

Bruin

District 1150



edited by peter.jenkins18@btinternet.com

BRECON ROTARY UPDATE, INFORMATION, NEWS

May 2011

SPRING COMES EARLY TO BRECON
We have enjoyed a very dry and sunny spell which has lasted two months. As a gathering ground for the numerous reservoirs in the area, this is unusual, and there will be a lot of catching up to do.



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

[Nominations are needed for the Good Citizen Award](#)

Young Musician Zone Final

Once more the zone final took place in Abergavenny, and once more our local boy, Jack Taylor was beaten into second place by the euphonium player. Give us the saxophone anytime!



Forthcoming Events

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

May 2nd ..Carboot at Rugby Field

May 9th- Dinner at 7.30pm

May 14th-Young Musician Area Final at Theatr Brycheiniog, but organised by Cardiff Breakfast Club

May 16th. Breakfast meeting at 8am

May 19th-Bread and Cheese Lunch for Christian Aid at Bishop Bevan Hall.

Soroptimists and Rotary together 1pm

May 23rd-Dinner at 7.30pm with speakers Sue Hiley Harris and Nikki to tell us about The Loft.

May 30th- Spring Bank Holiday-no meeting

The price of a litre of petrol/diesel
April 28th
Petrol 135.9
Diesel 141.9p

[Just for the re-]CORD!

On Monday 18th April, Brian Wakley, son of Rotarian Andrew Wakley spoke to the Club about his work as Chief Exec of CORD (Christian Outreach Relief and Development). Initially, Brian spoke of a joint project between CORD and Tearfund to provide somewhere safe to go to the toilet. He said that this affects some 2.6 bn people and that through their "Toilet Twinning" programme a toilet in UK could be twinned for just £60 with one in the remote Rutana province of Burundi. In 2009, they helped the communities build 1050 latrines-CORD providing the corrugated rooves and the locals actually building the latrines from locally produced mud bricks. The Charity hopes to expand into more locations soon. Brian went on to explain that CORD was mainly involved in bringing peace to people across Africa and South East Asia-in countries which have been affected by violence and civil conflict. He spoke movingly about the terrible aftermath which he had witnessed of the civil wars in Burundi and Ruanda as well as the repressive regimes, such as those in Laos and Cambodia, where governments tend to resort to violent methods in dealing with conflict- especially at times of crisis; He said that the chances of violent conflicts restarting after either military victory or negotiated peace are still almost 50%. CORD's objective is to attempt to tackle the fall-out from conflict at a local level "systematically developing the capacity of local people and organisations to support the social, political and economic transformations required for long term sustainable development and peace." He emphasised that CORD was a humanitarian and non-proselytising Christian organisation, and that they employed people from all faiths and had more followers of Islam working for them than from any other faith. Brian's talk, ably supported with a Powerpoint presentation engendered much discussion and a large number of questions Rotarian Pat Blake proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of the Club. Reported by BOB WOOD



Brian Wakley

Bottle Rota
9th May Maurice Parry
16th May-Ian Richards
23rd May-Terry
Stephens
6th June Brian Straw-
ford

Rotarian of the month 33
MIKE STRATFORD



As our latest recruit to the band of Rotarians in Brecon, Mike joined the Club earlier this year. He is a Cardiff man, but has lived in Powys since 2002. When asked to identify his main achievement, he said that it was 'proving that divorce was not the end of life' This explains that for financial reasons, starting all over again in an area where house prices were affordable led him to live around here, initially in Three Cocks, but for the last three years in a house in the middle of Brecon where the Stationmaster once lived as an employee of the Neath and Brecon Railway Co. Mike is a Chartered Architect, and his choice of dwelling enables him to demonstrate the possibilities of creating, with a bit of lateral thinking, an exciting living space from old stock. He has two sons by his first marriage, and they live in Cardiff but he and his wife Alison share their house with her two teenage daughters. Coming from off, as they say, Mike is of the opinion that Brecon people tend to devalue the town. He sees it as a gold mine of opportunity. There is a good sense of community here, an excellent social mix, with plenty of interesting things to do. It is architecturally pleasing, and the town is set in a beautiful environment. What more could you want, he says! Mike is keen for Brecon Rotary to continue, because it gives a person an opportunity to interact at all sorts of levels- the motto 'Service above Self' resonates with him. As we saw by the photographs at a recent talk to Club, Mike went (somewhat reluctantly he says) with other Brecon people to Molo in Kenya, and as he expected, it affected him greatly to see how the Third World lived. Whether the Club will survive in its present form, he queries. The expense of eating out every week on top of the annual subscription are inhibiting factors for any would-be new recruit. Mike's taste in music reflects his mood. It could be listening to a recording of the dawn chorus, or of monks chanting, or Enya, or Everglades. His favourite sports team is Manchester United, but he has a soft spot for Cardiff and Preston North End, (where he spent some of his working life), His best, or rather his only holiday this century, was glam-camping. (ie being in a luxury tent) near Cardigan. As for the world today, Mike says it is wonderful and horrendous at the same time. He sees courage, generosity and the reverse of those qualities all the time. In any case, his strong faith tells him to look beyond the world.