

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER JULY 2025

Welcome to the July Newsletter – quite a lot to talk about this month. I'm starting writing this on my brother's canal boat which at present is in Lancaster, having cruised from Manchester to just north of Carnforth, but Brian and I are leaving it tomorrow. Weather has been everything from heatwave to heavy rain, but as always we've had a very enjoyable and relaxing time. No doubt we will return to a mountain of mail and washing!

Club News

The first event was in June on the 27th but was too late to put in last month's newsletter. This was Pam Harman's charity walk around Rock Park in aid of Shelterbox. It was a lovely day and a good number turned up to take part plus supporters including President Sue who stayed at the café with a collection bucket. We started and finished at the Queen Ann Café and all in all we collected £424.30 which went via Barnstaple Rotary to Shelterbox. A great result! After the walk many of us stayed for coffee or lunch at the café which rounded off the occasion very nicely. Thank you to June for the pictures – mine went a bit wrong!



The July club meeting and handover was on the 1st at the Imperial Hotel as the Barnstaple Hotel was still not quite ready for our return. The meeting started with Sue Thomas handing over the club Presidency to Sue Smith with exchange of the chain and badge of office and the lighting of the blue and yellow candles. Sue T was then thanked for all she had done over the last two years as both President and Secretary and she was presented with some colourful flowering plants.

During club business it was reported that thank you letters had been received from the Children's Hospice and



North Devon Hospice, and these letters were on display. The latter will also be Sue Smith's main local charity for her year.

Mention was made of the UN Initiative 'Orange the World' supported by IW which runs from November 25th to December 10th which aims to end violence to women and girls. Vice President Julie Hunt plans to take on this project.

Subscriptions: Maureen stated that these remain unchanged at £55 and will be due at the September meeting. She asked that anyone who can't attend then to pay by bank transfer. If you do not use internet banking I'm sure it would also be OK to send her a cheque.

It was also reported that Pam, Gay and Heike had helped out at a Rotary Stall in the Pannier Market on June 21st which raised £108, also for Shelterbox, and were thanked by Brian Ross for their assistance.



After lunch we had an excellent presentation by Steve Roberts, CEO of North Devon Hospice, and here he's talking about the three therapy dogs that visit the hospice.

He said they looked after 3,000 people in the last year, 1,500 of which were end of life and 1,500 were family members, and the average age was decreasing with their conditions becoming more complex.

There are 250 employees and 450 volunteers, with more needed especially for the shops.

It costs £7,000,000 to run the hospice each year of which they receive £1,000,000 from the NHS, from which it is hoped they will receive more to cover the hospice to home element of their work.

The main sources of income otherwise are the shops, general fundraising, legacies and a lottery. An extra unusual source of income recently has been from hiring out a field for dogs to exercise, but he said fundraising has become more and more difficult, and so anything we can do to help will surely be much appreciated. A vote of thanks was given by Sue S at the end of his talk.

The Summer District meeting, AGM and Handover followed on July 8th which 12 of us from Barnstaple attended and this year it was combined with the annual District Assembly at which club officers are briefed about their roles. This saw us again at the Waie Inn, which always offers excellent hospitality and a very good lunch.

At the AGM reports were heard from all the District Officers and the accounts were approved.

Then District Chairman Louise from our club handed over to Deidre Stewart from Torquay, with again the lighting of blue and yellow candles and the passing on of the chain of office and badges.



Just before lunch we had a talk about Mary's Meals, the District Overseas charity, by Joanna Blake, and the picture shows her with all the club overseas secretaries. The collection of old and overseas currencies by the District Clubs over the year has raised £1100 for the charity and there is more to come.

Scottish International Relief was founded by Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow in 1992 in a shed at his family's home, a small initiative taking aid to Bosnia, but a visit to Malawi in 2002 made him realise how many children were missing out on school because of hunger – in fact worldwide about 71 million children are out of school for this reason, and the charity was renamed Mary's Meals. A plan was conceived to provide a daily meal at school prepared by local volunteers, which would not only feed the children but would encourage them to school, and give them the energy to learn. From small beginnings, the charity now feeds 2.6 million children a day in 20 countries at a cost of £19.15 per child per year. It also means many more girls can go to school and gaining an education helps to break the poverty cycle.

The day finished with the Annual Assembly, and there was more about 'Orange the World'. During the campaign in Nov-Dec. we are encouraged to wear something orange and distribute leaflets. At the District Rally on November 25th there will be a pre-lunch walk along the sea-front at Torquay to support this, preferably wearing something orange.

Future Club events

President Sue's August tea will be held at 2.30pm on Tuesday August 5th at the home of Tina Williams. As it is close to the 80th anniversary of VJ day (celebrated on 15th August in the UK) there will be a 40s theme and you are invited to dress up in a 1940s outfit although this is optional. However there will be a prize for the best ensemble. There will also be a raffle, and President Sue looks forward to seeing you all.

Club meeting: There is no club meeting in August so the next one is on Tuesday 2nd September, 12 for 12.30 and we will finally be back at the Barnstaple Hotel! At the moment I do not have any further details, but we have had a request from one of the teachers at Park School for various items that her students can take with them to donate when they visit Kira Farm. I will send out a list of the types of item needed next month ready to be collected at the meeting.

District Informal Lunch: This is on Wednesday 10th September at the Waie Inn, probably 12 for 12.30, and is intended for us to meet members of other clubs on an informal basis. Meet in the bar and order your own lunch from the menu.

Quiz: Later in the month and much sooner than previous years is our annual quiz on Thursday 25th September. No further details at the moment but please make sure you have the date in your diary.



Other Club Activities

International Service Officer – Pam H continues to collect used stamps for Oxfam, ring pulls from tin cans, and used tablet sheets, as well as any more out of date and left over foreign currency you might find.

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.





July weather folklore

"A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay.
A swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon.
A swarm of bees in July is not worth a fly."

"If the first of July be rainy weather,
It will rain, more or less, for four weeks together."

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE:



Dog Days of Summer: July 3 marks the beginning of the "Dog Days of Summer," a period believed to bring hot weather due to the alignment of the Sun with Sirius, the Dog Star. This alignment was thought to cause scorching temperatures in ancient times.

Midsummer Night Itch - a summer poem

"Mosquito is out, it's the end of the day;
she's humming and hunting her evening away.
Who knows why such hunger arrives on such wings
at sundown? I guess it's the nature of things."
- N. M. Boedecker

From our Parish Magazine

Hymns for Different Occupations

DENTIST: Crown him with many crowns
CONTRACTORS: The church's one foundation
OBSTETRICIANS: Come, labour on
GOLFERS: There is a green hill far away
POLITICIANS: Standing on the promises
LIBRARIANS: Let all mortal flesh keep silent
CENSUS TAKERS: All people that on earth do dwell
TAXATION OFFICERS: We give thee but thine own
If you can think of any more, please let me know!

Some Quotes and Jokes

"Grass is the cheapest plant to install and the most expensive to maintain." - *Pat Howell*
'I've just been on a once in a lifetime holiday. I'll tell you what – never again' – *Tim Vine*
'To err is human. To blame someone else is politics' – *Herbert Humphrey*
'Without education we are in a horrible and deadly danger of taking educated people seriously' – *G. K. Chesterton*
'You can't have everything – where would you put it?'
Steven Wright

So I'm sitting in English class and the teacher says:

"Class, today we are going to talk about tenses. For example if I say 'I am beautiful' what tense is it in?"

My friend answers:

"Well it's obviously the past tense."

The class laughed for 10 minutes.

This is all I have space for this month. The picture of the flowerpot man enjoying his fishing was spotted on my recent holiday on the canals – he looks very relaxed!
With best wishes from Bridget

