

## INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025

Welcome again! It's now getting quite a lot colder and darker as well, since the clocks went back and the shops are full of Christmas and Black Friday temptations if we have any spare cash after the forthcoming Autumn Budget! Lots to talk about this month – we seem to have been quite busy as a club.

### Club News

#### Autumn District Meeting



Although this was last month on October 28<sup>th</sup> it was too late to include in last month's Newsletter. As before it was at the Waie Inn and 14 Barnstaple members attended. Anticipating the Orange the World campaign District Chairman Deidre appeared in a rather elegant Orange coat! The main part of the meeting was a series of reports from the District Officers and Club Presidents who talked about a wide variety of events and fundraising activities.

Like us, several clubs have donated to CR2EE.

An administrative point was made that all members should pay their subscription for the following IW year by July 1st and until then cannot be considered to be a member for, among other things, insurance purposes.

This topic was also subsequently discussed at our own

*Preparing for Orange the World*

Committee meeting and in future we shall ask you to come prepared to pay your subs at the June meeting.

Following the meeting we had, as always, an excellent buffet lunch before returning home.

#### Club Meeting

This was held on 4<sup>th</sup> November at the Barnstaple Hotel, and donations were received for both the Mother and Baby Unit and Christmas items for the Freedom Centre. After lunch we had an interesting talk about the Bideford Community Archive by its chairman Kate Harrison and which was established in 1983. There is a team of 20 volunteers who collect and preserve documents, maps, books and photos etc. covering the area from Instow to Kilhampton, and many of the stories, some of which were mentioned, come from the Bideford and North Devon Gazette.

The Archive is in the offices of Northam Town Council and open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.



One final point – due to the meetings often running until after 10 o'clock, we have decided that in the future we'll start at 12.15 so that we don't keep the hotel staff waiting to serve the lunch.

**Coffee Morning:** Liz Harris had another lovely coffee morning on 11<sup>th</sup> November and I'm glad to say the lift was working this time! As it was Armistice Day, we had a 2 minute silence at 11am. There was a delicious assortment of refreshments, the usual well supported raffle with a great assortment of prizes, and a bring and buy table. 29 attended and the total raised was £314.50 including a donation of £20, which will go to the North Devon Hospice.



### Future Club Events

**Pre-Rally Tea:** This is on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 from 10.30, and small items for the day such as small gifts and decorations can be brought on the day. There will also be guess the weight of the cake and the number of sweets and chocolates in a box. 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.

As you all know by now, 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 the Agatha Christie statue at the harbour. Those walking the shorter distance can travel one way on the bus (June has sent out details). Following the walk we will have our Christmas lunch.

**Petal Scattering:** Julie asks club members to meet at the clock tower in The Square at 2pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 12 for 12.30 and it now looks as if we have enough people coming to have a carvery. We also need to let the hotel know our choice of dessert and Maureen J is contacting members about this. There will be a draw for three hampers (be ready to buy raffle tickets), a quiz and fun bingo. Should be a fun and festive occasion!





### Christmas Coffee Morning:

This year this is on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30 and is at Jill Waldron's home, Court Farm, Bishops Tawton. Driving out from Barnstaple this is on the right just past the church. This will be £5 per head and raffle items will be appreciated.

### Friendship Lunch:

Our annual friendship lunch is to celebrate Inner Wheel day and in a change of venue will be at Filleigh Village Hall, 12 for 12.30 on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026, cost £10. In a change from previous years, there will be soups followed by a selection of desserts, and you will need to bring your own drinks. There will be a quiz and as usual, a raffle so prizes are requested. Guests will be welcome, but please contact Jane re numbers. She will also be sending out more details in due course.

### Other Club Activities



**International Service Officer – Shoe boxes** – Following our shoe box filling session, Pam (and Pip the dog) and I transported the boxes and 4 large bags to Exmouth on 15<sup>th</sup> November, and the picture shows my car loaded to the gunnels!

Finding our way in Exmouth was somewhat hampered by a whole series of roadworks but we made it eventually and were shown the area where donated goods were being sorted and the room where thousands of shoe boxes were being stored prior to their transport to Moldova.

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** – You have already seen the items collected for the Baby Bank and the Freedom Centre, and we continue to collect for the latter. I also understand there are more donations for the Baby Bank. 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.



### *November weather folklore*

'Thunder in November indicates a fertile year to come.'

'Flowers in bloom in late autumn indicate a bad winter.'

'If St Martins day (Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>) is fair, dry and cold, the cold in winter will not last long.'

'As November 21<sup>st</sup>, so the winter.'

Well, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> (Liz's coffee morning) was mildish and damp, the 21<sup>st</sup> was a beautiful but cold day, and there are still some flowers (not many) in my garden – we'll see what happens!



Covid may not be quite such a concern as it was but there's still a lot of it around – here's a way to check whether you've got it! – Thanks to Sue S for this

#### HOME COVID TEST

1. Pour a large glass of red wine, try to smell it.
2. If you can smell the wine then drink it & see if you can taste it.
3. If you can taste & smell it confirms you don't have Covid.

Last night I did the test 19 times, & all were negative, thank God.

Tonight I am going to do the test again, because this morning I woke with a headache & feel like I am coming down with something.

I am so nervous!

Think about this from Maureen I when you're deciding who you send Christmas cards to –

#### *Christmas Cards*

There is a list of folks I know  
All written in a book.  
And every Christmas time  
I go and take a look.  
And that is when I realise  
That those names are a part,  
Not of the book they're written in  
But of my very heart

For each name stands for someone  
Who touched my life sometime,  
And in that meeting they've become  
'The Rhythm of the Rhyme'  
I really feel I am composed  
Of each remembered name,  
My life is so much better  
Than it was before you came.

So never think my Christmas cards  
Are just a mere routine,  
Of names upon a list  
Forgotten in between.  
For when I send a Christmas card  
That is addressed to you,  
It's because you are on that list  
Of folks I'm indebted to.

For whethere I've known you  
For many years or few,  
In some way you had a part  
In shaping things I do.  
So every year when Christmas  
comes  
I just realise anew,  
The biggest gift that God can give  
Is knowing folks like you.

#### *Some Quotes and Jokes*

'The human brain starts working the moment you are born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public' – *George Jessel*

'The best way to teach your kids about taxes is by eating 30% of their ice cream' – *Warren Buffett*

'God is definitely a builder. He tells us he's coming back but gives no indication as to when' – *Hugh Dennis*

'The definition of a good speech, I once read, is a joke at the beginning, a joke at the end, and the shortest time possible between' – *Bill Nighy*

That's it for now – enjoy the various Christmas parties! Best wishes from Bridget



#### *What I love about Britain*

'Whenever I have spent substantial time abroad, the thing I have got homesick for is the rituals. I missed the queue culture almost as much as I missed my mother – how the British can instinctively form an orderly line. Trust me, this does not happen in India. When I once returned after six months in America the thing that had me weeping tears of gratitude at the wheel of my rented Vauxhall Vectra was someone doing the famous 'half-run' across a zebra crossing. You've doubtless done this little jog yourself, waving or nodding as you do so, to demonstrate gratitude to the driver. In the US, pedestrians and motorists act like sworn enemies.' – *Sathnan Sanghera in The Times*

