

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025



A Christmas message from President Sue

Greetings, wishing you all a Christmas and New Year full of Peace, Joy and Happiness.

This Year instead of sending Christmas cards I have given a donation to our Charity account.

Members who also donated to the Charity account instead of sending cards also send their good wishes for Christmas and The New Year and are Sue White, Tina Williams, June Tamlyn, and Pat Bunch

Club News

District Rally, Christmas Lunch and Tabletop Sale



This took place on November 25th, hosted by the Torquay club, but was just a bit too late to include in the last Newsletter. Several members attended the pre-rally tea the day before and stayed the night, with the rest of us travelling on the day to Torquay, making about 13 of us in all, I think.



The rally is when the National President visits, who this year is Pam Boyes, and the 25th was also the first day of the annual UN 'Orange the World' campaign to raise awareness of violence to women and girls. Pam was particularly keen to mark the occasion with a walk which we did in perfect weather along Torquay sea front to the harbour and a recently erected statue of Agatha Christie, most of us wearing something orange.

Those who didn't go on the walk manned the tabletop sale, which was followed by a full Christmas lunch, a speech from Pam Boyes, and various greetings from invited guests. We also presented Pam with a cheque for £100 for her charity, Ronald McDonald House. A very full and successful day.



Orange
the World
Petal
Scattering

Wet and
windy!!



Three days after this, we did our orange petal scattering over the river in Barnstaple on a completely different day – wet and very blustery and quite difficult to throw the petals!

Also included here is June's picture of the post box toppers – well done all the knitters and thanks to June for coordinating this project and providing these composite pictures.



#ORANGE
THEWORLD

Club Christmas Lunch

This wonderfully festive occasion was held in the Arlington Suite of the Barnstaple Hotel on 2nd December where we were joined by many of our partners, Rotary members and friends. Everyone enjoyed a carvery, a quiz and bingo which was presided over by Julie. In addition there was a raffle which included some lovely hampers which Sue and friends had put together which raised £271.



A week later we had our annual Christmas Coffee morning held at Jill Waldron's home which was attended by about 30 members. Sadly, I was unable to go, but I hear Jill provided a wonderful spread of goodies, and there was the usual raffle and exchange of cards. A total of £263 pounds was raised with I believe an additional £20 or so in donations. Thank you again to June for the picture, and to Jill for hosting.

Future Club Events

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 10th January 2026, cost £10. Also a change from previous years, there will be soups followed by a selection of desserts, but 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.

Next Club Meeting

This will be on Tuesday 3rd February and is our annual birthday meeting at which we'll be visited by Deidre Stewart our District Chairman.

Other Club Activities

International Service Officer –

Pam 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 continue to collect for the Freedom centre at our monthly meetings and the reading scheme at Pilton Bluecoat School also continues.

Zoom keep-fit sessions – Pat continues her sessions and will start again in January after a Christmas break at 11am on Monday mornings for half an hour. She will let us know when we start again in the New year and if anyone else would like to join in please contact Pat for details.

Doves for peace – This is a project promoting peace inviting various organisations to produce origami doves to contribute to an art installation in Barnstaple Parish Church from mid-January, and coordinated by Frances Bell (chair of Barnstaple in Bloom). For anyone who would be interested in contributing to this we are having a session at my house (Little Orchard, Ashford) at 10.30am on Tuesday January 13th – please let me know if you are coming. Instructions, paper, coffee and biscuits provided. The pictures show doves produced by June and family



December weather folklore

These are more about winter in general rather than December itself:

‘When early squirrels start to hoard, winter will pierce like a sword’
‘If the rooster moults before the hen, we’ll have winter thick and thin,
but if the hen moults before the cock, we’ll have winter hard as rock’
Many sayings suggest that abundant crops and thicker skins on fruit and veg. predict a cold winter – we’ll see!

Some Christmas cracker gags published in the 'T' paper

Why is (former) prince Andrew not writing any Christmas books?

He hasn't got any titles.

Which pop star carves her own wooden nativity scene?

Sabrina Carpenter.

What do Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor and a snowman have in common? *They're both out in the cold.*

What is a French burglar's favourite film? *Louvre, actually.*

Why won't Angela Rayner get any Christmas presents this year?

Santa can't decide which address to deliver to.

What is Claudia Winkleman's favourite part of Christmas dinner?

The taters.



Some excerpts from 'A dictionary of medicine's unnamed moments'

Although I have now been retired for many years I still receive the BMJ and these are selection from the light hearted Christmas edition – one of two of these apply equally well to everyday life!

Exitcall – the pager going off just as you're about to leave for the day.

Passnesesia – the sudden mental blackout when trying to log in to a hospital computer you've used daily for years as if the password has been surgically removed from your memory.

Veinspotting – the idle pastime of scanning strangers arms for possible cannulation sites.

Cursorcrawl – The glacial pace of an ancient hospital computer waking up, during which you can measure time in heartbeats.

Christmas Cards: Last month I included a poem about Christmas cards, but I've been given another version with slightly different wording and a few more lines which I've put together:

Once we've met somebody, the years cannot erase ... The memory of a pleasant word or friendly face –

For we are the total of the many folks we've met. And you happen to be one of those that we prefer not to forget.

And may the spirit of Christmas that forever endures leave its richest blessing in the hearts of You and Yours

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to you all from Bridget

