

Bruin

District 1150



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BRECON ROTARY UPDATE, INFORMATION, NEWS

July 2010



and



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2010/2011
Hierarchy

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

Discussions at Council

This was the last Council Meeting when Anthony Edwards presided. He has been a solid, and reassuring presence for the whole year. We have lost four members this year, and with the elevation of Cliff Jones and Mervyn Woodward to Honorary Membership, we now have 29 members.



The Crug Picnic 2009

A few of us hardly ever attend the weekly meetings, although we do all attend the fund raising events. It was satisfying to note that Bob Wood, the incoming President is encouraging using some of our Mondays for social events to include wives and partners. During the year, we have raised £10,000, and spent it all on good causes. This leaves a healthy balance of £15k.

Forthcoming Events

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

Jun 20th- BYO Picnic up the Crug to watch the sunset Be there by 7.30pm. It is usually quite fun.

Jun 21st- Breakfast meeting 8am *Do make an effort to come now that dawn is so early.*

June 28th- Charter Night 7pm for 7.30pm.. Black tie. Wives and partners included. (list being circulated) There will be no speeches, but instead we shall be entertained by Aberhonddu Male Voice Choir

July 5th- Evening Meeting with our new President in the hot seat.

July 12th- Evening Meeting 7pm Treasure Hunt on foot with Fish & Chips to follow. Bring your friends

July 19th- Breakfast at 8am

July 26th- Evening meeting with speaker (Emily Wood, Ambassadorial Scholar from Brisbane-*young, pretty and confident* it seems)



Emily Wood and Malcolm Braun (Llandaff Club)

August 2nd- Business meeting Dinner at 7.30pm

Our speaker on 24th May was Lady Jane Birt, formerly the wife of Sir John Birt, the one-time Director General of the BBC. She is an American although some of her forebears came from East Anglia, and her father was born in Edinburgh. He was the Prof of Art at the University of Illinois, but during the Second World War was a codebreaker. In the 1960's, the US was riding high and exciting, and Jane was living in Washington when Kennedy was President, and Martin Luther King was giving that great speech. She went to the Newport Jazz Festival and listened to Bob Dylan. Jane took up art, and came to Oxford in the 60's. She spoke of an occasion when she was in a telephone kiosk phoning home, when a man called John with a Liverpool Accent asked her if she'd heard of the Beatles and would she like to come to a party. She stood him up. The way she told it, we thought that she was referring to John Lennon, but it became clear that it was John Birt of whom she was speaking. Later, they had a holiday home in this area, but Jane has stayed on, lives in Crickadarn and is quite content.



Bottle Rota

28th June-Gareth Griffiths
 5th July—Howard Hoare
 12th July– John Hopkins
 19th July– Peter Jenkins
 26th July- Cliff Jones
 2nd Aug Gerald Jones

We did an Attitude Survey in 1998. 43 Rotarians took part. Of those, only 17 remain (not counting Honorary Rotarians). So we're not as static a Club as you thought. In the survey, rotarians were asked to indicate their commitment, their likely level of attendance, what improvements were needed and what importance did the meal have. 7 of the 17 were highly committed, 3 said they'd attend all the time, the need for speakers and social events was mentioned by most, but the meal was not important. If we were to repeat the survey for today's Rotarians, what would be the result?



Photo: Huw Parsons

White Elephant Stall 2009

Price of a litre of petrol /diesel at 14th June
 Petrol 116.9 Diesel 119.9 pence

Rotarian of the Month –23 MERVYN WOODWARD



Mervyn followed Geoff Wooltorton into the Presidency of this Club, (just as he has followed Geoff as Rotarian of the Month). He came to Brecon in 1965 to take up the post of District Commercial Engineer of this area of the then South Wales Electricity Board. Mervyn describes himself as having been a yuppy at that time, working his way up the ladder via night school studies to become a Chartered Engineer. In 1974, he was Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. during the time of the miners' strike which had ramifications for local traders. By 1976, he was made a Rotarian, but not before a few years' of being the official stoker of the heating stoves for the Caledonian Market! Rather flippantly I think, he sees as his main achievement just living on the planet for 86 years in spite of a few health scares from time to time. He says that he didn't hear the Angel Choir during those scares, perhaps because he is tone deaf. More seriously. he has pride in setting up a public meeting which eventually led to the creation of an Abbeyfield in Brecon. He also is proud of being the Rotarian who suggested splitting the white elephant stall (where the highest charge made was sixpence) and making an electrical stand. Mervyn and Celia have been married 63 years, with a daughter & 2 grandchildren. When asked whether he thinks Brecon can be improved, he says he agrees with Geoff's remarks last month when he criticised the traffic pattern, and says that if someone sensible was in charge it could be fixed properly. Mervyn has just been made an Honorary Rotarian, which is well merited. He says that although he will be unlikely to contribute much to the activities of the Club, he looks forward to Brecon Rotary's continued success and future. Over the years he and Celia have visited many tropical countries, (Malaysia, being a favourite) and he recalls what a splendid welcome they received at all the Rotary Meetings they attended when there..