

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024

Welcome everyone – I hope you're all enjoying the summer and having time to relax and recharge the batteries as we have a pause from many of the activities that go on the rest of the year. The weather is at least reasonable and my garden is pretty colourful. We've also just visited the Rosemoor summer garden show which was lovely, with beautiful flower displays and many exhibits from plant nurseries which were all had a tempting array of plants for sale!

Club News

There was no club meeting this month but President Sue held her Summer Tea Party on 13th August at Tina Williams' house who had very kindly provided her home as the venue, so a big thank you to her. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but thank you to Suzanne who sent the following account and some pictures.



'Tina, Sue Smith and helpers laid on a sumptuous tea with savoury pastries, cheese scones, sandwiches, fancy cakes, sponge cakes and even fruit skewers - more than enough to satisfy the palates of around 30 plus members. Unfortunately the weather didn't play its part as the rain returned!

Luckily Tina and many helpers had skillfully arranged the tables indoors. We all enjoyed the afternoon which was also a rehearsal for our Vintage tea celebration for our Club's 80th birthday early next year.'

Future Club Events

Our next club meeting is on Tuesday 3rd September which will be as usual at the Barnstaple Hotel when our speaker will be Gary Reed but I don't have any further details. Then, to remind you there is an informal get together at the Waie Inn on the 17th September which is the chance to meet up with members of other clubs in the District for a bar lunch on a very informal basis.



Other Club Activities

On 7th August six of us went to help in the Members tent at the North Devon Show and whilst there saw quite a few Rotary Link members who were also helping. Thankfully the weather was quite reasonable with just a few showers and the ground was firm with no mud! Our time was spent serving teas and coffees with also some washing up and clearing of tables, but we also had time to have a look round the show, and the perks of helping were free entry to the show and a substantial packed lunch. We were kept pretty busy, and it was altogether a tiring but enjoyable day. Thank you to Lorna B for the picture. Others were taken with a promise to send them to me but I'm afraid they never appeared! Also there were Maureen J, Sue S and Heike.



Pat B is having a break from her Monday morning Zoom keep fit sessions during August but I think she plans to start again in September so if you are interested in joining in please get in touch with her.

The Pilton Reading Scheme continues, but is also having a break during the school holidays. Mike Warner from Rotary Link co-ordinates this and would probably welcome some more listeners as some of the original ones have dropped out.

We continue to support the Freedom Centre with food and other household items so please continue to bring any donations to the club meeting each month.

Finally, whilst Christmas seems a long time away at the moment please remember that we'll be doing Christmas shoe boxes again in the autumn, co-ordinated by Pam Harman who will be very pleased to receive any suitable items to put in them, and we will also be doing Christmas cards and labels again, with Sue T collecting for that.

Inner Wheel Garden

Here's my latest picture of the garden – colourful with a lot of yellow at the moment – do take a look if you're walking along the riverside or visiting the Queen Ann café.



welcome AUGUST



I'm not sure that in the West Country this year we need to take such drastic measures against the heat!

August 1st is Lammas day and is one of the half-quarter days of the year marking the midpoint between the summer solstice and the autumn equinox.

Traditionally, Lammas is a festival associated with harvesting grain. *Lughnasadh* was the wedding of the Sun god Lugh to the Earth goddess, causing the ripening of crops. The church transformed it into the "feast of first fruits" and villagers would take the first loaves of bread to the "lammas." The word lammas comes from the Old English *hlaf*, "loaf," and *maesse*, "mass" or feast." After the loaf was blessed, the farmers broke it into four pieces and placed each piece in the corners of their barn to protect the newly harvested grain. Lammas bread was often made in shapes including wheat, owls, and corn dolls.

The Anglo-Saxons called the month of August "Weod month" because it's a month when weeds and other plants grow rapidly!

August Gardening

*Summer declines and roses have grown rare,
But cottage crofts are gay with hollyhocks,
And in old garden walks you breathe an air
Fragrant of pinks and August-smelling stocks.*
—John Todhunter (1839-1916)

The Old Home — ponder on this anyone with an immaculate home!

The curtains may be fading from the shade they were when new,
The carpets getting threadbare, the upholstery wearing through,.



An English teacher wrote these words on the whiteboard:
"Woman without her man is nothing."
The teacher then asked the students to punctuate the words correctly.

The Boys wrote:
"Woman, without her man, is nothing."

The Girls wrote:
"Woman! Without her, man is nothing."



But what a grand and happy home these items represent. A story goes to every patch, a memoir to each rent; The years of wear were family fun and generous entertaining; The beauty of the home is dulled, the welcome still remaining. And it will serve the parents and their family and friends For many years and dearer grow with every year that ends.

Two letters to the Telegraph – the first, although from a couple of years ago seems quite topical:

‘With calls to rename monkeypox “hMPXV”, amid concerns that the current name could stoke racism and stigmatisation, what is the future for other common diseases? German measles denigrates an entire nation, chickenpox might offend chicken farmers (and be confused with bird flu), smallpox is sizeist and meningitis is clearly sexist.’ – *Michael Bacon, Bordon*

‘A long-term pensioner, I was asked at my dental centre if I was pregnant. I replied that I’d rather not say because I hadn’t told my parents. That appeared to go over the head of the receptionist, who said “I’ll put that down as a no, then, shall I?” I agreed that was probably wisest.’ – *Derek Brown, Salisbury*

I’m well aware that deafness can become an increasing problem as we get older – here are a couple of short stories on the subject although I don’t think a young boy would be asking for DVD player now!



Two young boys are spending the night at their grandparents’ house. At bedtime the two boys kneel beside their beds to say their prayers. The youngest one begins praying at the top his lungs: ‘I

PRAY FOR A BICYCLE... I PRAY FOR A NEW COMPUTER... I PRAY FOR A NEW DVD PLAYER...’ His older brother leans over, nudges him and says, ‘Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn’t deaf.’ To which the little brother replies, ‘No, but Grandma is!’

A senior lady is driving along the motorway, being careful to adhere to the speed limit and keep a safe distance from other cars. After a while she can see a police car is behind her in the same lane. Feeling slightly self-conscious, she checks her speed and sees that she is well within the limit., However, the policeman continues to follow her and after a while she notices he’s switched on his flashing lights. The lady decides to pull over. The policeman walks up to her window and begins speaking. As he does this the lady points to her ear and shakes her head, indicating she is deaf. The policeman smiles, and knowing sign language, signs back, ‘That’s no problem, madam. I’m here to tell you that your horn is stuck!’

Some quotes and jokes:

‘You don’t stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing’ – *Michael Pritchard*

‘The phrase ‘middle of the road’ doesn’t make sense. Driving down the actual middle of the road is the craziest thing you can do’ – *Stuart Laws*

Judge speaking to a defendant – ‘Your crime is important to us, but unfortunately you’ve been arrested at a particularly busy time...’
‘If at first you don’t succeed, then skydiving definitely isn’t for you’ – *Steven Wright*

And finally - How do you like your scones? - According to ‘The Week’ magazine, Devonians are in the minority - in a survey 62% of Britons put jam on their scones first before adding cream (the Cornish way), whereas 28% prefer Devon’s method of putting the cream on first.



Best wishes from Bridget – looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Rosemoor