



# BRUIN

## Brecon Rotary Update, Information & News



### Murder on the high seas

In writing this piece about the Rotary murder mystery evening held at the Castle Hotel on 22 October, I wasn't sure whether I was supposed to be a theatre critic or a crime correspondent. Since I am lousy at analysing plays and singularly failed to guess the murderer, I decided I was neither. Instead I was a member of the audience happily laughing along with the actors as they outrageously camped it up for the benefit of everybody involved.

The scene was set by **Jeff** as the bumbling captain of the ship, who never seemed to know what has going on. That didn't matter because nobody else did either. It transpired that a certain Doctor McDogood had been found dead in the ship's swimming pool after being hit over the head with a cricket bat. The obvious suspect was **Mike**, because he was dressed in cricket whites and waving a bat around all the time. What is more, he seemed to be in a state of permanent argument with his wife,



played by Cathy Morrell, both of whom were plainly adding to the script with adlibs about the state of their marriage.

But this transpired to be one of the many red herrings in the plot. In fact, all the characters turned out to have a motive. There was Lady Iceberg (Lesley Lillywhite), who was most upset that her daughter Lily (Christine Ellams) was having a dalliance with **Owen**, the oily engineer, who could not possibly have been the same character who was interviewed on Wales Today a few days later. Back in the mad world of the play, the dead doctor McDogood appeared to have angered just about everybody in the cast about something or other.



There was the bellboy, played by **Roger**, constantly professing his innocence in a loud American accent despite the fact that he had been caught pilfering pills from Dr McDogood's cabin. And then there was **Anne** as the flamboyant Madame Who-de-Wotwot, an artist who insisted on keeping her paintbrush down her cleavage. In an even louder American accent

and brandishing her cigarette holder, Anne was clearly the most outrageous character of all and so was therefore the murderer. She was rightly voted the best actor of the evening.



I must not forget **Peter**, wearing a police helmet and dodgy moustache, who intervened from time to time demanding money with menaces. All in a good cause, of course, and more than £200 pounds was raised during the evening for Macmillan. Above all, our thanks must go to **Carol**, who arranged this phantasmagoria and gave at least some of us a chance to make a fool of ourselves.



On an uncharacteristically sober note, there was an important little ceremony during the interval when **Clive** was awarded a Rotary shield in recognition of the outstanding work he has done for the Club. We all know the work Clive does, a lot of it behind the scenes, and this award was eminently well deserved.

- **Glyn**



## On your toes



My name is Isobel Ross and I was a recipient of a Brecon Rotary Club grant this year. I'm a dancer and was awarded a grant towards the cost of dance intensives this summer. I have been dancing since I was five and wish to pursue a career as a ballet dancer. Just like any other sport, dance requires a very high level of fitness and skill and to sustain that over the six-week summer period you must stay active. I am further hoping that this exposure and development will assist me when auditioning for full-time dance school this year.

Over the summer holidays 2018 I completed three courses, a ballet course with Kings International Ballet Academy, Brecon-Mid Wales Dance Academy summer school and the last a course with National Youth Dance Wales

which predominantly featured contemporary dance.

At Kings International Ballet Academy the week was focused on ballet, however we experienced workshops in other styles that complemented it. In the seven days that I was there we did classes in classical ballet, jazz, modern jazz, commercial and pas de deux. I was especially lucky to have classes in pas de deux (also known as partner work) because it is an essential skill all dancers must learn as professionals and rarely get to practice until

vocational/pre-professional training. We stayed at Rugby school for the entirety of the course. The day started with breakfast at 8:15am and classes started at 9:15 and ended at about 5:30pm. One of the reasons this summer school was so beneficial to my career was



because it gave me the exposure to other teachers and professionals, which may stand me in good stead for auditions with Kings International Ballet Academy. This is one of my favoured options for full-time vocational training in the next academic year.

National Youth Dance Wales was a two-stage audition process with the course comprising the twenty best dancers in Wales. It was run in conjunction with National Dance Company Wales (NDCW), a



contemporary company based in Cardiff. It was a very inspirational experience for me as I got to work with not only professional dancers but people already in professional training. The course was residentially based with accommodation and food provided in the Urdd in Cardiff Bay. During the course we were fortunate to work with world-renowned choreographer Mario Bermudez as well as dancers from the NDCW Company. We were also extremely lucky to try a newly formed dance style called Gaga, a style that many professional dancers will never get the chance to try. The day was slightly longer than at Kings, which proved challenging and really put us through our paces. At this residency we had classes in ballet as well as contemporary; this was because ballet is an important foundation for any dance style.

The Mid Wales Dance Academy Summer School: I have trained with the Academy since the age of five and now dance six weeks. It is my passion. As well as my training, I now work with the young as a helper: I'm gaining skills and experience in teaching.

My parents and I are grateful for Rotary Club's financial support over the years as I believe that the residential courses are beneficial to my progression as a professional dancer. Thank you.



days a week with my own dancers

the summer were aspiring



Public image

Our speaker on 15 October was Mary Adams. She is the current holder for the District of the Public Image Chair. Additionally she is a member of the Narberth and Whitland Rotary Club which she joined in 2013 and engages in two local initiatives dealing with dementia and loneliness. She was President of her Club two years ago, and exudes a very creditable enthusiasm for her various roles in Rotary. It was good of her to spend the complete evening with us to emphasise the importance these days in “getting our message out.” Mary was generous in saying that “ Of course, Brecon is brilliant in doing everything” . . . and probably meaning it. She announced that we had won the accolade for the Best Web Site in the District for the current year (Thanks, **Clive**). The range of her Powerpoint presentations and bullet points was impressive, but actually most of what she said was familiar territory to the more switched-on of us. However, we were reminded of the merits of RIBI’s “Rotary Stories” and in particular the enormous reach of Facebook. She said that there were over 2 billion Facebook users and ticking the ‘like’ box and the ‘share’ box was very advantageous in marketing our Club. The hashtags depicting separately Rotary, Brecon, Powys, Wales, RIBI, RIBI 1150 and Rotakids were also worth clicking on to. Mary said that in general she found that Rotary was not good at sharing information on all its good works, and that perhaps custom and practice of how Clubs were run should be given a good shake-up . . . ah, but “of course, Brecon is brilliant in doing everything.”



- **Peter**



### Dates for the diary

|              |                   |             |                      |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 29 October   | Dinner meeting    | 17 November | Brecon with bells on |
| 2-3 November | Caledonian Market | 19 November | Fun night            |
| 5 November   | Caledonian dinner | 26 November | Speaker meeting      |
| 12 November  | Dinner meeting    | 3 December  | Business meeting     |

### Speakers

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 26 November | Allie Thomas, Cradoc’s Savoury Biscuits |
| 28 January  | Owen Hughes, Thoughts on 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

|             |                  |             |              |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 29 October  | Beryl Gibson     | 26 November | Howard Hoare |
| 5 November  | Gareth Griffiths | 3 December  | John Hopkins |
| 12 November | Janet Hendey     | 10 December | Owen Hughes  |
| 19 November | Carol Herbert    | 17 December | Anne Ingham  |



### From the Brian Matthews BRUIN file

### November 2004 Handel does it again!

Once again the Caledonian Market has exceeded all expectations thanks, largely, to the unstinting efforts of Handel and Sue Davies and other members of their family who worked their socks off to make this year's principal fund raiser for the Club another outstanding success. The results of everyone's efforts were delivered by Nick Morrell at our Caledonian Dinner at the George Hotel in the presence of those Rotarians and spouses and other loyal helpers who had helped on the day. The magnificent total came to £5,702.44 – another Club record.

The most successful section this year was, once again, furniture which made the excellent sum of £769.44 thanks to some very generous donations. Our newly acquired trailer was put to good use in collecting bulky items and the amount of goods laid out for sale on the morning of the sale had to be seen to be believed. As Nick said when commenting on the results at the Caledonian Dinner it is difficult to know where we can go from here – perhaps we'll soon be needing a bigger venue than the Market Hall!

From modest beginnings in 1977 when some £704 was raised the Caledonian Market has grown bigger and better each year and, since Handel's appearance on the scene, our annual take has more than doubled. This year's increase of 36% compared with last year was the biggest increase on record. Nick somewhat shamefacedly admitted that by the end of the afternoon takings were coming in for counting so fast that some couldn't be identified with a particular stall so we now have a new category of 'unidentified takings' in our accounts – I think this is what is known as creative accounting!

Gareth Griffiths, whose Community and Vocational Service Committee was responsible once again for running the Caledonian Market, was unable to be present at our annual dinner on the following Monday but President Terry read out a message from him thanking everyone for their tremendous efforts. Terry also read out e-mails in support from two members who were unable to attend this year – Bob Wood who is still keeping the peace in Macedonia and Peter Jenkins who is visiting his family in New Zealand.

### August 2005 Hywel Down Under

Club member Hywel Davies regaled us as guest speaker last month with a comprehensive account of his trip to New Zealand to support the British and Irish Lions on their recent tour. He and his three companions used the opportunity to take a once-in-a-lifetime tour around the country seeing as many of the sights as they could cram in to a five week tour as well as watching as many of the Lions matches as they could manage. It sounds as though they all had a memorable holiday which started with a couple of days in Singapore before flying on to Christchurch where they picked up their self-drive 4WD hire car. This was to carry them all over the impressive scenery of South Island during the space of the following three weeks before moving on to North Island where Hywel's sister and her family live. Alongside many highlights Hywel went fishing (and caught a six pound trout!), visited the home of bungee jumping (but didn't have a go!) and experienced chance encounters at unlikely places with numerous friends and acquaintances from South Wales many of whom were also over for the rugby. He said that the natives were friendly and the estimated 25,000 supporters from the UK and Ireland (probably a good half of them from Wales) were extremely well behaved – oh, and the rugby was enjoyable too despite having to pay £100 a ticket to watch the All Blacks beat us!