

## INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2024



Welcome to the December Newsletter and Christmas greetings to you all. No doubt most of you are very busy with your Christmas preparations but I hope you have had time to enjoy some of the festivities and didn't have too much damage from storm Darragh. This is often a time to reflect, to remember loved ones no longer with us, and to think of all the many people in the world living through difficult circumstances, whatever the cause. Let us hope for a more peaceful world in the coming year.



**Below is President Sue's Christmas message to us (slightly altered to fit the page!)**

Dear Friends

As you are aware this year has been very difficult for some of us and I personally would like to thank you all for your kind words and support following the passing of my son Ben.

Again, the last six months seemed to have flown by and our monthly meetings at the Barnstaple Hotel are always well attended.

It was a good turnout for the Christmas Lunch recently held at the Hotel and nice to see many guests joining us. This year the entertainment was provided by Tina Williams and her friends singing a selection of festive songs.

Around a dozen of us travelled over to the Waie Inn to help raise funds for District Chairman Louise's charity South West Blood Bikes. We had a successful morning followed by a delicious lunch.

Thank you to those who attended our annual Christmas Coffee Morning kindly hosted by Lorna Boaden. As always, Lorna made us all very welcome and it was lovely to meet up and chat over a cup of coffee, mince pie and cake. This was held in aid of the Children's Hospice.

I would like to sincerely thank you all for your help and support in making our club so special. Compiling shoe boxes, making Christmas card packs from recycled cards and coffee mornings are all ways we can come together and enjoy each others company.

I wish you a lovely Christmas and New Year.

See you in 2025!

Yours in friendship

Sue Thomas

President

Inner Wheel Club of Barnstaple

At this point I would like to give you a message from Pat Bunch -

***'May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2025, as I have not sent many Christmas cards this year and have instead made a donation to the Inner Wheel charity account.'***

## Club News

Sue has covered a lot of what I was going to say, but here are a couple of pictures from our Christmas lunch at the Barnstaple Hotel on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. (with thanks to Pat M)



Suffice it say this was a lovely start to the festive season.

At the Christmas table-top sale and District Meeting a week later we made a very satisfactory £168 which will go to South West Blood Bikes, District Chairman Louise's charity. Pam Harman won the 'guess the number of chocolates' for the second year running and Sue Smith the Christmas Treasure Chest which we raffled. We were so caught up with what we were doing, I'm afraid no one remembered to take some pictures of the sale but I'm including one from Beryl of us enjoying our lunch. The Christmas coffee morning on 17<sup>th</sup> December at Lorna Boaden's was as always a lovely friendly informal event, and there was a large number of donations for the raffle so I think nearly everyone had a prize! Maureen J subsequently told me we raised £250.50 which will be going to Children's Hospice South West. Again, many thanks to Lorna for hosting us and to Phil for expertly directing the car parking.





### Future Club events

As you know there is no formal club meeting in January but we have our annual Friendship lunch on 11<sup>th</sup> January which is the

nearest Saturday to Inner Wheel Day on 10<sup>th</sup> January commemorating the founding of Inner Wheel 101 years ago in 1924 and it will be in aid of the Crohn's and Colitis charity. As before this is being held at Goodleigh Village Hall 12 for 12.30pm, husbands, partners and friends are welcome, and the cost is £8 per person, payable on the door, but please let Sue T know if you're coming so we know how many we're catering for. As in previous years there are home made soups, bread, pate, cheese and grapes, a short quiz, and probably a poem or two. There is also a raffle so prizes are requested. Maggie Sherriff reminds us that this will be last day for handing in any pennants you have made for the bunting we are having at our 80<sup>th</sup> birthday tea.

The February club meeting is on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and as well as the District Chairman's visitation (again our own club member Louise French), we will also celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> birthday among ourselves. Then we have our big birthday tea celebrating with other clubs and guests at 2.30pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February at Filleigh Village Hall, cost £8, payable at the door. (Please see Sue's poster she sent out recently). Originally we were going to have the International Rally which is Barnstaple's turn to hold, but it has now been decided to have this at a later date. Please let Sue T know numbers and if you can help with catering please contact Sue Smith.

### Other Club Activities

Some of us with husbands in Barnstaple Rotary went to their Christmas lunch at the Park Hotel on 19<sup>th</sup> December, another pleasant occasion where we had a light hearted and witty Christmas message from the newly appointed vicar of Barnstaple Parish Church, Canon Dr. Benjamin Williams.



**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.

**Community Service** – the Freedom Centre wishes everyone a Happy Christmas, and are very grateful for our donations. They also mention that if anyone is moved to give a cash donation they can currently double the value by match funding.

The Pilton reading scheme is paused now during the school holidays but if you would like to take part please contact Mike Warner of Barnstaple Link Rotary.

# December

## December weather folklore -

December changeable and mild, the whole winter will remain a child.

Thunder in December presages fine weather.

Frost on the shortest day is said to indicate a severe winter.

December cold, with snow, brings rye everywhere.

Georgina included this sweet poem with her Christmas card:

When fairy lights are twinkling  
When snow swirls all around  
When winds turn cold and frosty  
When winter treats abound  
When shops are filled with gifts galore  
When silver church bells chime  
Santa's sleigh's not far away  
It's nearly Christmas time

## Some December Jokes:

"December should come with a warning: Diets are officially suspended until further notice."

"Nothing says 'happy holidays' like frantically untangling Christmas lights you swore you'd organize last year."

"December goal: try not to accidentally wrap the cat while frantically packing presents."

'Holiday shopping: where my credit card works harder than Santa's elves.'

## A Short Christmas Story

It was the day after Christmas at St Peter and St Paul's church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John, the vicar, was looking at the nativity scene outside when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the figures. Immediately, Father John's thoughts turned to calling in the local policeman but as he was about to do so, he saw little Nathan with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus. Father John approached Nathan and asked him, 'Well, Nathan, where did you get the little infant?' Nathan looked up, smiled, and replied, 'I took him from the church.' 'And why did you take him?' With a sheepish grin, Nathan said, 'Well, Father John, about a week before Christmas I prayed to Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it!'



This is my Christmas message to you all – with best wishes from Bridget. The picture is from the Rosemoor Glow.

