

# HAPPY 80<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY!

Hello everyone! Amid the February cold and gloom it's been lovely to celebrate this mile-stone birthday! However, we must always remember the IW ethos of friendship and service, and aim to help others through our fundraising and other activities. Meanwhile the days are getting longer and snowdrops and early daffodils are reminding us that spring is on its way!

## Club News



Firstly our big event, the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party at Filleigh Village Hall on February 8<sup>th</sup>. What a great day that was and many thanks to all who contributed to making the event such a success. Special mention to President Sue for masterminding everything and bringing all the club memorabilia, Sue Smith who organised the catering, to Maggie Sheriff who got us all making triangles for the bunting and then putting it all together, our treasurer Maureen for handling payments and running the raffle, all the cake and sandwich makers, the table hosts who each provided china and laid out the individual tables, the kitchen team, to June T for

designing the cakes and providing flowers, to Jenny Woodley for reading 2 lovely poems and finally Tina Williams with a group from the Barnstaple Ladies Choir who entertained us with their singing. Even now I've probably forgotten some people, in which case I apologise. The hall was available from 11am on the day, and even with many there to help we and just about got ready in time. President Sue welcomed everyone, District Chairman Louise gave a short



address and after the tea they cut the cake together. The raffle was very well supported, and this, together with payments for the tea meant our total takings for the day were £756. A huge collective effort by club members but well worth it!







Following this a small group of us visited the Children's Hospice and the North Devon Hospice on 13<sup>th</sup> February to present cheques of £500 and £700 respectively from the money raised by the Christmas Coffee morning and the anniversary tea. Leo, from North Devon Hospice mentioned that a particular item they hoping to buy soon is a 'cuddle bed' that allows a sick person to lie together with a loved one.



### Future Club events

You will have already had notification of our club meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> which is our annual business meeting when the officers and committee are nominated and agreed for the next IW year. There are still vacancies for Vice President, Minutes Secretary and another committee member if you would like to get more involved – you will certainly get to know more about what's going on and have more direct involvement in deciding what we do. We also have a speaker, Dan Dabnam, who is talking about Artificial Intelligence and from what I hear he gives an excellent and very entertaining talk.

Then there is the annual District Skittles competition, quiz and meeting at the Waie Inn the following week on March 11<sup>th</sup> – your last chance to sign up for this at the club meeting.

Thinking a bit further ahead we are having the annual plant sale, coffee morning and raffle at my home 10.30 to 12.00 on Tuesday May 13<sup>th</sup> with probably a bring and buy sale as well. I'm giving you plenty of time to think about this for those of you who might like to grow some plants to sell. Before this we also have Liz Harris' coffee morning and raffle on Tuesday April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Other Club Activities

Several of us went to the Rotary Burns Supper at the Park Hotel on January 23<sup>rd</sup> which was complete with haggis, bagpipes and tartan. The first picture is of Rotary President Terry Lee in full flow reciting the 'ode to the haggis'!



**International Service Officer** – As before 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** – We keep on with our monthly donation of food and other items to the Freedom Centre.

**Zoom keep fit** – Pat continues with her weekly sessions on Monday mornings

# February

Why does February have only 28 days?

Apparently we have the Roman King Numa to thank – originally all months were 29 days as even numbers were considered unlucky but this made an even number of days in the year, so February, a month for honouring the dead, was chosen as the unlucky month to have only 28 days.

This is one of the poems read by Jenny Woodley: *Some February weather folklore -*

Smile: A Poem by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious,  
you catch it like the flu.  
When someone smiled at me today,  
I started smiling too.  
I passed around the corner,  
and someone saw my grin.  
When he smiled, I realized  
I'd passed it on to him.  
I thought about that smile,  
then I realized its worth.  
A single smile, just like mine  
could travel round the earth.  
So if you feel a smile begin,  
don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick,  
and get the world infected!

If February give much snow,  
A fine summer it doth foreshow.  
*Fogs in February mean frosts in May.*

## *Ten Commandments for Seniors*

1. Talk to yourself. There are times when you need expert advice
2. 'In style' are the clothers that still fit
3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop irritating you
4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work
5. The biggest lie that you tell yourself is. 'I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it'
6. On time is when I get there
7. You've noticed people your age are much older than you
8. Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up
9. You still haven't learned to act yout age, and I hope you never will
10. 'One for the road' means peeing before you leave the house

## *1945 Recollections*

Our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary caused my husband Brian to think about 1945 when he was a little boy and how much things have changed since then. Here are some of his memories which I'm sure some of you will share:

Broadcasting: TV was in its infancy and very few had a set (black and white and one channel only, the BBC), but most people had a wireless which was the main source of news and entertainment. Transmissions at the end of the day finished with the National Anthem.

Work: Most men and single women worked a 44 hour week with Sundays off and a half day on Wednesday or Saturday. Married women stayed at home with at the most a part time job. Monday was wash day, using a copper and mangle, and dinner was cold meat left over from the weekend roast.

Food: Many foodstuffs were rationed (some up to 1953) and queuing for it was a way of life. Supermarkets were unheard of and sweets were in short supply unless you were lucky enough to be given some by American forces.

Health: No NHS and many people paid weekly into a friendly society to meet the cost of fees. Mesicines were also paid for. Schools were visited by 'nit nurses' but each child was given a third of a pint of milk a day.

Education: For most children this was the village school from 5 to 14 years with just a few schoarships to grammar and technical scools, but Rab Butler's 1944 Education Act was about change all this.

That's all for this month – best wishes from Bridget  
(pictures taken on a recent visit to Rosemoor)

