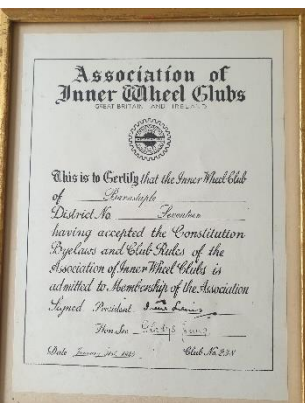




INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE 2023/2024 - A Roundup - May 2024



The Inner Wheel Club of Barnstaple, North Devon, is thriving with 49 members. At our February meeting this year we celebrated our 79th birthday. This meeting includes welcoming our District Chairman who, both last year (Gay Ross) and this year (Louise French) are our own club members. February next year will include a special celebration for our 80th birthday!

We meet at the Barnstaple Hotel at lunchtime on the first Tuesday of the month except for January and August, and the December meeting is a Christmas Lunch when we invite husbands, partners and friends.



We are delighted to have welcomed our new President for 2023/24, Sue Thomas in July, and also NINE NEW MEMBERS during this Inner Wheel year. We also hosted the District 17 Rally for Louise.

The incoming President arranges a social tea party in August attended another official engagement with Maureen J our Treasurer - The Barnstaple Fair Proclamation and lunch in September. The following day Sue was invited to the Rotary Club of Barnstaple Fair Lunch.

FUNDRAISING

November saw our Supper and Quiz fundraiser for The Smile Train - a very enjoyable evening with lovely food and following a talk about the charity in September.

WE have fund raising coffee mornings throughout the year and our Christmas Coffee Morning and Plant Sale Coffee morning are particular highlights. At the District Christmas meeting, we raised more money for South West Bloodbikes, Our District Chairman Louise's charity.

In January we have a fundraising Friendship Lunch to celebrate Inner Wheel Day, to which we also invite guests, with ourselves providing the food. (See the top photo)



Our Club's first 100 for 100 Fundraiser for this year - recycled Christmas cards for sale, created at member Pat's craft sessions. We have also knitted 100 squares for kitten blankets, our second challenge. Our Inner Wheel Post Box Topper was another challenge and again part of the GB&I '100 for 100' Toppers, advertising our presence in Barnstaple!



OUR CLUB IS SHINING A LIGHT ON



cr2ee this year

Christian Response to Eastern Europe

The photo below is of Pat Bunch, our International Service Officer, and members with 43 shoeboxes. They have been taken to Exmouth, together with a large donation of bedding, sheets, clothes, etc., and forwarded on to Moldova and Ukraine, through cr2ee.

WHAT ELSE DO WE DO

December saw the Appledore Ladies Choir entertaining us with their singing after our Christmas lunch

As well as socialising and fundraising our monthly meetings include business and nearly always a speaker. We try and make the programme as interesting and varied as possible.

This year we have had speakers about Bonsai, The Fern Centre, Freedom Alliance, South West Bloodbikes, Cyber Crime, Quilting as well as a Film & TV Make-up Prosthetics/Artist.

19 of us attended the District Meeting and Skittles Competition at the Waie Inn in March - We entered 4 teams and team 2, randomly picked, of Gay, Sally, Maureen J and Tina won, beating Dartmouth in the final.

VOLUNTEERING AND SERVICE

We have adopted a garden plot along the riverside walkway from Barnstaple Town Council which we maintain, and this is very colourful for most of the year. We also take part in the Rotary reading scheme in a local primary school and donate food etc to Freedom Alliance, our local homeless charity.

Various activities started during the Covid Lockdown, and some continue. Our member Pat Bunch started a weekly Zoom keep fit session which continues and member Bridget Kettle started a monthly newsletter to try and keep in touch with members, and this continues by popular request.

Please enjoy the most recent Newsletter under the button below and if you would like more information, please contact us through the email address on this District 17 page.