



Brecon Rotary Update Information News

2011-2012 President DEREK ADAMS Vice President BARRY TOMLINSON

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

What a diverse month this has been. On the 10th Oct we held a very successful Young Speakers Evening which was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Brecon. The evening started with the 4 RYLA students who gave us their take on the outdoor activities they had participated in at Dolygaer, reminiscing with enthusiasm their encounters of their much enjoyed week. Next up was Gemma Evans who represented Welsh Girl Guides on a trip to Italy. She gave an excellent account of her experiences including the 'not so nice ablutions'. Ryan Myles-Roberts (who was also one of the 4 RYLA Students) was given a donation by the Club to go to Zambia with St John Ambulance to teach First Aid to local communities. Judging by the video he showed us, I would not recommend dancing as a career option. Finally Cadet Sergeant Daniel Reeves, who represented Welsh Army Cadets in Lesotho, spoke about how he assisted in the renovation of accommodation at a children's home. This seemed to have made a lasting impression on the young Cadet. All the Speakers were a credit to themselves, their schools and their organisations.

The evening concluded with our own 'Young Person', Mike Stratford, who gave us a detailed talk on his recent visit to Hungary. The whole evening was a resounding success. Thanks must go to Clive for setting the evening up.

Our Speaker this month was Brynach Parri, who spoke very enthusiastically about Welsh Comic Postcards, so interesting was his talk, that when he suggested we might have seen enough, he was urged to continue with his second rack of slides. See page 2 for more details.

And finally, congratulations to the Quiz Team of Bob Wood, John Hopkins and Peter Jenkins who beat Brynmawr in the 1st round proper of the Area Quiz Competition after being all square at the halfway stage.

BOTTLE ROTA

31/10 Brian Matthews
7/11 Nick Morrell
14/11 Brian Newman
21/11 Mike Oxnard
28/11 Maurice Parry
5/12 Ian Richards
12/12 Terry Stephens

PLEASE SIGN UP!!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Bag packing in the Co-op from 10 am to 6 pm on Friday 18 November
In aid of CHILDREN in NEED

DECEMBER EVENTS

19/12 Christmas Lunch and Carol Concert in the Cathedral at 7.30 pm.

NOVEMBER DATES

31/10 Treasure Hunt. 6.30 START at the Museum then Tipple & Tiffin.
4/11 Set up for Caledonian 6 p.m.
5/11 Caledonian Market 12 noon.
7/11 Caledonian Dinner
12/11 Club YOUNG MUSICIAN competition at Christ College.
13/11 Remembrance Sunday Lunch 12.30 for 13.00 at the Castle for Rotarians & Wives.

14/11 NO MEETING

21/11 Dinner Meeting
28/11 Dinner with Speaker from Powys Carers (postponed from Sept)

FUTURE EVENTS

Ten pin bowling with ladies in January.
Visit to Gurkha Restaurant in the Bulwark in February.
Visit to Film Club on 2nd April to see "The Guard".

Our speaker on 24th October, Brynach Parri, offered something completely different from recent speakers. He presented a slide show of Welsh comic postcards, explaining the jokes as he went on. Apparently, although the first envelopes were used in 1840, the first postcard did not appear until 1878. Many of his were from the early 1900's and the Welshman was often depicted as a bearded yokel, and the Englishman as a bit of a toff. There were plenty of references to unpronounceable and long names for nondescript villages. His postcards showing a golfer or a cyclist were quite valuable, he said. Out of his 5000 card collection, he only had one with a rugby player on it, and this wasn't valuable at all. He had obtained most of his collection at antiques and collectors' fairs, but has no room for any more. Someone had offered £50 for the whole collection but this was understandably rejected out of hand.

How an unlamented County Council saved the day.

Peter Jenkins



On visiting Liverpool the other day, I went to the stunning new museum on the waterfront. It is a celebration of what Liverpool has become.

When I was appointed County Treasurer of Merseyside in 1973, the city, indeed the whole area, was in a very depressed state. The Merseyside County Council, a new local authority with no clutter or tradition, came up with a plan. Its big idea was to turn Liverpool into a tourist centre. People laughed at such a preposterous policy. It involved turning the then derelict and drained docks into a vibrant area with shops, luxury flats and a Maritime Museum and Art Gallery. It meant saving the Grand National from its threatened extinction, and keeping Liverpool Airport in spite of the proximity of Manchester. It also meant challenging the Militant Tendency, which had taken a grip of the City Council, thereby preserving all the cultural establishments the Militants intended to scrap.

This new museum, which is exciting architecturally, is placed among the imposing buildings on the Waterfront the best known of which are the Three Graces, the most famous being the Liver Building. The museum features all the things I have mentioned, plus the Beatles, Liverpool FC, Everton FC and video vignettes of the Scouse way of life without crediting Merseyside County Council (abolished in 1986) in any way whatsoever.

Nowadays there are crowds of visitors to Liverpool, including people from cruise liners. Even the Labour Party Conference is held there. Had it not been for Merseyside CC, of which I was a part for 11 years, who knows what Liverpool would have been like now?



The Three Graces

This box should contain a very flattering photo of Peter from the 1970's but unfortunately due to technical problems your editor was unable to copy it from its Adobe format into this publication!

Apologies to Peter.

Editor Andrew Wakley