

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025

Welcome to the October Newsletter. We're well into autumn now with the trees starting to change colour and dropping their leaves, and also in the midst of the harvest festival season. What a year it's been for berries, apples and other fruit!

Club News

Quiz This was on September 25th which was too late for last month's Newsletter. Held again at the Bowls Club, it was a very successful evening, with a very good attendance, to the extent I'm not sure we could have fitted in another table! Jane Lowe was quiz master, assisted by her husband Jim, and there was a well supported raffle. The bar supplied us with drinks, but we brought our own snacks, as we did last year. Including the raffle £534 was raised – a very creditable result.

Huge thanks to everyone involved, especially Jane – there's a lot of work producing a quiz like this!

Apologies for the lack of photos – I was so enjoying the quiz, I forgot to take any!

Then, Barnstaple Rotary had their quiz on October 2nd which was pretty much a repeat of ours, but with Stewart Robinson as quiz master. Another enjoyable evening but I don't think there were quite so many people as at ours.

Club Meeting

This was on 7th October in the Arlington Suite at the Barnstaple Hotel, and we were informed that from now on all our meetings will be there.

Joyce Dixon was inducted as a new member, and after lunch Julie Hunt gave a talk about 'Life in Public Service'



She was Deputy Mayor for 2 years before becoming Mayor for another 2 years and has also chaired North Devon District Council for three years which she said was like being the conductor of an unruly orchestra.

She emphasised the importance of team work, although some meetings were difficult and in her view she felt that local councils should be non-political.

During her time she met with royalty including Camilla whilst she was Duchess of Cornwall, the King whilst he was Prince of Wales, Princess Anne and the Duke of Kent, and also was with the Lord Lieutenant of Devon at various honours ceremonies. She also met very many local people which for her was the best part of the job.

The vote of thanks was given by Jane who said that having a husband who had worked in local government she respected how much was involved.

Future Club events

There's a lot going on in the next month or so!

Autumn District Meeting: This is still to come as I'm writing the Newsletter, on 28th October, 11am at the Waie Inn, 2 course lunch £18.50.



Club meeting: The next one is on Tuesday 4th November, 12 for 12.30 at the Barnstaple Hotel and the speaker will be Kate Harrison - on 'Bideford Archive – Your roots and how and where to find them'. Sound like another very interesting talk, particularly as researching family histories is very popular. At this meeting final numbers and payment will be needed for our Christmas meeting on December 2nd, and also for the District Rally and pre-rally.

Coffee Morning: Liz Harris is having another coffee morning at her apartment from 10.30am on Tuesday November 11th, cost £5, and will include a raffle and bring and buy sale. Items are requested for both. This is a lovely opportunity to meet informally and get to know members you haven't had a chance to chat to.

Bridge Afternoon: Pat B is having a Bridge and tea afternoon at Grosvenor Church on Saturday November 22nd, starting at 2pm. I'm awaiting further details.

Pre-Rally Tea: This is on Monday 24th November from 2.30pm at the Livermead House Hotel, Torquay 2.30, and costs £9.25. Several members are going to this and staying overnight for the District Rally and is rather more informal with a greater opportunity to meet the National President.

District Rally, Christmas Lunch and table top sale: This event, at which Pam Boyes, the Association President is the guest speaker, is the following day, also at the Livermead House Hotel, Torquay 10.30 for 11, cost £30. The table top sale is in the morning, and items for a hamper would be welcome (please bring to the November Club meeting). Other items for the sale such as small gifts and decorations can be brought on the day. The Committee have agreed that £100 of the takings will be donated to the District Chairman's chosen charity and any remaining amount will be added to the club's charity account.

To remind you, this date is the first day of this year's 'Orange the World' campaign which aims to eliminate violence against women and girls across the world and to support this we are asked to wear something orange and, if you are able, come on a 2 or 4km (your choice) walk towards Torquay town centre to raise awareness.

You can register to go at the club meeting if you haven't already done so, At which time orange wrist bands and ribbons will be available.

Petal Scattering: Julie asks club members to meet at the clock tower in The Square at 2pm on Friday 28th November to scatter orange petals to help raise awareness of the Orange the World campaign. Please note – this is separate to the Soroptomists event in the morning.

Christmas Lunch: Our club Christmas lunch is on December 2nd and providing we have 70 attending, which we think we will, it will be a carvery. Members of both Barnstaple Rotary clubs, ex-members of Bideford and Braunton IW and other guests are all invited.



Other Club Activities

Inner Wheel Garden

A small group of us met to do an autumn tidy-up on 3rd October and quite a lot was achieved but the rain got worse and worse as the morning progressed! Many thanks to June for this picture.



Action! Wet but a very productive morning cutting back and weeding. We had a couple more 'drier' sessions too, and the garden is now tidy and ready to flower again next spring.

International Service Officer – Shoe boxes – After having a wonderfully generous selection of gifts from members, a group of us met at Pam Harman's house on October 24th to fill shoe boxes for CR2EE. We split into two groups, one covering boxes and writing cards and the other filling the boxes. Pam's little dog didn't know what had hit him! Together with some already filled boxes that had been donated, we ended up with 39 boxes and Pam said she might do one or two more as we had quite a lot left over. After that, the remaining items will go to the Baby Bank charity together with anything donated at the November meeting.



Box covering and card writing team



Box filling



Pam also 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 – *For this month only, we've been asked to bring items to donate to the Baby Bank at the Club meeting.* Donations need to be new or can be used if in good condition. See picture on first page of Sue and Tina with some donations they have already delivered. You've been sent a list, but here is a reminder:

Colouring and sketch books, pencils, crayons and felt tip pens.

Rattles and toys for new babies such as fabric books.

Baby books with cardboard pages, other books for children.

Small toys and family games.

Children's underwear and pajamas – new sets up to age 7.

Nappies and wipes of all sizes, but from size 8, children prefer the pull up variety.

Mum's toiletries, toilet bags for hospital.

All bedding for children, including sheets for cots and single beds, and blankets.

For the Freedom Centre we would like mainly Christmassy items this month (remember to check they are alcohol free).

The reading scheme at Pilton Bluecoat School also continues.

Zoom keep-fit sessions – Pat Bunch has restarted her sessions after a summer break at 11am on Monday mornings for half an hour. For newer members, these started during Covid when we couldn't meet together but have carried on and it gives us a chance to have a short chat together as well. Please contact Pat for details if you are interested.



This is one of several poems sent to me by Cheryl Gill. I'll be printing another one next month

If you think you are beaten, you are
 If you think you dare not, you don't
 If you'd like to win, but think you can't
 It's almost certain you won't.
 If you think you'll lose, you've lost
 For out of the world we find
 Success begins with a fellow's will –
 Is all in the state of mind.
 If you think you're outclassed, you are
 You've got to think high to rise
 You've got to be sure of yourself before
 You can ever win the prize.
 Life's battles don't always go
 To the stronger or faster man
 To the stronger or faster man
 But sooner or later the man who wins
 Is the one who thinks he can
Anon.
 Confidence goes a long way!

October weather folklore

'Ice in October that will bear up a duck foretells a winter wet as muck'
 'As the weather in October, so it is in March'
 'Much rain in October, much wind in December'
 'If in October many leaves wither and hang on branches, it betokens a frosty winter with much snow.'



Some Quotes and Jokes

'When anyone says to me, "Can you keep a secret?" I say, "Why should I, if you can't?"' - *Gore Vidal*
 'When a man tells a woman he will do something, he will do it. There's no need to keep reminding him every six months.'
 'Thinking is to humans as swimming is to cats; they can do it but they'd prefer not to.' - *Daniel Kahmenan*
 'Exhilaration is the feeling you get just after a great idea hits you, and just before you realise what's wrong with it.' - *Rex Harrison*

To conclude, a lovely picture taken by Pat Malek who has just resigned and took so many photos for us. Best wishes from Bridget

