

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER MARCH 2025

Well, here we are near the end of another month and greetings! Spring is officially here, but the weather can't make up its mind what it's doing with some beautiful days and others quite frankly wintery! However the spring flowers don't seem to mind, there are many signs of new growth, and the clocks are going forward soon – I can't wait for the longer evenings!

Club News

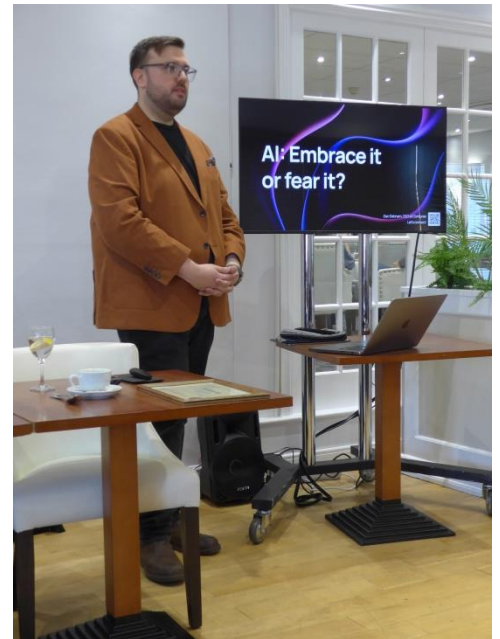


Our club meeting this month was on the 4th, which incidentally was also Shrove Tuesday. This was our annual business meeting to confirm our club officers for the next IW year starting in July. Sue Smith will be President, Julie Hunt Vice-President and Jane Lowe Secretary, with the other officers remaining unchanged, but Gay Ross is rejoining and June Tamlyn remains on the Committee. These appointments were all unanimously agreed.

Gay Ross, as Member of Council presented the club with a certificate recognising the club's 80th birthday and there was an important announcement. For the next 3 months, ie April, May and June, the club meetings will be at the Park Hotel, due to rebuilding works at the Barnstaple Hotel following the damage

Sue and Gay with 80th birthday certificate caused by Storm Darragh.

Then after lunch we had a very interesting talk by Dan Debnam, who runs an AI company, about the very rapid advances in this technology, and this was illustrated by some examples of what can be done. He also warned us to be careful about what we see on screens, and to always try and verify in some way before trusting it. Sue gave a vote of thanks.



At the Pannier Market

A few days later, on Saturday March 8th our club had a table in the Pannier Market in Barnstaple as part of an event to promote women's organisations on International Women's Day. There was a reasonable amount of interest and it was surprising to find that so few people knew about IW.

Quite a few members manned the stall during the day (those of us in the picture were just the ones who happened to be there at the time) and thanks go to Julie Hunt for booking the table and to Sue for organising it at such short notice.

The next event was the District Spring meeting and annual skittles competition at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum. Barnstaple was able to enter 4 teams this year, and team 1 reached the final, winning by just one



point each time, but then lost to Okehampton, the winners. As always there was also a quiz which was won by a team from Barnstple (we had several according to which table we were sitting at), and a darts competition, won by Sue Smith. The lunch was excellent as we have come to expect at the Waie Inn and the day was concluded by the business meeting.



Future Club events

Several club members are going to the Association Conference at Harrogate which is from March 31st to April 2nd – I'm not going to this but I shall look forward to hearing about it and I know Harrogate is a lovely town to visit. The next club meeting is on April 1st, so takes place whilst the conference is on, and don't forget it is at the Park Hotel, but at the same time as usual. Three new members will be inducted, Beckie Fowler, Sandy Peace and Gill Milligan, and member Jane Carpenter is giving a talk entitled 'Carl's Story' which I think is a relative of hers. This is followed by a coffee morning with raffle and book sale at Liz Harris' lovely apartment overlooking the river on Tuesday April 15th from 10am to 12.30. Note: this is a change a venue – was originally planned to be at Sue's. Looking further ahead but worth thinking about now is our annual plant sale and coffee morning at my home on May 13th, if you have any plants you wish to nurture for this occasion. The cost is £5 and there will also be a raffle and probably a bring and buy sale.

Other Club Activities

A reminder about Rotary Link's quiz on April 11th at the Barnstaple Social Club, 7 for 7.30 and bring your own food. A few of us are going and it's always a good evening – please contact Sue T if you're interested.

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.

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 – It's a while since I put in a picture of the garden, and it's looking quite pretty at the moment with quite few purple flowers and some yellow – here are some of them



Thank you letters

We have recently had three:

Firstly from the South West Blood Bikes thanking us for our recent donation of £168 and letting us know we have raised £1,198.21 since November 2023.

The second one is from Children's Hospice South West for the £500 we presented recently. They say 'It is because of your generosity and kindness that we can continue to support children living with life-limiting conditions and their families' and we are invited to see around the hospice at one of their open days.

The third is from the North Devon Hospice for the £700 raised at our 80th birthday celebration saying how much this helps local people facing life-limiting conditions



March weather folklore - An old weather proverb states, "A dry March and a wet May fill barns and bays with corn and hay." Well, we have the dry March, so we'll wait and see!
'The number of foggy mornings in March indicates the number of rainy days in June'
'Thunder in March signifies a fruitful year ahead'

Friendship: -

One of the main objectives of the Inner Wheel
These poems come from a small booklet 'Book of Friendship' given to Margaret Kempton when she was District Chairman

Give the world the best you have
And the best will come back to you
Give of the friendship that all men crave
And your friends will be many and true
Give love and love to life will flow
A friend in your utmost need
Give faith and a score of friends will show
Their faith in your word and deed

When you stand on the shoulder of a friend
More is visible
When you stand back to back
There is less to fear
When you stand shoulder to shoulder
The load is lighter
And when you gaze upward together
The grandeur of the sky is breathtaking

Some Jokes and Quotes

'If I had known I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself' - *Eubie Blake*

'Every time I've seen light at the end of the tunnel, it's been an oncoming train' - *Ange Postecogou*

'I want death to find me planting my cabbages' - *Michel de Montaigne*

'There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing' - *Alfred Wainwright*

'I wish I could tell you it gets better. But it doesn't get better. You get better. - *Joan Rivers*

That's all for this month - hope you've enjoyed the Newsletter.
With best wishes from
Bridget

Crossing the raging river

Jim, Bill and Mike are three friends out walking in the countryside when they arrive at a wide and raging river. They want to get across, but they have no idea how.

Jim, being a believer in the good Lord, immediately prays to God. '*Please God give the strength to cross this raging river*'. Suddenly there's a POOF sound and Jim's arms and legs are transformed into powerful limbs that allow him to swim across the river in less than an hour.

Seeing this, Bill decides to pray too. '*Please God, give me give me the strength and ability to cross this raging river in a way easier than swimming*'. Suddenly there's a POOF sound and there before Bill is a kayak which allows him to row across the river in less than 30 minutes.

Having witnessed events so far, and seeing how it works, Mike decides to pray too. '*Please God, give me the strength, ability and intelligence to cross this raging river in the easiest way possible*'.

Suddenly there is a POOF sound and Mike is turned into a woman. She checks her map, walks 100 yards along the riverbank and walks across the bridge.

