



The Brecon Rotary Club Newsletter

December 2005



President – John Nancarrow
Vice President – Andrew Wakley

Brecon Christmas Fayre

The first Brecon Christmas Fayre which was held in the town centre on Saturday 26th November was judged a resounding success. Thanks to the hard work of Keith, Handel and the other members of their committee, and the helpers who turned up on the day to man our stall, we raised the splendid sum of £633 for Usk House, most of the proceeds coming from the highly successful raffle of floppy dogs and the rest

from the childrens' letters to Santa. We were considerably assisted by the strategically placed pitch that Keith had been able to secure for us on the corner by the Guildhall and thanks are also due to the Town Council for making the facilities at the Guildhall available to us on the day. All in all a wonderful first effort for both the club and the town and one which is sure to be repeated in future years.

Club Council News

The project to convert the well in Bethel Square into a Rotary Club Wishing Well to raise funds for charity is going ahead and the aluminium sheet has been cut. The design has been produced for us by Jim Mellor who will undertake the fabrication of the well insert. We will not now be

going ahead with the plan to construct a club notice board in the market arcade. Although permission had been given Club Council learned it would cost the club in the region of £500 and there are at present insufficient funds in our administration account to cover the cost.

Christmas Concert

The Fourth Annual Christmas Concert organised for us by Peter Jenkins will take place on Tuesday 20th December at the Cathedral. The concert begins at 7:30 pm and should last about an hour. Once again there will be a varied selection of festive music led by the Cathedral Choir and the Cathedral Singers under the direction of David Gedge. Flora York Skinner will be the soloist and there will be opportunities for us all to sing along as well. Once again we will try to fill the Cathedral for this event and all profits will go to the Brecon Cathedral Choir Appeal.



Theatre Visit

Our President has asked Andrew Wakley to investigate organising a theatre trip, possibly to the Millennium Centre or one of the other Cardiff venues, in the spring for club members and their spouses.

All about the Beeb

The Operations Manager of BBC TV Licensing, Ian Price, was our guest speaker on 28th November. Ian treated us to a welter of statistics about the BBC and his own particular rôle within the organisation. The Corporation provides 8 TV channels and operates 46 local and national radio stations and the World Service broadcasts in 43 languages to over 185 million homes across the globe. He told us that although the BBC was founded as long ago as 1922 it was only in 1991 that the Corporation assumed responsibility for the collection of revenue from the issue of TV licences this having previously

been undertaken by the Post Office. Most of the BBC's revenue is derived from licence fees with some £2.94 billion now being collected in a full year. The evasion rate has also been reduced with the aid of modern technology from some 15% when the BBC took over the licensing function to under 5% today. Ian showed us pictures of the various types of detector vehicle which have been used over the years starting with the very early days of detection in the 1930s. The detection equipment is now so sophisticated and compact it can be hand-held and operated by motor cyclists. BBC TV Licensing has one of the largest address

databases in the UK with over 28 million addresses registered. Evasion of the fee is a criminal offence which carries a fine of up to £1000. Ian also gave us some very interesting information about the cost of running the BBC - BBC1, for example, costs £174,000 per hour to provide. Persons over 75 get a free licence each year and if you are registered blind you get 50% off! About 58,000 people still only have a black and white set for which the fee is now £42.

Junior Vice President

Unfortunately Bob Wood, our roving policeman, has had to stand down for the time being as Junior Vice President as he has been offered, and has accepted, a two year extension of his policing duties in Macedonia. John Hopkins has however agreed to take over from Bob as Junior Vice and he will be followed next year by Keith Rofe.

Speakers Corner

Brian Strawford has lined up no less than two speakers for us next month. On 9th January former club member Rodney Ashwood will be talking about his recently published book while on the 23rd Stephen Perks, the head-teacher of Brecon High School who is also well known as an athletics coach, will be addressing us.



Bottle Rota

12th December - Richard Doylend
19th December - Anthony Edwards
26th December - Boxing Day
2nd January - Bank Holiday
9th January - Graham Giles
16th January - Gareth Griffiths
23rd January - Leslie Gwynne
30th January - Denzil Hackford
6th February - Howard Hoare



New Club Member

Our newest club member is Clive Lillywhite who has already been to a number of our meetings and will be formally inducted into the club early in the new year. Clive now lives at Defynnog and is transferring his membership from the Rotary Club of St. Neots St. Marys in Cambridgeshire. A very warm welcome to the club, Clive. We look forward to

receiving you as a member and hope you will get a lot of enjoyment from your membership.

10 pin Bowling

I gather we lost (again) to Crickhowell Rotarians although our President was the highest individual scorer - well done John!



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