



BRUIN

Brecon Rotary Update Information News



Competitors & helpers at the club round of Young Chef 2013 (with Gail)
Photo - Gareth Griffiths

YOUNG CHEF

Two years previously the Young Chef Competition was postponed because of adverse weather conditions. Again on Thursday evening Derek (the weatherman) - not our Derek was giving Brecon a red weather warning. Five young chefs however were unperturbed and eagerly locked horns (pots and pans) in completion to win the Brecon Rotary Club's local round at Gwernyfed High School. The challenge - a three course healthy meal for two people and costing no more than £15.00. As the kitchen heated up the adjudicator Cherry Jones and Ivan Langford were presented with a real challenge in identifying an overall winner. Hannah Shelley shone through with her three course meal of Italiane Stuffed Courgette followed by a Chicken Curry and then sweet of Raspberry Iced Mouse with Tuile biscuits.

Hannah will be representing the Brecon Rotary Club in the Young Chef Competition area final to be held at Bulth Wells High School on Thursday 7th February commencing at 3.00 p.m.

Terry Dewan



The adjudicators Ivan Langford & Cherry Jones The winner - Hannah Shelley
Photos - Gareth Griffiths

Dates for your Diary

Monday 4th February

Business Meeting

Thursday 7th February

*Area 9 Final - Young Chef
Bulth Wells High School*

Monday 11th February

Dinner Meeting

Monday 18th February

10 Pin Bowling

Wednesday 20th February

Council Meeting

Monday 25th February

St Davids Day Dinner

Monday 4th March

Business Meeting

Bottle Rota

Monday 4th February

Wyndham Jones

Monday 11th February

Clive Lillywhite

Monday 18th February

John Mallon

Monday 25th February

Brian Matthews

Monday 4th March

Nick Morrell

Monday 11th March

Brian Newman





**PHOTO FOR THE MONTH FROM DEREK ADAMS
OR SHOULD I SAY ARTICLE FOR THE MONTH!**

Special note from the editor. I always give a brief for this section of Bruin as follows: Please supply a favourite photograph with a brief description in no more than 70 words about the photo and what makes it special to you. What I received this month was 3 photographs and 387 words.... which I am only too pleased to include but ruined the layout of this section. However, a very interesting piece Derek.



East German Soldiers form up on top of the Wall shortly after the 'Fall'.

The Fall of the Berlin Wall

8 November 1989, Pippa returns from a shopping trip to East Berlin. 'Sorry I'm late, there was a huge crowd at Check Point Charlie, something is happening'.

9 November 1989, I arrived in my office in Montgomery Barracks to be informed that the 'Wall' has come down. This caused a mild panic as I was Company Sergeant Major of A Company 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers (1 RWF), who were Berlin Brigade Duty Company.

We were quickly crashed out to all the breaches in the Wall, about 5 in total. These locations were previously roads in Berlin which were cut off when the Wall was erected in 1961. The purpose of our task was to provide hot drinks to the thousands of East Berliners who were pouring through the breaches to visit long lost relatives and also to claim 100 (West) Deutsche Marks (DM) from the West Berlin



Mark & Carly on top of the Wall about a month after the 'Fall' (picture taken at the same place as left)

Banks. In the freezing conditions our kind offerings were well received. After a few hours, our focus shifted towards the banks, which by now had huge queues outside them. More hot drink points were quickly set up at the banks for the happy East Berliners, who once in receipt of their 100 DM, quickly returned back to the East

of the City to exchange the West DM for East DM at an exchange rate of approximately 10 - 1.

The task continued for about 5 days, after which the 'tea stops' discontinued.

Life in West Berlin changed overnight, families were reunited, hundreds of beggars filled the more affluent areas of the City, aircraft hangers at RAF Gatow were made into make

shift refugee camps and 'Trabants' became the most popular cars on the roads.

We left Berlin not long after the Wall came down and returned in 2010 to see what the changes had brought. The result is a city which was well worth all the effort to keep westernised, and definitely a city to visit.



Derek at Eastern Side of the Brandenburg Gate in 2010, 21 years after the fall



BURNS NIGHT

On the evening of Monday 21st January, thirty four members, partners and friends met at Pilgrims Tea Rooms to celebrate a very enjoyable Robbie Burns night.

After a Gaelic grace given by Andrew Maclean, the meal (menu as photo below) commenced with the first course, accompanied by the sound of a piper, Om Gaha playing in the atrium.

The haggis was then piped in and addressed by Andrew, and



part of the address can be seen [here](#)

At the end of the meal a toast to the Lassies was given by Brian Matthews and Liz Grif-



fiths responded on behalf of the Lassies.

The evening concluded with Scottish dancing organised by Peter Brock.



Photos: Alison Stratford - top left Andrew Maclean top right Om Gaha - above menu for the evening

The Toast to the Lassies

"They teach us manners, they teach us style,
For many of us that takes a while.
They improve with age, while we do not
For that is clear, locking at you lot.

For the parcel of rogues I see here tonight
It is truly amazing the lassies don't take flight.
They put up with our habits for we have all sorts
Such as control of the remote and preoccupation with sports.

For them we would walk five hundred miles
It must be because of their feminine wiles
Over heathery mountain and scroggy glen
We seek them out ... now and then.

But tonight we stand here in praise
So join me lads - let your voices raise
Prepare to toast - fill up your glasses
Lift them high to our bonnie lasses.

Brian Matthews

Reply on behalf of the Lassies

Thank you Brian for your burns toast
Its complements like that we like the most

On behalf of the lassies I will reply
The fact it's me I know not why

But we will now return the pleasure
And praise you up just for good measure

So here's to the laddies all of them,
They are charming, talented not just old men

They help and support where ever they can
That's what it means to be a Brecon Rotary Man

Nothing to do with the food and the drink
That's what they tell us, but not what we think

The toasts I have read all praise the scotch men
Who have been given a rating of 10 out of 10

Alas welsh men cannot make the tartan swing
They can however play rugby (badly!) and sing

Now men if you want to earn our praises
Deeds work harder than pretty phrases

Give up the golf and take us shopping
One you start there will be no stopping

Wash the dishes, hoover and dust
Hang out the washing without a fuss

Shovel the snow and chop the wood
Then you'll be handy and dandy and very good

Men like to think they're the boss you know
But it is only because we told them so

But without you all you men where would us ladies be?
Like a haggis without oatmeal or a golf ball without a tee

Burns spoke of love as being strong
And we all know he wasn't wrong

Had we never loved so blindly
Had we never loved so kindly

Never loved and never parted
We would ner be broken heated

Our laddies are like pipers playing in the mist
Bring music to our hearts thank God they exist

So let these words of praise sound
Because a man is good to have around
Sometimes!

Liz Griffiths



SPEAKER CORNER

Our speaker in January was Ken Jones from Llanhamlach whose subject was "The Controversial Thomas Phillips of Brecon - Captain of a slave ship".

Thomas Phillips was born in Havard House (now Glamorgan House - the former convent) in Glamorgan Street, Brecon in 1664. At that time Brecon was the 3rd largest town in Wales and his father was the recorder at the Court sessions. Thomas received a good education and at 14 years of age went to sea as a cabin boy. Within 10 years he had progressed and was appointed as Captain of the

ship "The William", sailing to Venice and the Greek island of Zante. The purpose was to buy different types of cargo and then sail to the Barbary Coast and buy slaves with the proceeds of his cargo. Britain, was at that time, at war with France and Thomas' ship was captured by the French and he became a prisoner of war. He was eventually released on an "exchange" deal and returned to Brecon. Jeffrey Jeffries of Llywel who owned the Royal African Cimpany (buying and selling slaves) then appointed him Captain of the "Hannibal" ship and he sailed to the West Coast of

Africa to buy iron, tusks and slaves. Just after leaving, one of the crew a certain "John Brown" was taken ill but on examination was found to be a black woman. She was treated kindly by Phillips and let off as soon as they reached their destination. The Hannibal called at forts selling its cargo to buy slaves and Phillips also studied the flora and fauna on the journey. After buying 700 slaves he sailed to Barbados in order to sell them. Some of the slave ship captains brutalised the most wilful slaves by cutting off their legs or arms to terrify the rest. Phillips was sympathetic to slaves and did not carry out such practices - his prime aim was to keep his valuable cargo alive. However, diseases spread easily on these voyages and between July and November, 320 slaves succumbed mainly to smallpox and dysentery and died. Some of the crew also died and the voyage was a financial disaster losing £7,000. Phillips returned eventually a very sick man and spent 5 months in London spending most of his money on medical treatment which was to no avail. He came to Brecon and died in 1713 still in his 40's. His ship's log called "A Journal of a Voyage made in the Hannibal" was made into a book in 1732 and the people of Brecon named the street "Captain's Walk" in his honour. Although vilified by some in recent years, it would seem that from the evidence in his log Captain Phillips treated his slaves with compassion.

Ken was thanked by Peter Jenkins for his informative and enjoyable talk.

Maurice Parry



Map of Brecon in 1744



BRECON MEMBERS VISIT BUILTH WELLS CLUB

On January 10th, six brave Brecon Rotarians responded to the invitation of Builth Rotary Club to join in the fun at the Greyhound Inn in Builth. Our Vice President kindly drove us there, except for Brian Strawford who had come practically straight from Dubai and arrived separately.

We were given a warm welcome and entertained to an excellent two course dinner. The beer was also good! They keep a register of attendance and announce the percentage present during the course of the

evening. Builth Rotary Club is experiencing something of a revival and has 24 members, doubling their number of a few years ago. They seem a convivial crowd, and have a good spread of occupations represented, from butcher to baker and from vet to surgeon .

It transpires that their Council Meeting is attended by every club member, and the planning took place on the evening of our visit for the big event of the year, which is the senior citizens' lunch. Old people are collected from the locality by bus, and delivered to the High School for lunch, bingo and entertainment, and Rotarians wait on, wearing

their dinner jackets. Rotary also provide the food and crackers.

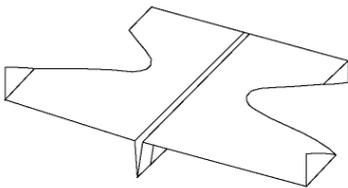
The President of the Club gave every Rotarian a chance to add his two pennyworth to the proceedings, but the final part of the evening was a surprise. Most were handed a blank piece of A4 paper to enable them to fashion a dart, and enter the competition for which dart could fly the furthest. It was a sight to behold. Here was a room full of grown men reverting to childhood, but it proved if ever this was necessary that Rotary can be all things to anyone.

Peter Jenkins with minor adjustments by Andrew Wakley

ONE FOR THE BOYS

The Jenkins Dragonfly

This unusual paper plane gets its name from its two sets of nearly symmetrical wings that resemble a dragonfly when viewed from the top. This plane is very aerobatic, and will tend to loop if thrown hard outdoors.



Use the template on page 8, cut around the rectangle and fold as per the instructions below:



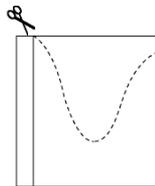
Begin by folding toward you along the first fold line.

Continue folding this strip over itself until you reach the stop line. Make firm creases with each fold.

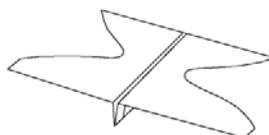


After you reach the stop line, flip your paper over fold it in half on fold line 2 so that the two flat sides of the paper are touching.

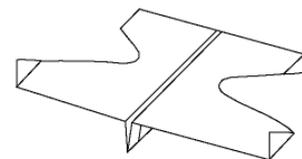
Cut along cut line 3 while keeping the paper folded tightly together to ensure that both wings match perfectly.



Fold the wings down along fold lines 4.



Fold the front winglets up along fold lines 5 and the back winglets down along fold lines 6. Add wing dihedral by tilting the wings up slightly away from the fuselage. The wings will have a slight "V" shape when viewed from the front. You are ready to fly!



WORD OF THE MONTH

Two of our members last month stumbled across a word that had them both reaching for the dictionary.

The word was ANODYNE and the definition for anyone who has no idea of the meaning is:

Adjective

Not likely to provoke dissent or offense, uncontentious or inoffensive, often deliberately so.

Noun

A pain-killing drug or medicine

CAPTION COMPETITION NO. 3



Rules:

All you have to do is write a caption to the photograph on the left (please ensure it is suitable for publication) and either e mail it to captioncompetition@breconrotary.com or give it to the editor before the closing date.

The entries will be judged at the next Council meeting, and the caption thought to be the best (amusing or otherwise) will be announced in the next edition of Bruin. Should a council meeting not be planned for a particular month, the result for that month and the following month will be announced at the same time.

Entry to the competition is limited to Brecon Rotary members, their wives or partners and their children. Only one entry per person will be allowed.

Closing date for Caption Competition No.3 is 17th February 2013

**CAPTION COMPETITION NO. 1
WINNER**



“Okay, Barbara, I daren’t show this to everybody”

Caption from Peter Jenkins

**CAPTION COMPETITION NO. 2
WINNER**



“They say owners begin to look like their pets after a while but I have no comment!”

Caption from Alison Stratford



AMUSING ANECDOTE

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Geoff Wooltorton

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Having just watched the first thirty minutes of the Six Nations opening match, I have decided to try and finish this edition of Bruin.

When standing in for Barry at the Young Chef club round I omitted to thank Terry for organising the event at what is a difficult time for him.

Although the Photo for the Month was intended to be a small item, I do not mind if anyone who is asked to submit a photo would like to expand the piece as Derek did!

I am hoping the short video of the Burns Night can be viewed by everybody. If you have problems please let me know and I will try and help.

There will now be a short break while I watch the second half which has just started to get very interesting.

My apologies to Liz Griffiths as I have only one photo of her taken at last years Caledonian market.

The One For The Boys article was a last minute thought and I hope Peter J will not give me to much stick. After all it is meant to be an anodyne piece. I must give a credit to funpaperairplanes.com for the design.

On the topic of words, if any member hears or read a piece from any member with words they consider fit for discussion, Ed will be please to hear from them.

I would like members who think they have a suitable picture for the caption competition to please send them to me. I promise the next one for March will not be a picture of a Rotarian.

Thanks for all your input Finally, we wish Wimke Wakely a speedy recovery from her recent surgery

Ed.

Thanks to our Contributors

Terry Dewan



For Young Chef report

Derek Adams



For Photo for the Month

Brian Matthews



For Toast to The Lassies

Liz Griffiths



For Reply on behalf of The Lassies

Maurice Parry



For Speaker Report

Peter Jenkins



For Scatter Report

Andrew Wakley



For anodyne Scatter Report

Geoff Wooltorton



For Amusing Anecdote

In Next Months Issue

Andrew Wakley

Photo for the Month

Brian Newman

Walk in Wales

?

10 Pin Bowling Report

?

St David's Day Report

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