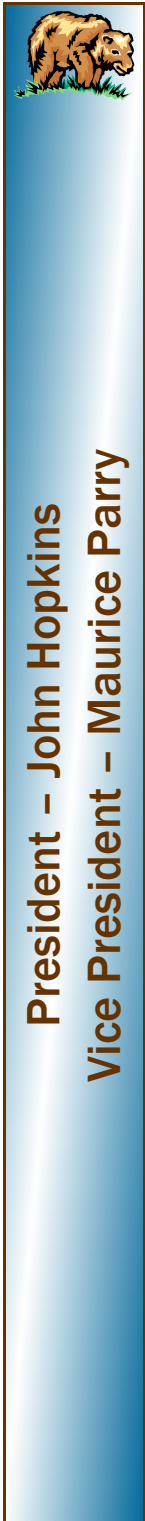


district 1150

Bruin

The Brecon Rotary Club Newsletter

June 2008



The Bear moves on

This will be the last Bruin from my pen. After five years and 58 issues (BRUIN didn't appear in January 2006 or August 2007) I think its high time for a fresh look and a new editor. When I took over from Terry Dewan in 2003 I only intended to produce the newsletter for a short spell but that's Rotary for you! I shall be handing Bruin's lead back to his original keeper, Peter Jenkins, who has very kindly offered to resume

his former rôle in the bear pit as Editor. I am sure he will do an excellent job. A big hug goes to those of you who have contributed articles and information for Bruin over the past five years. Remember it is more cost effective to send issues by e-mail, rather than by post, especially to those members who don't attend meetings regularly so please let Peter know your current e-mail address if you have one and haven't previously made it known to me.

Mediaeval Brecon

For her second visit to our Club as guest speaker Sister Bonaventure gave us a potted history of Brecon as exemplified by two of its most prominent buildings - the castle and the guild hall. Brecon's castle was founded by Bernard of Newmarch in the late Norman period on a strategic site at the confluence of the Usk and Honddu rivers. The castle was not only a military structure, it was also an administrative centre providing a court and a prison within its walls and hosting a wide range of



other activities listed in a document dating from 1452. The walled town which grew up outside the castle prospered as a centre for trade, even cloth from Lucca in Italy was being sold in the town at around this time! The growing trade led to the formation of a merchants guild which must have conducted its business in a 'guild hall' but no trace of this original structure now exists and its location and

Resignations

Sadly, we shall be losing two of our members at the end of this month. Ivor Morgan has resigned because other commitments are making it difficult for him to attend meetings or participate in club activities and former Club President Jim Mellor who joined the Club in 1993 but who has not enjoyed good health in recent years is moving to Ireland to be with his family. We wish both of them well.

that of its successor building remains unknown. The third and final structure is today's Guildhall which reached its current appearance following extensive refurbishment in 1880. The earlier halls were multi-purpose buildings providing not only a location for market trade but also for religious festivals, weddings and funerals, a court house for settling disputes, and an armoury. Sister Bonaventure was thanked for her most interesting talk by Andrew Wakley.

Clive in India (concluded)

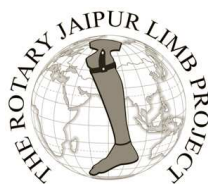
Here is the final instalment of Clive & Lesley Lillywhite's report on their recent Rotary Exchange trip to India

The following day was an exceptional one. We were taken to Dhule Crossroads Clinic, a medical camp out in the rural areas, where we met doctors who were giving up their free time to treat people who had walked many miles to the camp. The medicines, and the whole operation, was set up and funded by Rotary. We were given a lunch, seated on the ground, with vegetarian curry and a banana on a leaf plate. In the afternoon we visited the Dondiaka Projects area, also run by Rotary. Here there is an eye hospital, a school, and a bank plus the world famous 'Jaipur Boot' orthopaedic facility. The

The Editor Writes:

As our Club prepares to move into its second half century it has been timely to review our practices and policies and ensure that they are 'fit for purpose' for a successful Rotary club in the 21st century. We have already taken a major step in admitting our first female member and any lingering doubts about the correctness of that course of action need to be buried along with the secretive and over-lengthy processes for selecting and appointing new members which we have operated in the past. If we are to move forward, and grow, as a Club we need to attract more and younger members of either

same afternoon, we were invited to the engagement party of a Hindu couple, (a complete surprise) with a banquet attached. Both bride and groom-to-be were resplendent with beautiful patterns painted on the palms of their hands in henna. Our hosts must have felt we needed a break the next day and arranged a trip to Ellora caves and Aurangabad Fort, three hours along mountain roads - more white knuckle driving through a verdant agricultural area of wheat, vegetables and maize. Then we travelled westwards to Surat to finally meet our friends who had stayed with us in Brecon last year.



sex who are willing to take an active role and we cannot afford to be held back by outdated attitudes. I am sure we will all wish to lend our fullest support to President Elect Maurice in building on the successes of the past fifty years and steering us towards an even more successful future.



Bear Facts No 12

Did you know that over 560 Rotary Clubs in the UK and Ireland now have their own web site?

Bottle Rota

9th June – Brian Matthews
16th June – Ivor Morgan
23rd June – Nick Morrell
30th June – John Nancarrow
7th July – Brian Newman
14th July – Morlais Owens
21st July – Mike Oxnard
28th July – Maurice Parry

A New Era

Our evening meeting on 19th May was an important one in the annals of Brecon Rotary Club as, after nearly fifty years of existence, we inducted our first female member into the Club. Ingrid Gallagher has been the headteacher of Brecon High School since last year and has already addressed the Club as a guest speaker. She is rapidly making her mark on the town and has joined the local magistrates' bench. Ingrid is keen to get her pupils at the High School more involved with the civic life of the town and believes that her membership of Rotary will further that aim. After being formally introduced to the Club by Peter Jenkins and inducted by President John, Ingrid was warmly welcomed by club members.

Assemblies

The annual District Assembly at Swansea on Sunday 18th May was attended by our Club Secretary, Brian Newman, and President Elect Maurice Parry and about 300 other delegates from all over the South Wales area. Our own Club Assembly will be on Monday 9th June.

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