



district 1150



The Brecon Rotary Club Newsletter

May 2008

President – John Hopkins
Vice President – Maurice Parry

Ms Eluned Morgan MEP

Our guest speaker on 28th April was Eluned Morgan who is one of the four MEPs representing Wales in the European Parliament. Eluned was first elected to the European Parliament in 1994 at the age of 27- the youngest MEP in Europe at that time! She has a special regard for Brecon since it was the Brecon Labour Party who first nominated her as a candidate. The European Union and its legislative body have expanded considerably since she was first elected and there are now 27 member states compared with 12 when she first joined. Eluned spoke with great authority and obvious enthusiasm for the work of the European Parliament and tried to dispel some of the myths that bedevil any discussion

about the European Union in this country, largely as the result of a hostile press. In particular she was at pains to refute the notion that we are the 'good boys' of Europe and play by the rules whereas other countries ignore them, pointing out for example that the UK lags well behind countries such as Germany in enforcing laws on recycling. She agreed that European Laws do need to be enforced more uniformly across the whole region. She explained that about 80% of the EU financial levies on member states goes back to the country of origin where it is administered by their national or regional parliaments, in our case the UK Parliament and the Welsh Assembly. This has brought enormous benefits for economic development in Wales. She also emphasised

the important work being undertaken by the European Parliament in harmonising consumer laws across Europe, essential if the Single European Market is to work successfully.



RIBI CEO Visit

On Tuesday 13th May the Chief Executive Officer of RIBI, Annemarie Harte, will be visiting the Llandrindod Wells Club. If any member of our club would like to attend and hear what she has to say please let either the President or Secretary of the Llandrindod club, or ADG Martyn Dean, know before Thursday 9th May so that the Metropole Hotel can be informed.

What's Brewin'?

Sundays 18th & 25th May
Car Boot Sales
MOD Playing Field

Monday 19th May
Guest Speaker
Sister Bonaventure

Ten Pin

The ten pin bowling match against Crickhowell Rotary Club took place at the Leisure Centre last month. 12 players took part on each team and the match was won by Crickhowell who also got the best (and worst!) scores of the match.



Clive in India (continued)

Another delicious Indian lunch, then on to look around the Rotary Eye Hospital in Navsari, founded in the 1940s. Our host in Navsari, Hardik Naik, is a financial consultant - young and dynamic with a growing family, including his mother and a brother. Each Hindu family has a shrine at home, which is hung with fresh garlands every day. All our hosts were successful businessmen, medics or in the pharmaceutical industries. They support their Rotary projects with their expertise and business connections, as well as financially. All our meals in this coastal part of India were vegetarian, and there was alcohol prohibition here too, due to the influence of Mahatma Gandhi who lived there. After bidding goodbye to

our hosts in Navsari a six hour drive, westward this time, took us to Dhule, in the province of Maharashtra. Here the Rotarians were not able to host us in their homes, but put us up in a small hotel at their expense. We did understand that Indian families are very 'extended' and often include many members other than the usual parents and children we are used to. This often does not allow space for visiting Rotarians. Dhule Rotaract were holding a Trade Fair in the town, and were keen to show us round the Fair the evening we arrived, accompanied by a video camera, and a public reception. We now know how it feels to be celebrities, and to have to put on a brave face for the camera, even when you're tired and hungry.

Rotary Young Musician of the Year

Michael Brooke, the President Elect of the Cardiff Breakfast Rotary Club, came along to our meeting on 21st April to tell us about the arrangements for this year's Young Musician Final on Saturday 10th May which is being organised by his Club. The venue is again Theatr Brycheiniog but the start time for the event will be **7 pm** and not 7:30 pm as listed in the theatre programme. Tickets have also doubled in price this year from £5 to £10. Our involvement with the event has been limited on this occasion but Clive Lillywhite has been asked to repeat the foyer poster display which he did for us last

year. Members are also reminded that one of the finalists is Steffan Raw-Rees, the saxophonist from Christ College, who won our club competition in February so, if you can, please go along and lend him your support.

Bottle Rota

12th May – Christian Aid lunch
19th May – Clive Lillywhite
26th May – Bank Holiday
2nd June – John Mallon
9th June – Brian Matthews
16th June – Ivor Morgan
23rd June – Nick Morrell
30th June – John Nancarrow

CRB Checks



Members who have volunteered to submit themselves to Criminal Records Bureau checks so they can work on behalf of the Club with children and vulnerable adults are reminded that the clearance has to be renewed every three years. Brian Newman is dealing with the renewals for us and will require all those re-applying to complete a form and submit further proof of identity in the form of a passport, driving licence or birth certificate and recent utility bills.



Bear Facts No 11

Did you know that a 98 year old British Rotarian has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize?

"Skiptistics"

Mike Tompkinson writes: Rotary involvement at the Cradoc Recycling Site is now well into its fifth year. Because of the original January start, we work on calendar years whereas Powys Council uses the financial year and Rotary uses a system all its own. Results for the first four years are as follows and support the old adage "Where there's muck there's money"

2004	£643.22
2005	£694.53
2006	£735.51
2007	<u>£867.38</u>
	£2940.64



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