



Bruin

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BRECON ROTARY UPDATE, INFORMATION, NEWS

February 2010

President ANTHONY EDWARDS
Vice President BOB WOOD

THE LATE DENZIL HACKFORD MBE

Denzil receiving the MBE



Denzil As a young man



Those of us who attended the funeral of our fellow Rotarian Denzil Hackford at the Cathedral on January 22nd will have enjoyed the comments made by the head of Ysgol Cynlais, Ystradgynlais who stressed Denzil's affability and attention to detail. As the County's Principal Education Adviser from 1972, Denzil visited every school in Brecknockshire once a year, attending assembly, having coffee with the staff, finding out about the children, and marking off in his notebook each visit as it was completed. During one year, he went through this ritual with a school, and was getting on so well with the people there that he even stayed for lunch. When he came to tick the visit in his book, he realized that the school was not listed. This was because it was in Herefordshire, and it was the story he would tell against himself quite frequently. Denzil was a marvellous wordsmith. When he was called upon in Rotary to give a vote of thanks (which was a frequent occurrence), he would rivet you with his choice of words and his unusual but interesting approach to the job in hand. By the time he had reached the end, having laughed a lot on the way, you found yourself agreeing absolutely with what he had said, and rather proud that we had such a gifted speaker amongst our members. After retiring in the late 1980s, Denzil was made Chairman of Governors of the above school in Ystradgynlais, and also of Penmaes School in Brecon. Encouraged by him, we gave £6000 to Penmaes school to equip the special facilities room in the magnificent new building which now exists. He laced his public service ethic with a delightful sense of humour, and will be greatly missed by all his friends in Rotary..

Forthcoming Events

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

February 1st-Dinner 7.30pm followed by Business Meeting

February 8th Dinner at 7.30pm

February 13th Visit to Millennium Centre for Opera

February 15th-Breakfast meeting at 8am

February 22nd, Dinner at 7.30pm Speaker-Geoff Hughes former prison governor on the topic of climbing Mt Kilimanjaro

March 1st St David's Day dinner with wives 7.30pm (see overleaf)



Fooled You! This photo was taken in February, 2009

The Price of Petrol/Diesel according to Morrisons per litre at 29h Jan 2010
Petrol 112.9p

Diesel...113.9

Points from COUNCIL 28th Jan 2010

It is to be recommended to Club that our Stroke Awareness Event will only take-place every other year, which means that the next one is due in 2011.

The Tenovus Charity is testing interest in providing a Mobile Chemotherapy Unit for Cancer Support in Brecon on a permanent basis, and is holding a meeting in Theatr Brycheiniog on 17th February. Council members were very interested in this, and four have pledged to attend the meeting and report back.

It was decided to make something of an occasion this year on St David's Day, since it was on a Monday. Bob Wood is to ask the Castle Hotel for a private dining room and a reasonably priced meal, and will also try and provide some entertainment.

The Brecon Heat of Young Musician 2010 will be held in the Theatr Studio on Wednesday 10th March. The Young Chef competition details will follow later.

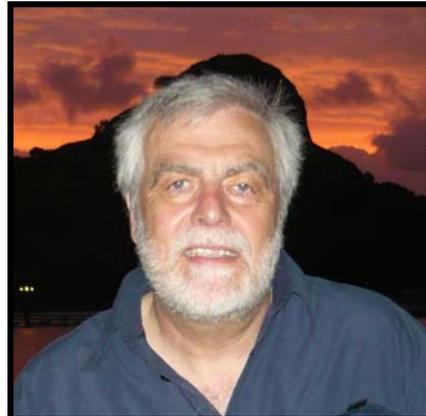
The Club voted unanimously to gift £500 to Shelter Boxes as soon as it heard about the Haiti Earthquake Disaster, and will be asked to reflect on a further contribution in a few months' time.



Bottle Rota

February 1st-	Terry Stephens
February 8th-	Brian Strawford
February 15th-	Barry Tomlinson
February 22nd...	Mike Tompkinson
March 1st.....	Andrew Wakley

Rotarian of the Month- 20



John came to live in the area nearly 16 years ago, when he was appointed head of Gwernyfed School. Like Shakespeare, he is a Warwickshire lad, but apart from the beard, there the similarity ends. He trained as a biologist, and immediately before coming to Powys was deputy head at Thetford, a London overspill town plonked in the middle of Norfolk, which like Brecon is surrounded by army camps and aeroplanes. John's two children are high flyers, one a GP registrar, and the other a Senior House Officer. John thinks it is amusing that his son, (Dr Richard) is experiencing the hottest summer Melbourne has had for 50 years and is now returning to the coldest winter in his lifetime. When asked to identify his proudest achievement, he says that it is in helping to turn what was already a good school (his predecessor but one was a Brecon Rotarian). into a vibrant and excellent one. If you ask him what he thinks of Brecon these days, John remembers seeing youngsters pushing trolleys down the hill aiming at parked cars, and other youths in gangs hanging around the Wellington Statue drinking from cans: but not any more, so compared with that Brecon is a quieter, more civilised place. John admires the enormous amount of good which Rotary does, and he enjoys the fellowship too. He is glad that our club is relatively informal, because he finds Rotary politics boring. He would like to see a better gender balance, and of course some younger members. John's musical choices include listening to Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 and also the music of Secret Garden (never heard of them!-Ed). Like with many of us the Welsh Rugby XV is his favourite sports team. His most memorable holiday was in 2007 when he and Kathy went to Galapagos (this is where his biology training hit the high notes), and swam with the sealions and iguanas. Their lack of fear of humans amazed him. Interestingly too, John is very optimistic about the future. He is intrigued to hear of the next global crisis after global warming, having lived through the fear of the H Bomb in the 60s, World Starvation in the 80s and Aids in the 90s. Of course, none of these problems has gone away, he says. We just hear less of them.