BRUIN

Brecon Rotary Update Information News

Lloyd, Sam, Martin, Gareth and Dylan receiving the cheque on behalf of Penmaes school and this group will be going to Buckingham Palace to received their award, I am told, direct from the Duke of Edinburgh himself.

PENMAES D OF E AWARD SCHEME

President Pat and Brian Newman recently attend Penmaes school to present the final £1000 payment from our club, some £3000 has now been donated towards their gold D of E awards.

You may recall that some 3 years ago we were approached to see if our club would help finance a trip to Romania so that Penmaes could include this as part of their project.

Speaking with Abi, one of those who attended she was able to explain that she and 4 others plus staff visited Romania and they spent their time visiting a Day centre for autistic children. They were bus'ed to the centre daily from the hotel where they were staying. Abi built up a friendship with Julia who had been unable to walk unless helped by others. Abi also had a similar weakness but she could walk un-added because she had her own special walking aids.

On their return Abi felt that she would like to send a gift to Julia and was able to purchase a set of walking sticks similar to hers which were sent as a Christmas present that year to Julia.

The current gold award team are practising their final hike and recently have visited Barry Island, the Gower beaches and hills. They have camped overnight back at the school where support was available to assist them.

Both Brian and Pat were shown around the entire school to see their excellent facilities including the sensory room which, was also equipped by Brecon Rotary when the school was built.

Thanks to the staff and for Dylan and Lloyd who were our guides and gave us a very informative visit.

Pat Blake

Dates for your Diary

Monday 7th July
Business Meeting

Saturday 12th July
Nicky Grist Stages

Monday 14th July
Dinner Meeting

Wednesday 16th July
Council Meeting

Monday 21st July
Dinner Meeting

Monday 28th July
Fun Night - Canal Trip
6:30pm Departure

Saturday 2nd August
Brecon County Show

Sunday 3rd August
1st RYLA Course starts

Monday 4th August
Business Meeting

Friday 8th August
1st RYLA Course BBQ

Sunday 10th August
2nd RYLA course starts

Monday 11th August
Speaker Meeting
Subsea Hydro Electric Schemes

Friday 15th August
2nd RYLA Course BBQ

Monday 18th August
Fun Night - Treasure Hunt

Monday 25th August
No Meeting

Wednesday 27th August
Council Meeting

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Eight members of the club visited the District Assembly on Sunday 11th May held at the Swansea Metropolitan University
Six members attended the Plenary session and listened to an interesting presentation on Rotakids by a Cardiff head teacher from a junior school who was so impressed with rotary she joined the Cardiff club.
Brian and Mike Evans attended the Foundation and Grant seminar, where Brian was asked to give an impromptu talk about the Dunnatar School grant.

FUN NIGHT AT CHRIST COLLEGE

Twenty members and partners visited Christ College on Tuesday 20th May and were given a brief history and walk around the grounds including the Chapel by Felicity Kilpatrick, followed by a curry supper in the Clive Richards room.

PETANQUE EVENING WITH BRYNMAWR ROTARY

As the Cecil Armitage Challenge Cup had reappeared after an eleven year break, some 22 individuals from Brecon and Brynmawr rotary clubs spent an enjoyable evening playing Petanque at the Brecon Rugby Club on Monday 16th June.
The challenge had been made by Brecon and as Brynmawr's captain was delayed returning from France the same day, the trophy was decided by the best of three games with one team representing each club. Brecon came out top on the night and the trophy was duly presented to Brecon by one of the Brynmawr team.
After the competition we retired to the Club House for the buffet.
Our thanks to Brecon Pertanque Club for their help on the evening.

Bottle Rota

Monday 7th July
John Mallon

Monday 14th July
Brian Matthews

Monday 21st July
Nick Morrell

Monday 28th July
Mike Stratford

Monday 4th August
Brian Newman

Monday 11th August
Maurice Parry

Monday 18th August
Terry Stevens

Monday 25th August
No Meeting

Monday 1st September
Brian Strawford

Monday 8th September
Paul Tambling

YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER 2014

The winner of the Brecon round of Young Photographer 2014 was Nan Thomas seen above receiving the winners certificate from President Pat at the Senedd on Monday June 23rd.

As winner of the Club round she was automatically entered for the District round and

was awarded second place in the 14-17 year (Senior) age group and was presented with her runners up certificate and prize by DG David Curtis.

Paul Edgley received the club round certificates on behalf of the other 4 Brecon entrants at the evening meeting on the same day.

Paul Edgley accepting the Young Photographer club round certificated on behalf of the students.

SPEAKER'S CORNER

At our meeting of 23rd June, the speaker was John Clifford, a septuagenarian who in retirement, had volunteered to be project manager for the creation of a circular path around the military training facilities on the Epynt. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act of 2000 which was aimed at opening up previously inaccessible land for public enjoyment, had led to the idea. He explained that the word Epynt meant "The Haunt of the Horse." Before the MoD had compulsorily purchased this plateau between the Brecon Beacons and the Cambrian Mountains in 1940 and had evicted the community who lived there, it was a breeding ground for Welsh Cob Horses, but once artillery had arrived, the horses fled. Sheep seemed impervious to the noise the guns made. To create the peripheral path, a stakeholders' forum was established which included Powys CC, The MoD estates, Welsh Development Agency (WDA), CCW, Forestry Commission and the British Horse Society amongst others. It was the WDA, now subsumed into the Welsh Assembly Government, which provided the funds to establish the path which is 65 kilometres long. Seven rivers had to be crossed, so bridges had to be built. The Official Opening was in 2005, a good news project to counter the bad news of the 'weapons of mass destruction' debacle and the suicide of Scientist David Kelly. The project was given a Sanctuary Award in the same year as the best conservation example on Army land. During questions, John said that it would normally take at least 18 hours to walk the complete path, but that one chap had taken up the EWID (Epynt Way in a Day) challenge and had succeeded. Wyndham thanked John on our behalf for an interesting talk.

Peter Jenkins

WAAT4 CHALLENGE

Please Google "waat4 2014" and click on www.waat4.co.uk. Under finishing times 2014 you will see that team 4 Brecon Rotary Club finished in 8hrs 55mins which was not the fastest (or the slowest). However we did finish as a team under the excellent leadership of Derek Adams. Click on "gallery" and the photos will automatically scroll to team 4 looking cheerful if somewhat apprehensive before the start. 97 teams and over 500 people took part this year. The total amount raised in 2014 is not yet available but we understand some £46,000 was raised in 2013 so hopefully even more this year. The 30 km route started from the rugby club along the canal to Brynich bridge then by road to Llanfrynach. After a water stop a steep climb up to the ridge towards Bryn then the steadily rising path around Cwm Oergwm towards Fan y Big followed before dropping down to the Gap road for more water and another stop. After skirting Cribyn the final climb up Devil's Ladder to Pen y Fan faced us (see photos) then a stroll down the ridge to Cwm Gwdi for our final water stop and rest before the final trek back along the road to Ffrwdgrech, Llanfaes and Brecon. As you can see from the photo the team of six was from left to right, Andrew Wakley, Nick Morrell, Hayley Evans Mike Stratford, Derek Adams & Mike Evans. Well done all! The consensus was that we were happy to have done it but found there was too much walking on roads. The 29 km Black Mountain Challenge which is all hill walking is under consideration for next year.

Andrew Wakley

Photo for the Month from Markus Warwick

This is my eldest son Joe, now nine! It was taken at a children's Animal Farm in Timaru, on the South Island of New Zealand, one glorious spring day. Joe was just over one year old and until that day he had crawled everywhere, often at very high speed, and not shown any interest in walking. I lifted him out of the car and he just started walking - magic!

BRIAN NEWMAN'S VISIT TO DUNNOTTAR SCHOOL, ST. LUCIA

Arrived at Bel Jou Hotel, Castries on Tuesday 28th. January 2014, after 18 hours of travel from home.

Met Carolyn Archibald (Head Teacher) on Wednesday morning to plan my 4 week visit to Dunnottar School. Started on Thursday morning at 8.45 and spent that day and Friday in a class of 6 girls, aged 12 to 14. This class included Sherquanne, the girl I have sponsored over the past years'. I also visited the renovated school toilets and I

was delighted to see the transformation and also the covered way it now has from the school to the toilets (the children can now go to the toilets without getting wet.

Over the next 3 weeks, I assisted an autistic boy's class of 6 children aged 12 to 14 (Owan, Brandon, Ned, Dylan, Daniel and Kieron). This class had 2 teachers (Miss Merle and Miss Joseph), but often there would only be one in class, due to teacher courses in Martinique. On two occasions the children dressed up for Valentine's Day and Independence Day (35 years ago given their independence from UK rule) where the children and teachers dressed up in their national colours of yellow, blue, black and white.

On Friday of my last week, some of the children, together with Head Teacher stood on the school steps, where they thanked Brecon Rotary Club for their generous donation of £2,300 for the renovation of the outside school toilets.

Photographs were taken and Rodney (one of the teacher's) took some film of the occasion and hopefully will be able to show it at a Club meeting. After leaving school, I visited St. Lucia Rotary Club and gave them President 'Pat' best wishes from Brecon Rotary Club.

For the first two weeks the weather was very changeable with a lot of rain, but it is now mostly sunny with showers in the evening. Temperature here is 28 to 29 degrees all the time and very humid. On the weekends, I went snorkelling at Pigeon Island (nature reserve) and enjoyed the warm Caribbean Sea and a beer in the beach bar. Last Saturday, I went out with Rodney and his family, together with Pauline, where we spent a most enjoyable evening.

I have now finished my time at the school, except for popping in just before I leave on Tuesday to return home, when I will say my cheerio's to the staff and children.

Brian Newman

BRECON PENSIONERS PUSH THE BOUNDARIES.

Brecon Rotary Clubs' second computer course came to a close the last week of May. Rotarian Peter Jenkins who masterminded the idea handed over the Baton to Pontio'rs course leader Danielle. There were four tutors involved this time and they agreed that the course now attracted sponsors and had sufficient momentum to be a regular feature and managed in its totality by Pontio'r. "We could never have imagined this success and owe our thanks to the Rotary club for being the catalyst for this. "

The project is Pontio'r Powys' whose motto is 'Never too old to learn – never too young to teach'.. All of the equipment is provided by the scheme and each participant receives a certificate to show what skills they have learned.

John Coultard really enjoyed his time and thought the value was being able to go home and try things out and then come back next time with any problems and have them sorted in a friendly and supportive way. He can't wait to do his third course.

Barrie Jones has attended both courses and is now much more confident and competent on his laptop. "I can Skype my grandchildren and now am learning about spreadsheets , something I would never have imagined. The course managers are great and give us mini taught sessions and individual time"

Mrs Evelyn Gore is a first timer and is already excited about building on her achievements at the next course and bringing her two friends with her. Both Carol Head and Anthony Boston Davis and are planning their time around the next course.

A special well done to Christine Lewis who after 12 weeks has lost that terrified of computing feeling, and although still admitting to being a bit mystified but is proud of what she has achieved.

Rotarian Peter told participants to look out for the next innovation for them and their peers to enjoy courtesy of Brecon Rotary Club..'Never too old to learn.'

SUMMER SOLSTICE

This time of the year seems to come around faster and faster.
Once again an intrepid group of sunset seekers made the pilgrimage to the Crug on Sunday June 22nd. Almost a record this year as there were eleven members and wives plus the usual 4 legged friend, and yes we did see the sun go down and no we did not need gloves and waterproofs.
After an hour and a half of good food and company we made our way back down to Brecon.

CHARTER NIGHT DINNER AND HANDOVER.

I would like to extend my thanks to Clive and others who assisted him in arranging such a terrific evening.

As I said on the night, I am so appreciative of all the support I have received from the whole of the club during my year as President.

Much has been achieved and I do hope that Clive and his new council will be able to build on and move forward to greater things in their coming year.

The club will continue to have my active support and Margaret & I look forward to more fun nights and friendship which is abundant at our club.

Immediate past President Pat

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

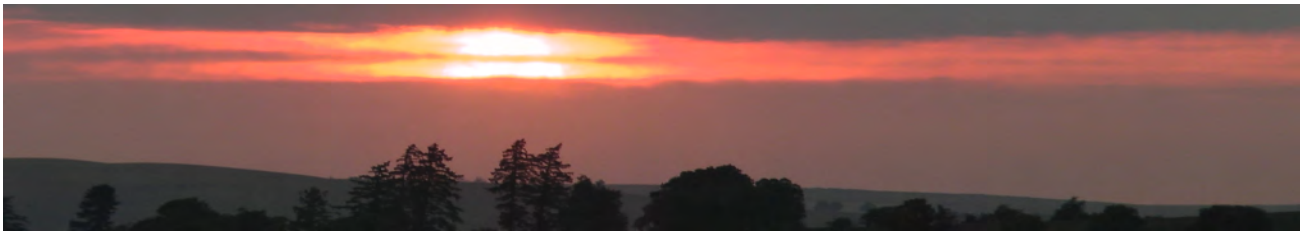
This is my last edition of Bruin as Editor, And I would like to thank everyone over the last 2 years for all their contributions, articles and photographs.
This last edition is very late but I hope I have included most of the activities that have occurred in the last two months of Pats year.
I have put together on the last page a selection of photographs taken in the last year and a few very recent ones.

I would like to thank Hayley Evans for agreeing to take over Bruin, and would ask all members to send her any copy and photos that would be suitable for inclusion in future issues.

CAPTION COMPETITION NO. 14 WINNER

Mike Evans

Margaret confuses Anthony for Andy (Powell)



RYLA
Brecon Rotary Club
LIGHT UP ROTARY
GOLEUO ROTARY
Rotary
Rotary