



The SMBP 44 Association

News Letter – South Wales Chatterbox Autumn 2019 – September

Email: viv.perry1@btinternet.com

Tel No: 01834 871552

Hi Friends,

Greetings to all 44 Club members, I am sorry I've not been in touch with you all but my life came in somewhat of a turmoil these last couple of months. Since last chatting to you, we had a great day at Don and Ann's wonderful Japanese garden in Llantwit Major. My wife Chris and I decided we did not like apartment living – we had a place in Tenby overlooking the harbour and so we have re-entered the housing market, bought a small bungalow just outside Tenby. We moved August Bank holiday and then I left the country to walk the Camino De Santiago from Sarria which is just over 100 km. The walk was booked over 12 months ago but then clashed with the house move.

Can I share with you the walk in Northern Spain; we walked for 6 days rising at dawn and just doing enough before the sun became unbearable through some superb countryside with hospitality never experienced before. The walk is called St. James which walkers are required to get 'stamps' from stops along the way from churches, museums or cafe' type places as proof. Once registered at Santiago a certificate is issued – a life time experience. These certificates are considered a proud possession so storage tube is available – would you believe printed with the Shell pecten; the emblem of the walk. Following 31 years in Shell I walked a pilgrimage in my retirement and get a Shell pecten!!! Amazing.

We had a great day visit to Don and Ann Knight's home where Don has created a Japanese oasis with his garden. We joined up with the South Wales SPA and BP Social clubs to visit his wonderful creation on Wednesday 12 June. Despite the weather looking inclement at the beginning of the week, it stayed dry and reasonable warm and all the money raised has been donated to the Great Ormond Street Children Cancer research which is very close to Don's heart.

Our sincere thanks to Ann who provided sandwiches and drinks for us to relax and enjoy this tremendous creation. Don gave us a chat on the various Japanese religions and the arches etc. which whilst being factual was also entertaining – Don was a Trainer in Shell and knows how to keep his audience well informed but also engaged!!!

We should enjoy a more information in the next Autumn 44 Club magazine.



Our last meeting was on Wednesday 18th September 2019 at The Norton Hotel, Mumbles, Swansea as Sketty Hall has closed and is being converted to a training Centre for hospital management. We are now actively looking for alternative venues to gather so if anyone has any suggestions please let me know at the address above.

The picture shows us all at the new venue. Apologies from Don and Ann as they are away on holiday celebrating Don's birthday. Alan had to attend a friend's funeral but joined us later for drinks. Stuart also gave his apologies as he was having cataract looked at and sorted but hopes to be with us next time.

We have planned in January 2020 a new venue in Ammanford away from Swansea and I will give details in December 2019.

I need to thank most sincerely Alan Davies who has done some sterling work in reviewing locations for our Christmas gathering. Alan has had a couple of health issues lately but as usual puts a very brave face and just remains

positive and confident – I appreciate everything he has done. Our thoughts are also with David Sanders who is in poor health and was not able to join us.



Remember you can see what's going on in the branch through the link for the South Wales page is <https://www.44club.co.uk/south-wales.html> Anyone interested in the WEB site for all other 44 club branches can have a look on: <https://www.44club.co.uk/>

I'll be in touch again soon, best wishes to everyone.

Viv Perry