



The Brecon Rotary Club Newsletter

February 2005

Dr Johnson on Melanesia

Dr David Johnson was the guest speaker at our first meeting of the new year when he spoke to us about 'Melanesia' - not a new medical condition but a group of islands in the Pacific where he spent several months last year. He went to Gizo, one of the Solomon Islands which form part of the grouping of Pacific archipelagos known as Melanesia - a name which refers to the dark skins of the native population. There are about 1000 islands which form the Solomon group and of these only about one third are inhabited. The principal island is Guadalcanal, the scene of

fierce battles against the Japanese in WWII. The inhabitants are friendly and their life style extremely relaxed despite the fact that they only gave up head hunting less than a century ago! David arrived at Gizo by canoe from an adjoining island and spent his time working on the island carrying out medical duties in the surprisingly well equipped island hospital. At weekends he went diving on the local reefs where he explored the wrecks of Second World War ships and aircraft and studied the abundant sea life, including sharks, which live in the crystal clear waters. He also found the time to learn

something of the fascinating history of the Solomon Islands which gained their independence from Britain in 1978. Although some 70 languages are spoken throughout the islands the common language is pidgin English. Of the medical conditions requiring treatment one of the most common was malaria - a bigger killer than AIDS world-wide. David showed us some of the souvenirs he brought back with him including a carved wooden fork designed for eating 'long pig', otherwise known as human flesh. Thankfully this is no longer on the menu!

President - Terry Dewan
Vice President - John Nancarrow

More Dates for your Diaries

Wednesday 23rd February - Centennial Dinner, Lake Hotel, Llangammarch Wells
 Tuesday 1st March - St David's Day Dinner - The Barracks, Brecon
 Friday 8th April - Stroke Awareness Day, Guildhall, Brecon
 Monday 2nd May - Car Boot Sale, Rugby Ground, Brecon
 Monday 30th May - Car Boot Sale, Rugby Ground, Brecon
 Wednesday 8th June - Kids Out Day, Ysgol Penmaes



Cradoc Bottle Bank

Another quarterly payment has been received from Powys County Council for looking after this recycling

centre. The total amount received for the year was a little less than the sum we had hoped for - but the receipts are based on usage so they are likely to increase

as the site becomes better known. Thanks go to our two honorary dustmen, Cliff and Mike, for managing the site for us.

Meet the Mouse



Want to know how to use a computer, or know anyone who does? If so the latest initiative currently being promoted under the snappy title "Meet the Mouse" may be just up your street. The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to bringing the benefits of information and communication technology to everyone in Wales under their Cymru Ar-lein (Wales On-line) strategy. FREE workshops are currently being held throughout Wales aimed at newcomers to computing and the internet. The single workshops last about 2½ hours and are delivered in an informal and relaxed manner. You can book your place on one or find out more by calling 0800 100 900.

Bottle Rota	
14 th February - Richard Doyle	
21 st February - Anthony Edwards	
28 th February - Graham Giles	
7 th March - Gareth Griffiths	
14 th March - Leslie Gwynne	
21 st March - Denzil Hackford	
28 th March - Easter Monday	
4 th April - Howard Hoare	
11 th April - John Hopkins	

Quiz Wizards Win Again

The latest round of the quiz competition for Zone 7 saw our team beat Ebbw Vale for a place in the final when we are drawn at home to play either Abergavenny or Knighton. The final score was very close at 35/31 with the Rotary round once again proving to be our team's Achilles Heel. Our initial lead was lost at the halfway point thanks to our dismal lack

of knowledge of anything remotely connected with Rotary as an organisation and we were behind until the penultimate round when we managed to reclaim the lead. There was a very good turnout from club members, spouses and guests at the Rhy y Blew pub in Beaufort despite the poor weather so thanks to all of you who made the effort to come along and lend

your support. Our friendly and convivial hosts also arranged an excellent meal for us. The team on this occasion consisted of John Hopkins, John Nancarrow and Richard Doyle. Mandy Yorke asked the questions and Andrew Wakley kept the score. President Terry thanked our hosts for organising the evening.

Youth Speaks



Two teams, both from Christ College, competed in the first round of this year's Rotary Youth Speaks Competition held at the George on Monday 24th January. The winning team, comprising Lydia Prevett, Chairperson; James Couceiro, Proposer and Kathryn Keane, Opposer, tackled the subject "America has too great an influence on British culture" with great enthusiasm and were

judged the winners by Adjudicators John Edwards and our own Graham Giles. Andrew and Denzil organised the event for us although, unfortunately, neither were able to be with us on the night. The winning team will now go forward to the Zone 7 Final to be held on 21st February.

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