



ÖREBRO IWC
Distrikt 234
Sweden

Warm greetings to all the ladies of Boonah IW club.

It's that time of the year when we sum up a very active winter/spring period and look forward to a long summer break. At least that's the Swedish way. We certainly hope that your club has been thriving as usual, which is something that reflects in your regular newsy issues of Friendship Bouquet.

Our club has enjoyed some very interesting and fun meetings, always enhanced by a good meal in great company. Our winter has been fairly mild with very little snow. Global warming is making itself known most noticeably as our climate seems to be changing fast. However on those very dark winter evenings it is always good to have a goal, something to get us out of our warm homes, so our IW meetings are a good opportunity to enjoy each other's company and a very interesting programme.

We have welcomed new members which is always a joy but sadly have lost three very active members who have passed away, a reminder that life is fragile and that we must take every chance to live and give each day.

We had a good crowd with several guests that came to our International Inner Wheel Day meeting on 10 January. We were given a drama presentation of a recently written book (the size of a brick) where local authors have researched and told the story of a local orphan boy, Anders Lundquist whom Queen Hedvig took under her wing in 1810. He became an artist in Stockholm but died in early years.

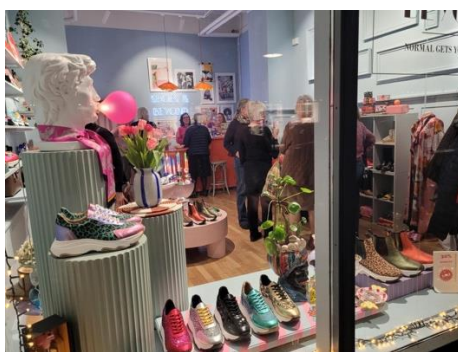


Book cover of The Queen's Protégé

We were also given an update on Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo which our club has supported for some years. Congo is a country in constant conflict where women and children are raped and abused by militants in order to access the mineral mines and take control, destroying villages and the lives of the citizens. Panzi Hospital, led by a very brave Dr Denis Mukwege 'mend' these mutilated women both physically and mentally and try to help them build up their lives again.

In February we were entertained by a melodious singing group of five young women who call themselves 'The Sirens'. Their name relates of course to the Sirens in Greek mythology, where the Sirens were birdlike women that tried to lure and tempt sailors at sea with their song in order to shipwreck them. We were however assured that our entertaining Sirens were not dangerous. We listened to songs by the Bee Gees as well as Swedish folksongs. There was something for everyone.

Our March meeting was held in a small boutique called 'Shoes and beyond' where we met the two young women who own this exciting boutique and actually design their own shoes under the name of 'The Shoe Bakery'. We were met by exciting designs of trainers that really catch the eye as well as other products such as textiles, candlesticks very snazzy shoe laces etc. The owners also sell products which other women design and try to help them on their way as entrepreneurs. They also support a women's co-operative in Kenya.



Shoes and beyond boutique, Örebro

April saw a grand attendance of 39 ladies who were very interested in what our speaker had to say about food hygiene. Professor Marie-Louise Danielsson-Tham led us through all the different types of bacteria that can be found in the food we eat, both good and bad. She is often seen on Swedish TV and is a professor at the exclusive restaurant school which is an institute within Örebro University. She definitely gave us food for thought.

Finally, our last meeting before the summer break was held at a smallholding on the outskirts of Örebro called Berga Gård. A rainy and uninviting evening to drive out into the countryside, but 21 ladies enjoyed a super salmon meal followed by a presentation of the smallholding, which is completely ecological. Every day 12,000 hens lay 10,000 eggs which are sold in their farm shop and distributed to other buyers. They also have 85 sheep (in Australian eyes this must seem just a handful) which are of various races. The shop sells sheepskin rugs and of course meat from the lambs. They grow their own grain, both to feed the hens and sheep and also send wheat to a local mill and use the flour in their home baked cakes and bread which can be enjoyed in their coffee shop. One of the summer highlights is the field of sunflowers which they plant every year and where locals can come and cut their own bouquets at a nominal price. The smallholding is family run and everyone has to pitch in to do their bit.

There was of course lots of interest in the shop and the produce that it had to offer. Cheeses, meats including wild boar and elk, jams and chutneys, crisp breads and eggs of course.

We finished our evening tasting their home made ice-cream with our coffee after which we welcomed our new president for 2025-26, Lisbeth Wiker and thanked our president, Elisabeth for working hard and contributing to our club in a very positive way. I was also thanked for my two years as ISO and will be handing back the baton to Annika Sandén who is also DISO in our district.



A super salmon meal was enjoyed by the ladies.



Welcome to our new President.



Thanks to ISO, Janice

All that remains for me to say is how glad we are to have Pakenham as a club in friendship. It has been fun to share with you some of our club's activities from January to May. We live in two different cultures and do things very differently but are joined together through the strong ties of Inner Wheel which is such a privilege.

Our best wishes to you all.

Janice Karlsson
ISO, Örebro Inner Wheel Club



Örebro Castle dating from the 14th century, situated in the centre of the town