



BRUIN

Brecon Rotary Update Information News



One of Torquay's beaches

DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2013 - TORQUAY

Clive, myself and our wives travelled down to Torquay on the 4th October after depositing our respective dogs at their "hotel" for the weekend. Lesley had picked out an eating place for lunch where she and Clive had eaten previously and was highly recommended. We turned off the motorway heading into the countryside through narrow lanes in the Quantocks (good job I have experience in driving down this type of terrain!) BUT it got worse and although not sign posted Clive's sat nav did the trick and we arrived in the middle of nowhere but there was this lovely pub. On speaking with the bar person she asked where we had come from into the village- we explained!- she said oh! you came down suicide lane then!!

Well onto to Torquay our hotel was next to the Riviera Centre where conference was being held. Friday itself was opening of the House of Friendship and in the evening entertainment an Olde Tyme Music Hall, which was free!

Saturday started at 9.00 with the first Plenary Session- a Musical welcome by Torquay Academy. 9.30 a message from The Queen was read out and various welcomes from DG David, Chairman of Torbay Council and an address by Past RI Director Paul Knyff who was representing RI President Ron Burton.

The highlight of this speech was when a slide came up showing the Web site of Brecon Rotary which was referred to as being exemplary together with one from Cardiff Bay -he did say that web sites MUST be kept up to date if they are to be beneficial. Well done Clive for all your efforts on our clubs behalf (next year he is President and we may well need someone else to take over the mantle!- any volunteers please contact Clive).

Next was a presentation by Angela Gorman about her charity "Life for African Mothers"- this charity she set up on her own having seen a BBC Panorama documentary about a problem in Chad where mothers were dying at childbirth. Angela had been a qualified nurse for 30 years and until 2008 at a Neonatal *Intensive* care unit at Cardiff Hospital where she was a Senior Sister. She has been able to take drugs to give to those who haemorrhage at child birth, these tablets cost just 50p each and taken can prevent mothers dying. She has had further requests from other countries to help and now travels regularly to deliver these tablets which are purchased from monies donated to her charity- which some Rotary clubs support.

The next presentation by David John on his pet subject of "Prostate Cymru"- this was a very funny talk on a very serious subject- it was so well put over that any man listening would now fully understand prostate cancer and how

Dates for your Diary

Monday 21st October

Fun Night

Progressive Whist Drive

Monday 28th October

Dinner - Speaker plus

Short Business meeting

Wednesday 30th October

Council Meeting

Friday 1st November

Caledonian Market set up

Saturday 2nd November

Caledonian Market

Sunday 3rd November

Caledonian Clear up

Monday 4th November

Caledonian Dinner

Wednesday 6th November

District Quiz - Crickhowell

Sunday 10th November

Remembrance Day Parad

Monday 11th November

Business Meeting

Bottle Rota

Monday 4th November

Maurice Parry

Monday 11th November

Ian Richards

**Monday 4th
November**

Maurice Parry

**Monday 11th
November**

Ian Richards





Some of the entertainment by Torquay Academy

we can avoid it. What David did with a bag of visual aids (a hose pipe, bagel, cucumber, two lemons) needs to be seen! He had us in stitches and really got over the to us that a simple PSA test should be requested . Clive & I felt it may be worth getting David to come and give us a presentation and perhaps Brecon Rotary could sponsor an open meeting for the men of Brecon (and there wives).

Second plenary session was a presentation from Luke Simon on the charity" School in a bag "- this charity started after Simons brother Peirs died in the tsunami on 26th Dec 2004 on the Thai island of Koh Phi Phi where he was staying with friends. An appeal was set up in memory of Piers to help disaster victims in 11 countries as well as funding 131 Shelter boxes.

In June 2009 following a project supporting orphan children in Swaziland the" School in a bag" initiative was born. It's a simple solution that delivers rucksacks full of stationery, learning resources

and eating utensils to poor, orphan, vulnerable and disaster affected children.

Some 40,000 Schoolbags have been distributed to children in 15 countries. Help to fund these bags is needed.

On Sunday there was a short Multi Faith Service.

The next presentation was from Mark Ward on behalf of "Trussell Trust" Mark is head of fundraising and gave us details of the organisation and how food banks evolved- currently there are 380 food banks and more are being formed (this includes one here in Brecon). Mark mentioned that some 380,000 people had received help during the past year and it looks like this figure, for the first 6 months of this year, may have doubled! It is my hope that we in Brecon can do something tangible to help.

After coffee we had a presentation by Danielle Treharne on Micro Finance. Danielle had only arrived the day before from The Gong

where she works as a volunteer on the translation team for Kiva an organisation which helps those who are keen to make their own way with help from those who are willing to loan small sums. Can I suggest you look at Kiva.org where you can find details of this interesting scheme. Cardiff Bay Rotary has been very much involved and can give first hand details on their experience with Micro finance.

There were the usual final speeches, summing up the conference, and a short Trailer for the 2014 conference which will be held at Plymouth on 10-12th Oct at the Holiday Inn Conference and Hotel complex.

Clive hopes that more will join him next year at Plymouth.

The final speaker was Dr Geoff Mackey who is a MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER- Clive & Lesley knew him and said he should be good to listen to- well words could not explain just how funny and clever he was in presenting, what on the face of it, could be a boring subject.

With a great slide presentation which included extracts from You Tube etc this made for an excellent talk to end the Conference.

I think that we all enjoyed and learned that " if it is difficult don't put it to one side but do something different- changes can happen with out offending".

Margaret & I enjoyed our visit to Torquay in the company of Lesley & Clive- let's hope others will join us next year ; date for your diary is 10th-12th October.

President Pat



Part of the Harbour at Torquay



Photo for the Month from Brian Birtles



Frozen Brian by a frozen waterfall

pop star Bjork, Iceland is cold and consequently is the most sparsely populated country in Europe. It has the most active Volcanos in the world and in 2010 the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull which, although relatively small for volcanic eruptions, caused enormous disruption to air travel across western and northern Europe over an initial period of six days in April 2010. 54% of all energy needs in Iceland are met by geothermal energy production (hot springs), while 18% of all energy needs are met by hydro-electric production, which comes from the big waterfalls. I'm pictured alongside one of the big waterfalls which isn't producing much energy as its frozen. The brighter Rotarians such as Peter will have already spotted this!

Like some of us living in the more rural areas of Powys many Icelanders believe in elves. Certain roads have been re-routed to avoid disturbing areas where elves are thought to live. This might be explained by something in the water as an international study done in 2006 ranked Iceland as the "Fourth Happiest Nation" in the world. Iceland was the last European country to be settled—sometime during the 9th or 10th centuries when Scandanavian sailors discovered it and its first inhabitants were Irish monks, who regarded the island as a sort of hermitage until the early 9th century. The Icelandic language has been virtually unchanged for the past 1000 years.

The long nights in the far north of Iceland lead Icelanders to read a lot and they hold the world record for number



Brian at the Glacier

Previously in the Bruin you have heard about "The Honeymoon" (Jordan/Egypt) and "Honeymoon Two, the Sequel" (Peru), the apparently never ending saga of Brian and Tess' gap year. As a prequel to our Venetian wedding we decided that a trip to Iceland would be a good thing to do - and it was! Apart from being the birthplace of the eccentric



A frozen waterfall

of books per capita. They also work hard and Iceland has one of the longest work weeks in Europe. The long evenings also give them time to develop unique superstitions such as: "If the first calf born during the winter is white, the winter will be a bad one" and "If you sneeze three times before breaking fast on a Sunday, you will gain something in that week." A bit like Brecon really

Iceland is sparsely populated and full of interesting, different things to see. Whilst we stayed in Reykjavik we explored the whole island. We were amazed at one of the best Northern Lights displays of recent years. Our Whale and dolphin watching was unsuccessful but the 2000 year old glaciers and frozen waterfalls were staggeringly beautiful. We also saw an old Geyser (all jokes to Clive on a post-card please!).

Would we go back? Probably not. But it certainly was a holiday to remember and one to add to your bucket list.



PETANQUE EVENING

Report by Barry Tomlinson.

I was approached by The Lions Club and asked to organise another petanque evening for the September fun night.

After a number of withdrawals from the Rotary team I imagined that the Lions would have outnumbered us by two to one, but on the evening the Lions were also down on numbers so the teams were nearly equal.

The first comments made to myself was that the Lion members had been practising last Monday evening so they had a definite edge on the Rotarians, but as per usual the Rotarians just took up the challenge .

It was decided to play two teams of triples, and two of pairs and as soon as our players turned up, they were straight out to play. Each team played two games, some games up to eight points and some to thirteen points.

I accompanied Pippa who was outstanding for the first pair's game which we lost 6-8, after I had changed with Wyndham they beat the Lions pair 8-1. Markus and Derek had two massive wins, which one was against a petanque regular player. So the pairs teams had a 3-1 win over the Lions.

The triples teams of Andrew, Wimke and Pat also Haley, Mike and Nick had the hardest battles but the outcome was 3-1 again to the Rotarians.

We all finished up in good spirit but a little cold, we were well fed, and all had a couple drinks. The three Presidents gave warm short speeches, with the Lions wanting a return match next year which Pat agreed too.

It was another good evening.

SPEAKERS CORNER

On 23rd September, our speaker was Chloe Williams, a very enthusiastic 24 year old who had come to give a talk on her experiences, under the International Citizens Scheme, of three months in India. She explained that she had been a carer for her mother during her childhood, and had attended both the High School and Gwernyfed before studying Philosophy at Newcastle University.

Chloe was sent with a team of similarly minded young people from the UK to Chatrapur in India, a small village populated with people cut off from main stream society. Each member of the team had had to find

£800 to be accepted on the project, with the Department of International Development putting up the rest of the money required, about £2200 each. The villagers were surprised at the team's arrival, so the first task was to win the trust of the headman. When this had been achieved, they learnt the rudiments of an abstruse language, and set about making contact with the villagers. They ran courses among other things, on kitchen and gardening skills, and believe it or not, litter picking. Chloe's proudest achievement she said, was teaching the pubescent girls in the community about their bodies. Coming from a western nation, she was shocked that none of them had received any sex education before. In conclusion. Chloe said that the overall experience had made her even more determined to become a doctor (she has a place at University next year), and then she hopes to sign up with *medicin sans frontiers*. She was an entertaining speaker and was asked to come to our youth evening in October.

Peter Jenkins

CAPTION COMPETITION NO. 11



Rules:

All you have to do is write a caption to the photograph above and either email 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,

Thanks to our Contributors

Pat Blake



For District Conference report

Brian Birtles



For Photo for the Month

Barry Tomlinson



For Petanque Report

Peter Jenkins



For Speaker Report

In Next Months Issue

Derek Adams

Youth evening report

Mike Evans

World Trade Fair report

Brian Strawford

Golf report

Peter Jenkins

Whist Drive Fun Night

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.11 is Monday 24th November 2013

Result for Caption Competition No 10 will be announced next month.