

district 1150

Brewin



The Brecon Rotary Club Newsletter

February 2007


President – Andrew Wakley
Vice President – John Hopkins

Rotary Youth Competitions

Do try to get along to Gwernyfed High School on the evening of Thursday 8th February if you can. Keith Rofe and his committee have put a lot of work into making the Club round of the Young Chef and Young Musician competitions a success and no less than 10 aspiring young chefs and 14

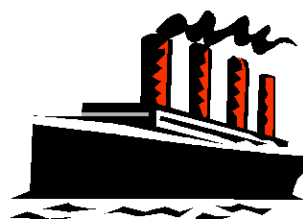
young musicians will be competing (a club record). The evening commences earlier than usual at 6pm in order to fit everything in but feel free to come a bit later if you can't get there for the start. The young competitors will appreciate your support.

Powys sails on

 One of our two guest speakers last month was Rear Admiral Mark Kerr. RN. Retd. who is the current Chief Executive of Powys County Council. Mark was born into a naval family in Valetta, Malta where he decided at a young age to join the Royal Navy. During his 38 years or so as a Naval Officer, he captained five ships before finally concluding his highly successful career as a Rear Admiral. He now leads an organisation which provides residents of Powys with approximately 800 services. Amongst the major responsibilities he now has are the controversial ones of Council Taxes, Refuse Collection, Road

Maintenance and Social Services. Our speaker's honest approach especially in dealing with questions was greatly appreciated by Club Members. In thanking him for his address Hywel Davies pointed out the irony of the largest landlocked local authority in Wales having a sailor as its chief officer!

(Thanks, Hywel, for providing me with the information for this item - Ed)



Members of Club Council are becoming increasingly frustrated at the unwillingness of the Brecon and Radnor Express to take any interest in the Club's activities and have been considering alternative ways of gaining publicity for our activities. One suggestion is to produce painted sign boards for display at suitable events listing all the organisations helped by the Club.

What's Brewin'?

Monday 26th February – St David's Day Dinner at the Barracks

Saturday 28th April – Stroke Awareness Day

Aquabox

It has been agreed as part of this year's international giving that the Club will meet the cost of a Rotary Aquabox which provides water filters, taps and water purification tablets ready for shipping to areas hit by natural disasters.

Old Crofftau

As a special treat last month we were invited by Sue and Kim Brook to their wonderful old farmhouse at Old Crofftau for a meal and talk by Sue about the house and about her father, Ivor Jay. Sue is rapidly becoming a regular speaker at our meetings - this was her third talk for us! She and Kim first came upon Old Crofftau when it was little more than a falling down croft some twenty years ago but they fell in love with the place and were lucky enough to be able to purchase it when it came on the market a few years later. After much renovation which has restored and enhanced its original character they now have a very comfortable base for themselves and their large family and have also been able

to provide very upmarket self catering holiday accommodation for up to four couples at a time in the large adjoining barn. The latter is very popular especially with walkers as Old Crofftau nestles beneath Pen Y Fan and provides direct access on to the mountainside. Sue also talked about her father who was a well known journalist and writer for film and television - he devised and wrote the TV series Crossroads. He spent his last years at Old Crofftau despite suffering greatly from rheumatoid arthritis. The catering for the evening was provided by Janet Williams of Pilgrims and twenty Rotarians sat down to eat a hearty venison casserole at Sue and Kim's huge kitchen table.

Gwernyfed Eisteddfod



The Head of Welsh at Gwernyfed High School is hoping to start an annual mini-Eisteddfod at the school to celebrate Welsh culture and

has approached our Club about sponsoring the 'chair' which will be presented each year to the pupil who is declared the overall winner. The chair will be kept on display at the school and will indicate our Rotary Club's involvement if we agree to contribute. Club Council felt this idea was very worthy of support and have agreed that the Club meet the cost of making the chair up to a maximum of £500.

Rotary Credit Card



As mentioned in Bruin last April MBNA are issuing Rotary Credit Cards with a 15.9% APR and 0% on balance transfers for 9 months. Our Secretary has application forms if anyone is interested. It doesn't seem from a quick look at the blurb that there is any advantage to Rotary in having one of these (although no doubt there is to MBNA!).



Bottle Rota



12th February – Mike Oxnard
19th February – Maurice Parry
26th February – Keith Rofe
5th March – Peter Scott
12th March – Terry Stephens
19th March – Brian Strawford
26th March – Barry Tomlinson
2nd April – Mike Tompkinson

RYLA

It was proposed at the last Council meeting that we should not support Kids Out this year in view of the generous assistance we have already given to Ysgol Penmaes. Instead it was suggested we sponsor at least two places at a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) camp. Sue Hitch of Brecon Young Carers has very kindly offered to find suitable candidates for us.

Brecon Advice Centre



Club Council has agreed to contribute £500 towards the cost of the annual rental of premises occupied by Brecon Advice Centre. The Centre in Castle Street receives no financial support from Powys County Council despite providing an important service for the local community and has to raise the full cost of operating the centre itself.



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