

district 1150

Bruwin

The Brecon Rotary Club Newsletter

November 2006

President – Andrew Wakley
Vice President – John Hopkins

Another Bumper Caledonian Market!

Handel and his very hard working team will no doubt be delighted at the result of this year's Caledonian Market which once again broke all records. Nick Morrell tells me that the provisional total came to



£6261 which is the highest figure ever. Once again the Club is indebted to all the many helpers (not only Rotarians) who willingly give of their time to make our principal fund-raising event such a success. Initial fears that we might be short of helpers this year were not

realised but whether it will be possible for this event to continue growing indefinitely is less clear. Club Council will be considering the future format and scale of the Caledonian Market over the next few weeks.

Eddie Coates

The Club was deeply shocked to hear, last month, of the sudden death of Eddie Coates at the age of 65. Although Eddie had not been with us long he had been a very enthusiastic and hard working club member and was Chairman of the Foundation Committee. His widow, Mary, told our President that Eddie had very much enjoyed his Rotary membership and appreciated the welcome he had received from club members when he transferred to us from his former club in Yeovil. He will be greatly missed and our condolences go to Mary and the family. Eddie was laid to rest in the beautiful churchyard at Talachddu on 12th October with six of his Rotary colleagues acting as pallbearers.

Brecon & District Contact Association

Keith Parry, the Service Operations Manager of this Association came along to our dinner meeting on 9th October to receive a cheque from the Club for £250 as our contribution towards much needed improvements at the Loft, the Association's 'drop in' centre in Bell Lane. The Association provides a vital and entirely voluntary service for people suffering from various forms of mental illness in the Brecon area. The charity moved to their Bell Lane premises about four years ago and with some 70

members visiting the premises on a regular basis to engage in a variety of different activities the premises are now in need of extensive refurbishment. Our contribution will be used to improve some of the floor coverings at the centre but funds are also needed to refit the kitchen and provide emergency lighting and a stair lift and we have promised more funding for the Association in the near future.

Bottle Rota

- 13th November – Gerald Jones
- 20th November – Clive Lillywhite
- 27th November – John Mallon
- 4th December – Brian Matthews
- 11th December – Jim Mellor
- 18th December – Walford Morgan
- 8th January – Ivor Morgan



Perambulations in the Balkans, Part 2

Our member Bob Wood, a former Divisional Commander with the Metropolitan Police, entertained us at our meeting on 9th October with his second talk about his recent tours of duty in the Balkans. This time it was the turn of Macedonia,



famous for being the birthplace of Alexander the Great and Mother Theresa (and not a lot

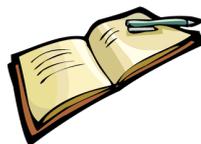
else) where Bob undertook a two year policing assignment with an EU mission. Although Bob retired from the Met in 2001 and moved with his wife, Barbara, to Aberystwyth he soon found the need to be doing something useful again and volunteered his services to the Foreign Office. After a short training course at Sennybridge he was sent out to Macedonia in 2004 as an Internal Affairs Officer. He ended up controlling a staff of over 60 people and travelled extensively in the country where he learned a great deal about its ways. Macedonia is very scenic with a size and population comparable

to Wales although with a much younger population. It declared itself independent in 1991 but Bob found the communist era ethos is still prevalent. There is a good deal of corruption and very little understanding of modern concepts of community policing. Bob gave us a very lucid briefing on the complicated political history of the region illustrated with maps and photographs and found much to like about the country but also found it very frustrating trying to get things changed as there are so many forces resistant to change at higher levels. His thirst for new experiences is clearly not yet quenched as he informed us he has offered his services to the Foreign Office again for further assignments!

What's Brewin'?

Here are some more dates for your diaries:

Monday 13th November – Quiz (v Crickhowell RC)
Saturday 25th November – Brecon Xmas Fayre
Monday 11th December – Christmas Dinner
Friday 22nd December – Rotary Christmas Concert
Thursday 8th February – Rotary Youth Competitions



Annual Golf Match

Crickhowell Rotary Club beat us by 0.536 points in the annual golf match last month. Those of you who are versed in the arcane mysteries of competitive golf scoring will, I gather, recognise that as a narrow defeat for our Club. The Usk Valley Shield was presented to the Crickhowell RC President, Allan Foster, at the customary post match dinner at the George which was attended by 11 members of the Crickhowell club.

Rotary Quiz Competition

The first match of this season in the inter-club quiz series against Crickhowell will be held at Bishop's Meadow as the George will be closing for two weeks so that the kitchen can be upgraded. A room has been booked for 7:00 pm on Monday 13th November and a finger buffet will be provided for £7 per head. Please let Senior Vice President John Hopkins know if you are coming along to support our team. Spouses are welcome too.

Xmas Dinner at Roberto's

We shall be trying out a new venue for our Christmas dinner this year. John Hopkins has



arranged a block booking of Roberto's Italian Restaurant in St Mary

Street for the evening of Monday 11th December commencing at 7:15 pm. Because space is restricted we are limited to 40 places for Rotarians and their guests and an attendance list and menu is being circulated. The cost is £20 per head.

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