

Bruin

District 1150



edited by peter.jenkins18@btinternet.com

BRECON ROTARY UPDATE, INFORMATION, NEWS

August 2009

President ANTHONY EDWARDS
Vice President PAT BUTLER

Anthony



Pat

Anthony Edwards became our 51st President on June 29th, and the George Hotel provided a decent meal. Guests included the Mayor, Councillor Ieuan Williams, and a number of Crickhowell Rotarians as well as the heads of local organisations such as the Lions and the Soroptimists. Anthony's speech was short and to the point. He said he was honoured to have been made President and was looking forward to doing the position justice.

The guest speaker was David Wheeler, a District 1150 Rotarian, and also Pat's brother. He spoke of the 4 Rotary conventions he had attended over the years in different countries. His abiding memory of these visits was the excellent fellowship on the one hand and the rather dull plenary sessions on the other. Hywel Davies thanked David for his "worthy" address, on behalf of all, too few of our own members sadly.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S OFFICIAL VISIT

On 27th July, the Club welcomed Bob Higgins and his wife. He said that he had already been to Merthyr Tydfil Rotary that day for lunch, and had hosted the Australia Friendship Exchange Team in a tour of Penderyn Distillery, which had been quite a success he thought! He spoke to us about John Kenny, the vibrant Scot who is this year's RI President and whose theme for the year is this. "THE FUTURE OF ROTARY IS IN YOUR HANDS" which he interpreted as "If you have issues, deal with them yourselves." He highlighted as the two main problems for Rotary 1) the lack of new blood, and 2) the movement's public image. The 530 District Governors worldwide who met in San Diego in 2009 heard from Bill Gates that his \$100m dollar gift with strings {see overleaf} (to be matched by Rotary) was to grow to \$244m (again matching) by 2012. Converted to Dist 1150 terms, this meant each club would need to pledge a further gift-aided £25 per member for each of the next three years on top of anything that had so far been promised. Governor Bob was confident that this could be achieved.

Forthcoming Events

PLEASE TELL THE GEORGE HOTEL IF YOU ARE NOT COMING TO A MEETING (01874-623422) or E mail on enquiries@george-hotel.com

**Aug 3rd-Evening meeting 7.30pm-
Business if any**

Aug 10th-Evening meeting 7.30pm

Aug 17th Breakfast at 8am

Aug 24th- Evening meeting;speaker

Derek Simpson: Samaritans

Aug 31st... NO MEETING

Sept 7th-Business meeting 7.30pm

Sept 14th-Evening meeting 7.30pm

Sept 21st-Breakfast 8am

Sept 23rd-The half-centenary Dinner. Invitations to be sent out for this once in a lifetime event!





Bottle Rota

August 3rd-Pat Butler
 August 10th-Handel Davies
 August 17th-Hywel Davies
 August 24th-Terry Dewan
 August 31st-no meeting

Rotarian of the Month –14 HYWEL DAVIES



**POLIO TO GO
 FOR EVER. With
 one last push!
 BILL GATES TO
 PLEDGE UPTO
 \$244M IF ROTARY
 DOES THE SAME**

Dist Gov Bob Higgins said that he plans a campaign to tell the story of polio in partnership with schools throughout District 1150. On 23rd February 2010 which is the centenary date of Paul Harris's first meeting, children would be asked to bring £1 each to school to help their less fortunate world brothers and sisters. He hoped that this Club would participate in this campaign, and drew attention to the *thanks for life* page on the RIBI Web-site. One Rotarian (your editor) disgraced himself by being negative and saying that he thought the idea impractical given other pressures on schools. (John & Ingrid to think on)

EARLY RISERS

Five of our stalwarts were to be seen on the Eppynt on 4th July early in the morning, selling programmes for the Quinton Rally. Their endeavours produced for the Club's Charity Account a splendid £589!



The new manager at the George, replacing the one who replaced Rob who earlier this year went to the Castle, is Mair Lewis. She has been at the George for 5 years, and to quote her, says "Brecon Rotary is most welcome here, and I'm looking forward to another year together." She seems a lovely person- {he would say that, wouldn't he!}

Price of a litre of petrol /diesel at 29th July
 Petrol 102..9 pence Diesel 102.9 pence

Hywel came to Brecon thirty years ago when he was appointed as Manager of the Mid Wales part of the South Wales Electricity Board. Although later, his workplace changed to Cwmbran and then to Cardiff, he kept his family home here. It was thirty years before that when he first joined the electricity industry, but there was an interval when he flew as a Navigator with the rank of Flying Officer. A high flying chap in other respects, Hywel has headed up many organisations since retirement in 1991, not least being a very big cheese in the South Wales Province of the Freemasons. Notwithstanding this, he sees his main achievements as his career successes and his loving family, rising as he did from humble farming stock in the Llanelli area. Hywel considers the changes that have happened to Brecon since 1979, and concludes that the local government management arrangements have been a complete failure which has caused the town to lose much of its earlier attractive character. However, it is still a delightful and safe place in which to live, he says. As for Rotary, he well remembers the silver anniversary when he was President, and how the basic rules on attendance, membership and dress were strictly enforced. Whilst recognising that change was inevitable in tune with the times, he feels that standards have dropped to such an extent that its future is now questionable. Hywel thinks that the job which Rotary International aims to do in helping the needy is very important and for that reason he thinks that we should hang in there and keep our club going. As you might expect from a man with a mellifluous voice, he says you can't beat a male voice choir, so hearing a good one of these would be his favourite musical treat. You could say that Hywel was your typical Welsh Rugby enthusiast as a shareholder in the Scarlets, and a tour of New Zealand with the Lions under his belt. When young, he'd play cricket in the Swansea Industrial League. Of many far afield holidays, the 2008 tour of Petra and the rest of Jordan he took with Aurwen stands out as something special. Looking to the future, he sees the inevitable deluge of immigrants the greatest threat to our historical and cultural well-being, and another reason for Rotary International and Local Clubs to play a full part.