

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024

Welcome to the February Newsletter! As I look out of my window whilst writing this, I can see daffodils, snowdrops, grape hyacinths, hellebores, camellias and heathers all in flower so the signs of spring are definitely with us and I would like to think the worst of the rain and storms are past but perhaps that is wishful thinking! However, much to look forward to in this IW centenary year, with several members going to the Centenary Lunch in London, and to the International Convention in Manchester where it all started.

Coincidentally it is Barnstaple Rotary's Centenary which was celebrated with a special lunch on 16th February which a number of us attended – I hope our club lasts as long, but it is very healthy at the moment!

Club News



A group of our members visited the Fern Centre on January 25th and presented a cheque for £500 to Tara Jones. The Fern Centre which is financed entirely by charitable donations offers a range of support services and information for cancer patients and their families, and also has three bedrooms for relatives of hospital inpatients. Tara sent the following thank you letter:

Hi Sue,

Thank you visiting us last night with the Inner Wheel, we all had a lovely time showing you all around and hope you enjoyed it too.

I'd also like to thank you for the cheque donated to The Fern Centre, we were all overwhelmed and so pleased

receive such a great amount. The centre is entirely funded by charitable donations and this will help go towards the workshops and so much more we offer in the centre.

Kind regards

Tara Jones Interim Fern Centre Manager

We next had our Club Meeting on February 6th which was our 79th birthday and as is usual had our District Chairman visit which of course was our own club member Louise who after lunch spoke about herself and also her wish to reverse the trend of falling club members in the District and to establish a second Barnstaple club to meet in the evening. She was also presented with a cheque of £177 for her chosen charity, South West Blood Bikes which were the proceeds from our pre-Christmas District Table top sale.

A few days later on the 10th, President Sue, together with a few others from the club went to the South West Blood Bikes coffee morning at Bickington Methodist Church to present another cheque for £500 as they are also one of her chosen charities.



We have also had a brief email note from Cats Protection thanking us for the knitted blankets, and a thank you letter from Smile Train for the £500 recently donated:

Dear Susan Thomas

Thank you, Inner Wheel Club of Barnstaple, for supporting Smile Train!

The funds raised by members of Inner Wheel Club of Barnstaple will help make it possible for children with clefts all over the world to receive the free cleft treatment that they would otherwise be unable to afford, ultimately giving them the opportunity to live a healthy productive life.

One of those children was Pinki Sonkar, star of the Oscar-winning film Smile Pinki. The film, highlighting Pinki's journey to her forever smile, was released more than 10 years ago, and brought unprecedented global awareness to clefts, particularly in India, where Pinki lives. After its release patients poured into Smile Train's local partner hospitals, and because of you, Smile Train recently celebrated our 600,000th cleft surgery in India and our 1,500,000th around the world – think about it – more than 1.5 million children's lives changed forever!

Today, Pinki attends a very good school and dreams of one day becoming a badminton champion. Her story demonstrates the impact that cleft surgery can have on a child's life. With your help, we have the power to improve the lives of millions more children around the world and give them the opportunity to dream big, just like Pinki.

Thank you again for supporting Smile Train's work and how your support gives power to this train, and we are very grateful for your support.

Kind regards

Jonathan Roberts

Manger Community Development

Smile Train UK.

Sue had another coffee morning on 20th February which raised £70.50, and here are some of our members enjoying themselves at Sue's.



Future Events

The next Club meeting is on Tuesday 5th March and it will be our annual business meeting when we decide our committee and officers for the next Inner Wheel year that starts in July. We need two new committee members – belonging to the committee is a very good way of learning more about the IW as an organisation and also of what's going on locally and having a say in what we do. Then, after lunch a talk from a local police officer about cyber crime – something we must all be very aware of these days!

The District Spring Meeting and annual Skittles Competition is on Tuesday 12th March at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum which I think quite a lot of you have already signed up for. It is always a fun day, and in the morning there is a quiz and darts competition as well as the skittles. Also, the buffet lunch that follows is always excellent. As usual, car shares will be arranged at the club meeting.

On 15th April, Pat B, Louise and myself are going to represent Barnstaple at the Inner Wheel Centenary Lunch in London, which should be a very special occasion, and in May, several are going to the International Convention in Manchester where Inner Wheel was founded, but the International organisation was not established until 1967. However, I'm sure there will be some celebration of the centenary there as well.

Other Club Activities

Sue would be grateful if the knitters among you continue producing knitted squares and we are also making a post box topper to commemorate the IW centenary which will be displayed on the box at The Square in Barnstaple.

Pat Bunch also continues her weekly keep fit Zoom sessions so please contact her if you'd like to join in.

IW Garden. Despite the stormy weather the early spring flowers are bright and colourful – thank you to June for the picture.

Community Service: The Pilton School reading scheme continues, and the Freedom Centre continues to welcome our monthly contributions.

International Officer: Here is a message from Pat B

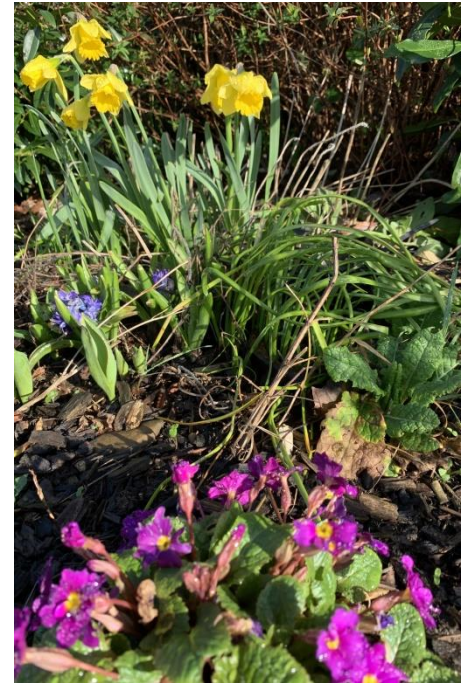
I have held the position of International Officer for our club for 3 very enjoyable years and thanks for all your help in our support for international charities and particularly shoeboxes .

I am now stepping down after this Inner Wheel year but please keep knitting and collecting for the shoeboxes as I am sure we all wish to send them at Christmas to those who need.

Sue is recycling cards so also keep saving them.

Keep Fit on Monday mornings on Zoom is still carrying on with 6 or 7 who join in each week and if you would like to join us do give me a ring 01271 373195 Pat B.

You will see from this we'll need to appoint a new International Officer at the next Club Meeting.



Since the last Newsletter, quite a few of us also attended three Barnstaple Rotary events. The first of these was a Burns Night supper on 25th January which was held at the Park Hotel, complete with an address to the haggis and bagpipes (and funny Scottish bonnets!).

Next, there was the annual Rotary Youth Speaks completion on February 3rd, held at Grosvenor Church, when Sue T joined the panel of 4 judges. Teams of three from local schools with junior, intermediate and senior categories compete and the winners of the two older age groups then go on to the District final which this year is in Tavistock. A very interesting day with a remarkably high standard, with the only drawback for some speakers being audibility.

Then, as previously mentioned, the Rotary Club of

Barnstaple held their Centenary Lunch on the 16th February at the Barnstaple Hotel. This was a splendid festive occasion with well over 100 attending including members from a number of North Devon Rotary clubs as well as a good representation from Inner Wheel. The event was presided over by Rotary President Paul Petrides and special guests

included Louisa York, Mayor of Barnstaple, District Governor David Glover, and guest speaker Jennifer Young from the Calvert Trust.

Below are some pictures of our members enjoying themselves at the lunch and Jennifer Young giving her speech.



February

There was a lot to talk about, so I'm afraid I don't have much space left, but I expect you've noticed that this month St Valentine's day and Ash Wednesday were on the same day because Easter is early this year which gave rise to the thought of what you do if you decide to give up chocolate for Lent and then your loved one gives you chocolates on St Valentines Day?

This year is a leap year – here's a little poem

Leap Year by Annette Wynne

Little month of February, you are small but worthy – very!

Will you grow up like the others, like your sister months and brothers?

Every four years with a bound, you leap up from the ground,

Trying to grow as tall as they – all you stretch is one small day!

Even then you're not so tall, but just the shortest month of all.

A short letter to The Times – The long and short of it

Some women bemoan being tall and others regret being small. However, it could be worse – one can be both
Roslyn Tall (5ft 2in.)

A couple of quotes:

'I'm too old to be a British politician and too young to be an American politician' – *Gordon Brown*

'The older I grow the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom' – *H.L. Menchen*

You may remember I mentioned 'carobesity' a couple of months or so ago – here's a statistic to go with this – The average car is now more than 180cm wide, having grown 0.5cm every year on average since 2001

With best wishes, and see you all again soon – Bridget

