



District 1150

November 2018

# BRUIN

## Brecon Rotary Update, Information & News



Caledonian Market 2018



After last year's sale I was roped in again to co-ordinate the Market for this year. I must like being in charge?! Anyway, this is my last year as someone else will take over co-ordinating and organising. I am thrilled that we have had another successful year and with an increase again! That's got to be a good thing!



Firstly, I must mention Handel and his family for delivering again nearly 5,000 leaflets around Brecon. Massive thanks must go to them for this huge effort—all that advertising, and it's free! Thanks must also go to **Clive** for rushing to get printed another set of banners (as we couldn't find the old ones!).

All the advertising worked and the calls came in thick and fast. For handling the calls, **Hayley** deserves grateful thanks too, for without her effort we wouldn't have had the stuff to sell. It must have been very

stressful for her after a day's work to deal with all the calls and paperwork, so a small present that is some "stress relief" was given to her as a thank you! It wasn't a bottle of gin, unfortunately!

Thanks also must go to our collectors who travelled near and far to collect a shed full of stuff to sell. Loads of bikes this year, not so much electrical, lots of chairs, and just a few Xmas decorations. Funny how it changes each year.

Again our Club has provided a social service to the Community by removing people's unwanted stuff to be recycled. The Caledonian Market is in lots of ways a perfect example of recycling—with charities benefitting all round. Charities such as Dial a Ride, Red Cross, Refugees, and A Big Cwtch in the Rhondda Valley will all benefit. Nothing will be sent to the tip apart from a mountain of cardboard and plastic which the caretaker Gareth very kindly disposes of for us. Even the furniture is delivered by Paul and others. He was still busy at 7pm on Saturday night—we saw him when we went for our takeaway. Far too tired to cook after a long day!



Massive thanks also has to go to our volunteers, who turn up every year eager to unload, sort and sell and for this we must be especially grateful, for without them we could not have the Caledonian Market that has become an institution in the town. One of these volunteers even planned her holiday around the date of the Market, as she says it is the highlight of her year! She also persuaded a punter to pay £50 for a job lot of toy cars! Her highlight this year was searching high and low for a little boy's Peter Rabbit comforter. The family had lost it somewhere in the hall and the child was inconsolable. The mum left her telephone number and Jackie searched and eventually found it. The family came back beaming with delight! What a great volunteer she is!

This what Community is all about, and our Club demonstrates that superbly with the Caledonian Market.

- Anne



Hi Hayley,

Please can you share this with the rest of the Club!

As you know one of the organisations that assisted us with removing some of the left over items was A Big Cwtch from the Rhondda.

I have heard from Tracy, one of the ladies in charge tonight to Thank us for thinking of them and inviting them to be recipients of the surplus goods.

I thought it was really important to let you all know of the impact we have made already.

Today in partnership with Women's Aid they have distributed bedding, curtains, kitchen utensils, glasses, crockery, a mirror and saucepans to a lady who has moved into a 3-bedroom house with her children.

This really is what it's all about!!

Cheers

Cath



## Market trends

Nick tabled the balance sheet for the 2018 Caledonian Market at a dinner for all the volunteers in the Castle Hotel on 5 November. The takings amounted to £11,799, an increase of £258 on last year's income, maintaining a run of five years of increasing revenue. This constitutes yet another outstanding achievement although, given the limited time available for the sale—even if more items continue to be collected, and even allowing for selling price escalations—we can't reasonably expect the income to continue rising indefinitely. Nonetheless, to the substantial funds raised for charity must now be added the value of the unsold goods, all of which we pass on to deserving charities instead of contributing them to the dump.

Of the 30 stalls (including entrance fees and donations), only 13 registered a decrease over the previous year's takings. The largest drop was recorded by the toy stall, down 34% on the previous year, but against this drop—attributable no doubt to the rising power of eBay—can be set the remarkable 164% increase in funds accrued by the raffle—attributable no doubt to diligent pre-Market sales.

Altogether a worthy all-round effort by diligent Rotarians and enthusiastic volunteers.



## Profile – Beryl Gibson

Have you ever wondered why certain colours, fabrics and fashion are in one season and out the next? If you have, then welcome to the world of textile design consultant Beryl Gibson.

After leaving her parents' sheep farm on the Brecon Beacons aged 18, Beryl pursued her love of textiles all the way to Central Saint Martins and The Royal College of Art, London. A US road trip and a chance encounter at the New York offices of *Vogue* followed, kicking off her career as a textile design consultant. She now freelances for textile mills, retailers and designers worldwide, advising the likes of





the UK Fashion and Textiles Association, the Campaign for Wool and the Australian wool authority Woolmark.

### **What kind of work does she do?**

She collaborates with UK and textile mills around the world, designing woven fabrics from coats to curtains that are destined for the fashion world or the home. This involves selecting colours and yarns, patterns and textures and, of course, most importantly, price. Her studio is now mainly based in Brecon but she keeps a branch in London as it makes travelling to the big shows in Paris and Milan easier.

She works two years ahead of the current season. So if you want to know what colour will be all the rage in the High Street shops in 2021, she's the lady to go to. Critical decisions have to be taken now for then. So research is essential and her studio is crammed with threads and swatches and mood boards. As a member of a couple of influential international colour trend committees, she appreciates that colour and colour combinations have a vital influence on fabrics and fashion.

### **What is her favourite thing about her work?**

In her own words: "Being my own boss. The travel involved. And," with a smile, "amassing my own fashion wardrobe."

### **Any trend tips for us?**

Tonal colour dressing. Look out for colours such as yellow, lavender and caramel. The growing influence of sportswear and casualwear. Sustainability - the OK word at the moment.



### **Do you have a standout career moment?**

"In my second year at the RCA I flew to Miami to stay with my American cousins and then caught a Greyhound bus to New York, stopping at the US textile heartlands of North and South Carolina. I knocked on doors of textile firms with questions about their manufacturing processes and working with cotton textiles. In New York I went to show my work to the fabric editor of *Vogue* and in the office bumped into Hilaire Colcombet, the owner of Bucol, a Lyon-based textile company that is now part of Hermes/LVMH.

"Colcombet loved my work and invited me to collaborate on special developments of wool and woven fabrics for their collections, much of which was purchased by Chanel. My work brief there was to 'simply design something wonderful and beautiful,' there was no restriction on price or manufacturing details. Heaven for a young textile graduate. I ended up working for them for two and half years. 'New York, New York,' as the song says, 'it's a wonderful city'."

### **Any new plans now she has relocated back to Brecon?**

Now back in Brecon she would love to work with local Welsh wool and develop textile products.



## Job done!



Indlovana and Sibanesithu primary schools in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa, have each received £400 worth of books which was jointly funded by our Club and SLS Employment, based in Ebbw Vale.

The two primary schools were visited by a delegation from the Friends of the Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh in January 2017. Included in the delegation were myself and my wife Ann. The visit to South Africa arose from an

invitation from KwaCulture, an organisation that promotes Zulu culture. Following this visit, there was a reciprocal visit from the South Africans in summer 2017 which created a great deal of excitement and interest.

During the visit to KZN, it became clear to us that schools in the rural areas were suffering from a lack of resources and funding. As a result, literacy and numeracy skills are particularly poor and efforts to improve these skills are hampered by a lack of appropriate books.

After obtaining a commitment from Rotary and SLS Employment to provide funds, we worked with a South African charitable organisation, Books in Homes, to source the books. This charity was set up by members of the White River Rotary Club. The two primary schools chose their books from a list provided by the charity, which also writes and publishes the books as well as distributes them. The schools chose a combination of class-based reading and maths books, literacy and numeracy wall charts and some books that could be taken home by students to promote the enjoyment of reading. The books were in English and isiZulu.

There were some logistical difficulties in arranging delivery of the books as there wasn't a Rotary club close to the schools. We were very fortunate in obtaining the support of the KZN Education Department, who were able to arrange delivery to one of their offices and onward delivery to the schools using departmental transport. They have also sent us photographs of the schoolchildren using the books.





We also received help from the Dundee Rotary Club in the initial stages. They provided us with contact details and advice.

In October, Queen Mpumi of KZN visited Brecon. Queen Mpumi is a working headteacher in a primary school. She expressed her thanks to all involved in providing the books to the two schools.

- Roger



## Out and about: gin with bells on





## Dates for the diary

26 November	Speaker meeting	17 December	Evening Carol Service
3 December	Business meeting	7 January	Business meeting
10 December	Dinner meeting	14 January	Dinner meeting
17 December	Christmas lunch	21 January	Fun night

## Speakers

26 November	Neil, Sandford, job talk
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

19 November	Carol Herbert	10 December	Owen Hughes
26 November	Howard Hoare	17 December	Anne Ingham
3 December	John Hopkins		



## From the Brian Matthews BRUIN file

### June 2006 Media Man

Member of the Electoral Commission and local resident, **Glyn** Mathias, was our guest speaker on 8th May. Glyn, a graduate of Jesus College, Oxford, gave us an interesting overview of a varied career in the media which began with a stint on the South Wales Echo where he worked with Sue Lawley in the early 1970s. After moving to ITN where he worked with such famous personalities as the late Reginald Bosanquet he eventually returned to Wales as Political Editor for BBC Wales. During a long and distinguished career in the media, which Glyn illustrated with a number of anecdotes, he met and interviewed many of the top politicians of the day including several Prime Ministers. He interviewed Margaret Thatcher shortly after the Falklands War had broken out and was impressed by her ability to work under pressure although he found her private persona to be as abrasive as her public one. Ted Heath apparently liked to give long answers to questions (always a nightmare when airtime is limited!) and Tony Blair he described as 'head and shoulders' above his predecessors as a communicator. Glyn is now the Commissioner for Wales on the five member Electoral Commission and has offices in Cardiff and London. The Commission is an advisory and regulatory body which has an important role to play nationally in such areas as setting the rules on postal voting, organising referenda and encouraging people to vote. Glyn was thanked for his address by **Peter** Jenkins.

### April 2008 Women in Rotary

The prospective arrival of our first woman member in nearly fifty years of existence precipitated a lively debate at the Special Meeting held last month. The majority of members present at the meeting recognised the need for the Club to attract more and younger members if it is to survive in an increasingly competitive world. Rotary International in the 21st century is an organisation for business and professional persons of either gender.

**July 2009** And the sun came too . . .

On June 21st, 10 Rotarians and wives, one relative and a dog climbed the Crug on a dull evening for a merry picnic with liquid refreshment. It wasn't the result of the latter that enabled them to see the sun disappearing over Carmarthen Fan, it really happened. This made it the sunniest Rotary Summer Solstice up the Crug since records began in 2002.

**September 2009** Charter Night

What the *Brecon and Radnor Express* reported on 24th September 1959, 50 years ago:

A large gathering of Rotarians from many parts of South Wales and some from North Wales assembled at the Castle of Brecon Hotel on Monday on the occasion of the charter night presentation of the Brecon Rotary Club. The Presentation of the Charter of Membership (No 894) in Rotary International was made to the Founder president Gwynne Thomas by RI Rep G Howard Penzer. Mr Penzer said he had seen the growth of a club that would make itself felt in the Rotary life of the District. The Brecon Club had been in existence for just over six months and had already been doing good work. He told the foundation members present "The Charter Night is an occasion when members should meet and enjoy their fellowship together. If you should have the privilege of being founder members the time has come when you must accept greater responsibility as Rotarians. The future lies with you and your members. May you be greatly blessed in all your endeavours in this, the Rotary Club of Brecon." In response, Mr Jack Pride of Bath, representing all 400,000 Rotarians of Great Britain and Ireland said "The walk of a good rotarian down the street would be the finest advertisement for Rotary in Brecon. Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, but sticking together is success."

**January 2010** Caledonian Market postscript

An eagle eyed **Andrew** Wakley spotted that one of the pictures handed in for sale at the Caledonian market in November was a water-colour by Devon artist, Walter Widgery. An opportunist **Gareth** Griffiths, who visits Devon frequently on account of his mother-in-law, who lives there, took the picture to an Exeter firm of auctioneers, the head of which happens to be a Rotarian and supportive. Accordingly, on 2nd December, our lot, Lot 500, "a wooded stream with waterfall" by Walter Widgery, was sold for £380. Even after the expenses of the sale, this will bring the total net yield for this year's Caledonian market above £8,000 for the second year running. Brilliant!