



District 1150

August 2018

BRUIN

Brecon Rotary Update, Information & News



Busy meeting

President **Hayley** welcomed industrial design consultant **Beryl Gibson** as a new member of the Club on 23 July. Beryl was born in Talybont but is now settling back in the area where she was brought up, even though she still works in London. She told the meeting that her designs appeared in curtains, furniture and clothes in households all over the country.

photo © J Hendey



The Club also heard from Misha Pedersen, education officer for the Wye and Usk Foundation based at Talgarth. The Foundation had received a grant of £500 from the Club for helping children and vulnerable adults engage with nature, and Misha explained the work they were doing. In a fluent presentation, she described exercises such as stream-dipping which helped those involved to identify plants and animals, as well as increasing understanding of the importance of conserving the rivers and streams of the area.

- **Glyn**



At the same meeting, Hayley invested **Neil** with the insignia of office as Vice-President of the Club.

photo © J Hendey



Profile – Janet Hendey

As a new member of Brecon Rotary here is some information about me:

First, three things you are unlikely to know about me:

I am a philatelist

I have worked as a volunteer on kibbutzim in Israel

My journey to living in Brecon came via Northern Spain and Pembrokeshire

To find out how and why, please read on:



I was born in North Somerset and sent to an all-girls school in Bristol. The majority of the pupils were boarders, mostly daughters of ex-pats posted abroad. Being the late 70s and early 80s, the traditional method of keeping in touch with absent family was by hand-written letter and the boarders regularly received letters with foreign, interesting-looking stamps, which I collected. As a result, I now have albums full of stamps from countries all over the world and from some no longer existing e.g. the former Yugoslavia. This also bred in me a life-long desire to travel and see the world.

As a result of underperformance at A levels, however, I went from an all-girls school in Bristol to Coventry Polytechnic to study for a law degree. Whilst this was a good foundation for a future career, it lacked the excitement of travel I had longed for at school.

My solution was to carry out volunteer work on kibbutzim in Israel for several months when not studying, and this was one of my most life-changing experiences. The work was mundane and often hard and physical; it also involved getting up at 4.00 or 5.00 am to start work early in order to avoid labouring in the harsh midday sun. All kibbutzim have factories to help them make money and the first kibbutz I went to had a plastics factory which made desk fans. I had to stand at the door of a large plastics machine waiting for a fan cover to emerge and then pack it in a cardboard box ready for shipment. I did several 6-hour shifts and, whenever I see a desk fan, I am reminded of that experience.

The second kibbutz was up in the north of Israel, near the Lebanese border at a time when the two countries were at war and katushka rockets would often come firing over during the night. During the day I drove a tractor around fields planted with avocados so the farmers could spray them.

Back home after completing law exams, I worked as a solicitor for 25 years in the Bristol and North Somerset area. This was a challenging and varied career but, when my husband decided to retire, I saw a great opportunity to try a different path. Having always travelled with a camera, photography was an obvious choice. I took an on-line course to learn some theory and spent several days with a local professional photographer for practical tuition.

My husband and I had travelled to Northern Spain on a regular basis and love the area for its beautiful scenery and walking; neither of us are natural linguists, however, and Northern Spain is not an area where English is spoken widely. Even after attending adult language school, we still found ourselves unable to communicate with the locals so decided that we ought to look closer to home. A chance weekend break on the Pembrokeshire coast made us think seriously about moving to Wales but, when we went house hunting, we couldn't find anything we liked; returning to North Somerset, along the A40, we always stopped in Brecon and realised that this was the perfect place, with the mountains and plenty of places to walk. We moved over here in 2016, settled in quickly, found the locals very friendly and welcoming and still love living here.

- Janet



Members out and about



stewarding at the Nicky Grist Rally



at the Brecon Show



Long service to the Club

At the Business Meeting on 6 August, AG **Mike** presented **Terry** Stephens with a certificate to commemorate Terry's 40 years of Club membership.



In response, Terry said:

“I didn't expect this. I have enjoyed my time in Rotary. Up to then I had mixed mainly with farmers. It was quite a change to join Rotary.

It is nice now that younger people are coming in.

I wish the Club every success. Rotary is a very worthwhile organization.”



Speaker's Corner – John Gibbs



In his presentation to the Club about y Gaer on 13 August, John Gibbs, Chairman of the Brecknock Society and Museum Friends, thanked Rotary for making room for marketing material about the new Museum, Art Gallery and Library (y Gaer) in its tent at the Brecon Show and at other local shows. John Gibbs is an obvious enthusiast for the project, and began his talk by explaining why so much time had elapsed between the original museum shutting its doors to the public on 31 October 2011 and the expected culmination of the new development in early 2019. He said that the Society of which he has been chairman for the last ten years was an amalgamation of two separate societies and was created in 1986. It owned the building in Glamorgan Street which is now The Muse (a successful venue for amateur performing arts), and its sale to the new owners for £200,000 enabled the Society to provide significant financial support outside the public sector for the project, an important element in securing a substantial Lottery Fund Grant. A further £100,000 has been raised by the Society towards upgrading the exhibits. The 1842 building which had housed the Assizes until 1974 had been allowed to deteriorate under the custody of Powys CC, and it was not until 2016, when it was agreed that not only would that building be refurbished but that a new library together with a café and extensive community facilities would be provided, that the project was finally approved. The whole project was likely to cost in the region of £13m, a significant investment for Brecon. John's accompanying powerpoint presentation showed the architect's drawing of the project, and the plan of the future Brecknockshire Gallery and the Brecon Gallery. It seemed that everyone found his very professional contribution interesting and in answering a range of questions, he accepted that the Club might well be able to have a presence in the Communal Activities part of the building. If any of us wished to volunteer in any way (e.g by stewarding or enhancing visitor experience), he said that this would be more than welcome.

- Peter



Tales from the shed – conclusion



Left-handed golf clubs and other useless items

Have you heard about the right-handed novice golfer who was persuaded to buy a set of clubs as it would improve his handicap? Only when he tried to practise his swing did he realise that they were made for left-handed golfers. Strangely enough the same golf clubs reappeared the following year and were again sold, this time to a left-handed player, and both have never been seen since! Other useless items include TV's without their remote

controls, electrical items with no leads, puzzles with missing pieces and record and CD sleeves with the wrong records inside. However, at the Caledonian Market, there is a customer for everything, at a price!

Misplaced Items

A bed and mattress were sold but could not be collected till the next day, so we arranged to take them back to the shed. When we arrived late Sunday morning the mattress had gone. Someone had mistakenly assumed that it was unsold and had taken it down to the skip for recycling. A very hasty phone call later, and the retrieved mattress reappeared back in the shed, and the lucky purchaser never knew of its unfortunate detour.

Never leave anything lying about at the Caledonian Market, as it will end up on someone's stall with a price tag on it. Rotarian **Nick** was discovered trying to sell someone's shoes, an overcoat removed in the heat of the event ended up on the nearly new stall, and **Gareth's** new box of cable ties costing £5 was sold for just £2 by the eager team on the miscellaneous stall. You can't say there are no bargains to be found at the Caledonian Market!!

- Gareth



Dates for the diary

20 August	Fun night: Bowls	24 September	Dinner meeting
3 September	Business meeting	1 October	Business meeting
10 September	Speaker meeting	8 October	Dinner meeting
17 September	Youth evening	15 October	Speaker meeting

Speakers

10 September	Louis Mahendra, Lotus Fund
15 October	Mary Adams, Public Image Chair, Rotary Southern Wales
26 November	Allie Thomas, Cradoc's Savoury Biscuits

Bottle Rota

20 August	Paul Tambling	17 September	Andrew Wakley
3 September	Barry Tomlinson	24 September	Brian Birtles



From the Brian Matthews BRUIN file

April 2000

The President speaks for us all when he wishes **Brian** Newman a long and fulfilling retirement. Brian has confirmed that he is to retire at the end of May. We doubt however that retirement will allow Brian any more walking time. He will still be in great demand. Well done Brian.

And what about **Nick's** amazing feat (feet!!) completing the London Marathon in 4 hours 11 minutes, this after a starting pause (enforced) of 7 minutes. Surely now no-one can doubt the stamina of this club!

July 2001

Peter Jenkins has had an extremely successful year as President of Brecon Rotary and I owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude for all his enthusiasm and particularly for overseeing the increase in our membership to its present encouraging level of 44. He will be a hard act to follow!

- Richard Doylend

In these days of high tec., there is no excuse if you are asked to e-mail a few words in response to something you haven't seen. I understand that Richard has rolled out a phrase or two about the Rotary year just ending. My response is twofold. Firstly, in Richard I have been fortunate in having an excellent Vice Chairman and it has been fun sending each other messages over the airwaves for the last 12 months. Secondly, you Rotarians have been very long suffering and polite (mostly) in allowing me to inflict on you my view of the world, warped though it has been on occasions. Thank you for having me as your President.

- Peter W. Jenkins

August 2003

President **Gareth** has decided to make the first meeting of each month (lunch) our business meeting when we'll have the minutes of the previous Club Council meeting available and, hopefully, I'll have Bruin ready as well. The second Monday will be our speaker meeting and the fourth Monday (dinner) will be reserved for special activities—quizzes, trips and so forth. The fifth Monday (if there is one) will be our ever popular (with some members) breakfast meeting! Club Council will normally meet on the last Thursday of the month. Any Bruins that can't be given out at the first two meetings of each month will be sent by second class post—so if you want them early come to the meetings! The deadline for this 'dodgy dossier' will be the end of each month so if any of you have anything you want included please make sure I get it in good time—otherwise I'll make it all up!

Denzil is delighted at having raised over £1100 for his epilepsy charity as a result of **Brian** Newman's walk up Snowdon on the worst day of the year weather-wise. Very impressed by the pics Brian—we'll just have to take your word for it you were there!