoln – Kennedy coincidences

Kennedy elected in 1960 Lincoln elected in 1860
JFK's secretary called Lincoln Lincoln's secretary called Kennedy
Both secretaries advised their presidents not to go to the place where they were assassinated
Both men shot in the presence of their wives
Each were succeeded by a Johnson – Lyndon B born in 1909 and Andrew J born in 1808
Assassins Oswald born 1939 and Booth 1839, and both killed before they could be tried

A pause for thought if you're thinking about Spring Cleaning!

Dust if you must

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture, or write a letter,
Bake a cake or plant a seed;
Ponder the difference between want and need?

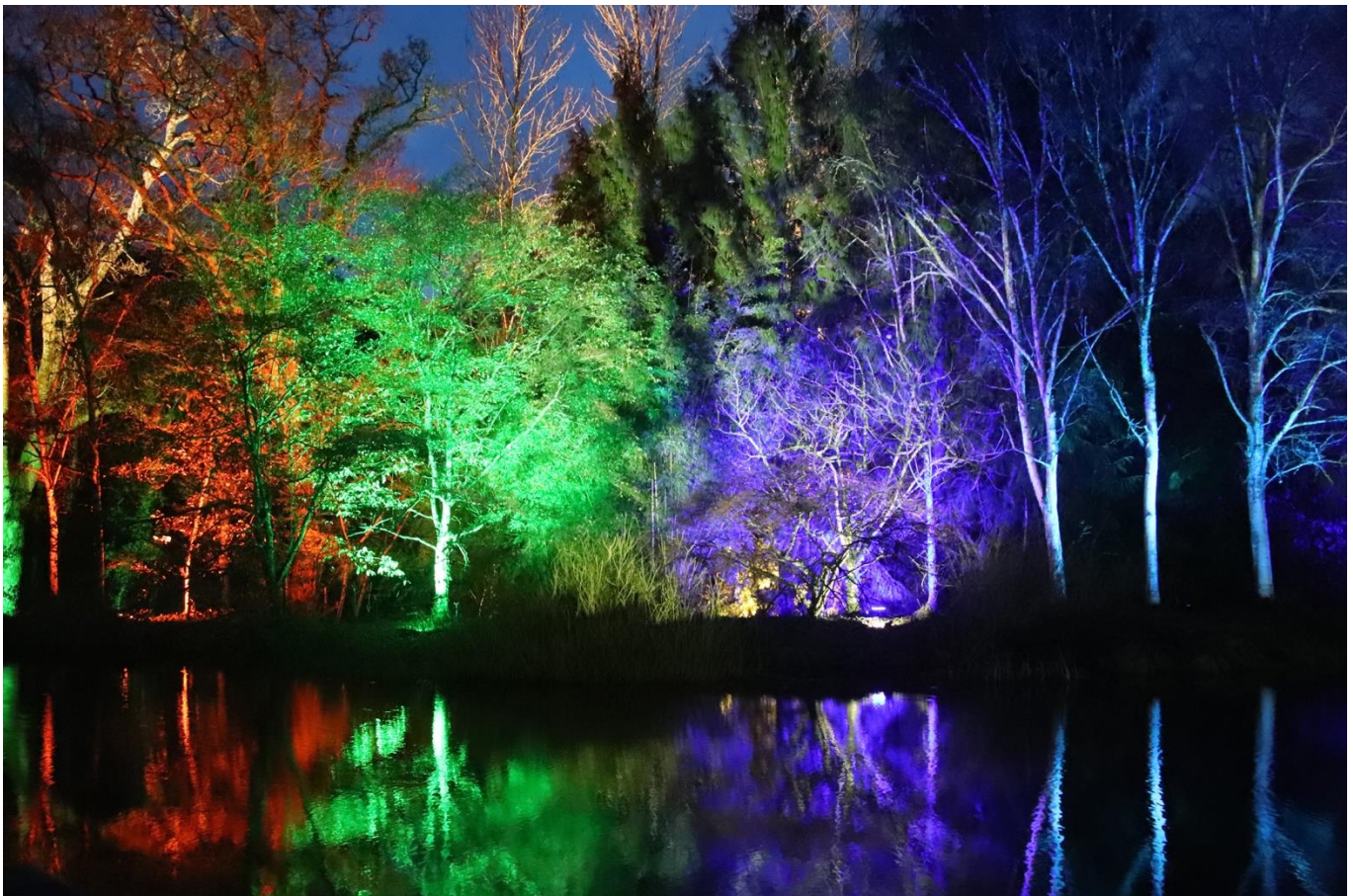
Dust if you must, but there is not much time,
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb;
Music to hear, and books to read;
Friends to cherish, and life to lead.

Dust if you must but the world's out there,
With the sun in your eyes, and the wind in your hair,
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go (and go you must)
You, yourself will make more dust.



Thank you to Pat M for this beautiful picture of the lights at Rosemoor before Christmas



Some New Year Superstitions:

Don't clean the house – if you're concerned about 'sweeping' or 'washing' away any luck coming your way, don't do any cleaning, including dishes and laundry on New Year's Day.

Avoid the tears – crying on New Year's Day could set a year of sadness in motion.

Were you born on New Year's Day? Superstition says you'll automatically be lucky throughout your whole life.

Beware of eating chicken – because chickens have wings, all your luck could fly away!

Making a loud noise at Midnight scares evil spirits and omens away

How many of you saw the recent 'Exhibition of the Moon' in the Pannier Market – it only just fitted - quite impressive!



Well, that's it for this month – see you all again soon! With best wishes from Bridget