

Bruin

District 1150



editor is peterjenkins18@btinternet.

BRECON ROTARY UPDATE, INFORMATION, NEWS

November 2010

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

BRECON CHAMBER OF TRADE RISES AGAIN

Our speaker on 11th October was David Brockwell , the current Secretary. He has lived in the area for 20 years, and has a business background. He is better known these days as a Jazz musician, and is drumming up support for the George Melly sculpture which is proposed.. David set out to explain the reason d'etre for the Chamber. It now has 37 members, and is aiming for 50 by the end of the year. He claimed that Brecon had an identity crisis, and it was upto the Chamber to involve the community in resolving this. Hay had its books festival, Abergavenny its food festival and Monmouth its Nelson connection, but Brecon had only a jazz festival over a single week-end (and that run from Hay!). Rotarians pointed out that none of the multiple stores (other than Co-op) were members of the Chamber which must be a disadvantage. They also said that Brecon had amazingly good facilities for a town its size, and was a friendly and comfortable place in which to live. Creating a theme for Brecon could help, but the town was hardly a bywater even though it had lost its County Town status. David said that a web site was in the process of being set-up,. He also promised a study into the inadequacy of the signs around the town . He was thanked for his presence and for his obvious enthusiasm in rekindling interest in the Chamber of Trade

DONNA GETS TO THE MEAT OF THINGS!

Only 12 of us were available on October 25th to hear Donna Wallbank give the Club her DG address. Being a woman had not made her job any more difficult she said. She spoke in complimentary fashion about the efforts of our Club over the years. Donna had been impressed by the discipline imposed on delegates to the International Conferences where playing truant was severely punished. She also mentioned that for £50, you could obtain a fold away personalised banner in its case for use at any Rotary Event. Overall, Donna showed passion and enjoyment in her commitment to Rotary, and hoped we felt the same way about it too..



Bric a brac at 2009 Caledonian Market

Forthcoming Events

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TELL THE GEORGE HOTEL IF YOU ARE NOT COMING TO A MEETING (01874-623422) n.b BOTH BREAKFAST MEETINGS OFF

Nov 6th– Noon Caledonian Market in the Market Hall

Nov 8th-Caledonian Market Dinner at 7.30pm with wives

Fellow helpers are invited to attend at their own expense

Sun Nov 14th-Lunch with wives

12.30pm for 1pm CASTLEHOTEL

Nov 22nd Evening meeting with

Joanne Williams as the speaker.

She will talk about the RNIB Talking Books Organisation

Nov 29th Bowls with Probus 6pm

at Leisure Centre. Food afterwards

Dec 2nd Young Chef Competition



Bottle Rota

- 1 Nov-Mike Tompkinson
- 8 Nov-Andrew Wakley
- 15th Nov-Bob Wood
- 22rd Nov-Geoff Wooltorton
- 29th Nov-Derek Adams
- 6th Dec-Pat Blake

CRICK AT CRADOC FIELD SEVEN

On October 18th, the annual golf match between the Rotary Clubs of Crickhowell and Ourselves was held. Unfortunately only 3 Brecon Rotarians were available to play, whereas there were 7 Crickhowell Rotarians. This made the scoring system a little unusual, and under it Crickhowell won by a whisker. After the game, 18 Rotarians from both clubs enjoyed an excellent meal and good fellowship. Next year we'll field more surely .



Price of a litre of petrol /diesel at 3rd November
 Petrol 118.9 Diesel 120.9 pence

ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH –27



Morlais

Owens

Morlais, the son of a miner from Rhymney became an emigrant to England when he joined the Government Research Laboratory in Stevenage in 1957. It was not until 1974 with the creation of the Welsh Water Authority in Brecon that he returned home to Wales. He had obtained a top honours degree in botany at Swansea University, and had made the biology of rivers and lakes his thing, so much so that he has become an authority on water quality, whose experience was much-sought after. After retiring from his Brecon job as Chief Scientist at Welsh Water in 1989, he took on a trusteeship of Elan Valley Trust. Morlais and Marion have remained in Brecon because they like it here. They have two children, a son, who is a microbiologist in America, and a daughter, an IT trainer in the House of Commons Library. Morlais thinks Brecon is lucky to have a theatre, a cinema and a leisure centre, but it would be improved with better attention to detail. For example, the plethora of A-Boards on the pavements make it difficult for people with a disability to get around. Bad parking is another nuisance. Powys CC should assist Brecon to remain unique. He was shocked recently to see that a blue plaque had been put up in honour of Capt Phillips of Captains Walk fame, on account of his life as a slave trader. As for Brecon Rotary, Morlais wants it to continue, but he would scrap the grace, the loyal toast and the black tie if it were up to him and he suspects there are cliques. He would also like more lady members to join the club. The Welsh Folk Song *Tra Bo Dau* is Morlais's favourite piece of music because that was played at his wedding in Llanboidy over 50 golden years ago. He also singles out Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, and Dvorak's New World Symphony as special. For sport, Morlais supports the Scarlets. As a sufferer from asthma, (chronic since arriving in Brecon) he has not been able to indulge physically in any sport. His most memorable holidays contain the nostalgia of when the children were young and learning to swim. This was when the family spent idyllic fortnights in Guernsey and Cornwall. When asked what he thought of the world today, Morlais declared himself an optimist. Crises in the environment have been solved by science and have improved the peoples' lot, so why shouldn't this continue into the future, he says.