



Bruin



The Brecon Rotary Club Newsletter

March 2006

**President – John Nancarrow
Vice President – Andrew Wakley**

Meal Prices

This subject can always be guaranteed to provoke a lively debate at club meetings and the recent suggestion by Club Council to increase the cost of our dinners by one pound to £11 was no exception. Our resident agent provocateur, Mike Tompkinson, proposed by way of a counter-suggestion that we ask the George to provide a cheaper light snack at our evening meetings instead of a full meal but that we continue to pay £10 as at present with the balance going to our charity account to support good causes. Although Mike found some support for his idea the majority of club members attending felt that the current system was well understood and supported by most club members and that some price increase after three years or so was inevitable. The increase will accordingly come into effect immediately.



Rotary Wishing Well

Our Rotary Wishing Well in Bethel Square is now operational and Eddie Coates has obtained the Club's approval for the wording of the sign which will be secured to the ironwork above the well. The sign will be made of sturdy vandal resistant material and will read simply 'Rotary Club of Brecon Wishing Well. All proceeds to local charities' together with the Rotary logo. Eddie is the designated key holder and



will arrange for the money collected to be removed on a regular basis. A risk assessment (danger of falling in perhaps! Ed) is also to be carried out. No refunds are to be offered to persons whose wishes are not fulfilled. The Club is very grateful to the club members who have worked on this project, particularly Jim Mellor who made the well insert for us.

Speakers Corner

Our Speaker Secretary, Brian Strawford, has lined up two more entertaining speakers for us. On 13th March Dave Summers, the Chairman of the Brecon Access Group, will be

addressing us about what's happening to Brecon. Then the following month, on 24th April, we shall be hearing from local media man Glyn Matthias.

Bottle Rota

- 13th March – John Mallon
- 20th March – Brian Matthews
- 27th March – Jim Mellor
- 3rd April – Walford Morgan
- 10th April – Nick Morrell
- 17th April – Easter Holiday
- 24th April – John Nancarrow
- 1st May – Bank Holiday
- 8th May – Brian Newman



Pongwe School, Zanzibar

14 year old Dannielle Blackledge attended our lunch meeting on 6th February to tell us about her visits with her family to a remote fishing village on the east coast of the island of Zanzibar. Danielle, who attends Gwernyfed High School, was very moved by her first visit to Pongwe Village last April where she saw for herself the poverty and deprivation suffered by the friendly inhabitants who remained cheerful despite having virtually nothing to their name. When she returned home she resolved to do something to help the



schoolchildren of the village school and started a collection to buy school books including Swahili/English dictionaries which are in great demand, and stationery. She approached our Club who helped her with a donation and in December she travelled back to Zanzibar with her family and visited Pongwe School again with the dictionaries she had obtained along with other school books and a suitcase full of stationery! Danielle presented to the club an excellent souvenir booklet about her trips which vividly describes the places she visited and is filled with

photographs of Pongwe and its smiling schoolchildren. She says her experiences in Zanzibar have had a great impact on her and, now, when she drinks a glass of water or eats a meal she thinks about the kids in Pongwe who aren't as lucky as her. She thanked the Club for helping her to do something to help them improve their lives. As a footnote to Dannielle's story President John has recently proposed that the Club should arrange its own collection of stationery and other useful items to send out to Pongwe School and this idea is to be investigated by the International Committee.

What's Brewin'?



President Elect Andrew Wakely is proposing to make a block booking of 20 tickets for a live performance of the musical, My Fair Lady, which is to be staged at the Millennium Centre in Cardiff from 25th July to 12th August this year. If any member is interested in attending this show please let Andrew know as soon as

possible.

Plans are also in hand for a Schools Drama Festival following expressions of support for the idea from the three High Schools in our area together with Christ College. Crickhowell Rotary Club will be joining us in this venture which has been pencilled in for February 2007 at

Any old mobiles!

Our indefatigable collector of unwanted spectacles and mobile phones, Anthony Edwards, is arranging another visit to Usk Prison to deliver the 2500 spectacles he has amassed since his last visit. He has also received 30 mobiles but more are always welcome so if you are ashamed to be seen texting your friends on your desperately uncool last year's model please replace it and donate the old one to a good cause. Just remember to remove the SIM card first. (whatever that is! Ed.)



Morrison Orpheus Choir

Brecon Cathedral was full for the concert in aid of the Mayor's Charity Appeal on Saturday 25th February which was attended by some 40 Rotarians and their guests who also enjoyed a pre-concert meal

at Pilgrims. I gather the choir and soloists were in excellent voice and a total of £3000 was raised by this event. Thank you, Andrew, for organising the Club's contribution to a successful evening.

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