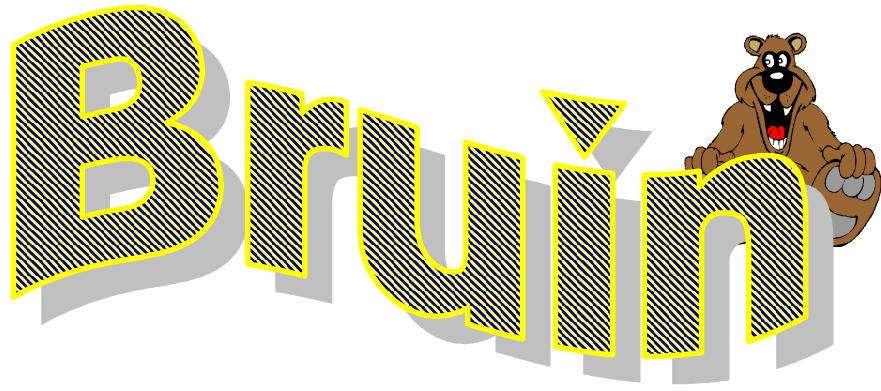


district 1150



The Brecon Rotary Club Newsletter

February 2008

President – John Hopkins
Vice President – Maurice Parry

Usk House Visit

Our meeting on 28th January took place at Usk House where we enjoyed an evening meal as guests of the Trustees. Before the meal Chairman of the Trustees, Michael Jones, and Dr Philip Snow outlined the history of Usk House which began life 15 years ago as a day hospice offering palliative care for cancer patients. It is operated as a charitable company and costs about £160,000 per year to run of which about one third comes from the Local Health Board, one third

from the National Lottery and other charities and the remainder from donations and other fundraising. Over the years the services provided at Usk House have evolved to embrace a 'drop in' centre and a range of special support groups and an educational function. The building was in a semi-derelict state when it was purchased and most of the work to turn it into a useable centre was undertaken by volunteers. After the meal Club Members were taken on a conducted tour of the premises.

New Member?

President John has informed the Club that his colleague, Ingrid Gallagher, who is the headteacher of Brecon High School has expressed a wish to join our Club. If she joins us she will be the first lady member to join since our Club's inception nearly fifty years ago.

More Puds Please!

The Christmas puddings which were ordered for the Club by John Nancarrow were so successful that Club Council has decided to order another batch in time for Christmas 2008. Some members were generous enough to donate theirs to our Christmas Hamper Appeal. John was so keen to distribute them that he answered the doorbell of his flat in his pyjamas one morning to hand over the pud ordered by Anthony Edwards. The sale and distribution of puddings is organised by Cwmbran Rotary Club who raise large sums for Rotary Foundation with the scheme.



What's Brewin'?

Thursday 28th February
Young Musician Competition, Gwernyfed High School



Monday 10th March
10 pin bowling v Crickhowell Rotary Club



Young Musician Competition

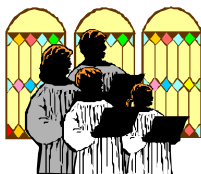
The attendance list for this event at Gwernyfed High School on Thursday 28th February which was being circulated went AWOL during our visit to Usk House. As we shall need to know the approximate number of Rotarians attending for catering

purposes will all members who are proposing to attend please let either Terry Dewan or Richard Doylend know as our Youth Activities Chairman, Clive Lillywhite, will be in India until shortly before the date of this year's first round of the competition.

The Singing Boffin

It is not often that we are entertained by a natural raconteur of the calibre of our speaker on 14th January.

Norman Rose is an octogenarian resident of Brecon who has achieved the distinction of being one of very few guest speakers who have addressed us more than once. On his first visit in 2006 he spoke about his experiences on a train journey across Russia which featured unexpected encounters with Russian ladies on the Trans Siberian Express - very James Bond! A farmer's son from Warwickshire who left home at the age of eight and never returned, Norman's singing voice earned him a



coveted place as a young choir scholar at Coventry Cathedral where he was to become head chorister. In 1940 the choirmaster, fearing an air raid on Coventry, arranged for the whole choir school to decamp to nearby Kenilworth for the night for safety. When they returned the next morning the cathedral and choir school had been reduced to rubble by the Luftwaffe! After a short spell in the Marines Norman went on to become a nuclear physicist with the scientific civil service working on the atom bomb and on peaceful uses of nuclear energy

at nuclear sites all over the UK. On one occasion an aircraft of the Queen's Flight was put at his disposal so that he could leave a snowbound Dounreay to see his father in the Midlands who was dying of lung cancer. Norman concluded his talk with a well told tale about a 'lippy' young army cadet whom he had helped secure a place at Sandhurst many years previously and who, as Lt. Gen. Sir Robert Fry, had recently retired from active service! Norman was introduced by Peter Jenkins and thanked for his address by Gareth Griffiths.

Rachel Podger

Our guest speaker on 21st January was Rachel Podger who came along with her partner Tim Cronin to tell us about her life as one of the UK's leading exponents of the baroque violin. Rachel brought along her own violin which was made in 1739 and played some Bach for us on it. She explained how and why the violin altered during the 18th C to meet changing needs as ensemble music evolved from chamber music into orchestral music. Rachel studied at the Guildhall School of Music and has played with many of the leading artists in the field of baroque music all over the world. She directed the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment from the violin in a televised Promenade Concert during the 2007 Prom season. Rachel, and Tim who

teaches music locally, have started a charity, the Mozart Music Fund, to raise funds to assist parents who can't afford to give their children music lessons and they organise concerts as fundraising events for this worthy cause. They also put on the Brecon Baroque Festival each year at Theatr Brycheiniog which is proving to be very popular.

Tim has kindly agreed to be our adjudicator at the Young Musician Competition which we are organising this month at Gwernyfed High School.

District Strategic Plan

Club Secretary Brian Newman has prepared a response on behalf of the Club to the discussion paper on current and future priorities for our Rotary District. Amongst other suggestions he has put forward is a proposal to hold just two meetings a month in future of which one would be a dinner with guest speaker, and the other a business meeting held earlier at, say, 6pm after which members can socialise and have a bar meal if they wish.

Bottle Rota

4th February – Mervyn Woodward
11th February – Geoff Woollorton
18th February – Handel Davies
25th February – Hywel Davies
3rd March – Terry Dewan
10th March – Richard Doylend
17th March – Anthony Edwards
24th March – No Rotary
31st March – Gareth Griffiths
7th April – Howard Hoare

Bruin Editor – Richard Doylend

 **01874 658692**

e-mail: richard.doylend@btinternet.com