

Bruin

District 1150



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BRECON ROTARY UPDATE, INFORMATION, NEWS

January 2009

President Maurice wishes all club members and their families and friends a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

A HAPPY NEW YEAR



EVENING MEETINGS ARE BACK AGAIN!

At a well-attended Club meeting on December 1st, it was decided to scrap the early evening meetings, basically because our few members who work for a living prefer to go home first before meeting from 7pm in the bar of the George Hotel with the meetings starting at 7.30pm. Who can blame them!



Forthcoming Events

- Dec 22nd Christmas Concert at Cathedral at 7.30pm
 - Dec 29th & Jan 5th-No meetings
 - Jan 12th-7 for 7.30pm Evening meeting
 - Jan 14th- Young chef at High School
 - Jan 15th-Young Musician at Gwernyfed (please support)
 - Jan 19th-Breakfast at 8am
 - Jan 26th-Evening meeting at 7 for 7.30pm with Speaker
 - Jan 29th-Council meeting
 - Feb 2nd-Evening meeting
- And plan ahead your destination for the Scatter Week in March: (3rd week). Prizes awarded by the President for the furthest scatter, the most other clubs been to in the week, and the most original destination.



ROTARY IN BRECON AT A CROSSROADS?

Above is a rare front page picture, which appeared in the B & R on 11th Dec, celebrating Nick Morrell handing over the laptop computer which Crossroads bought with the £500 cheque the Club gave that Charity which cares for carers. Inside the paper, on the letters page, there appeared the President's letter which he sent in a month ago, thanking Brecon for supporting the Caledonian Market again this year. All this publicity in one week must be a turning point for the Club.

Martin Weale, the Town Mayor, speaks his mind.

On 24th November, he was our speaker, and alarmed some of us by saying that **the-powers-that-be** had earmarked Brecon as a regional centre with a population of 16,000 by 2050. (Most of his audience would be over 100 by then!) At the same time, he claimed to have Breconshire roots going back 800 years in spite of his South East of England accent. He had been in public life since he was 30, an interest he enjoyed immensely. As well as being a town councillor, Martin was a County Councillor, and a Member of BBNational Park. Consequently, he was at meetings 4 times a week. Martin came over as a lively and colourful character who liked the cut and thrust of comment and debate.

President MAURICE PARRY
Vice President ANTHONY EDWARDS



Bottle Rota

Jan 12th	Howard Hoare
Jan 19th	John Hopkins
Jan 26th	Peter Jenkins
Feb 2nd	Cliff Jones
Feb 9th	Gerald Jones
Feb 16th	Clive Lillywhite

David sings for his supper

On 8th December, Nic Morrell's son David addressed a disappointingly small number of Rotarians on the subject of his recent 5 month long trip to Uganda which the Club had sponsored. He and 16 others were given teaching assignments in various primary and secondary schools in the rural north of the country. The task for David turned out to be a hard one with classes of 100 children of mixed abilities being taught subjects ranging from English, Sports and Sex Education with little assistance from the teachers themselves. The days were long, the accommodation supplied quite basic and amenities such as running water, lacking. However, the children seemed very appreciative, although every lesson had to be marked so that the children could show what they had achieved. It had been a life-changing experience, said David. On the upside, the Group stayed on in Africa to explore other parts of Uganda, Zanzibar, Tanzania and Rwanda, culminating in a 5 day trip with 3 others to the top of Mount Kenya. President Maurice thanked David for a very interesting account of his experiences, and wished him well for his future career in the army.



Price of a litre of petrol /diesel at 20th December	
Petrol 88.9 pence	Diesel 99.9 pence

Rotarian of the Month -7 JOHN NANCARROW



Like so many of us, you come to this area of the country in your early adulthood, go away, and then find yourself coming back again. In John's case, becoming a graduate trainee at the Steelworks in Ebbw Vale led to his meeting Pam who comes from there (not the steelworks!). They married and he whisked her away to S E England where they remained for the next 19 years, although John travelled abroad extensively with his job in the steel industry all the time. In 1983, he and Pam bought the Lansdowne Hotel in Brecon, so that John could follow some of the pursuits that his previous hectic life had prevented. One of those things was golf, another was Rotary. Asked to identify a main achievement, he modestly says that he just tries to do his best at whatever he becomes really involved in. He is a fan of the Rotary movement, because he really approves of its motives and aims, and finds our Club a good example of how he thinks Rotary should be,.....unstuffy, liberal and quite a lot of fun, even whilst fund-raising. He is aware of the difficulties all service clubs are having in recruiting new and younger members, and hopes that we can attract sufficient new blood to keep the Club going from strength to strength. John says that he loves Brecon and the countryside roundabout, and feels that people here do not realize how lucky we are to have so many historic and leisure facilities. He finds it sad that in common with other such towns in rural areas, Brecon has lost many of its unique shops to be replaced by charity ones and worse. Although the changes being made are alright in theory, he says, new business is not being attracted here. Being a jazz fan, John will regret in particular the news that the Brecon Jazz festival has gone into receivership, but he likes all kinds of music. His favourite sports team is Arsenal, F C. as he has supported them since boyhood. Now being in Wales, he is proud to be a follower of our National Rugby Team, but dilutes this declaration of enthusiasm by switching sides when they are playing England! Like the action man he is, John's most memorable holiday was a cruise up the Nile in a dhow only to be held for two days in Cairo later on account of the martial law which followed President Sadat's assassination. You couldn't forget that in a hurry.