

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

Hello once again! What extraordinary events are taking place in the world at the moment, and after the wonderful spell of sunny days the weather is now unsettled as well! However, whatever else is happening, the Inner Wheel as always keeps to its principles of Friendship, Fellowship and Service, and long may this be the case.

Club News

We met at the Park Hotel on 1st April for our club meeting this month, and we will also be at this venue in May and June whilst the Barnstaple Hotel is refurbished. The dining area feels much more cramped and is darker compared with our usual facilities, but the food and service were fine. Sorry no pictures of this meeting – I think the different situation meant I didn't think about it!

President Sue had already told us the sad news that member Carole Roberts died on March 23rd, and she started the meeting with some words of condolence. Her funeral is on April 22nd at St. John the Baptist, Instow at 1.30pm. I have to warn you that access is tricky – it's up a hill from the main road and whilst there will be parking in an adjacent farmyard I'm not sure that will be enough for everybody.

On a much happier note Sue then inducted three new members, Beckie Fowler, Gill Mulligan and Sandy Peace – welcome to all of them and I wish them many happy years with the club.

Then, after the routine business of the club, and a nice lunch our own member Jane Carpenter told the very interesting and moving story of her father, Carl, from the 1930s onwards. Her grandparents were part of a large Jewish community in Vienna, and Carl was born in 1933. The Nazis became a threat in 1934 and Germany annexed Austria in 1938. Carl escaped initially to Belgium, and then came to England on one of the Kindertransports in May 1939 where he was taken in by a Jewish family in Stamford Hill. Emergency legislation in November 1938 permitted unaccompanied children to come to Britain without the usual permits, with the first transport taking place the following month. These transports continued for the next 9 months until the outbreak of war, bringing 10,000 children in total. Following the war Carl found that his father had died in a concentration camp but his mother had survived. Jane ended by saying that Carl was married to her mother for 58 years, dying in 2017, and that in 2019 Austria offered citizenship to the children and grand children of displaced Austrians.

When we think back to World War II it is extraordinary to hear about the experiences of so many of our parents during this time, this one in particular, and it is so important we don't forget about that time.



IW National Conference

Our club meeting took place whilst the Association Conference was in progress at Harrogate from March 31st to April 2nd and as I didn't go this year, I am very grateful to June for the following account and pictures:

The sun shone and the flower displays around Harrogate were beautiful. The venue was special and the programme an excellent mix!

Heather Sheerin, our Association President with her Council and Conference Committee really pulled out all the stops. The AGM was informative, there were lots of stalls and all the speakers were inspiring. The variety of entertainment, with a world class brass band, a school choir and the two 'girls' leading 400+ 'older girls' mingling and dancing in an evening of 60s, 70s and 80s music was not to be missed!



Keynote speakers Angela Rippon and Gill Castle stood out for me. While Angela's journalist and broadcasting story is more widely known, Gill shared her incredible journey of overcoming PTSD and childbirth injuries that led to stoma surgery in 2011. Despite being medically retired as a front-line police officer and having a significant fear of open water, she became a record-breaking channel swimmer, raising £50,000 for her charity supporting women adapting to stoma surgery or

childbirth injuries in the UK and Kenya. So much to think about!

Next year, March 2026, the Conference is in Llandudno - Our clubs are the heart of Inner Wheel but these three days are special, fun and well worth a glimpse of the bigger Inner Wheel picture. Best wishes, June T.

Coffee Morning This was at Liz Harris' lovely apartment overlooking the river on 15th April. A good number attended, but were probably a few less than there might have been due to the combined effects of failure of the lift meaning there were 4 flights of steps to climb and pouring rain! Nevertheless it was a lovely sociable morning with excellent refreshments and good company. Including the proceeds of a raffle, the very creditable sum of £222 was raised.



Thank you to Lorna for the above picture
Mine below are not quite so good!



Future Club events

Our next club meeting will be on May 6th, and as noted several times already it will be the Park Hotel. Our speaker will be Garry Reed talking about unusual town names – I really enjoyed his talk the last time he spoke to us so I'm looking forward to this one.

A week later on Tuesday 13th we have our annual plant sale and coffee morning at my house which is Little Orchard, Ashford, EX31 4DB. With the help of my neighbours there is parking for 10-12 cars, and there is space for one or two on the road, but it will help if you can car share, and if any of you need directions please get in touch with me. Entrance is £5, and as well as the plants there will be a bring and buy plus book sale as well as a raffle, not to mention refreshments.

I think this is the last fund raising event of the current IW year, so let's make it a really good one – bring any surplus plants from your gardens and look out for any quality unwanted items for the bring and buy.

Finally, please pray for good weather!

Before these events, Okehampton club are celebrating their 60th birthday with a tea party at the Ockment Centre, Okehampton on Saturday 3rd May at 2.30. The cost for this is £10 and several have signed up for this – if any more of you would like to go, please contact President Sue who would also be able to tell you who else is going so car shares can be arranged.

Other Club Activities

There was a quiz run by Rotary Link on April 11th at Barnstaple Social Club that a dozen or so of us attended, and this was as good as ever.

The day before several of us went to the Barnstaple Rotary meeting as they had our new MP Ian Roome as their speaker. He spoke about the huge learning curve for new MPs and quoted from a selection of the letters and emails he had in his first few days, some of them making completely contrary requests to each other!

International Service Officer – Pam H continues to collect any left over foreign currency and out of date UK currency for Mary's Meals, this year's District International charity, used stamps for Oxfam, ring pulls from tin cans, and used tablet sheets.

June T recently sent all the old money we and the other District clubs had collected to 'Leftover Currency' who converted this to cash to donate to Mary's meals and below is June's message which she emailed to us recently. It also gave an extraordinary list of the different currencies which were converted but this was far too long to reproduce here. Please note, the figures are for the District:

'I want to say a very big thank you and update you on our money 'recycling' for Mary's Meals. As you know we collected 30kg for exchange nearly a month ago. £650.51 has gone directly to Mary's Meals. (As you can see below it is a very detailed list!) I was also given US Dollars and Swiss Francs and was asked to exchange that money separately by members as I didn't know exactly how the listing would work. I did the second exchange separately and it has raised another £263. 26. This adds up to £913.77 - a great recycling result for such a worthy cause! We haven't finished collecting and hope to round that up by the end of our Inner Wheel Year at the end of June. Hopefully, Joanna Blake, our SW Coordinator for Mary's Meals will be able to come and speak to us too and accept a final cheque. Please pass on my special thanks to everyone who supported us and I send my very best wishes, June'

Pam has also lent me a book called 'The shed that fed 2 million children' telling the story of Mary's Meals written by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, the founder of the charity and this is well worth a read.

Community Service – We keep on with our monthly donation of food and other items to the Freedom Centre, and the reading scheme at Pilton Bluecoat School continues. If anyone is interested in joining this scheme please contact Mike Warner of Rotary Link.

Zoom keep fit – Pat continues with her Zoom keep fit sessions on Monday mornings so please contact her if you'd like to join in.

Inner Wheel Garden – Just a small picture this month – currently it's a predominantly a blue and yellow colour scheme.





April Showers

We have the jet stream to blame for these – at this time of year it moves northward causing large depressions to develop in the Atlantic bringing us strong winds and cumulus clouds which cause the heavy showers.

Easter

We have just celebrated Easter on 20th April which is one of the later dates, as it can be anything from March 22nd to April 25th. Why does the date vary? The calculation of the Easter date or 'Computus Paschalis' is enormously complicated with a history dating to Roman times, but stated simply it is the first Sunday after the the Paschal Full Moon (an approximation of the astronomical full moon) which is the one that falls on or after 21st March (an approximation of the Spring Equinox). The date was originally set to coincide with the Jewish Passover, but changes in the calendar, particularly going from the Julian to the Gregorian means that the link is not so strong. The reason that our Easter is on a different date to the Eastern Orthodox churches is that they still go by the Julian calendar. Easter was last on March 22nd in 1818 and will next be on this date in 2285. It was last on 25th April in 1943 and will next be in 2038 so a greater chance for some of us to see that date!

A few Jokes

I'm not odd, I'm a limited edition
The older I get, the earlier it gets late
 I'm not lazy, I'm in energy saving mode
Being adult is mostly just Googling how to do stuff
 My therapist told me the way to achieve inner peace is to finish what I started. So far, I've finished 2 bags of M & Ms, 4 bags of Maltesers and a chocolate cake
My bed and I have a special relationship – we're perfect for each other, but my alarm clock just doesn't seem to understand



April is Poetry Month

Allegorically the tongue is slippery,
 When allusion leads to imagery.
 It twists about in passageways,
 Of verse, and poem, and pros essays.
 So, into the laughing brook I throw my line,
 Verbosity is so divine,
 I simile to make a joke,
 Then metaphor, now, please don't choke.
 I sometimes like to Limerick,
 Then Haiku, now, that's a trick!
 I love to craft a verse in rhyme,
 'til I'm metered out, now, that's a crime.
 Join with me, because you see,
 April's the month of poetry.

Friendship

Each season brings its colours bright
 For constant hope and cheer
 But friendship weaves the brightest hues
 In all we hold most dear
 (From the District 14 book of Friendship)

With best wishes to you from Bridget