



BRUIN

Brecon Rotary Update Information News



President Pat and some of the other members who manned the stand at Brecon Show

PRESIDENT PAT'S REFLECTIONS

Well i'm now in charge! but only for 1 year so do not despair. When I retired some 4 years ago moving from the Surrey/ Hampshire borders and having been President of Aldershot Rotary club I was not expecting to take on this role again but obviously Brecon Rotarians had other plans for me. I'm delighted to have become a member of a very friendly club- Rotary must be fun and we certainly enjoy ourselves with excellent banter at club and council meetings.

1 month into my year as President has seen much happening, Past President Barry handed on a club that was very active and which was fully engaged in considering the vision for Brecon Rotary in the next 3/5 years. We have been well guided by Mike who has put in a tremendous effort to ensure that all are consulted on this very important subject and that any ultimate decisions we may make as a club will be acceptable to our members

I have made two visits to Dolygaer together with others of our youth committee to meet with our 6 RYLA candidates. It was most enlightening to hear them being so enthusiastic about their week at the outward bound event, we shall hear more from them when they make their presentation at our youth evening in October when our DG David will be visiting. We shall also have reports back from those students we have sponsored on their various visits to other parts of the world.

Our Charter Night was a great evening which included a presentation by Falconry UK our guest The Mayor of Brecon was accompanied by his sister Catherine who subsequently expressed the possibility of joining Rotary having learned of much we do locally for the community and internationally.

The Brecon show where we had a stand displaying a Shelter Box. with the tent erected together with the box contents we

Dates for your Diary

- Friday 2nd August**
RYLA BBQ Course 2
- Monday 5th August**
Business meeting
- Monday 12th August**
Dinner Meeting
- Monday 19th August**
Fun Night- Treasure Hunt
- Monday 26th August**
No meeting
- Wednesday 28th August**
Council meeting
- Monday 2nd September**
Business meeting
- Saturday 7th September**
Sennybridge Show
- Monday 9th September**
Dinner meeting

Bottle Rota

- Monday 5th August**
Gareth Griffiths
- Monday 12th August**
Howard Hoare
- Monday 19th August**
John Hopkins
- Monday 2nd September**
Peter Jenkins
- Monday 9th September**
Ingrid Gallagher





linked in with Bryn Mawr club displaying Life Straws which brought in much interest from the shows many visitors. An extra feature was the excellent bunting which was designed and made (thanks to Hayley for all her help) the yellow flags with the blue rotary wheel emblem coupled with our clubs name and the names of those groups/individuals and charities we had supported brightened up an excellent display , Thank you for all your help in showing Rotary at its best. This display will appear at the Sennybridge show in September

The guess the weight of the rainbow trout caught the imagination (sorry about the pun!) of the public and helped raise extra funds -the weight was disclosed at 10lb 11oz and the winner who was nearest guessed 10lb 7oz.

We have much planned for the coming months including our overseas project for a school in St



Part of our stand at Brecon Show

Lucia where a grant has been approved in principle.

Our "Fun" evenings which Clive is arranging enables us all to enjoy being part of a great organisation here in Brecon .

Pat Blake

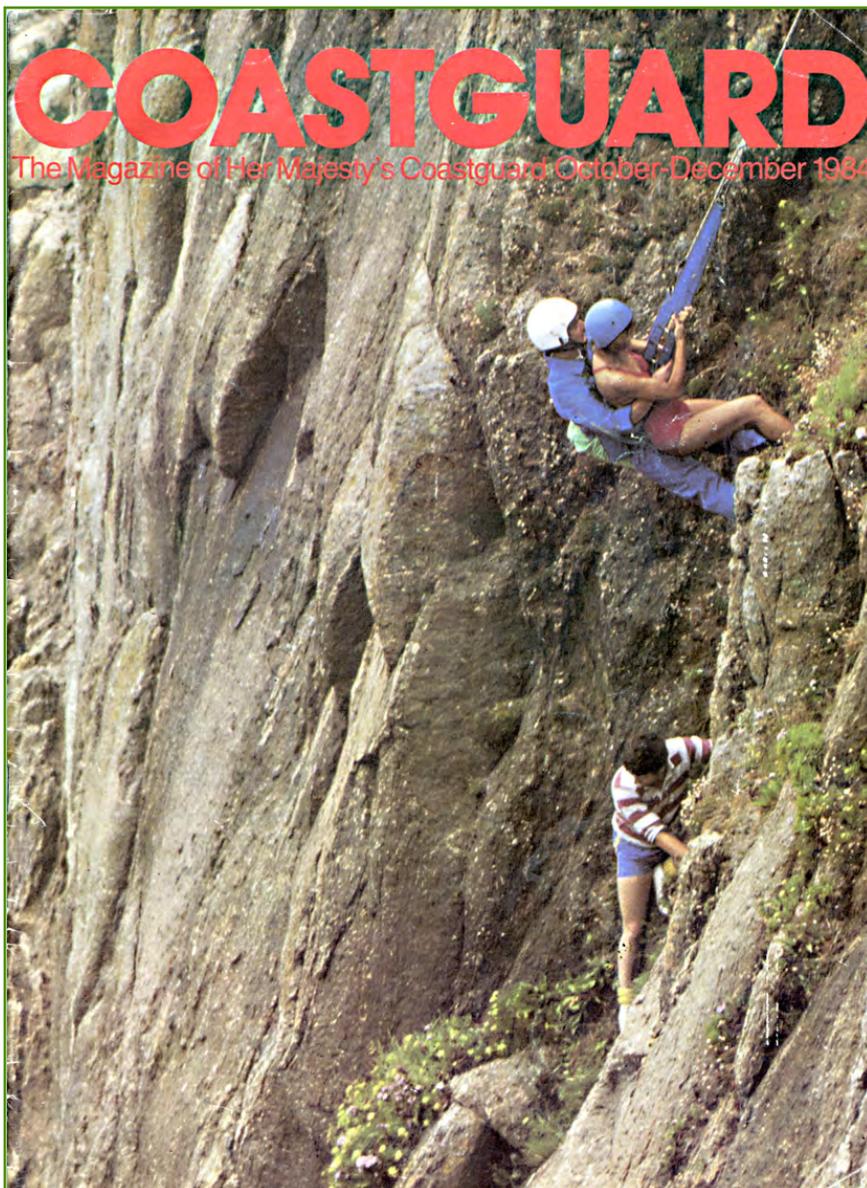


Photo for the Month from Brian Newman

From 1976 to 1989, in addition to my job as Bank Manager, I was employed by HM Coastguard at the Swansea Maritime Rescue Co-ordination. My duties would involve working 6 hour shifts at the operations centre, one of 6 centres around the UK coast which are operated 24 hours a day.

Another duty was my involvement with the Mumbles Search and Rescue unit, which consisted of 15 team members and over my last 6 years I was in charge of this team. I would have approximately 100 calls a year and these incidents could be cliff/shore rescues, swimmers in difficulties, small boats in trouble, missing people and ordinance on beaches.

The last major incident which I was involved with, was at Llandelo where a bridge collapsed (due to flooding) and a passenger train went into the river with the loss of 4 lives.



SPEAKER'S CORNER

Following the Clubs donation to Combat Stress, it was decided that it might be a good idea to invite someone from the organisation to give the Club a talk about the charity. The presentation was arranged for the 22 July. Eddie Evans who covers South Wales, Mid Wales and the West Midlands came along to give us an in depth talk on what the charity does for our Armed Forces.

If a member of the Armed Forces is diagnosed with PTSD whilst serving, the system looks after them, if however the symptoms do not manifest themselves until after discharge, where does he/she go? This is where Combat Stress comes in.

Combat Stress was founded in May 1919, just after the First World War. The original name was the Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Society and they opened their first "recuperative home" in 1920 on Putney Hill in South West London

Those who suffered from mental breakdown during their Service life received little or no sympathy. Indeed, during the First World War, if it led to failure to obey orders, death by firing squad was always a possibility.

At the end of the War there were thousands of men returning from the front and from sea suffering from shell-shock. Many were confined in Mental War Hospitals under Martial Law - with the risk of being sent on, without appeal, to asylums.

The founding mothers of Combat Stress (they were mainly women) believed

that these men could be helped to cope with their condition through a rehabilitation programme. Work was seen as essential to masculine identity; it provided men with financial security and many doctors believed it to be an excellent form of therapy. So, for many years, Combat Stress ran employment schemes that created real work opportunities for Veterans.



The Shot at Dawn Memorial

There are 3 Treatment Centres in the country, however none of these are in Wales, with Welsh soldiers having to go to Audley Court in Shropshire. Here patients go through a 6 week programme, and statistics show that of those that go through their doors, 1/3 will be cured, 1/3 will require some further treatment and the remainder require significant treatment.

Unlike most injured soldiers who return from the battlefield, the scars of war are not visible for those with PTSD. Although training and talks are given to families of

those returning from duty, PTSD can take 14-16 years to manifest itself.

Eddie explained that there will soon be an All Wales Veterans Service in Wales with a 24 hrs Helpline, where families of Veterans can phone in. Lets hope this is sooner rather than later.

The Shot at Dawn Memorial at the National Arboretum. 306 British and Commonwealth soldiers who were shot for desertion or

cowardice during World War I. Most were sentenced after a short trial at which no real opportunity for defence was allowed. Today it's recognised that many of them were underage and suffering from shell-shock. Andy Decomyn's statue is modelled on Private Herbert Burden, of the 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, who was shot at Ypres in 1915 aged 17. In 2006 a posthumous pardon was granted

Derek Adams



The whole group (less photographer) with Mike and Evelyn Evans.

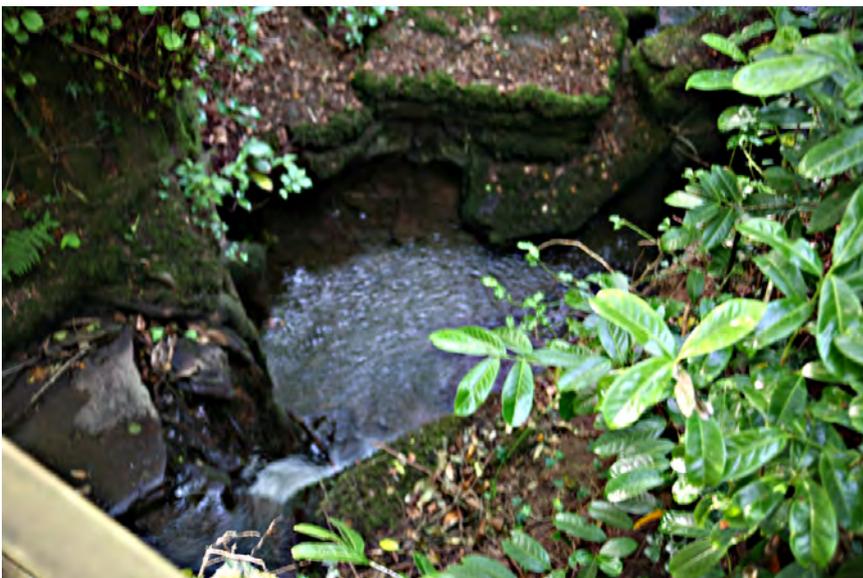
FUN NIGHT - FFRWDGRECH GARDENS

The Club's July 2013 Fun Monday was to Ffrwdgrech, the mansion and grounds just outside Brecon belonging to Mike Evans (not our Mike Evans!) and his wife Evelyn. Mike said he was the fourth generation owner of the

property which was built in the 1880s. His grandfather had been a botanist and had collected and planted an extensive woodland grove, some of whose trees were now very tall indeed. They included a Chilean beech tree and some redwoods. The assembled Rotarians and their



Paul our guide for the evening
wives were escorted around the gardens and forest glade by Paul, an ex army companion of Mike Evans who had lived in the dower house since 1973 in return for being held responsible for the garden maintenance.



The hollowed out rock where Romans were reported to have bathed.

There was a tinkling stream running through the arboreal



section of the grounds, and at one point it was said that the romans had bathed in a hollowed out rock place under the main waterfall there. You could believe anything on such a sun-kissed evening! We visited the walled garden which was seen to be most productive. It was apportioned between three gardeners, Paul himself and John and Ian from the Bridge Café. After the impromptu group photograph in front of the stately home, and thanks having been given, together with a donation to the National Garden Scheme, we hastened to the George to be joined by other club members. Twenty-nine of us enjoyed some excellent fish and chips and the induction as



Part of the gardens. Photo: Joyce Jenkins

a Rotarian, of Markus Warwick who gave a good speech to say

how pleased he was to be joining the Club. Good man! Peter Jenkins

NEW MEMBER - MARKUS WARWICK



Markus was born in 1963 in Bishop Stortford, Hertfordshire. After leaving school at sixteen, he entered the world of work in

Fulham with a shipping company, later joining the Civil Service in Cambridge working for the then Ministry of Agriculture as an Assistant Scientific Officer, followed by various Administrative roles and a short spell working for Ministry of Defence at RAF Logistics Command at Wyton. In 1997, Markus joined BT as a part time Customer Service Advisor. He was promoted to Technical Officer, ultimately managing BT's network as a remote systems engineer at a national level.

In 2002 he met Samantha and they married in 2004, emigrating to the South Island of New Zealand 18 months later with 6 month old son, Joe. They started a successful Chocolate Fountain rental business. Nine months later an opportunity came up for Markus to work for a small satellite broadband company as a Customer Service Manager. A role with ABB, a Swiss multinational, as an Operations Manager followed. His final role in New Zealand was with New Zealand Telecom as a Service Delivery Manager. In

2009, his family was completed with the birth of second son, Ben.

The family returned to the UK in 2011, following the September 2010 Christchurch 7.1 magnitude earthquake and 3,000 aftershocks, which had taken their toll.

Samantha and Markus were successful in gaining roles with Christ College as Houseparents managing a boarding house with 60+ girls aged 13 to 18 years old. Markus also became a stay at home Dad, as well as studying for an Open University degree and being a Governor at Llanfaes Primary School. In May, Markus and Samantha started their own company, "Innovation Makers" that will hopefully bring an exciting new product to market for toddlers. Markus was recently approached for a role with TT Electronics near Newport, as a Programme Manager, which he commences shortly.

MW



MEMBERS NEWS



Tess & Brian

Brecon Rotarian Brian Birtles married Tess in Venice in April. The newlyweds had already decided to take a gap year because they wanted to take up ski-ing (spending the kid's inheritance).

The first honeymoon was taken in Jordan and Egypt and was followed by "Honeymoon Two, the Sequel" in Peru. The touring group contained a

fellow Rotarian, Margaret Forrest from Darlaston, near Dudley. We exchanged greetings.

The famous Inca site at Machu Picchu was amazing. Almost as amazing was the reach of Rotary international as shown on the photo below.



I avoided eating guinea pig but enjoyed an Alpaca steak, like steak but dryer!

Brian Birtles

RYLA 2013

It costs around £300 to send a student on a Rotary Youth Leadership Award Course (RYLA) and the club has again this year sponsored six students, Ffion and David from Brecon High School, Jake and Patrick from Christ College and Lucia and Ben from Gwernyfed High School.

The course attracts stiff competition as the numbers of students applying for places increases year on year.

President Pat and Margaret supported by Derek, Clive, Terry and wives set up a rota to ensure that all students arrived safely on the Sunday afternoons of 21st and 28th July and to support them at the barbecue

on the Friday evenings. All six students thoroughly enjoyed the RYLA experience and are looking forward to making short presentations at the Club's Youth evening to be held on Monday 14th October 2013 at the George Hotel Brecon. This evening will also give other young people, who have received funding from Brecon Rotary in the past year, the opportunity to report on their own experiences.

Our District Governor David Curtiss together with other rotary officials, the Mayor of Brecon, school staff and parents of participating students are expected to attend what has become a very informative and amusing evening in our club calendar.

Brecon Rotary would like to thank Hugh Clatworthy, for his hard work and commitment to the RYLA project, which is much appreciated by all the Brecon Rotary students who have participated over the years.

Terry Dewan



The first RYLA course students with District Governor David Curtiss at the barbecue.

CAPTION COMPETITION NO. 9



Photo: Courtesy of Pat Blake

Rules:

All you have to do is write a caption to the photograph above and either e mail it to captioncompetition@breconrotary.com or give it to the editor before the closing date.

The entries will be judged at the next Council meeting, and the caption thought to be the best (amusing or otherwise) will be announced in future edition of Bruin. Should a council meeting not be planned for a particular month, the result for that month and the following month may be announced at the same time.

Entry to the competition is limited to Brecon Rotary members, their wives or partners and their children. Only one entry per person will be allowed.

Closing date for Caption Competition No.9 is Sunday 15th September 2013

CAPTION COMPETITION NO. 7 WINNER ALISON STRATFORD



"Do you think these will be too heavy for breast implants?"

WINNERS LEAGUE - SO FAR

To date the winners league looks like this:

Peter Jenkins	2
Brian Newman	1
Alison Stratford	2
Mike Stratford	1
Barry Tomlinson	1

You never know there may be a prize for the Champion at the end of the year!

If anyone has a photo they think needs a caption, please send it to Ed to be included in a future issue.



NICKY GRIST RALLY

A very hot Saturday 13th July was the day of the Nicky Grist Rally Stages held on the Epynt. As in previous years we were asked to man two of the three access points for spectators and all proceeds of programme sales at these points go to deserving charities or individuals supported by Brecon Rotary in the forthcoming year.

Seven members of our club



One of our better looking rotarians on duty at the rally

defied blistering heat to sell programmes and direct traffic and after several hours we had accumulated in excess of £1000 to add to our charity funds.

AMUSING ANECDOTE

Whilst visiting Wimbledon this year with my wife and after eating the obligatory strawberries and drinking copious amounts of Pimms, we took our seats in Court Number One and made ourselves comfortable ready to watch some well known tennis players.

During the warm up time, the two seats next to me being vacant until now, were about to be occupied by a young couple who politely passed in front of us and took these seats next to me. The match, a mens singles, started and for some ninety minutes developed into an enthralling battle. Up to this time I had been engrossed in the

tennis but I now noticed out of the corner of my eye that the couple sitting next to me had begun cuddling each other. After a short while the pair became more attentive to one another and their hands were now caressing each other. I, now hot under the collar, turned to my wife and said "I don't know whether to watch the tennis match or the young couple sitting next to me" My wife looked across me at the couple and then looked at the tennis match, after a short pause and gazing upwards thoughtfully she turned to me and said "I suggest you watch the couple sitting next to you, you know how to play tennis!"

Ed



Andy Murray during the mens doubles at the 2012 Olympics

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Apologies for the late edition of the August Bruin. I have had to spend time preparing for the Sennybridge Show early next month, and will be out of action from 28th August for a few days. This will also have a knock on effect for the September issue. For any non Brecon Rotarians reading this edition, previous issues of Bruin, going back some ten years are available on our web site www.breconrotary.com

Thanks to our Contributors



Pat Blake
for President Pat's reflections



Brian Newman
for Photo of the month



Derek Adams
for Speaker's Corner report



Peter Jenkins
for Fun Night report



Markus Warrick
for condensed CV



Brian Birtles
for Members news



Terry Dewan
for RYLA report



The Editor
for Amusing Anecdote

In Next Months Issue

I have no idea yet!