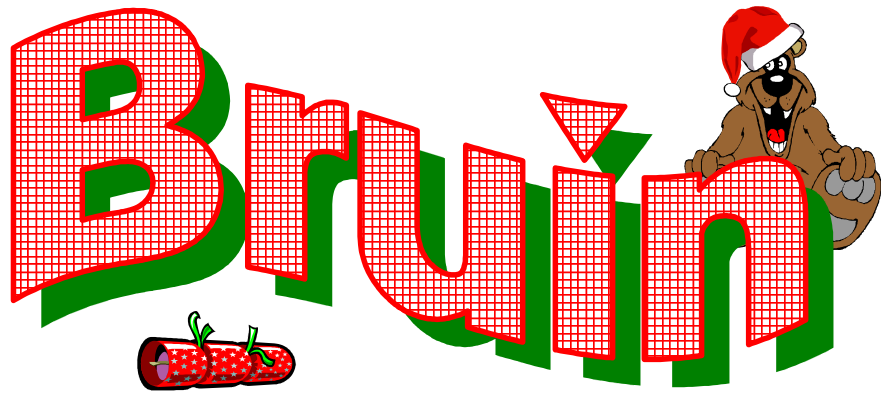


district 1150



The Brecon Rotary Club Newsletter

December 2007

President – John Hopkins
Vice President – Maurice Parry



Foodie Nation

A recent survey published in *RotaryWorld* has revealed a surprising fact. The cost of meals as a proportion of Rotary membership is higher in the UK and Ireland than anywhere else, with the average cost amounting to some 58% of total membership costs. This compares with only 9% in India. For our club the proportion would be even higher since, if every meal

were taken (admittedly a fairly unlikely occurrence!) the annual cost of meals alone would exceed £350, to which must be added the current membership fee of £100. To address this problem which undoubtedly acts as a deterrent to membership some clubs have experimented with the idea of abandoning full meals in favour of light afternoon snacks.

Usk House

This excellent local charity which we have supported in the past is able to raise £3 for every unwanted mobile telephone donated to it. If any club members are able to assist please pass your old telephones to Anthony Edwards after removing the SIM card and he will deliver them to Usk House for you. Anthony's wife, Pat, who is a trustee of Usk



House has also proposed that we hold a club meeting there early in the new year when we will have an opportunity of learning about the charity's work.

Prison Break

Anthony Edwards and Richard Doyle were admitted to Usk Prison one day last month but fortunately escaped after about an hour 'inside'. They had gone there with another consignment of several hundred used spectacles which are cleaned, graded and refurbished by the inmates before sending them on to developing countries - the spectacles that is, not the inmates! While at the prison Anthony and Richard were shown around by the Deputy Governor who is a former colleague of Anthony's.



Roberto's

On Monday 10th December we shall again be enjoying a Christmas Dinner at Roberto's. A note is circulating with details of the menu choices. The cost is £20 per head and spouses are, naturally, also invited. Cheques, payable to the club, go to Maurice Parry please.



Young Chef

Rosie Thomas was named the winner of the Club Round of the Young Chef Competition held at Brecon High School on Monday 12th November. Rosie who is aged 14 and a pupil at Brecon High School beat six other contestants from Gwernyfed and Brecon High Schools in a close contest with her beautifully prepared and presented offering featuring fillet of salmon on a pasta nest. The runner up was Rebecca Wrigley of Gwernyfed High School. The theme for the competition was a celebratory three course dinner for two using healthy ingredients. Each contestant had just two hours to cook and set out the meal

and was allowed to spend not more than £14 on the ingredients. The judges, Ivan Langford and Cherry Jones, were very impressed by the high standard achieved by all the contestants. A big thank you is extended to Youth Activities Chairman Clive Lillywhite who planned the evening in meticulous detail and arranged for Janet Williams of Pilgrim's Restaurant to lay on an interesting cooking demonstration for Rotarians and guests while the judges were deliberating. A special thank you too to Clive's wife Lesley who again produced the excellent certificates and posters for the event.

Xmas Fayre

The soft toys were a big attraction once again and tickets were selling like hot cakes. We even had some lollipops and novelty watches this year to hand out as a bonus to disappointed children who failed to win a wild animal. Hearty thanks to all the Rotarians who helped on the stall and a special thank you to Handel who again went to a lot of trouble to set up a very professional looking display for us which undoubtedly contributed to its success. I gather he even parked his car at the back of Tredegar Street at 5am on the morning of the Fayre to ensure he got a handy space!

Bottle Rota

3rd December – Peter Scott
10th December – Terry Stephens
17th December – Brian Strawford
24th December – No Rotary
31st December – No Rotary
7th January – Barry Tomlinson
14th January – Mike Tompkinson
21st January – Andrew Wakley
28th January – Bob Wood
4th February – Mervyn Woodward



Mock Interviews

Richard Doylend and Andrew Wakley spent a day at Gwernyfed High School on 20th November carrying out mock interviews of Year 11 pupils to help prepare them for the harsh realities of getting jobs after they leave school or university.

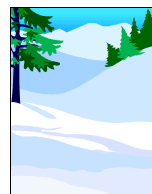


Bob in the Balkans

In his latest despatch from Macedonia where he is travelling around observing how the police deal with cases and advising the authorities thereon our roving member Bob Wood reports that winter has already arrived. He recently went on a weekend operation over the mountains which run down the western part of

Macedonia and was caught in a heavy blizzard. He and his companions were stranded on the other side of the mountains and had to spend the night in a hotel which none of them had bargained for. They had no toiletries or changes of clothes with them and the standards there can be quite basic! The mountains towards Albania and

Kosovo are already covered in snow (much earlier than last year) and the locals are expecting a harsh winter.



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