

Bruin

District 1150



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BRECON ROTARY UPDATE, INFORMATION, NEWS

June 2009

President MAURICE PARRY
Vice President ANTHONY EDWARDS

Raising a Glass

The speaker for April was Kathryn Roberts, who had fairly recently moved to Brecon to further her career as a glassmaker. She had sold her London property well, and in 2002 bought the little derelict shop at the town end of the bridge over the Usk, and with the help of J L Stephens and Co renovated it and fitted it out with a glass making furnace in the basement, a shop on ground floor level, and living accommodation upstairs. Whilst all this was going on, her partner suffered a severe stroke, although he was only in his thirties. Undaunted by this setback, Kathryn began her business in Brecon, and has won contracts in many places, including New York. She explained how she made her beautiful objets d'art from bought in blocks of glass like sticks of rock, plus added colour, and using the extremely hot furnace. She is a member of Art Beat Brecon which is on www.artbeatbrecon.co.uk



EUREKA!

Our Millennium project was to obtain for the townsfolk a pathway along the bank of River Usk from Llanfaes Bridge to Captains Walk, and we set aside £1000 to pay for the steps needed to take you down to riverbank level. We achieved our objective by persuading Powys CC and Sustrans to spend a reputed £45000 on the scheme, our donation going towards an interpretation panel. John Nancarrow was the President when the panel was 'unveiled' in 2006. It disappeared over the Jazz week-end that year, to be replaced by a replica at a cost to us of a mere £10. On May 9th, John and his grandson (pictured above) pulled the original one out of the river by the military field, a three year journey. What a fluke that it was John who found it! Now we have to decide what to do with the old interpretation board after a clean-up. It will probably cost a few pounds to erect at the other end of the river path, and unlikely that other organisations will pay for it to be so placed. Any other ideas?

Forthcoming Events

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

Jun 1st– Evening Meeting 7.30pm. Speaker Phil Clark, son of Clark's Toys but a Theatre Manager most of his life..

Jun 8th– Club Assembly and AGM 7.30pm

Jun 15th– Breakfast 8am

Jun 21st– BYO Picnic up the Crug to watch the sunset 7.30pm

Jun 22nd– Evening meeting 7.30pm speaker David Weston (Brecon Advice Bureau)

June 29th– Charter Night 7pm for 7.30pm.. Black tie. Wives and partners included. (list to be circulated)



EXAMPLES OF KATHRYN'S WORK



Brecon Rotary Club breaking new ground with its Paul Harris Award

On 18th May, President Maurice presented a Paul Harris Fellowship to Ailsa Dunn, the hospital doctor in North Breckonshire in charge of the team dealing with stroke patients, geriatrics and rehabilitation. It was awarded to Ailsa, particularly on account of her dedication to her role, and the attention she pays to her patients which is recognised as being well beyond the call of duty . On receiving the award, Ailsa, who was accompanied for the occasion by her husband, Lawrence Duffy described her job as a resource for GPs. She had set up the rehabilitation service, and encouraged people NOT to stay in hospital. She was pleased to have been involved over a number of years with the Club’s Stroke Awareness Events since she has devised an audit programme for potential stroke victims. Ailsa and her team were also involved with Parkinson’s patients, and had set up a scheme which had developed much expertise (as Freda Mallon, a sufferer, would testify). In her opinion, the percentage of GDP spent on the health service had diminished in comparison with other countries similar to ours. Ailsa was asked to talk about the help she and her team at Bronllys Hospital had given to the Tsunami victims, and she explained that initially they had intended to send out a transit van but within two days of the appeal launched by the hospital; they had enough aid equipment to fill a 40 foot container lorry. The aid work is continuing, and money is being channelled through families of people working in the hospital, sufficient to build five kindergartens and a health centre. Interestingly , the schools all have local names (e.g Llangors, Brecon, Talgarth, Y Fenni). At the conclusion of her talk, Rotarian Gareth, thanked her on behalf of the Club, saying that the award was small reward for all her hard work. John Mallon spoke movingly of Ailsa’s dedication, diligence and extremely long hours of work. (The editor thanks AW for this piece.)

**Rotarian of the Month –12
INGRID GALLAGHER**

“Brecon does it for me!” says Ingrid, our first woman member. She and her husband fell in love with the people and the countryside and bought a house locally in 2001. When the chance came to work here, she took it and 2 years ago became the Head of Brecon High School, quite a daunting job by all accounts. Her previous one was in urban Birmingham. She sees her main achievement as working to give youngsters every opportunity to succeed no matter what their home background.. Ingrid judges that Brecon has retained its uniqueness particularly on account of the warmth and friendliness of its people, many of them with back to basics values. She wants us to do more though, to support local businesses. As for Brecon Rotary, she recognises that the Club does its bit for the local community, often unsung, and says that there are some wonderful characters amongst us! She would like to see a Rotaract group set up, and when things are less hectic at work, would be willing to lead on this. Ingrid’s musical tastes seem unusual– she mentions Satie and the Rat Pack in one breath. Since coming to Wales she finds her devotion to watching football being matched by her interest in the game of rugby. Her most memorable holiday was in 1991 when walking the Slovenian mountains in fun company. On how it feels to be in 2009 with all our troubles, she says that she is a ‘reverse paranoid’, believing that the world is plotting to do her good!



Price of a litre of fuel at
1st June 09
Petrol 99.9 p Diesel
102.9p

The CAR BOOT EVENTS

So far, the gross receipts
for this May’s Car Boots
are £1840, and May 31st’s
event yielded £

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| | Bottle Rota |
| June 1st.... | Barry Tomlinson |
| June 8th... | Mike Tompkinson |
| June 15th... | Andrew Wakley |
| June 22nd.. | John Wiggins |
| June 29th... | Bob Wood |
| July 6th.... | Mervyn Woodward |
| July 13th .. | Geoff Woollorton |
| July 20th .. | Derek Adams |
| July 27th.. | Julia Blazer |
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