



# BRUIN

## Brecon Rotary Update Information News



Area 9 Young musicians with Kirsty Williams and Builth Wells RC organisers



### YOUNG MUSICIAN AREA 9 FINAL

On Saturday 1st february, the area 9 final of young musician was held in Builth Wells high school. Brecon Rotary Club was represented by our Instrumentalist, Lois Flower playing the Cello and Sophie Rudge our vocal entry. Three rotarians and wives supported our entries and although Lois did not progress to the district final, Sophie was awarded first place and went on to represent area 9 to be held on March 8th at Ebba Fawr Learning Community, Ebba Vale.

The certificates were presented by Kirsty Williams.AM

### YOUNG CHEF AREA 9 FINAL

The Area 9 Young Chef final was hosted by our club and held at Brecon High School on Thursday 6th February. Disappointingly there were only 3 entries, one of which, due to a communications blip between the sponsoring club and their entrant meant there were now only Brecon and Builth Wells competing.

We would like to thank Brecon High School for providing the facilities, which when booked they were unaware of a Schools inspection being planned for that week.

We again asked Cherry Jones and Jill Blud to adjudicate and they were full of praise for the 2 competitors, Jessica Parry

### Dates for your Diary

**Monday 3rd March**  
*St. David's Day Dinner*

**Saturday 8th March**  
*Young Musician District Final*

**Monday 10th March**  
*Business Meeting*

**Thursday 13th March**  
*Fun Night - Harp Concert*

**Monday 17th March**  
*No Meeting*

**Monday 24th March**  
*Dinner - Speaker*

**Wednesday 26th March**  
*Council meeting*

**Monday 31st March**  
*Breakfast Meeting*

**Monday 7th April**  
*Business Meeting*

**Monday 14th April**  
*Fun Night - Curry at Zeera's*

**Monday 21st April**  
*No Meeting*

**Wednesday 23rd April**  
*Council Meeting*

**Monday 28th April**  
*Dinner - Speaker*

**Monday 5th May**  
*No Meeting*

**Sunday 11th May**  
*District Assembly*

**Monday 12th May**  
*Business Meeting*



The winning table setting

representing Brecon and Joanne Manser representing Builth Wells, who had made their decision very difficult. The winner was finally announced as Joanne Manser, who we wish good luck in the District final.

### YOUNG CARERS VISIT PANTO



25 Young Carers were treated by Brecon Rotary Club to spend time relaxing at the Westenders Pantomime, seen here with Jane Fletcher Young Carers & Young Adult Carers Outreach worker for Powys Carers Service. Jane said she was delighted that the youngsters had an opportunity to leave their cares behind and indulge in an afternoon of entertainment and laughter. She explained that some of these children live with others who have a disability or illness which affects in some way the children's daily lives. All of the children who are under 13 years of age had a special time, enjoying chocolates, drinks and ice creams and meeting with the cast of Beauty and the Beast. The afternoon was a great success and afforded them an opportunity to take time out and be rewarded



### Bottle Rota



**Monday 3rd March**

*Hywel Davies*

**Monday 10th March**

*Anthony Edwards*

**Monday 24th March**

*Terry Dewan*

**Monday 31st March**

*Mike Evans*

**Monday 7th April**

*Ingrid Gallagher*

**Monday 28th April**

*Howard Hoare*

**Monday 12th May**

*Gareth Griffiths*

**Monday 2nd June**

*John Hopkins*

**Monday 9th June**

*Anne Ingham*

**Monday 16th June**

*Peter Jenkins*

**Monday 23 June**

*Wyndham Jones*

**Saturday 28th June**

*Clive Lillywhite*



## OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Anne Ingham



I was born in Newport Wales and spent my first 5 years here in Wales. My father worked for the Ministry of Defence so we moved several times finally living in Holland where I finished my schooling. I then moved to London where I went to College, studying Home Economics. It was during the early seventies, my college was very political and we had numerous sit-ins and power cuts and I lived the life of a poor student. London was buzzing and exciting! I had lots of part-time jobs, lived in several different flats and travelled as much as I could afford. By the end of the seventies and after a couple of jobs I found myself teaching at Leith's School of Food and Wine owned by Prue Leith (the famous judge on food shows). This was an interesting experience teaching anyone willing to pay very large amounts of money how to cook from the basics through to quite complicated stuff. It did involve though tasting everyone's food! Sometimes there were 16 in a class! Hence the saying "never trust a skinny cook" which funnily enough hangs in my kitchen! My next job was perhaps the luckiest. I spent six years working for one of the biggest ad agencies in London

as their Home Economist. It was long hours sometimes, but incredibly varied and rewarding. I worked on some of the biggest food and household accounts, testing recipes, writing them and doing the food for photography. I even got to work on some commercials too. One of our accounts was McDonalds which was new to Britain then, and I used to wash Ronald McDonald's outfits before he went off to his promotion work around London. Little did we know how big it would get!!

My redundancy coincided with getting married and I moved from London to a small village in Berkshire where I worked freelance for several years. I worked for New Zealand Lamb giving demonstrations all over the Home Counties and I worked for several other companies. One of these was Swift Butterball turkeys where I met Mary Berry. This was before she was a household name. We spent a few Christmases with a team of experts giving advice on how to cook your Xmas turkey. It was great fun and very lucrative!

Over the next years I had two girls and spent time looking after a large country cottage with 3 acres of ground with my husband, who worked in London. Things didn't work out and after a lot of thought we got divorced and I became a single parent. I was lucky I had a lot of support from my parents who lived nearby.

I started working again, teaching at Newbury College and then going on to teach at Reading Prison which housed young male offenders aged 17 - 21. This was certainly a learning curve!!

I ended up being there for a long time teaching evening classes and on Saturdays, eventually working full time. I taught a range of subjects the most popular being Cookery of course as there is always an end result, and for the young men imprisoned there it was an opportunity for them to be creative and eat something other than boring prison food. Incidentally it isn't bread and water anymore - they have choices and all diets and religions are catered for! The whole experience was an education and it was here that I met John my lovely husband! Must point out he was a prison officer and not an inmate!

After I had served my sentence! - it was time to move on. We took on the franchise of running the Catering at a golf club. I did the day to day work and John took over every other weekend to give me a break and to spend time at home. It was sometimes 16hr days and sometimes very quiet, but we were open 7 days a week. We made money, as there is definitely money in food, the kids loved helping and counting the money at the end of the day, but quality of life is more important. So it was time to change again - Fortunately I was headhunted to teach at Reading College. This started with me covering lots of different lessons for a tutor who had a lot of sickness. I taught a range of students from Nursery Nurses, to Foundation level, to Students with learning difficulties.

I spent 13 years working there altogether, rising from part-time to becoming the Programme Leader and running the course Skills for Living for students with severe learning



difficulties. This involved lots of training and of course completing a post graduate teaching certificate with lots of studying and homework. I had to interview students and put them on the correct course, liaise and visit with other schools, deal with social workers, write course reviews, mentor new teachers as well as create and write all my lessons.

We did lots of fun events with the students such as fund raising and my students raised more money than any other group! We had trips and outings and every year I took a group away on holiday.

It was all consuming and time passed so quickly. It was a great job, very demanding and stressful but very rewarding, especially when the students progressed, even if it was only small steps.

When the College was being restructured there was the



Anne's induction on 23rd Dec. 2013 opportunity to take voluntary severance, and as John was due for retirement and we planned to move to Brecon, it made sense to go for it.

Our move to Wales took time with the house sale but we got here in the end and we are both very happy living here in Brecon.

To fill my time since moving I have been doing some voluntary work for the RVS

and I help in a charity shop regularly. I recently did the catering for a wedding, and am open for more catering commissions (preferably small scale.) I love entertaining and nothing is better than when the girls and their partners come to visit, although as both are teachers and live several hours drive away they can't visit that often. We have renovated and decorated a buy to let property and are still in the process of decorating and finishing our own house. We have a very energetic puppy who takes me for a walk and I am learning to play golf. I love travelling and want to go everywhere, however trying to drag a golf-mad husband away is not easy.

We are happy and settled now in Brecon and joining the Rotary club seems to be a good way of giving something back and becoming part of the community.

### FILM NIGHT

The fun night on Monday 20th January was a fundraiser for the Royal Welsh Regimental Museum Appeal.

The Coliseum Cinema had been hired by the appeal committee and being the 50th anniversary of the first showing of Zulu we were treated to a private showing of this iconic film starring Michael Cain, Stanley Baker, Jack Hawkins, Ulla Jacobsson, James Booth and Nigel Green.

An enjoyable evening was had by all which included an introduction by Bill Cainan, the Regimental Museum Curator, attired in the uniform of the period, enlightening the audience to the errors in the film, including an in camera shot of a Landrover.

On January 22nd 1879 the British Army suffers one of its worst defeats when Zulu forces massacre 1,500 of its troops. A short time after the main battle a Zulu force numbering in excess of 4000 warriors advances on a British supply dump guarded by 139 Welsh infantrymen and the film concentrates on this bloody 12 hour battle.

The film was shown in Sony Digital Cinema 4K, and thanks go to Derek Adams for arranging the evening.

### BURNS NIGHT

The second Burns night held by our club took place on Wednesday 22nd January in the regency Suite at the George Hotel, and was

supported by twenty two members/guests.

The haggis was piped in, with the help of Peter Brock on the sound system, by Derek Adams





and addressed by Andrew Maclean.



This year the Lads felt they needed some support so two of our male members, Gareth and Andrew proposed the toast to the Lassies in a way

that would make Morecambe & Wise turn in their graves.



*The Dastardly Duo*

Not to be outdone Margaret B soon put the duo in their place with the reply on behalf of the Lassies.

After the amusing interlude Peter Brock organised the dancing which went very well despite the low numbers participating. It was suggested that we include the Soroptimists next year.

**SPEAKERS CORNER 1**

On Monday 27th January, we were given a presentation about 'ABF The Soldiers Charity' by Charlie Nutting. Formally the Army Benevolent Fund founded in 1944, ABF The Soldiers' Charity is for soldiers, for life. they provide financial assistance to all soldiers and their families when in need. Even when a soldier leaves the Army they are still part of the family and eligible for help. The scope of work is huge. Half of the money is given direct to individuals to help in areas such as debt relief, mobility assistance, education bursaries, carehome fees and respite breaks.

Derek Adams gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the club.



**Photo for the Month from Ingrid Gallagher**

This was taken at the Crai reservoir. My second try at fly fishing. Watching Keith make those glorious arcs with his line, casting way out was poetry in motion. The surrounding area was majestic, with cuckoos calling from over the lake and a calm serenity over the valley. It is a reminder that we do not have to go far, nor spend a lot of money to have a wonderful time. The brown trout were strong and beautiful to see.



### FAMILY DAY OUT FOR BRECON CHARITY GROUP



Left to right Rev Margaret Blake, Pat Blake Rotary President and Julia Lewis Centre manager, with volunteers and families.

Six families who regularly attend at the St Johns' Family Centre in Brecon, enjoyed a well earned treat, a day out with volunteers and helpers in Swansea. The Family Centre is part of the Faith in Families Group which has a decade of experience in helping disadvantaged Communities. Transport to Swansea was provided by Brecon Rotary Club. The families enjoyed a Christmas concert in St Mary's church in the centre of Swansea, with Bishop John on hand to greet them. Afterwards they visited Winter Wonderland and the Swansea Family Group. It was smiles all around and the children were delighted with their day. Julia Lewis the St John's Family Centre Manager said 'It was a deserving day out for the volunteers and the families and we hope to expand our projects next year.'

### FUN NIGHT BOWLS

Fun Monday on 17th February again returned to the Leisure Centre, this time to play indoor bowls.

Some 20 or so members and partners arrived and were split into teams of 4 by Barry Tomlinson the organiser for the evening. After a very short practice, as some members had never even picked up a



A few bowlers missing, they left before the official photo was arranged.

wood before, we occupied 3 rinks and for the next 2 hours proceeded to propel woods in



every conceivable direction and relied on teams in other rinks to retrieve the offending woods.

After the event a few members retired to the George to contemplate why some one came up with the bizarre idea to design a ball that would not travel in a straight line!

The final scores were

8H 8A from 12 ends

16H 7A from 13 ends

10H 12A from 13 ends

but which team was which I do not know.

### SPEAKERS CORNER 2

On Monday, 24th February. Mrs Hilary Williams came to speak to the Club about Talybont on Usk Energy, a company limited by guarantee dedicated to reducing the impact humans make on that "beautiful part of the Brecon Beacons National Park." She said that the way it worked was as follows. In 2006, the founders of the company saw an opportunity to make use of the redundant engine house at the foot of the Talybont Reservoir. A 100% grant of £90,000 for a new generator enables the company to sell £20,000 worth of electricity per annum to the National Grid. With this money, different community projects have been embarked upon. For example, in 2007 a carbon survey of 30 households was set up, leading not only to a lower use of electricity by the people included in the survey, but the recruitment of Mrs Williams herself to join the company in its crusade to reduce energy consumption. In 2009, electric bicycles were acquired and made generally available, and later two cars were bought, one electric and the other bio-diesel. An electric van for tradesman living in Talybont is the next acquisition expected, along with more solar panels for the village hall. A future idea is to



promote home-made bio diesel fuel. The village hall is a focal point for the community, and Flicks in the Sticks is a popular addition, thanks to the free electricity supplied by the presence of the solar panels already provided by the company. Mrs Williams concluded by saying that a Community Fund was being established to enable people to put in bids for suggesting new ways of energy saving. Wyndham Jones thanked her for her interesting talk.

Peter Jenkins

### ARE WE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Rotary clubs at the moment have been encouraged to produce a vision document accessing how successful the club is at the moment and the direction they wish the club to go in the future.

Our meeting held on 10th February, attended by most

current members, discussed the various issues raised in the earlier questionnaire.

A good discussion was had by all and a number of positive suggestions were noted and discussed in more detail at club council. A final recommendation to be presented to the club at a date to be specified.



### CAPTION COMPETITION NO. 13

Rules:

All you have to do is write a caption to the photograph on the left and either e mail it to [captioncompetition@breconrotary.com](mailto: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.13 is Monday 21st April 2014

### CAPTION COMPETITION NO. 12 WINNER

Brian Birtles



Monkey to sheep: "Who let him in here?"