



BRUIN

Brecon Rotary Update Information News



Part of the toy stall at this years market

A RECORD YEAR FOR THE CALEDONIAN MARKET

Once again the money raised this year exceed all expectations and our thanks go to all our loyal helpers and visitors to the event on the Saturday for making the 2012 market a great success!

TALES FROM THE BACK OF THE SHED

Ever since past Rotarian Handel secured the use of an empty cattle shed on the outskirts of Brecon to store collected items prior to the big day in November, the dynamics of the infamous Caledonian Market has changed. Now we can collect and sell larger items of furniture together with electrical goods. Garages are no longer stuffed full of black bags of clothing, blankets and abandoned cuddly toys, left on doorsteps for collection in the depth of night by respectable Rotarians not usually seen in certain areas of town. Now Rotarians deliver leaflets to houses throughout to town,

finding streets and lanes they never realised existed. Wives act as secretaries, taking phone calls for collections from new found "friends" asking for their husbands by name and if they are free on certain nights of the week!!

The use of a trailer has meant that larger items can be collected. On one occasion Rotarian Handel, Anthony and myself collected a bulky item from Gwenllian Morgan Court via the lift. Obviously there was limited space in the lift and as Anthony squeezed himself in, the caretaker came by saying "did you know there was a weight limit in this lift".



Some of the items collected before transporting to the Market Hall

Dates for your Diary

Monday 3rd December

Dinner meeting

Tuesday 4th December

Council meeting

Monday 10th December

Business meeting &

Special AGM

Monday 17th December

Christmas lunch

Rotary Carol Concert (evening)

Monday 24th December

No meeting

Monday 31st December

No meeting

Monday 7th January 2013

Business meeting

Bottle Rota

Monday 3rd December

Terry Dewan

**Monday 10th
December**

Anthony Edwards

**Monday 17th
December
(lunch)**

Mike Evans

Monday 7th January 2013

Gareth Griffiths





The trailer has a roller shutter door. We collected a heavy sofa bed from a house in Penybryn. After much heaving and shoving we got it out, ask a passing neighbour to help us carry it down a flight of steps and into the trailer. Now trainee collector Andrew W was supposed to shut the roller door. Off to Groesffordd for the next collection and up the hill next to the Three

sold items. In the past most of it went to the skip but now "Recycling" is the name of the game. Thanks to contacts with various local charity shops and national organisations, almost everything finds a new home. Books are overloaded directly into a waiting van for RSPCA, other charities collect on the day so very little is taken back to the shed. Rotarian Clive's open sided trailer is still used

Exercise bikes are often donated by unfit people who have lost their enthusiasm for fitness. These are not so popular but somehow we manage to sell most. However when a full indoor gym was donated we could not refuse the challenge. It took 6 helpers to lift it into the shed and into the market hall. It had to be sold, but no one made an offer until late in the afternoon. Could we deliver? Of course said Derek. Where to? ABERDARE !! What a choice, Aberdare or the skip..So Sunday morning super fit Derek and I set off with the trailer full and no sat-nav. Two hours later we found our destination and was greeted by a lady in her dressing gown. We plonked the said gym on the driveway and made a hasty retreat. And all for £50. What a bargain !!



Market Hall being laid out on the Friday evening.

Horseshoes pub, only to discover the door was still open and the sofa half way out of the trailer. Oops!!

Of course doing charitable work does help when stopped by the law for not displaying correct number plates on the trailer. The book was coming out when a charitable plead found a softening heart in a young wpc who thankfully had heard about the caly market and sent us on our way.

Friday night before the big day means all hands to the wheel. The chaotic scenes of the market hall are in vast contrast with the calm of the shed, where Rotarian Brian supervises the loading of trailers with his usual proficiency and attention to detail !! How it all fits into those trailers has become a skilled art only known by the chosen few who are allowed into the shed.

Come 4pm on the Saturday, the sale is over and all that's left to do is to remove the un-

to take out of date TV's and washing machines to the skip, but now furniture is recycled via a very friendly and efficient group in Ystradgynlais who collect from the shed in the days after the sale.

Deliveries are a feature of the service we offer and can usually be done within the hours after close of business, usually to the right house. One excited customer asked if we could deliver a £1 settee to her house in The Struet. No problem. An hour later we still hadn't returned. The settee would not fit through the front door, but as it was to go into the basement, we could lower it down the former coal chute in the roadside pavement. Except we got it stuck, half in and half out, and it started to pour with rain. After much head scratching, it was decided to remove it and deposit it with a relative close by for them to try another day.

Derek enjoys delivering on the Sunday, particularly if it involves stopping at a village hostelry for liquid refreshment. However navigating a trailer through narrow walled lanes was not a skill he learned in military training.

More tales from the back of the shed to come in future Bruins

Gareth Griffith



Getting the cake stall ready.



Photo for the Month from Brian Matthews

In the dim and distant past (the early 90s) when we could play a bit of golf! Brian Strawford, Jim Mellor and myself drove up to Scotland to enter the three day St. Andrews Rotary International Golf Tournament. In qualifying to play for the Welsh team, Brian and I were privileged to represent Welsh Rotarians on a few occasions. Whenever I see the royal and ancient building at St Andrews it brings back so many happy memories.

YOUNG MUSICIAN COMPETITION

The Brecon round of the Young Musician competition 2013 was due to be held on Saturday 17th November, however, after a disappointing number of entries, it was decided to cancel the competition this year.

The New Generation committee will investigate how to increase entries next year.

QUIZ NIGHT (PART 1)



Brecon team - Peter, Bob and Mike.

On Monday 12th November in the George Hotel, 3 teams, Abergavenny, Brecon and Crickhowell battled out the first round of the Rotary Quiz for 2012/2013 year.

The format was slightly different from previous years by the addition of a third team competing. After a hard fought contest, Abergavenny

and Brecon were level pegging and it took nine further questions in a sudden death play off for Brecon to emerge the winners, going through to the area final that was played on Wednesday 28th November at The Red Lion Llangorse.

Ed

QUIZ NIGHT (PART 2)

A large turn out of Brecon Rotarians ensured a good support for our team which was changed from that which won through to the area final- Bob Wood, Andrew Wakley replaced Peter who was "downunder". and Mike Stratford.

As the questions started- Brecon had a very difficult run of initial questions but eventually found that the other teams were having the same problems. No questions on sport, history or music, but 3 rounds on Rotary.

I like many others in the room found it almost impossible to answer (or understand) the questions on Rotary the majority of which were a little obscure and did not help

us learn more about the organisation to which we belong. I did get the general question (open to all there) on the numbers of Rotarians in the world and received a chocolate (answer 1.2 million).

It was a close finish once the last question had been asked- 3rd Brecon with 19 points, Builth Wells & Bryn Mawr equal on 23 points, the final deciding question was answered correctly by Builth wells who now go forward to the District final in June next year.



Brecon team - Mike, Bob and Andrew.

An excellent buffet rounded off an enjoyable evening . Well done Brecon.

Pat Blake



MEMBERS VISITS

On Sunday October 14th last, Ian Roberts visited the Rotary Club of Thessaloniki, Greece in District 2484.

He gave a short presentation on his visit, to our club on the evening of 19th November, the night of the DG visit.



Exchange of banners at Thessaloniki

SPEAKERS CORNER

November's speaker was David Mitchell, a local historian who gave an illustrated lecture on Vanity Architecture. He sub-divided such architecture as coming about under the influence of Power, Control and Tyranny.

Power

Examples of Power Architecture are the great cathedrals based on adoration; grand castles such as those built by "Mad King Ludwig" of Bavaria; the buildings of ancient Rome with triumphal arches; the pyramids and the Sphinx of Egypt; sky scrapers getting evermore higher culminating in that of the Burj tower at Dubai. Further examples were based on gambling as exemplified by Las Vegas and Port Meirion could be thought of as Fun Architecture.

Control

Schools, prisons and St. Peter's Square in Rome could be classified as Crowd Control Architecture, as could the wide boulevards of

Paris which came about as a result of preventing the building of barricades during the French Revolution. Red Square in Moscow and Tiananmen Square in Beijing, where atrocities occurred also fall into this category.

Tyranny

Hitler, with Speer as his architect, constructed huge buildings in cities such as Nuremberg where the pre-war rallies were held and where the anti-Semitic Nuremberg laws were passed. Nazi architecture can still be seen in the city. (The Nazi salutes were adapted from the gladiators of ancient Rome). When the Chancellery was built the entrance was only at one end so that one had to walk through a great number of corridors and offices to get to the eventual seat of power. Similarly the Romanian dictator Ceauscu built the massively ornate Palace of People (which was the last thing it was) with corridors of power to satisfy his vanity. Mugabe of Zimbabwe lives in splendour while his subjects are reduced to abject poverty and cruelty.

The talk was well received by the club with a lively discussion afterwards.

Maurice Parry

D of E presentation by the 4 gold award winners



D OF E AWARDS - YSGOL PENMAES

Immediate Past President Derek did not require a three line whip to encourage colleagues Brian, Maurice, Clive and Terry, our president had given his apologies due to ill health, to attend the Duke of Edinburgh Presentation for Aaron, Abbey, Hannah and Thomas at Ysgol Penmaes on Thursday 28th November. Fellow students, teachers, family and friends gathered to listen to the four students tell of their experiences both before and whilst at the Star of Hope Children's Centre, Romania. The presentation was both humorous and thought provoking and a vote of thanks and congratulations was given by a Senior D of E award representative before she presented Aaron, Abbey Hannah and Thomas with their gold medals. They will be visiting Buckingham Palace during the Spring of next year to receive their certificates. Derek confirmed with Hannah Morgan that Brecon Rotary Club will present the school with the second of three £1,000 cheques in support of the school in this worthwhile venture in January of next year.

It was noted by his colleagues that Clive was particularly well turned out in his pinstripe suit, smart shirt and tie. They could only assume that he thought he was going to meet the Duke himself.

Terry Dewan

**THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR...
CAPTION COMPETITION NO. 1**

This competition will be run every month and if you have any suitable photos the editor would be very pleased to receive them for inclusion in future issues.

Rules:

All you have to do is write a caption to the photograph on the right (please ensure it is suitable for publication) 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 the next edition of Bruin. Should a council meeting not be planned for a particular month, the result for that month and the following month will 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.1 is 31st December 2012



Tracks on Mynydd Illtud Photo Alice Hawkins

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I apologise to all members for the very young looking Brian Matthews in the contributors panel, I could not find another photo of him on my computer. (This has just given me another idea for yet another competition!

As I do not have much material for the January issue, if you would like to take some festive photos and send them to me on e mail by 28th December I will show them in the next Bruin.

I wish all my readers a very happy festive season and I look forward to reading, along with the other council members, the many entries I am expecting from the Caption competition.

Clive

Thanks to our Contributors



Gareth Griffiths
for Caledonian stories



Maurice Parry
for speaker report



Brian Matthews
for photo for the month



Pat Blake
for Quiz night report



Tery Dewan
for D of E report

In Next Months Issue

Mike Evans
Photo for the Month
Barry Tomplinson
President's message
Plus not much else!