

BRUIN

Brecon Rotary Update Information News

Recent Activities

Over the course of November, there was no time for members to rest on their laurels after the Caledonian Market. We were busy supporting the Rotary GB & Ireland sponsored "Welsh Disabled Sports Team Championship", which was held in Newport and opened by local Paralympic Gold Medallist, Rob Davies; Hayley Ridge Evans spoke at the Rotary District conference on our efforts to publicise Dementia Awareness; club members decorated a tree for Brecon Cathedral Christmas Tree Festival, depicting all the good causes we had supported over the previous year; members supported the Brecon High School Art Exhibition and presented a prize; we held the local round of the Rotary Young Chef competition at Gwernyfed High School, which was won by Becky Mathews, who now goes on to represent Brecon in the next round on 1 February.

We had a very informative talk from Kevin Harding, fundraiser for Brecon Mountain Rescue, following which we made a donation to this essential local cause and we sent a donation to help following the hurricane in Haiti.

On a lighter note, club members enjoyed a fun evening at the newly opened Chang Thai restaurant.

Brecon Cathedral resounded with the sound of many voices on Monday 19 December for our Christmas Sing-a-Long. The congregation were warmly welcomed by The Dean, The Very Reverend Paul Shakerley, before being ably led in the singing of many popular Carols by The Alive & Kickin' Choir.



Throughout the evening, the congregation were given the opportunity to rest their vocal chords whilst The Alive & Kickin' Choir gave charming renditions of "A la Nanita", "Huron Carol", "Ring Christmas Bells" and "Hallelujah". Also present was Tenor Marc Williams who gave sterling solo performances of "O Holy Night" and "God Bless Us Everyone".

Interspersed between the singing, the Dean gave several readings which were in turn thought

provoking, humorous and seasonal. A retiring collection was made at the end of the evening to provide funds in aid of Brecon Cathedral.

A large number of the congregation gathered in Pilgrims Restaurant after the service to enjoy a catch-up chat whilst indulging in mulled wine and mince pies. The general chatter confirmed it had been a very enjoyable evening, providing a pleasant start to the festive season.



At a recent meeting, two new members were inducted into the Club by President Mike Evans. They were Catherine Quarrell, the Locality Commissioning Manager for Powys Teaching Health Board and Brian Ellams, a retired Chartered Surveyor. Brian has been in Rotary since 1994 when he joined Woodstock Rotary Club and where he was Club President for 2000-2001. He left Woodstock Club in 2005 and then joined Gualdotadino Umbria Club (Italy) in 2005, before leaving in 2010.

Bottle Rota

- 23 January : Clive Lillywhite
- 30 January : Brian Matthews
- 06 February : Mike Mellors
- 13 February : Nick Morrell
- 20 February : Brian Newman

Dates for your Diary

- 23 January - Speaker: Glyn Mathias
- 30 January - Breakfast meeting
- 01 February - Young Chef Area Final at Brecon High School
- 04 February - Young Musician Area Final in Ebbw Vale
- 06 February - Business meeting
- 13 February - Dinner meeting
- 20 February - Fun night – cinema
 - Young Writers Heat
- 22 February - Council meeting
- 29 April - Stroke Awareness Day
- 20 March - Fun night - First Aid demo
- 7 July - Charter Night

Member Profile



Brian Anthony Newman

The early years

Born in Abergavenny in 1942, when my father was in the army based in Italy. After the war, we resettled in the Gwent mining valley, where I received my education and left Abertillery Grammar School with my 'A' level examinations at the age of 18. Whilst at school, my outside interests were football, cricket and table tennis, where I played for local town teams in the mining areas of South Wales.

My working life

After 2 years working for a local brewery, I started my banking career (National Provincial Bank, later to become NatWest Bank) at the age of 20 in Merthyr Tydfil. From there, I moved to Cardiff, Bristol, London, The Cotswolds, Cardiff, Abertillery, Mumbles and finally to Brecon, where I finished as Senior Agricultural Manager covering Breconshire and Radnorshire. This area covered the centre of Wales, between Swansea valley in the South, just below Elan Valley in the North, towards Llandovery in the West and Crickhowell/Hay in the East.

I retired from my full-time position in the Bank in May 2000, having completed 39 years. After 1 year of retirement, I went on to do another 6 years with the bank in a support role on a three-day working

week and the occasional full week. Finally, I retired in November 2007 having completed 45 years in banking.

Whilst in Mumbles (Swansea), I was also employed with HM Coastguard for 11 years, at its operations base in Swansea (one of six co-ordinating centres around the coast of the U.K.). In addition, I was a member of the Coastguard Search and Rescue Cliff team, where I was appointed Auxiliary in Charge over the last 5 years before moving to Brecon.

Home Life

I have been married for 45 years to Pauline, with one daughter (Clare) who is now 40 years of age. Clare also lives in Brecon with her husband (Jestyn) and our two grandchildren (Freya age 13 and Zachary age 10). Pauline was a dispenser all her working life in various local retail chemist shops. Clare is a teacher's assistant in a local junior school and her husband is a local postman. We have a very close relationship with our family and regularly pick up the grandchildren from school and most weeks they have an overnight stay with us. In addition, most years they come on holidays with us both abroad and in the U.K. We also have a close relationship with Clare's mother and father in law, who also regularly join us on holiday.

Having a healthy family makes me feel so privileged and lucky and this is one of the reasons for wanting this placement in St. Lucia to enable me assist in giving something back to children not as fortunate as mine.

The main challenges during my lifetime was to ensure that my family were brought up correctly by encouraging and supporting them in all aspects of life. Also, to overcome cancer and heart problems I had some 27 years ago, from which I have fully recovered thanks to family and medical support.

Interests & Hobbies

Have been fully involved within the local communities I have worked in, over my working/retirement years. Have been a member of Round Table and then progressed to 41 Club where I am still a member. A Rotarian for the last 30 years, having held the position of President and also Secretary (for the past 25 years). Was an active member of the HM Coastguard Cliff Search and Rescue team in Swansea and for a short while with the Brecon Mountain Rescue team. Have held many Honorary Treasurerships over the years and still Honorary Treasurer of several local community groups, with which I am involved.

Since becoming fully retired from the Bank in 2007, I then wanted a new challenge. This came to me early in 2008, when I was asked to become a qualified walk leader, to lead and organise walks in the Brecon Beacons. I then went on courses and qualified up to silver level and now regularly lead walks in the Brecon Beacons with up to 50 people attending. Have also assisted walks in Austria and other areas of the U.K.

Over the past 4 years have been a volunteer teacher at Dunnottar School in St. Lucia. This is a school for children with severe learning difficulties and where most of the children come from an impoverish background.

I play indoor and outdoor lawn bowls for the local bowling club and enjoy gardening.

Travel

I have never lived abroad, but a frequent traveller abroad. Having visited over the years, France, Spain, Portugal, Madeira, Switzerland, Austria, Turkey, Italy, Canary Islands Croatia, Slovenia, Egypt, Morocco, China, South Africa, Canada, America, Norway, Nepal, Machu Picchu and Galapagos. St. Lucia. I do not speak any other language other than English.

