



Bruin

District 1150
Editor peter.jenkins18@btinternet.com



BRECON ROTARY UPDATE, INFORMATION, NEWS

April 2011

President **BOB WOOD**
Vice President **DEREK ADAMS**



Courtesy of NTPL and Joe Cornish in particular

BBNPA IS NOT THE ONLY PARK IN THE AREA
We were treated to an absorbing talk on 14th March given by Phil PARK of the National Trust. The annual deficit in looking after the 36,000 acres the NT owns is £100k, and there are 10 staff to tend this large area. Building footpaths to stop Pen y Fan wearing away costs £10k per day for the heicopter which brings up the stone which itself costs £100 per bag. Phil went through a beautiful selection of photographs, which included the Coelbren Waterfall, Clytha Stately Home, and Abergwesyn Common to mention just a few contrasting sites owned by the Trust. Much of their land is commonland which is a challenge to manage on account of the ancient rights of the commoners. However, this land is important for biodiversity reasons. He said that the Trust is trying to restore the uplands to their former condition by removing the marron grass which has clogged up the heather moors. Apparently, the recent development to have two forest schools (ie open air study areas for kids) is proving very successful. He said that one of the problems to be overcome is the silting up of some of the reservoirs in the Brecon Beacons. He concluded by saying that there was a loss of £4m in 2010 , and any contributions from organisations such as ours would be welcome. It was an excellent evening, as I am sure all those who where there would vouch for.

Forthcoming Events

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TELL THE GEORGE HOTEL IF YOU ARE NOT COMING TO A MEETING (01874-623422)

Mar 28th- Dinner at 7.30pm
Speaker from Ghurka Demo team
April 4th- Dinner at 7.30pm followed by business meeting

April 9th-Stroke Awareness day at Guildhall (Volunteers please)

April 11th-Dinner at 7.30pm
April 18th- 8am Breakfast meeting is scheduled but look out for a change to an Evening meeting with speaker
April 25th Easter break. No meeting

May 2nd-Spring Holiday—no meeting

May 9th -Dinner at 7.30 followed by business meeting

May 12th Christian Aid lunch 1pm Bishop Bevan Hall (not St Mary's). Sharing with Soroptimists

BOTTLE ROTA
4th April-Brian Newman
11th Apr-Morlais Owens
18th Apr-Mike Oxnard
9th May-Maurice Parry

The price of a litre of petrol/diesel
Mar 25th Petrol 132.9p; Diesel 138.9pence

A BUSY MARCH

On March 5th, no fewer than eleven candidates assembled at Christ College to compete for the Brecon round of this year's Young Musician competition. Six of them were under 14 years of age, and the senior five had all entered the competition before. The winner was Saxophonist Jack Taylor from Gwernyfed who we learnt had already been accepted at the Royal College of Music from September. Christopher Langworthy also impressed with an all from memory piano virtuoso performance of both Mozart and Rachmaninoff. The next round is at Abergavenny Borough Theatre on 30th March, and the final is in May at Theatr Brycheiniog, but organised by a Cardiff Club. The other Clive Lillywhite triumph was this year's Drama Festival, which took place in the theatre on 17th March. Two of the three schools which took part showed much ingenuity by writing much of their own material, but all three provided a fulfilling evening. This is an event which is well worth doing, because not only are there more participants than for our other youth events, but the majority of the audience are young people who rarely come to the Theatre. What is more, there is likely to be a surplus which will be shared amongst the three schools which took part. .



JACK TAYLOR AND PRES. BOB

Points from Council 24th March 2011

1. The four candidates to attend RYLA camp for the week starting on 25th July have been chosen. Hopefully previous enthusiasms will be maintained. Both Clive and Terry have done exceptionally well pursuing this year's Youth Activities.
2. The need for new members is becoming pressing; not only should everyone try to recruit suitable people, but the club should examine ways of making it less expensive to be a Rotarian.
3. The return visit by members of St Neots Club will take place on 19th/20th September and there will be a range of activities.
4. Volunteers wanted to shake a tin soon!

Rotarian of the month 32 COLIN BUTCHER



It was the army which first brought Colin to Brecon when he became an instructor with the School of Infantry here: he had a taste of the town between 1969 to '71 and then 1976 to '80 .He bought that quirky house in the Struet (3 houses in 1) in 1978, and only left it for Walnut Square quite recently. He has lived here permanently since 1981. During his 23 years' army service he has served in Cyprus, Kuwait, Libya, Bahrain, Aden, Hong Kong, Malaya, Borneo and of course Northern Ireland. In Civvy Street, Colin was self employed as a sign writer, (*and a very good one too-Ed*) He called his company 'Pegasus Signs', maybe because the enterprise was a flight into the unknown. He has two sons, one of whom works for the B & R, and the other in Powys CC's recreation department. He says that although he appreciates that change is inevitable, Brecon is not the Town he knew when he came. It has declined, starting with the removal of the cattle market to the outskirts, then crowned by the so-called improvement of the traffic system. As for Rotary, he thinks that Rotary International does a fine job, and he expects it to continue to do so. {We hope that includes Brecon Rotary Club}. Colin's favourite piece of music is *The Ride of the Valkeries* which is his old regimental march; he hopes it will be played at his funeral in the far future. The best holiday Colin and Jean had was in 1999 when they sailed to Santander (not the bank!) and worked their way in leisurely and unplanned fashion around the Spanish coast. They encountered few English-speaking people, so at times the trip was challenging. Colin was once a good swimmer and represented the army at Waterloo. Nowadays, he races Grand Prix Motorbikes, Rally Cars and Production Cars, ... on his play station. Of all his many achievements, he lists staying alive as the main one. There are a few of us who can probably say the same!