



District 1150

December 2018

# BRUIN

## Brecon Rotary Update, Information & News



### Christmas Message from the President

Where has the year gone? We have seen old friends move to pastures new, and new friends have joined us. 2018 has been another busy one, and we can all be very proud of what we have achieved as a Club, including supporting local organisations through the Community Chest and having fun at Brecon with Bells On. Mike and I would like to wish members, their husbands, wives, partners and families a lovely Christmas and a peaceful 2019.

- Hayley



### Serving the Community



Carol presenting a cheque to Alina O'Connor, who organises a charity lunch at The Castle

on Christmas Day for the elderly of Brecon who would otherwise spend Christmas Day alone.

- The Club donated £1033 worth of groceries for hampers for families in need at Christmas, co-ordinated and distributed by Powys Social Services.
- Ad hoc grants were made to Isobel Ross and Seren McAllister for ballet training courses.
- We also participated in the Cathedral's annual Christmas Tree Festival:



## **Brecon High School Mock Interviews: 10 December**

Rotary clubs throughout the UK seek to achieve many things. We have many high ideals such as trying to make the world a better place by eradicating polio, providing clean water and supporting education in the developing world.

Against this background, we could be forgiven for concentrating our efforts on faraway places where the problems appear to be big, very big. It is difficult, although not impossible, to make measurable improvements to such large issues in short timescales. We need to balance our efforts between long/short term and international/local.

Most of us have represented Rotary at events in and around Brecon. When fundraising we all want to help solve the crises around the world but are naturally drawn to local issues as these are easier to relate to. The people of Brecon want us to help locally. The council

try to balance these calls on our time to ensure we contribute to both international and local causes.

Our Rotary club wants to help make Brecon a better place and the best investment we can make is in our young people's future. With GCSE's fast approaching our year 10/11 (15 years in old money) schoolchildren's thoughts are turning to interviews with nervous anticipation. Some will be moving forward to A levels either in the High School or over the mountain in Merthyr. Others will be seeking jobs or further training. All benefit from practice interviews in a familiar environment.

Every year the High School organises mock interviews and asks local organisations to help. This year **Anne** and I volunteered. We turned up at the school at 9am and were given a list of 10 people each to interview in 20 minute slots. Being in a school hall took me back to days too long ago and made me grateful that I wasn't 15 anymore, only slightly older!

Without exception, the pupils were exceptionally well behaved and put their all into doing well in the interviews. Naturally some were more confident than others. The aspirations varied greatly from working locally, attending university to entrepreneurship and world domination. As a military town the backgrounds and life experiences varied too. All were a credit to their school, Brecon and our wider community.

Above all it was a privilege for Anne and me to help the school in this way. It was also great fun! Why do it? Investing in our future through our young people, increasing awareness of Rotary and possibly future members.

- **Brian** Birtles



## Purple for Polio Crocus Bulbs



The 2018 batch of Crocus bulbs is well on its way to brightening up a number of community areas around Llangors Lake. The photograph shows Roger Young from Talyllyn helping to plant the first set of bulbs at the site of the Talyllyn phone box. The box has been adopted by the Llyn Syfaddan History Group who have been busy converting it into a local history information centre. The project has been supported by a community

grant from the BBNP and should be completed in the spring of 2019. The History group have also added a planter, a railway style signpost and memory bench.

Other sites to benefit from the bulb scheme will be Llanfihangel Talyllyn, Llangors and Llangasty Village Hall.

- **Roger**



## The Annual Christmas Lunch



PRESIDENT – HAYLEY RIDGE-EVANS

VICE-PRESIDENT – NEIL SANDFORD

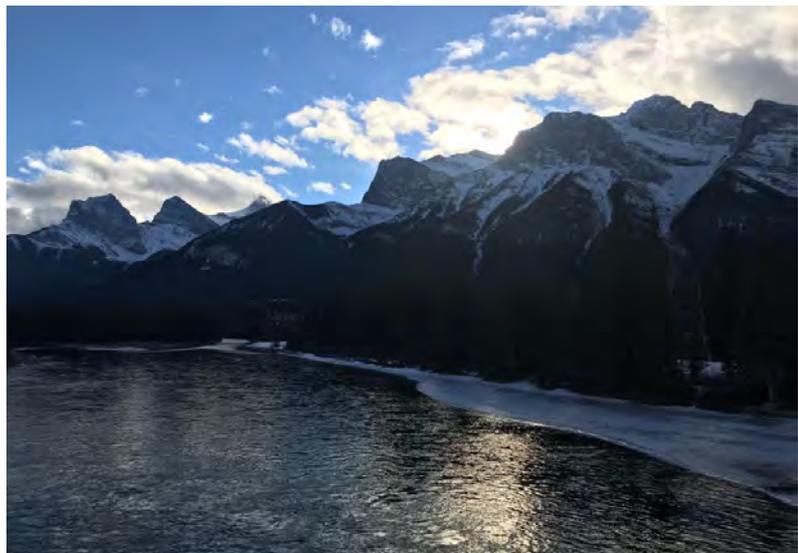
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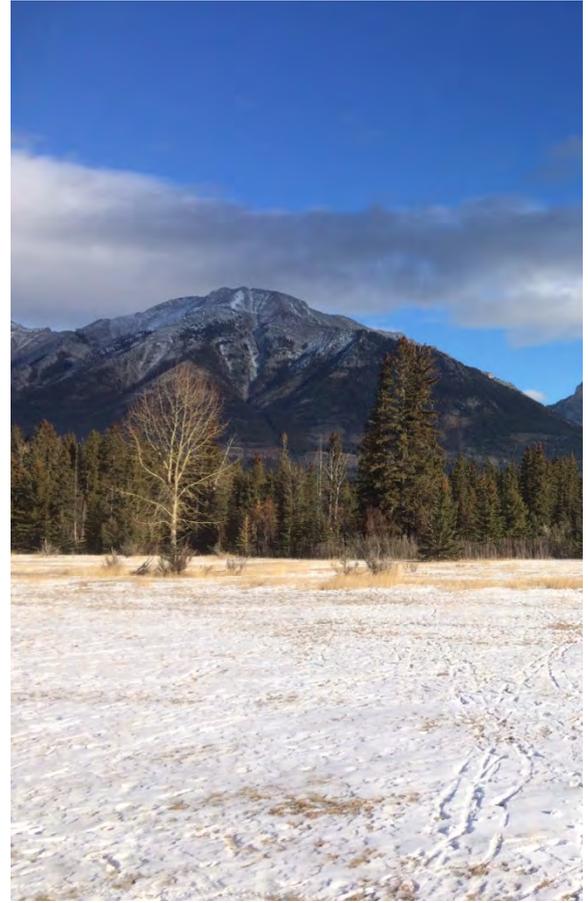
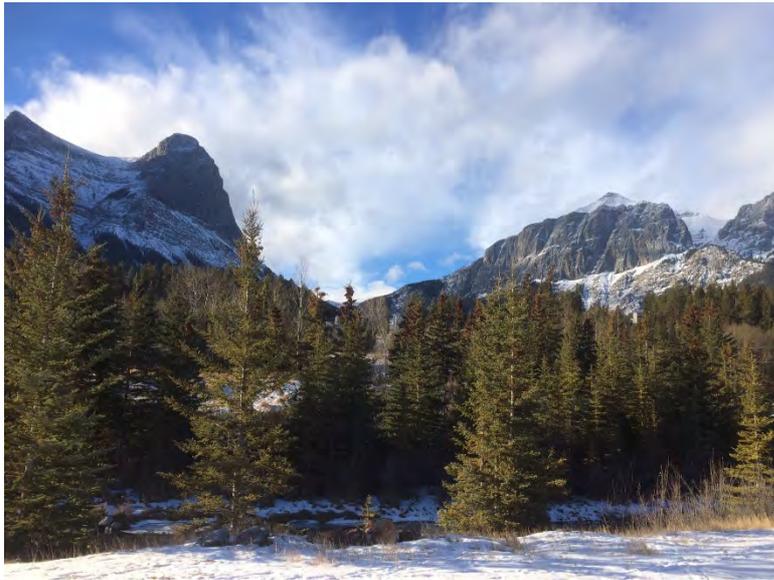


## Andrew on the move – again

First stop: Canmore, in the Canadian Rockies

PRESIDENT – HAYLEY RIDGE-EVANS





## Dates for the diary

7 January	Business meeting	4 February	Business meeting
14 January	Dinner meeting	11 February	Dinner meeting
21 January	Fun night	18 February	Fun night
28 January	Speaker meeting	25 February	Speaker meeting

### Speakers

28 January	Owen Hughes, Thoughts of Lesotho
25 February	Brian Newman, My Himalayan trek
25 March	Jeff Opland, Living with apartheid
8 April	John Hopkins, Education in the UAE

### Bottle Rota

7 January	Peter Jenkins	4 February	Nick Morrell
14 January	Clive Lillywhite	11 February	Brian Newman
21 January	Glyn Mathias	18 February	Jeff Opland
28 January	Mike Mellors	25 February	Maurice Parry

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