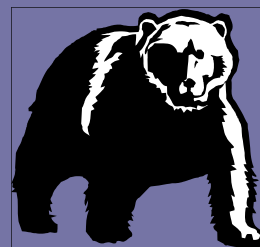


Bruin

District 1150



edited by peter.jenkins18@btinternet.com

BRECON ROTARY UPDATE, INFORMATION, NEWS

June 2011

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

Empty Brecon?



The footfall in Brecon is markedly reduced these days. Is it because of the lack of interesting shops, the creation of the Inner Ring Road, the transfer of the cattle market to the outskirts of town, the high cost of petrol, the picture the BBC has painted of the way the cuts are affecting people, competition elsewhere including the internet, unsightly empty shops, or a combination of all those things.? The reason for the empty High Street above is because it has been cleared on account of the annual freedom ceremony for the Ghurkas. However, the lack of business activity is a concern. Is there anything we can do about? It was noticed that on 23rd May, the National Park conducted a workshop for residents on developing a brand for Brecon. Perhaps a more effective way of rejuvenating the town would be for Powys CC to reduce the Business Rate for independent entrepreneurs, scrap carparking charges on certain days, allow cars to park for longer than half an hour in the street, convert permanently empty in-town properties into houses, improve the signage and sack the over-zealous traffic wardens! As all of us seem to agree, we really like it here. Apparently it was better when Brecknockshire CC had its HQ in the town! We cannot turn the clock back, but we can try to stop the decline by defending Brecon against those who think they know best.

Being Flexible

Brian Newman had ascertained that we would not have to wait until 2012 to change our breakfast meeting arrangements. If the Club announces that it intends to keep flexible, the way we treat the meetings on the third Monday of each month, it would be possible to devise a host of different ways of meeting on those days. Council liked the idea and it will be put to the Club shortly. It will probably be necessary to set up a small group to plan ahead an interesting programme of events, and maybe put more vigour into the Club's routine

Forthcoming Events

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INFORM THE GEORGE HOTEL IF YOU ARE NOT COMING TO A MEETING (01874-623422)
June 6th-Evening meeting 7.30pm
June 13th-AGM following dinner at 7.30pm. (nominations for the vacant posts to be submitted to Secretary before the meeting)
June 16th- Council members to meet at the White Swan for final Council of Bob's year as President
June 19th-Midsummer Picnic on top of the Crug. BYO 7pm onwards
June 20th- Breakfast meeting at 8am
June 27th-Charter Night 7pm for 7.30pm-Black tie. Installation of New President- Derek

The price of a litre of petrol/diesel
Jun 2nd 2011
Petrol 135.9
Diesel 137.9

Bottle Rota

6th June-Brian Strawford
 13th June-Barry Tomlinson
 20th June-Mike Tompkinson
 27th June-Andrew Wakley
 4th July-Bob Wood
 11th July-Geoff Wooltorton

THE LOFT

On 23rd May, Nikki Cook of the Brecon and District Contact Association and Sue Hiley-Harris of the Friends of that Association explained their work for the people in the community who have depression and other mental problems. The Loft which is above the garage in Bell Lane is where they meet. The Association has at present 190 on its books. There are outposts in Hay, Talgarth and Crickhowell. Nikki said that the Association tries to encourage self sufficiency in isolated people. Bronnlys former patients, the bereaved, and ex-forces personnel, are a few of the types helped. She said that it costs £140k per annum to run the Association, (but this may be nationally) and grants are forthcoming from the Tudor Trust and Welsh Assembly Government. However, core funding is difficult. Sue explained that there were all sorts of activities for the members, as well as the diary of events organised by the Friends. She mentioned the talk to be given by Lynne Walsh on Age and Depression on 2nd June and the Tea-on-Top (of the Crug) Occasion scheduled for 7th August. Pensioners joining the friends pay £6 per annum. Their joint presentation was well received by the Club

Young Musician District Final

It was held in Brecon and won by the Llandaff Rotary Club Sponsored Competitor, a violinist



Points from Council

- The Balance on the Charities Account at the end of the present Rotary Year is likely to be £13,684. We started the year with £15,712
- There are plans at some time to buy our own Shelter Box, and use it for fund-raising in Bethel Square or Morrisons
- Volunteers are needed to spend the morning of July 9th on the Eppynt selling programmes for the Quinton Car Rally

Rotarian of the Month– 34 Ian Richards



Ian has been in Rotary since 2001, but is seen only when there is work to be done. For example, he is a stalwart at the Caledonian Market. For him, the social side of Rotary has been on the back burner whilst he copes with a very exacting job with Lloyds Bank. Although he is based in the Brecon branch office, he is rarely seen there either, since he travels on business all over South Wales as the bank's agricultural adviser. We hope that he will one day become more involved in the Club's activities. After all, Rotary was founded on fellowship and those who come to the Monday meetings generally enjoy the experience, yes?

Ketch Up!

Most of us have recently been handed a large bottle of tomato sauce, (it is from Wilkins of Tiptree and not in the usual Heinz type shape). What you are supposed to do with the bottle when empty, is fill it with change, gift aid it, and hand it in at the end of the year. It has been worked out that if every bottle is filled with £6 of change, over £300k could be raised. {Some people take years to use up their sauce!} The proceeds will go to fighting Polio.



Ingrid Stands Down

Our one remaining woman member has decided to resign from Rotary. Although not a regular attender on Mondays, she has always provided support at Car Boot Sales and at the Caledonian Market, not only being present herself but in recruiting numerous pupils to help carry in the goods on the Friday evenings.

