



BRUIN

Brecon Rotary Update Information News



Judges, Competitors & Rotarians at the Area 9 final of Young Chef 2013
Photo - Christine Bayliss

YOUNG CHEF - AREA 9 FINAL

Our youth chair Terry Dewan attended the first part of the proceedings held at Builth Well High School. He wished our entry Hannah the best for the competition and thanked her for representing the Brecon Rotary Club.

Apart from Assistant DG Christine, Terry being the only rotarian present at the start, Christine Bayliss laid the seeds for Brecon to host the area 9 final in 2014

President Barry arrived at the latter part of the proceedings, but was too late to try the food. He was present for the presentations along with the presidents of Builth Wells and Abergavenny.

The two judges commented on the high standard of food prepared. Unfortunately there were only four club entries, Abergavenny, Brecon, Builth Wells and Llandrindod, which may be due to the decline in schools providing this facility to students.

Our entry came equal third. Builth Wells entry came first receiving £25.00 with second place going to Llandrindod who received £15.00

All entrants received a certificate presented by Assistant District Governor Christine Bayliss.

Terry Dewan & Barry Tomlinson



The four competitors Photos - Christine Bayliss

Dates for your Diary

Monday 4th March

Business Meeting

Monday 11th March

Dinner Meeting

Monday 18th March

Red Lion - Llangorse

Monday 25th March

Dinner - Speaker

Thursday 28th March

Council Meeting

Monday 1st April

No Meeting

Monday 8th April

Business Meeting

Bottle Rota

Monday 4th March

Nick Morrell

Monday 11th March

Brian Newman

Monday 18th March

Michael Oxnard

Monday 25th March

Maurice Parry

Monday 8th April

Ian Richards

Monday 15th April

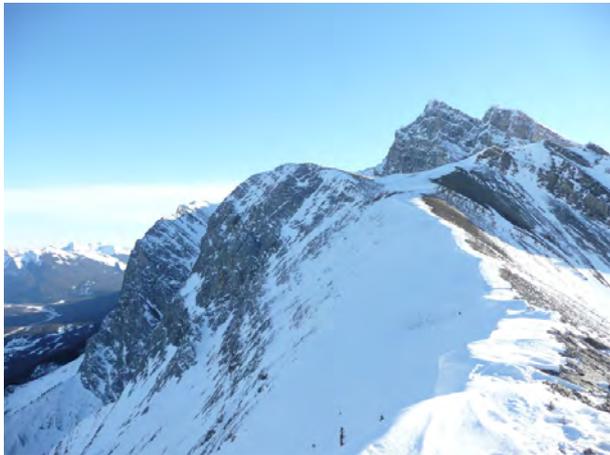
Ian Roberts



PHOTO (OR PHOTOS) FOR THE MONTH FROM ANDREW WAKLEY

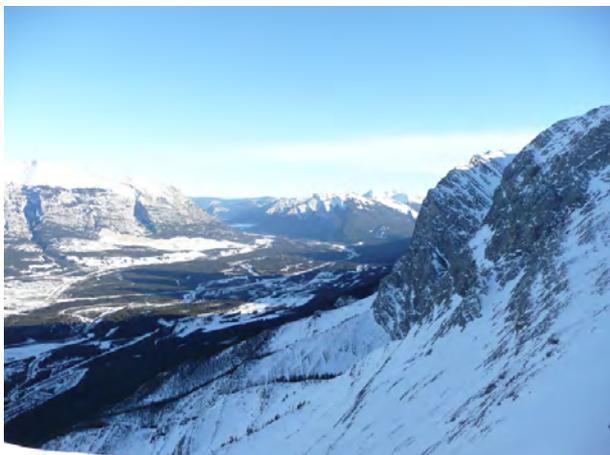
Another special note from the editor. I omitted to give the brief for this section to Andrew, so he is now competing with Derek for the most photos he can get on a page!

January in Canada in the Rockies: Took myself for a snowshoe walk as the rest of the family were making woollen dolls and



From 8500ft looking up at Mount Lawrence Grassi

going swimming which is not my scene on a beautiful day. I started from the car park at about five thousand feet and followed a trail which led up to the col at eight and a



Looking down on Trans Canada Highway

half thousand feet. Took these photos looking up at Mount Lawrence Grassi and down onto the Trans-Canada Highway a few miles from Banff. Unfortunately I didn't have time to go right to the top as I had promised to be back at a certain time well before dark.

September in Blackpool: You have to see the lights once in a lifetime. Here you

have the lights and the sunset over Morecambe Bay. The sunset is better!



Blackpool lights



Sunset over Morecambe Bay

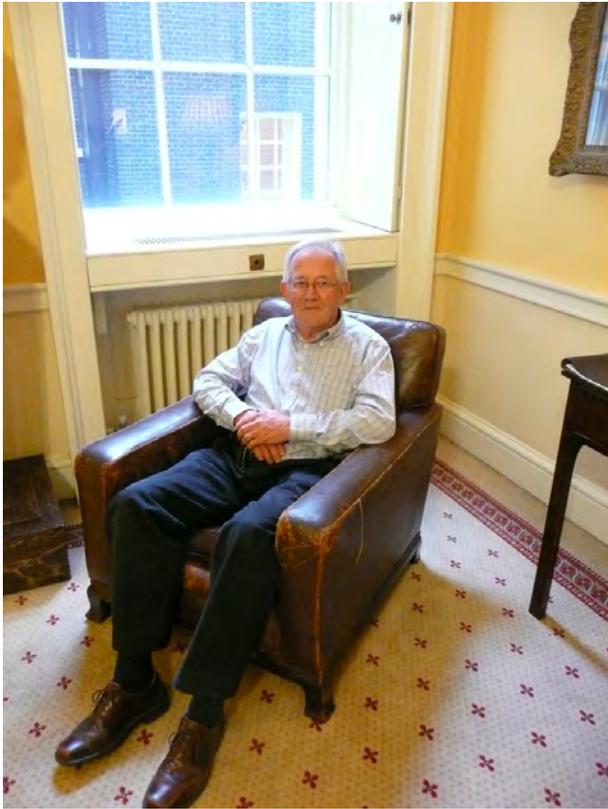


July in Brecon: What a team of four! Welcome back any time! *Continued on page 3*



From page 2

June in London: Yours truly in Winston Churchill's chair. I had the opportunity of a tour round No. 10 courtesy of my daughter. Not likely to be repeated.



Did Winston Churchill have long feet?

AMUSING ANECDOTE

A man went to see the doctor about his wife as he believed she was going deaf. The doctor advised him that it was a very delicate subject and confronting her would not be recommended. You have to approach this in a different way, he advised. Pick a time when she is on her own and has her back to you and ask her a question. One day when his wife was doing the ironing and had her back to him, he stood in the door way which was farthest away from her and said in a quiet voice "Do you fancy an early night my love?" His wife did not respond, so he moved closer to her and repeated the question. Still no response. He moved even closer but still she did not reply. As a last resort he went right up to her back and repeated the question. In a fit of annoyance she turned round and said "For the fourth time I have got a headache!"

**CAPTION COMPETITION NO. 3
WINNER - BRIAN NEWMAN**



Could this be the best place for my "USB Flash Drive", as my memory is not what it used to be?

CAPTION COMPETITION NO. 4



Photo By John Hopkins

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.4 is Wednesday 27th March 2013



BOWLING NIGHT

Twenty Rotarians, wives, partners and guests descended on the Recreation Centre on Monday 18th February to participate in another 10 pin bowling extravaganza.

Four lanes were used with 5 players on each lane, with



Pippa receiving her certificate

one lane finishing in about 40 minutes due to the number of strikes one husband and wife team made.



Derek receiving his certificate from a far from photogenic Junior vice

The evening continued at The George where a fish and chip supper was served and

certificates were presented to the highest scoring girl and boy, Pippa and Derek Adams.

A good time was had by all and thanks must go to Pat Blake who organised the evening but was unable to attend on the night and Gareth for taking the photos.



Look out Maurice - there's a Wood about!

NEW MEMBER

Brian Birtles was born near Bridgend and celebrated his 60th birthday in November 2012. Tess and Brian moved to Aberyscir a year ago, and are renovating a Regency House near the river Yscir. They are getting married in

Venice in April this year, with close family present.

Brian started his career with SWALEC as an apprentice engineer before moving to "The Dark Side" of sales and marketing. He worked for Hywel Davies in Cardiff before moving to Leicester to work for East Midlands

Electricity and Powergen in various roles. A period as Sales and Marketing Director was followed by building, running and selling (to Siemens) the 650 people Metering Business.

Fancying a change of direction Brian became UK Marketing Director for Alcatel, a £30bn French Telecoms company followed by CEO of Cambridge Network Ltd and Thrupoint, an American consultancy. In 2004 he set up Bluefish with two colleagues and was Executive Chairman and Commercial Director until it was sold to Vodafone in December 2011.

After 20+ years in England Brian returned to South Wales in 2008 to further refresh his accent. He's now involved in a number of start up companies in South Wales, Oxford and "that London", although on a part time basis.



**SAINT DAVID'S DAY
DINNER (PART ONE)**

As members and their wives entered the George Hotel, there was an air of excitement/trepidation, who is in the firing line to eat the Leek? Only 2 people knew for sure, myself, and Clive who made the certificates.

One by one the pressed men, sorry, volunteers were requested to join me in the main dining room, the guessing was over.

The line-up consisted of: Pat Blake, Andrew Wakley, Brian Newman, Bob Wood, Mike Stratford, and the Mayor, Paul Ashton (who only came along to speak to the Club).

The Leek Eaters formed up in line and received their instructions, with one thing on their minds 'how big is this thing that I have to eat'? Even after reassuring them that the Leeks were only about 2 inches in length, I could see the doubt in their eyes.

After the short briefing, they all went back to their tables to enjoy their dinners.

At the given signal, President Barry called the roll. One by one they lined up awaiting their fate.

The Drummer and Leeks entered the room, and after a short résumé from the President, the Leeks were handed out. On the drum roll, the eating began, some ate it as quick as they could; others savoured the taste and took their time. Eating over, it was now time to toast St David, each was handed the silver cup in turn and toasted 'A Dewi Sant'.

Certificates were then presented by President Barry as a reminder of their feat,



*Derek keeping a watchful eye to see no leeks are pocketed
Photo: Maurice Parry*

and proof that they had eaten the Leek, just in case they were asked to 'perform' again in the future.



Leek eaters receiving their certificates from President Barry

Once the certificates had been handed out the Drummer and almost empty silver cup, exited the room.

I would like to thank all the Leek Eaters for being great sports and entering into the spirit of the evening.

Let's hope next year's volunteers are as game!

Note from ED "Well done Derek, good night, shame I wont be at next years!"

**SAINT DAVID'S DAY
DINNER (PART TWO)**

The speaker at our St David's dinner was Councillor Paul Ashton, the town Mayor and his subject was "Platforms & Pipelines" - some of his offshore experiences in the oil

and gas fields in the 1970's and 80's.

When he left school in Wolverhampton Paul was a dairyman on a farm but then decided to train as an electrical engineer. In the early 70's when there were power cuts during the 3 day week crisis, he began installing generators for essential services such as



Paul Ashton with his certificate. Drummer behind President Barry

hospitals and power plants. With an eye on the new North Sea gas and oil fields, he learnt sub aqua diving in Stanley Cove (Leicestershire) and Scotland.

Paul was taken on at Great Yarmouth and went to work on the Amoco platform



(incorrectly called rigs - which consist of the derrick and drill floor). It is in the southern part of the North Sea where the gas fields are located where wells are drilled to extract and process natural gas and also to temporarily store it here until it can be brought to shore for refining and marketing. Traffic lights are on each platform, red and green with blue meaning to abandon the platform and exercises were carried out every week to practise evacuation. Westland Wessex helicopters flew him out from Great Yarmouth and he worked 7 days on and 7 days off on the platform to install electrical systems and also 2 decompression chambers. Divers often had to spend a day in these chambers to prevent the bends - where bubbles of mainly nitrogen dissolve in the blood stream under extreme pressure. The tides in the North Sea also affected the diving schedule because the sea would not be deep enough at times. Because of his diving experience he also did hyperbaric welding on the sea bed.

Paul worked briefly in Saudi Arabia where he worked in the Persian Gulf to repair cranes and "weed" under the sea. He then returned to the northern part of the North Sea where the oil fields are located as far

up as the arctic circle working for a Houston USA Company. He worked in Montrose and the giant Brent oilfield from where the term "Brent Crude" comes and is still the price quoted for Standard oil. He also worked in Houston laying pipe lines (about a mile per day in the calm season) and risers coming off the lines which pump the oil ashore. He then joined Occidental Oils owned by Armand Hammer, the oil mogul, repairing the risers. For this he used a diving bell and hot water was pumped into his diving suit to keep him warm. Generally he did not work deeper than 150 metres in order to prevent the bends. He worked also on the Piper Alpha platform in the North Sea where a gas explosion was to occur later in 1988 with a great loss of lives. He later had a succession of jobs in Libya, Norway and finally Abu Dhabi. During this time the Iran Iraq war was taking place and Paul felt it was too dangerous to work in the Middle East. By then the gas in the rough field in the North Sea had been mostly used up and was only used as a storage field. So this was the time to settle down and leave his work in the Oil/Gas fields.

Paul was thanked for his very informative and entertaining talk by Wyndham Jones.

Derek Adams / Maurice Parry

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This is a revised edition and I have corrected some mistakes and added another photo taken at St David's Day Dinner (thanks Maurice and Jan for the photo)

The photographs I took at the Saint David's Day Dinner were rubbish, but I do have a short video of the leak eating

ceremony which I am trying to put on the web site without much success at the moment. Apologies to Brian as I did not use his walk, will use it next month.

Thanks to our Contributors

Terry Dewan



For Young Chef report

Barry Tomlinson



For Young Chef report

Brian Birtles



For CV

Andrew Wakley



For Photo(s) for the Month

Derek Adams



For Saint David's Day Part One

Maurice Parry



For Saint David's Day Part Two

In Next Months Issue

Maurice Parry
Photo for the Month

Brian Newman
Walk in Wales

Pat Blake
Fun night report