



Coast to Coast District 17

Congratulations to District 17 on its

80th Anniversary Year.

**Welcome to the first edition (South) of
the newsletter for District 17.**

District Editor (temp.) Madge Bell.

**Message from the District Chairman
Deirdre Stewart.**



District Chairman Deirdre (front row left) and some members of Torquay Inner Wheel.

I am delighted that this new-style newsletter is starting during my year as District Chairman. I give it my full support and hope it enhances your enjoyment of Inner Wheel. Many thanks to all our members for all you do for your Clubs and to help others at home and abroad.

District 17 Clubs are all in the County of Devon from the North to the South Coast, from Axminster in the east to Okehampton in the west. The oldest Club is Exmouth, founded in 1930, closely followed by Torquay in 1934.

New District Newsletter

As we have not yet found a District Editor and currently have no magazine, it is hoped that we have come up with a solution.

The proposal is that we produce a trial newsletter three times a year in autumn, spring and summer. It will be edited and printed by each Area – South, North and East, in turn. It is hoped that Clubs will co-operate with each other to submit special articles and photographs rather than the general District information we have included in the magazine hitherto.

Only 100 (25% of the membership) copies will be printed for those who have no access to a computer. It will also be available by email to Club Secretaries and on the Website.

We hope you will enjoy reading it. D. Ed.

Welcome to Pam Day, Exmouth Inner Wheel, who is our new District Website Manager.

Pam has begun already to improve our website and it is a source of information and fun. It is such a pleasure to see how the Club Correspondents have responded with varied and interesting accounts of Club activities.

Website: w.w.w.innerwheeldistrict17.co.uk

Have a look at the website. All the latest news and District 17 information is there.

If you have an article or an advertisement for the newsletter, please use the contact address:

IW17@by-the-sea .co.uk

Membership

There are only 12 Clubs now in District 17, but it covers a geographically large area. Yet it is a vibrant and often independent –minded District. Look around your Clubs. How many of you can talk to a Past District Executive



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member, or a current one? There are members in every Club who have served on Association Committees, special projects like "Wheels", attended and taken active parts in Conferences, visited Conventions in Italy, New Zealand, Kota Kinabalu, Istanbul and Copenhagen. Yet all these ladies' first loyalty is to their Clubs and the service and friendship they give in the local and the wider world.

District Rally - 2nd November 2016



District Chairman Deirdre Stewart and Association President Zena Cole cutting the D.17 80th birthday cake



Oh what a beautiful day...host Club Torquay in November sunshine.

IT'S FUN BEING A PAST DISTRICT CHAIRMAN!

PDC Anne Francis, Totnes Inner Wheel Club.

I was District Chairman of D17 in 2011-12 when Phyllis Charter was the Association President. We were her 'girls'. She called us Peacocks but at the end of our year we were referred to as 'feather dusters'. Each year since, Phyllis has asked her 'feather dusters' to organise a reunion of Past District Chairmen.

Phyllis organised the first reunion in D10 Gloucestershire, followed by a visit organised by D21 to the Ironbridge area. The next year took us to Norfolk and this year Tricia Harris of D20 Somerset and I welcomed PDCs and husbands to D17 and our beautiful Devon.

We had those perfect few days at The Redcliffe Hotel in Paignton; the weather and the friendship were all wonderful.

They came from all over England and many had not visited this area before – so we took them on the Round Robin from Paignton - visiting Totnes, Dartmouth and back via the Steam Train. The next day took us to National Trust houses – Coleton Fishacre and Greenway (Agatha Christie's home on the River Dart).

They loved it and became so inspired that our reunions are already organised for the next two years!

So being a PDC is great. Why don't you try it? D17 needs you – and you can enjoy future reunions with your Association President.

[Members of District 17 send their best wishes for a happy future to Ann and John who will soon move to Oxfordshire.](#)

Is there an Inner Wheel Club there? D. Ed.



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Special news from the North.

Association needs YOU!!

Volunteer for Association Committees.

All Association Committees have two or more places for Club members. There is a whisper that a D17 member would like to serve on one of these Committees. Could it be YOU?

District Chairman's Conference Challenge

This year's Challenge was for you all to design a badge with a **snowdrop motif** for members going to Conference.

The winning design is by Yvonne Potter of Okehampton Club. Congratulations to Yvonne on her delightful design. We shall be proud to wear it.



Has anyone else seen a large sign?

Bideford Club: Inner Wheel/Rotary Wedding

Lindy met Rotarian Rusty Crowhurst many years ago when she was working in Cape Town, resulting in a life-long friendship. Lindy came home to Devon and set up home close to her sister Sally. Three or four years ago Sally introduced Lindy to our club and she settled in immediately. A couple of years ago she went on holiday to South Africa to visit old friends and it was then that they realized that this friendship was so much more! A very happy 'engaged' Lindy came home soon to be followed by Rusty. He transferred to Bideford Bridge Rotary. They tied the knot last summer. Oh happy day.



Best Wishes to Lindy and Rusty for a very happy future together from all in D.17

With thanks to Penny Hughes of Bideford Club.

Congratulations to Torquay member Jeannette Dommatt who has been awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship by the Rotary Club of Tormohun.

Obituaries

PDC/Member of Council Marjorie Joyce of Sidmouth.

Rtn Carol Lay, wife of RDG 1175 Stephen.

P.A.P. Beatrice Lapham.



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Inner Wheel Club of Braunton

40th birthday celebrations.

On Saturday 12th November we celebrated our 40th anniversary with a black tie dinner at Saunton Sands Golf Club. Guest were greeted by President Sally Steer and her husband Alexander. Our MC for the night was Marjorie Cork, one of three founder members present. Also present was our founder President Anne Eadie, who kindly said Grace.



Among our guests were Presidents of Braunton and Braunton Caen Rotary Clubs and District Chairman Deirdre Stewart and her husband Michael. District Chairman Deidre presented a certificate from District 17, congratulated us on our 40th birthday and gave an insight into life in 1976, remembering important things that had happened. PDC Marjorie Cork, a founder member, recounted memories of the early days of the Club.



With thanks to Helen Welsh of Braunton Club.

Ode to Inner Wheel

For 65 years Tiverton Inner Wheel have been having fun.

Lunch dates, afternoon teas in winter gales and summer sun.

Local Clubs, District meetings, Conference both country and world wide

We help each other and our neighbours with warmth and pride.

No one knows what the future will bring

But we guarantee there will be friendship and plenty of bling!

With thanks {!} to President Frances Mitchell of Tiverton Club who says she had an idle moment.

Rotary News

After a most successful start last year under the guidance of District Governor Bryan Stoyel and his wife Rtn and IW member Maxine, the new D 1175, which stretches from the Scilly Isles to the Dorset border is flourishing. Geographically, it is an extensive District, and it has been divided into several areas, as we have done in District 17.

The first District 1175 Conference was held in Torquay at the ERC and D17 was represented by PDCs Ann Francis and Madge Bell. PDCs Denise Bacon of D 129 and Madge Bell of D17 had both been invited to speak at the Conference.

This year's Rotary Governor is Stephen Lay. The District 1175 Conference takes place this weekend in Newquay. PDC Jill Cobley will represent us. We wish D1175 all the best for a great Conference.



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Club newsround.

Axminster: the ladies of Axminster seem to enjoy their food – mince pies, curry supper and coffee and cake. They continue to support the School in a Bag Charity, but sadly had to postpone the East Zone International Rally.

Barnstaple: now meets at the Barnstaple Hotel each month. The Charities supported this year include Children's Hospice South West, Sightsavers and Amigos. They also give goods regularly to the Barnstaple Freedom Centre, collect small change for Lepira throughout the year and have prepared Christmas Shoe Boxes for the Samaritans Purse charity. February 7th was the celebration of the club's 72nd birthday.

Bideford: Guest speakers this year have included Ann Widdecombe, Atsuko Kato a yoga teacher, Jo Bulmer, a local Bideford boy who reports for the North Devon Journal and silk painting with Michael Watkins. They managed to fit in a theatre visit to see "The Red Shoes" and a lovely friendship lunch.

Braunton: The charity this year is "Flying Fish" who provide space for arts for people suffering from mental health issues. A skittles evening was held for International charity "Impact" – won by Janice Cock. Congratulations on your 40th Birthday celebrations –D. Ed.

Dartmouth: Chris Dawes came to speak on Hearing Dogs for the Deaf – a great Charity to donate to. The outing to Fermoy's Garden Centre and lunch at Dainton Golf Club were much enjoyed, then it was back to filling those Christmas Shoe boxes. Members also attended the International Zone Rally in Torquay.

Exmouth: The Club had a stall at the Rotary Kite Festival selling cakes, plants, bric-a-brac and books and ran a tombola at the Exmouth Christmas Cracker. The annual fish and chip supper was well attended by nearly 40 which included members, partners and Rotarians; it raises funds for International charities. The speaker was Dr. Marianne Steven from Médecins Sans Frontières. Other speakers have been Coastwatch and Canine Partners.

Okehampton: the year began with a visit by the Rotary President to the summer coffee morning, followed by the August President's Tea Party. A talk was given by Ryan Harnell, the Youth Parliament representative for North Devon Area. He is 16 years of age and attends the Okehampton College. At the afternoon meeting on the same day, they heard from Sarah Daniels, who spoke very passionately about the work of the cancer charity FORCE. They have an excellent facility adjacent to the RDE in Exeter with outreach centres in Okehampton and Tiverton. They fund research, patient care, family and carer support, with counselling and other services. These include exercise classes, art classes, help with make up, wigs, lingerie and numerous complimentary therapies.

Otter Valley: In December they were helping the Rotary club with various projects. They were elves at the Grotto in Sidmouth Garden Centre and also helped Santa, when he toured the local villages, with his sleigh. Members served mulled wine and mince pies at the Family Carol Singalong, at the Royal British Legion while the Ottery St. Mary Silver Band played. The Christmas meeting this year, took place at West Hill Village Hall, where Sau Hang Fong Bennett gave us an interesting and informative demonstration of a Chinese Tea Ceremony. In January members were asked to bring along an item from 1986, the year the



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Club was chartered. February saw them filling 45 shoeboxes and wearing 'silly socks' for Beat.

Sidmouth: After lunch held at the Blue Ball Inn, Sidford, members of the Sidmouth Inner Wheel Club enjoyed a talk and presentation by Duncan and Rosalind Watt, leaders of TEAMS – The East African Missionary Society, a registered charity and NGO. It is a charity with a very wide remit. Members played in a bridge drive to support the President's Charity, Admiral Nurses.

Don't forget Monday 20th March Sidmouth Club 60th birthday. Lunch at the Victoria Hotel.

Tiverton: The Club enjoyed their Christmas Lunch resplendent in festive robes! A most enjoyable time was had, and after lunch they were entertained by 'In Harmony', a local trio of ladies who sang a wonderful medley of songs and carols. The first speaker of 2017 was Chris Morgan from Panache, a 'gym' using Shapemaster Chairs. These chairs exercise muscles in a gentle way. Members celebrated Inner Wheel Day by holding a "Souper Lunch" in aid of Mary's Meals. Some members attended a Rotary Supper and Antiques Evening. A variety of items had been brought along by a representative of Bearnese, Hampton & Littlewood. Club members are knitting 5" squares for the Special Care Baby Unit in Taunton. A pair of squares is given to each mum – mum puts one square in her bra and the other square is placed in the cot with the baby. The squares are then switched and the 'smells' transferred which helps bonding and milk production.

Torquay: The Club has both the serving District Chairman, Deirdre Stewart and the Member of Council, Madge Bell as members this year. This makes for a busier than usual year. They began with lunch at the President's home, a charity lunch at member Margaret

Povey's house and then standing to attention for the District Rally. Some members went to Cornwall for the District 129 Rally in Redruth. The President's charity is MPS, the society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases. Children suffer multi-organ storage diseases and at present there is no cure. The year began with a driving expert telling us everything we didn't know – and there was a lot. The Autumn Fair was next and then a visit to Clark's shoe museum at Street, where MoC Madge saw a pair of green suede shoes, dated 1939, exactly like the ones her Mother wore at her wedding. There was lunch and a 'little' shopping at Clark's village. After the Christmas festivities they are back to work with a coffee morning in January, Skittles practise, learning to crochet poppies on Inner Wheel Day and a speaker reminiscing about the early days of Television. After the International South Zone Rally, there is the planning for the two fashion shows at Austins in Newton Abbot on the 6th and 12th April and the District Chairman's Line Dance evening at the Berry Head Hotel on April 20th.

Totnes : It is with sadness that we report that Totnes Club is to close this year. Many of you attended their wonderful 50th Charter Celebration at Buckfast Abbey in 2015. We are losing a Club of great quality and history. In January, the Club held their annual skittles event at Lee Moor, always a good fundraiser. Rotarians and friends attended.

Note from Editor:

I hope you have enjoyed this first newsletter. It has been a pleasure to see all that you do. I must congratulate the Club Correspondents who are sending their entertaining reports to Pam for the website.

Now is the time to hand over to the East Area to produce the next spring Edition.

All good wishes, Madge Bell, District 17 Editor (temporary).



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