

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024

Hello everyone. This month doesn't seem to have been quite so busy although quite a lot has been going on, and there has been a lot of national and international news of concern. However, preparing for various Christmas fairs and other activities are keeping me busy at the moment!

Club News

The Autumn District meeting was held at the Waie Inn on 29th October, and there was a good attendance with 17 of the Barnstaple club members making the trip which was uneventful apart from the last mile or so along the lanes which were extremely muddy in places due to recent tractor movements and many of us had to wipe mud off our legs after we got out of our cars!

The meeting followed the normal pattern of reports from the District Officers, followed by short reports from the clubs – although reduced in number they still take part in a lot of varied activities and nearly all had supported the Cr2ee shoebox appeal.

After that we had a lovely friendly lunch chatting with members from the other clubs before heading home in the early afternoon.



Socialising with members of Dartmouth Club



Note Gay's Halloween hat!

Our club meeting was on the 5th this month and we greeted another new member, Norma King who was inducted by Sue into the club.

It was reported that Sue's coffee morning last month raised £123 which was more than originally thought and Sue thanked June T for delivering our 36 shoe boxes and other items to Exmouth together with a cheque for £100 to help with the expenses of transport, etc.

After lunch we had a very interesting talk by Amanda St John who talked about her work as a Civil Celebrant. She explained that 95% of her work was arranging and conducting funerals, but she also does baby naming ceremonies and weddings (although not legally binding as this needs a registrar). Celebrants come from many walks of life and in the past anyone could do it but now there are a lot more regulations and qualifications are needed. She works closely with funeral directors and she spoke of the trend towards the celebration of life with much less religious content, and the fact that many people have very little idea as to what to do so that she often ends up writing all of the content. She also talked of the increasing use of modern media and technology, and the different types of funeral that are possible. Finally a piece of advice - none of us like thinking about our deaths but it is very helpful if people can draw up a list of wishes for their funeral, put it with other documents such as wills, and to make sure someone close to them knows where it is.



Next was our quiz evening on 12th October at the Bowls Club which was highly successful, and an opportunity to share an evening with husbands, partners and friends. There were 13 tables with up to six on a team, with Richard Smith as quizmaster once again. We decided not to provide a meal this time and everyone brought their own snacks which worked remarkably well. There was also a raffle and altogether we raised about £500 for Sightsavers although I have not yet heard the final figures.



Richard with scorer Brian Ross



Future Club events – There's a lot to think about in the next month or two!

Christmas Meeting: We next meet on Tuesday December 3rd for our Christmas Lunch at the Barnstaple Hotel 12 for 12.30pm to which members from other local Inner Wheel and Rotary clubs, husbands and friends have been invited and should be a great start to the festive season. After the meal we will be entertained a group from the Barnstaple Ladies Choir, including club member Tina Williams.

District Christmas Meeting: The following week, on December 10th, there is the District Christmas meeting and table top sale, which as before is at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum, with the sale in the morning, followed by lunch. I'm not certain of the time but I think it is 10.30 if you're helping to set up our table and otherwise 11am. We will have a guess the weight of the cake and guess the number of chocolates, plus a Christmas Treasure chest to raffle, and small Christmas gifts and decorations. Funds raised will go to District charities, and if you have not already done so, please contact Maureen J if you would like to go, and as usual we will arrange car shares. The picture is of a 'treasure chest' that I received last Christmas containing bottles of wine, and it measures 12½in. wide, 10in. deep and 7½in. high excluding the lid. I would like to fill this with Christmas goodies and am requesting contributions which you could perhaps bring to the Club Christmas Lunch if I don't see you before. We would also appreciate small crafted gift items and decorations to sell.



Christmas Coffee Meeting: As in the last few years Lorna Boaden has very kindly agreed to host this event which is on Tuesday December 17th from 10.30 to 12. I think the cost is £3, payable on arrival and there will also be a raffle so prizes for this are requested. This is a lovely time to socialise and exchange Christmas greetings, so please come. Funds raised this time are for the Children's Hospice.

Friendship Lunch: We have our annual Friendship Lunch to celebrate Inner Wheel day on Saturday January 11th at Goodleigh Village Hall, to which you again are invited to bring husbands and friends. Inner Wheel day is actually on January 10th but we always celebrate it on the nearest Saturday, and again it is a fundraiser and raffle prizes are requested (any unwanted Christmas gifts?). We have home-made soup, with bread, cheese, pate and grapes and we usually have an informal quiz and some poems. Last year the price was £8 payable on the door,

but the details are still to be decided at the forthcoming Committee meeting. If anyone has a burning desire to make a soup, or to contribute in any way please contact Sue T.

80th Birthday Celebrations: A double event – at the February Club meeting on 4th February we celebrate as a club and also have our annual District Chairman visit who as you all know is our own club member Louise who will speak to us. Other details are still to be decided.

Then on Saturday 8th February we have our big tea party at Filleigh Village Hall when other clubs and guests are invited. This is also the International Rally so will be another fundraiser. The plan is for one member to be responsible for providing the china for each table, laying it up and serving the tea and other drinks, etc. As you know, we are decorating the hall with home-made bunting which is being coordinated by Maggie Sherrif and she asks that you give her any individual pieces for this by the Friendship lunch at the latest so she has time to put them all together.

Other Club Activities

Quite a few of us had an enjoyable evening at Barnstaple Rotary's quiz at St John's Garden Centre on 31st October, this time with Stu Robinson as quizmaster – some of us welcomed the opportunity to escape the trick or treaters! Brian and I shared a table with Pat and Peter Bunch, and somehow we managed to win, despite a very poor score on an extremely tricky art and literature round, but I think most people must have done just as badly! The picture shows us with our winnings.



International Service Officer – Pam H reminds us to continue to donate any left over foreign currency and any out of date UK currency which goes to Mary's Meals, this year's District International charity, and she also collects used stamps for Oxfam, and ring pulls from tin cans.

Whilst not an overseas charity Pam also collects used blister packs that she takes to Superdrug which passes them on for recycling and she has given me this interesting article about what happens to them:

Community Service – we continue to collect food and certain household items for the Freedom Centre, and Sue W has passed on their thanks for our donations. I think more Christmas themed items would be welcome but they don't need any clothes or bedding at the moment.

The Pilton reading scheme continues and I think Mike Warner of Barnstaple Link Rotary would still like to hear from anyone else who might be interested in taking part.

Other – We continue to look after the Inner Wheel Garden, and I'd very much like to thank Liz Harris and all that help her.

Pat B still has her Monday morning Zoom keep fit sessions – please speak to her if you'd like to join in.



Across Britain the words of a children's nursery rhyme "Remember, remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot" are chanted as fireworks fly and bonfires gradually consume a human effigy known as the 'Guy'. So who was this 'Guy'? – Guy Fawkes... a 17th century terrorist who in 1605 wanted the streets of London to run red with blood, history's most famous act of terrorism.

Two short November Poems

The Old Oak

The old oak stands, bare and proud,
Its leaves a golden carpet loud.
In November's chill, it's not cowed,
A timeless sentinel, unbowed.

The Last Rose

The last rose in November's chill,
A burst of color, a testament of will.
Against the cold, it stands still,
A final bloom, nature's skill.



Some jokes and quotes:

Two from Dolly Parton:

'People are always asking me in interviews, "What do you think of foreign affairs? I just say "I've had a few."

'I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes, because I know I'm not dumb... and I also know I'm not blonde.'

'Have you heard of the terrible family They. And the dreadful, venomous things They say? Why, half of the gossip under the sun, you trace it back, and you will find began in that wretched House of They.' – *Ella Wheeler Wilcox*

'Life is like playing a violin solo in public and learning the instrument as one goes on' – *Samuel Butler*

A topical one? 'It's never a good idea to provoke people who drive tractors' – *Emma Duncan*

A child's question: A child and his father were visiting an elderly neighbour. They were raking the neighbour's leaves, organizing his garage, putting the rubbish out, and performing other small jobs around his house. On this day the child was going to meet the neighbour up close for the first time. When he met him he asked how old he was, The father was embarrassed by his child's question and attempted to apologize, but the neighbour laughed and said that was ok, the child was just curious. He then told the child he was 92 years old. The child had a look of disbelief and asked "Did you start at the number one?"



These last quotes are from a small book that I've recently unearthed - 'A Woman's Little Instruction Book, - 200 secrets to sort out the men in your life'

'Don't get a man, get a cat – they don't hog the duvet and the don't snore'

'Husbands and dogs have the same attitude to housework – they both run away when the vacuum cleaner appears'

The picture (not mine) is Barnstaple fireworks viewed from Ashford.

Thst's all – best wishes from Bridget