

Bruin

District 1150



edited by peter.jenkins18@btinternet.com

BRECON ROTARY UPDATE, INFORMATION, NEWS

December 2009



A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS



President ANTHONY EDWARDS
Vice President PAT BUTLER

Brecon Christmas Fair

Was this the fifth such fair? We think so, and as usual the pitch taken by Rotary in Tredegar St was well-manned throughout the day. There were two sets of soft toys to be won by lucky (?) ticket-holders, and consolation prizes for disconsolate unsuccessful children. This is not a money making exercise, but a way of telling the town that Rotary exists.



hatted Handel plus animals

Price of motor fuel at 30th November. Petrol 108.9p/ Diesel 109.9p

Forthcoming Events

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TELL THE GEORGE HOTEL IF YOU ARE NOT COMING TO A MEETING (01874-623422)

November 30th– Breakfast at 8am

December 7th- Dinner at Fron near Garth arranged by Mike Tompkinson (fully booked already)

December 14th-Business Meeting &AGM at 7.30pm

December 21st –Christmas lunch at 1pm. {with wives}

December 21st Christmas Concert at the Cathedral 7.30pm followed by mince pies and punch in Heritage Centre for us.

December 28th-No meeting

2010

January 4th-No meeting

January 11th. Dinner at 7.30pm

MacMillan Nursing

Gemma Jones from Cardiff (not the Duchess of Duke Street actress) spoke to the Club on October 26th. She said there were 52 MacMillan Staff in South East Wales, including nurses, social workers and physiotherapists. Efforts to raise money included walks and runs, flagship events, payroll-giving, and advertising. Legacies have brought in £45m nationwide. Apparently there are 108,000 people in Wales with cancer, but it is the Marie Curie Nurse who cares for terminal cases. It appears that the NHS takes financial responsibility after three years of attention by MacMillan Nurses. Gemma ended her talk by cheerfully saying that in the future 1 in 2 people would get cancer before they died, even if it did not kill them.



CALEDONIAN MARKET SUCCESS

Amazingly the impact of the usual rush of people at noon on November 7th upon the piles of stuff in the Market Hall produced £7,750. Ten years ago, the yield was £2,156. Admission charges then were 40 pence, and brought in £99. This time, we gained £886 in entry fees. At the Caledonian Dinner, we entertained a large number of helpers.. Handel and Gareth spoke of their experiences in collecting items over the previous 3 weeks, including emptying a complete house in Llanspyddid. . The Caledonian Market has become an institution, and the way Handel says he feels after eight years of it, is that he is ready to do something else each October! He and his family have masterminded the event, and it has yielded £48,575 in the last 8years, which is more than we gained in the whole of the previous 25 years.



Rotarians Clive Lillywhite, John Nancarrow and Terry Stephens at this year's event.



Rotarian of the Month 18 ANDREW WAKLEY



Andrew has always had a connection with Brecon, but did not come to live here until 2001, when he and Wimke bought the bookshop in the Struet which Gwyn Evans, the previous owner, used to say was haunted. Andrew's maternal grandfather was the Baptist Minister in both Watergate and Kensington, and his mother and aunts were born here. Andrew was born in Cardiff but is widely travelled, leaving for Worcester when he was six, and once he had received his degree in engineering and languages at Cambridge, left for foreign countries, Finland, Ireland, and Denmark and almost Libya to name but a few. Having been an engineer for many years, he gave it up to be a maths teacher, and gave that up to come here. Andrew lists his main achievement as doing the work he enjoyed as well as bringing up a family. (featured above) Like previous Rotarians of the Month, Andrew finds Brecon a great place in which to live. Visitors from the London area are amazed. 'What wonderful facilities!' 'What very little traffic!' However, like Brian Newman, Andrew thinks that pedestrianisation would be an improvement, and quotes Churchill who said that 'History is an ongoing business.', in other words, expect change. From bitter experience, he is less than impressed with the National Park Authority. As for the Rotary Club of Brecon, Andrew contemplates change here too. Maybe we'll go through a lean time, but we'll be stronger in the end, he says. After all, we do a very good job on behalf of local charities, and this should be a priority. Andrew likes classical music, and lists Beethoven, (but not Liszt?) Grieg and Dvorak amongst his favourites. The Welsh love their rugby so Andrew picks Wales and the Cardiff Blues as special for him. He says that his recent month long holiday in Canada with all the family last July is likely to be his most memorable one. They took a cruise to Alaska, and the train through the Rockies to see the Calgary Stampede, and then did some camping at Jasper. When asked for a comment on the world today, Andrew says that the world population is unsustainably high, and lack of energy, water and food will be problems for the future, most probably in our grandchildren's time. Climate change is also going to stretch their ingenuity. He hopes his descendants can sort it all out.