



# COAST TO COAST REVISITED INNER WHEEL DISTRICT 17 WHAT WE DO! A ROUND UP OF 2023/4



This Communication is the first from D17 for a while. We have had lots of IW information through our Association Magazine and Membership Matters beyond Devon. It is also important to share what we are doing, highlighting our own clubs' celebrations and achievements. We have done a lot! Enjoy the contributions from the clubs and thank you to all of you who have sent me information over the past year.

June T



**3 Post Box Toppers for  
District 17  
Okehampton, Torquay  
and Barnstaple  
All in prominent places  
and all creating interest!**



Celebrating Inner Wheel Day 2024  
with a '100 COLLECTION' for the  
LOCAL FOODBANK - Exmouth D17

## BARNSTAPLE – Our Year – Adapted from our AGM Report



*We had an interesting visit to the Fern Centre and the Club presented them with a donation from their fundraising. They were delighted! The Fern Centre offers information and support to those affected by cancer as well as their families. It also has three en-suite accommodation rooms available to relatives of patients being cared for throughout the NDDH in Bamstaple.*

**From President Sue Thomas June 2024.....**I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as President of the Inner Wheel Club of Barnstaple. Yes, it has at times been a little stressful and hectic but that goes with the territory.

I have been invited to many special occasions such as the Proclamation of the Fair, Rotary Celebration Lunch, and Youth I Speaks Competition. There have been several District meetings and socials throughout the year which meant travelling to Exmouth and regularly to the Waie Inn.

I have invited speakers to give talks at our monthly lunches on a variety of subjects which I hope you found interesting. These included Bonsai, Fern Centre, Freedom Centre, South West Blood Bikes, Cyber Crime, Quilting and Film and makeup for television, as well as District Chairman Louise's talk in February.

Our main fund-raising events were the November Quiz and Supper for the international charity Smile Train, the December Christmas coffee morning for the Fern Centre and the January Friendship lunch for the South West Blood Bikes. Thanks to your generosity we raised a lot of money, some of which has already been passed on and the remainder being presented at the AGM. Coffee mornings with raffles, Bring and Buy, books, and plant sales also contributed to the charity account.

During the year we have regularly donated food to the Freedom Alliance, collected used stamps, collected silver pill strips and knitted lots of kitten blankets, not forgetting the amazing knitted post box topper.



This photo 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. Recycled Christmas Cards were also created for sale and this was our first 100 for 100 Challenge!





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

Pat Bunch started a weekly Zoom keep fit session, during Lockdown and member Bridget Kettle started a monthly newsletter to keep in touch with members, and this also continues by popular request.



I would like to sincerely thank all of you for supporting me these past twelve months. You, the members, and we are 49 at the moment, are what makes our club a success. I must send an enormous thank you to all the committee who have given me advice and assistance this last year in their various roles throughout the in their various roles.



**Celebrating Inner Wheel Day 2024**  
**Friendship Lunch - Barnstaple D17**  
**Fundraising for our President's Charity**


## BIDEFORD – A Round Up of our Inner Wheel Year



### OUR CLUB



We are a very informal club with a very small committee who share the roles and the presidency. We meet regularly and enjoy our friendships. Several of us attend the District meetings, events, and rallies. We have coffee mornings and arrange interesting speakers. We also enjoy visiting other clubs and particularly Barnstaple at Christmas. Over several years we have regularly supported the Mala project in India. We collect for the shoebox appeal and have raised money for Alzheimer's Research this year as well as Air Ambulance. We have 19 members and spend time supporting each other.

*Sadly, in on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, our dear friend Wendy Lea died after a severe stroke and several weeks in hospital, a very sad day for her husband David and all the family and friends.*

*Wendy Lea was not only a member of Bideford Inner Wheel and a valued personal friend, she was a friend to many ladies in our District. She always attended meetings, Rallies, Coffee mornings, quizzes and outings near and far. She loved Inner Wheel as you all can testify, holding positions both in our club and at District Level.*

*Wendy loved being involved and she attended, together with many of her Club, District, National and International meetings over many years. She always had a ready smile and a positive attitude to life, totally unselfish or self-regarding. She was always generous in giving lifts to people and filling her car so that no one was left out, and she*

*She filled each day with new adventures and in retirement put her immense energy into several organisations. Wendy was a wonderful lady who could always be relied upon. We shall miss her, but we will remember her smile.*

**Since February we have been thinking very hard about our future. In March we organised the Skittles and Darts competitions at the District meeting which went very well and was enjoyed by all. We have continued to meet regularly but at our June meeting after much deliberation this was our last meeting as an Inner Wheel Club – a sad day for District 17 too.**



Julie Turner enjoying her time at the

International Convention, shining a light with more than 2000 others!



There are big ships and little ships but the best of all are friendships! (Adapted from D11)

“Friendships between women, as any woman will tell you, are built of a thousand small kindnesses... swapped back and forth and over again.”

Michelle Obama, *Becoming*



## DARTMOUTH – A Round Up of our Inner Wheel Year

Dartmouth meets at Stoke Fleming Village Hall TQ6 0QT and our Club President this year is Lesley Roberts **Meetings are held at 14:30pm on the second Thursday of every month.**

### August 2023 – an excellent start to the year



We were grateful to Dartmouth Rotary for inviting us to take part in their Summer Fayre and thus giving us the chance to be one of the first to complete the Inner Wheel Centenary Challenge which we achieved by wrapping and selling 100 'Surprise' Tombola prizes. This, in turn, enabled us to raise a considerable sum for our various charities.



During 2023 and 2024 we were very busy with our local fundraising for our charities this year - Rowcroft Hospice, Royal British Legion and CRISIS. On Inner Wheel Day in January, we gave special toiletries to the local food bank. WE are also part of the school reading/listening scheme. We support the Rotary Carol Service for the Community and contribute to the bimonthly Rotary Magazine. We collect stamps, blister packs and jewellery for local charities. We raised more money for our charities at the December Christmas District meeting



This car boot is just one of the monthly deliveries we make to CR2EE (Christian Response to Eastern Europe)



Dartmouth Rotary President Hilary and IW President Lesley and Rotary District 1175 Governor David and their partners on the occasion of their Joint Presidents' and celebration of IW centenary evening. A very special time.



Enjoying coffee at the District Meeting and the Skittles Competition when we were worthy runners up on this occasion!



This 100 for 100 Certificate was presented to all of us all in D17.

DARTMOUTH were the first to support this with 100

Tombola Prizes and

then the rest of us followed with Teddy Bears, Recycled Christmas Cards, Knitted Squares and Food Donations .

## EXMOUTH – Report by President Gerry Creed - June 2024



selling mainly plants. The monies raised will be divided between local and international charities.

We enjoyed a splendid Christmas lunch at a local restaurant. For the 100 for 100 I.W. centenary celebrations, we had a coffee morning and each member donated food items to add up to just over 100, for the local food bank. Fish & Chip Supper with a quiz was held last November which was very well attended for Smile Train.

Although we are a very small group, only nine members in total, we have been very active, and will be continuing next year under the leadership of Iris Buteux. Before that however, we are ending the year with a B.B.Q at my home, and will toast our achievements over the past year.







Members of Exmouth enjoying time together to chat and what we get up to together at our working parties!



All our IW Clubs are special for their members and unique. Our Clubs are part of the IW Family and we need to stay connected, especially as D17 covers the whole county of Devon. We need to do our own thing but also share our ideas too. 'Two heads are always better than one' and I hope that by recording what we have done this year in this Newsletter we can exchange friendship, ideas, expertise and celebrations in the future.

We do not have a District 17 Website now. Our Association website is being drastically reduced, partly due to costs. I can put a publication, such as this on the website but not separate pages. All Districts are the same.

Is this Roundup worth circulating to you all electronically, and/or with some paper booklet copies, once or twice a year? Do you want a Facebook page restricted to the District? Is just putting this information on the Association Website enough? Please let the Committee know.



**INNER WHEEL CLUB OF OKEHAMPTON** - A roundup of what we have been doing 2023/24.

(Discussing our wares before the District Christmas Lunch 2023!)



### **CELEBRATIONS**

Okehampton club celebrated Inner Wheel Day (January 10th 2024) by placing our pillar box topper on the post box outside the little church in the centre of the town and it looks brilliant! We then went to a local cafe for coffee and a

catch up. We have a wellness cafe in town which we have donated funds to but on this occasion we were not able to visit.

### **OUR CLUB**



We are so lucky in Okehampton as we have a wonderfully friendly Inner Wheel Club. We may only have 17 members but we are very active in the local community as well as District 17.

Sheila Box is our President, thankfully again this year and not for the first time!

At the end of August, we sold homemade cakes and scones together with copious amounts of tea and coffee at the annual duck race and fair in the local park.

We are always well represented at all the civic functions, particularly this year as one of our members, Past President Jean Fisher, is the current Mayoress supporting her husband Allenton!



We have been shining a light on our local charity like other District 17 Clubs. We made up Shoeboxes, knitted baby clothes and gave blankets. Our particular challenge for this year was to make 100 teddies and bring some cheer in Ukraine and Moldova!

Our first adventure, at the beginning of the year was a Presidents Prosecco Picnic in a local garden, great fun as you can imagine!

We had lots of events planned during the year, most of which involve eating out, so long live Okehampton Inner Wheel!



District have donated money to Beat, Association President Anthea's Charity. District Chairman Louise's Charity has

been South West Bloodbikes. Our Clubs have really 'shone a light on Torquay and cr2ee! Click on their website

<https://www.cr2ee.org.uk> for more updated information.





## TORQUAY - CELEBRATING A HUNDRED YEARS OF INNER WHEEL 2023/24

We are the Inner Wheel Club of Torquay, one of six clubs in Devon, District 17 and our club is 90 years old this year. We meet at the Livermead House Hotel on the second Monday of the month at 2pm and welcome visitors and prospective new members. [After the club](#)

[business we have tea and biscuits and then often a speaker.](#) We sometimes have a social lunch between meetings at a local carvery.

We send clothes and Christmas shoeboxes to Moldova and the Ukraine to support the Christian Response to Eastern Europe known as CR2EE. We have a close friendship with an Inner Wheel Club in Australia and share newsletters with them. We have been collecting items of food to donate to a local food bank, aiming at 100 items as part of the '100 for 100' appeal, the Inner Wheel Association's initiative this year.

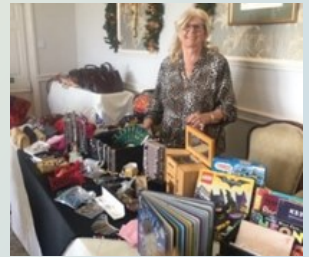
In August we always have a lunch to welcome the incoming Club President. This year President Joan kindly offered to continue for a second year and we celebrated at the Dainton Golf Club, Newton Abbot. The Past Presidents in our Club meet for a convivial lunch in September, which Joan organised at the Belgrave Sands Hotel this year.

In September we had a speaker whose mother was Danish. He told us about the history of the Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen, illustrated by slides taken over the years since he first visited as a boy after WW2. We were delighted to enrol Jane into the club.

In October a local Morris Dancer and Musician demonstrated their dance steps and played several traditional instruments, explaining the history of Morris Dancing in various areas of the country. There are many groups around Devon, both male and female.

### **November was very important for Torquay!**

Our Christmas Fair had been cancelled at short notice due to storm Ciaran so we appealed for help to the Livermead House Hotel. At our club meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> we were allowed to set up stalls of Christmas goods and the hotel guests were invited to come along. A goodly sum was raised for local charities and after a refreshing tea break some guests stayed to hear a fascinating talk about the history of tea and its social impact through the centuries.



We celebrated **our club's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday** in style on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>. The hotel's decorations were already very festive and we added large 90<sup>th</sup> balloons. Most of Devon's clubs were represented and invited guests included the Mayor of Torquay, our District Chairman Louise, and District Chairmen, Officers and friends from Cornwall, Somerset and London, as well as past National President Betty. After

a delicious lunch, the birthday cake was cut jointly by President Joan and our most senior member, 103 years young Past President Joan Nott, who also blew out the candles.

In December we had our Christmas lunch at the Livermead which was very well attended and as beautifully presented as always. We sent 18 Christmas shoeboxes to the CR2EE appeal thanks to the generosity of our members. The Torbay Yarn Bombers, who are a group of knitters made us a splendid '100 Years of Inner Wheel' box topper from a member's design. They displayed it in the entrance of Paignton's Morrisons store for several weeks after Christmas. Torbay already has a history of box toppers and this was an amazing collaboration.

**The New Year 2024!** We use the January club meeting to celebrate inner Wheel Day and were visited by our District Chairman Louise who helped us trim and sort a huge pile of stamps. These are sent through the WI to support Lepira (Leprosy relief) and another beautiful crocheted blanket was being made by Lorna to be donated to charity.

In February we had a busy meeting with a review of the very successful 90<sup>th</sup> birthday lunch and plans discussed for a Spring Fair in the Livermead House Hotel. There was also a social lunch at the Hare and Hounds.

In March we had an inspirational presentation about the Scottish-based Charity Mary's Meals which now feeds an amazing 2.5 million children all over the world every day. We also had a successful coffee morning at the end of the month.

April was another very busy meeting chaired by Member of Council Jeannette as President Joan was very ill. By now we had collected 78 items for the food bank. A new treasurer, Roz, was appointed so now we have a full committee for the coming year. Jeannette attended the Inner Wheel Centenary Lunch in London which she thoroughly enjoyed. We were asked to collect good quality clothes for CR2EE to deliver in May to Eastern Europe. Sandra was planning the International Zone Rally for District 17 as it is the Torquay's turn to host it this year. There will be a talk on Java and a Raffle in aid of the Book Bus Charity.

In May there was a minute's silence to remember our dear President Joan Baily and wonderful Past President Heather Davis who was also Past Association Editor and Member of Council. They will both be sadly missed. Joan was a great help to the club as President and was also President of Torquay Rotary for a year. Heather had held most posts in the club, some more than once, as club correspondent, International officer and secretary, having been a member for many years. She was Club President at least twice and had served as Association Editor for three years and Member of Council. She was also a recipient of the Paul Harris Award.



Jeannette and Deirdre attended the International Inner Wheel Convention in Manchester with six other club members from the District, which they had enjoyed very much. Almost 3000 delegates gathered from all over the world to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Inner Wheel in the city where it began and to exchange ideas. The first Inner Wheel meeting, organised by Margarett Golding, had been held in 1924 in a Turkish Baths which had stood close to the Convention Centre.



Margarett was the wife of a Rotarian and was a nurse. There is a plaque on the wall of the site, now a commemorative garden close to the Convention Centre and bees everywhere!

*Deirdre Stewart*

## DISTRICT 17



After our Pre-Rally and Rally for our Chairman Louise DISTRICT 17 has held Business Meetings and its AGM. We have had social lunches and at the Christmas meeting the clubs had stalls, to raise money for their charities



Bideford hosted our Skittles, Darts and Quiz Morning at our Spring meeting. Thank you Bideford.



The Summer Business meeting celebrated our Centenary, thanks and presents were given and the new committee welcomed for our New IW Year





All who went to the Convention and the Centenary Lunch this year, got so much out of their personal experiences at these IW events. We all hope more members will be able to take up opportunities like these—Harrogate next year?

There is no more space in this newsletter for more, but do talk to each other and let the new District Committee know how you would like to share skills and friendships across our District.

Best wishes from the 2023/4 District Team - Jeanette, Louise Gay, Sue, Pat, Deirdre, Lesley and June

**District 17 Executive Members for 2024/2025**

**Member of Council: Gay Ross (B)    Chairman: Louise French (B)**

**Secretary: Margaret Nosowska (T)    Treasurer: Pat Bunch (B)**

**Membership and Development Officer: Deirdre Stewart (T)**

**International Service Officer/Editor: June Tamlyn (B)**

**Minute Secretary: Sue Naille**

**District Email - [iwd17sec@gmail.com](mailto:iwd17sec@gmail.com)**

**Association Website <https://innerwheel.co.uk/district-17/>**