

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BARNSTAPLE NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026



Hello everyone - it's maybe a bit late to wish you a Happy New Year, especially as I've already seen quite a few of you but repeating President Sue's message last month I wish you a year full of peace, joy and happiness.

Below is a greeting from International President Kay Morland, who sent us this message about Inner Wheel day which of course we celebrated on the day with our Friendship lunch – more of that shortly.

Club News

Friendship Lunch:

Despite worries initially about numbers and the weather this took place on January 10th at Filleigh Village Hall as planned and was very successful.

It was a beautiful day, the hall was warm and welcoming, the company was excellent and there was a great selection of soups followed by some delicious puddings.

We were kept entertained with a quiz compiled by Maureen I, and something to remember for the quizzers among us, the only word in the English language with three consecutive double letters is Bookkeeper!

We also had the customary raffle which was very well supported and Maureen J subsequently reported the event, including the raffle raised £721 which will go to the North Devon Hospice, a fantastic result!

Picture on the next page



INTERNATIONAL INNER WHEEL  **PRESIDENT KAY MORLAND**
10 JANUARY 2026

INNER WHEEL DAY

Enjoy your INNER WHEEL DAY Celebrations.
Celebrate the opportunity given to us all
to build cherished friendships, to serve our communities
and to make a difference in this world.
The opportunity to Step Up & Lead by Example.

Wishing you all
another successful,
rewarding and fun filled
year in Inner Wheel.

Kay 



Doves for peace

A few days after this, a small group met at my house to make origami paper doves to support this project which will be displayed in Barnstaple Parish Church. Some of us found these easier to do than others! Together with some made mainly by June and her family earlier we now have 60 doves of varying sizes, and hopefully we'll make a few more. Updating this, over 100 have been completed!



Rotary Burns Night

The Barnstaple Rotary Club put on a Burns Night Supper as has been their custom for the last few years, and this took place on January 22nd.

There was quite a good Inner Wheel representation and it was a very enjoyable evening complete with pipers, Burns' address to the haggis, an address to the 'lassies' which was responded to by Gay with an amusing speech, and various toasts.

This was complemented with a menu with choices which included the traditional Scotch broth, haggis with 'neaps and tatties', and cranachan.

The evening finished appropriately with 'Auld lang syne' accompanied by the bagpipes.
(pictures on the next page)



Future Club Events

The next Club meeting is on Tuesday 3rd February at the Barnstaple Hotel, and to remind you we plan to start at 12.15, so please come at 11.45. This is our 81st birthday meeting and our speaker will be District Chairman Deidre Stewart.

Then looking ahead a little our annual Business meeting when we agree the Club Officers and Committee is on March 3rd, but Secretary Jane would like to know the names of anyone who is willing to stand by 29th January if at all possible. To remind you the club cannot function without a President, Secretary and Treasurer, but for the smooth running of a club of our size the other roles of Vice-President, Membership and Development Officer, International Secretary, Club Correspondent and several other Committee members are needed. The current Secretary and Membership Secretary are standing down. Consideration may be given to job sharing, but we really need some new faces with fresh ideas on the Committee, and advice and help will be available if needed. The club cannot run itself! Join us and you may find you enjoy it!

One week later on March 10th is the Spring District meeting and annual skittles competition at the Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum with also a buffet lunch, quiz and darts competition. For those who have not been before, the day is great fun, and also an opportunity to meet members of the other clubs, and you don't need any experience at skittles to join in! There will probably be boards to sign up at the next 2 club meetings, and car shares will be arranged.

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, tend the Inner Wheel garden, and the reading scheme at Pilton Bluecoat School also continues.

Zoom keep-fit sessions – Pat continues her sessions at 11am on Monday mornings for half an hour and if anyone else would like to join in please contact Pat for details.

January

Old January Traditions

The first one is local, but I hadn't heard of it before!

1st January, Bideford - Andrew's Dole. Dates from 1605, when Mayor John town, and apparently the tradition continues but I haven't been able to

find out anything more about it

1st January, Queen's College Oxford – Needle and thread ceremony. In a ceremony dating back 600 years, each college member is given a needle and some coloured silk thread to mend their academic hoods and instructed to 'Take this and be thrifty'.

17th January, Carhampton and Roadwater, Somerset – Wassailing Orchards. Takes place on the old Twelfth night, when the wassailing party enter the orchards with a goodly amount of cider with which to toast the trees and thus encourage a fruitful season.

30th Januarey, Windsor Castle and London – Charles I's Martyrdom. Commoration of the first king to be officially executed. A memorial service is held at Windsor Castle and choristers march from St Martin-in-the-Fields



A short winter story

I decided to make the ultimate hot chocolate—extra marshmallows, whipped cream, sprinkles, the works. I left it on the counter for just a second to grab a blanket. When I came back, my cat was sitting in the mug, tail swishing like it owned the place. Now every time I make hot chocolate, the cat waits patiently... for its cup.

A few jokes and quotes:

'Have you ever wondered about those people who spend £2 on little bottles of Evian water? Try spelling Evian backwards: NAÏVE'

'I don't suffer from insanity – I enjoy every moment of it.'

'My neighbour knocked on my door at 2.30am this morning. Can you believe it? Luckily for him I was still up playing the bagpipes.'

(Practising for Burns night I wonder?)

From William, age 7 – When ships had sails, they used the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes when the wind didn't blow the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would have been better off eating beans!

Spring Flowers

The snowdrop with her winter blessing
Must be very quick at dressing
Always first to break the grasses
Waking croci as she passes.

The crocus later will remind
The hyacinth to walk behind
And as these lovely belles arrive
The sleepy spring flowers all contrive
To wake and dress with joy and laughter
So that they, too, follow after.

How many of you saw the aurora borealis last Monday?

Here is one of the amazing pictures.

Well, that's it for this month – best wishes from Bridget

