

**District 1150**

**November 2017**

# BRUIN

## Brecon Rotary Update Information

### Activity Update

It's been a busy summer for the Rotary Club of Brecon, so busy I haven't had time to send in regular articles for publication! So, here's a flavour of what members of the Club have been doing –

June started with the AGM, quickly followed by supporting Brecon Athletic Club 3,4,5-mile race series, street collecting for St David's Hospice and entering the Llanfihangel Nant Bran flower festival to work with other organisations in the community. In between these events a member hosted a BBQ for charity and a group walked up the Crug to watch sunset (well, we would have done if there weren't any clouds!). To end the month, we were regaled by tales from John Webb, from the history of Webbs of Crickhowell.

July started with our annual Charter Night at which the new President was installed. Continuing our support of other local organisations, we helped steward at both the Nicky Grist and Harry Flatters Rallies, despite the less than inviting weather on the Epynt. Later in the month we reclaimed the Cecil Armitage Cup from the Brecon Lions in an evening of Pub Games; and the following week we met with Crickhowell Rotary Club for a petanque competition, thanks to help from Brecon Petanque and Rugby Clubs.

August was a little quieter and started with supporting at St David's Hospice Moon Walk and stewarding on the gate at the Brecon Show. We also had our marquee at the Show, which offered vital shelter from the elements during the day! We also launched our



second round of Community Chest and planted up the flower beds on each of the roads entering town. We ended the month with a bowls evening, courtesy of Brecon Bowls Club.

September began with taking our marquee to Sennybridge Show, where we were visited by Rhydian, who showed his support for the Rotary “End Polio Now” campaign. We



Nick at Sennybridge, warning us of the impact of Brexit on next year's Club budget

hosted our annual Youth Evening at the Castle Hotel, at which recipients of our assistance throughout the year came to give presentations on their activities. These included participants in Rotary Young Leaders Award activity weeks and the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, from Huntingdon House and Young Carers; the Rotary Young Musician competition winner and SPYM orchestra provided a musical interlude. Members visited the Brecon Brewery and heard a talk from Action on Hearing Loss Cymru. Applications to the second round of the Community Chest closed at the end of the month.

- Carol

### Bruin caption competition entries



It's only a 2p piece Mike, not a gold sovereign. - Brian Newman

Left hand down a bit! - Peter

Mike, what's the water level like? - Pat

How much will you pay for me not to push you in? - Carol

## Youth evening



The idea of the Youth Evening as we know it was started by **Terry Dewan** and **Clive**. It is a great opportunity for the young people and youth organisations we have supported to report back to the club on how we helped them. This year we had presentations from:

Beth Langworthy: we helped fund Beth's trip to Nepal to help with rebuilding after the devastating earthquake

Iory Hughes, Angus Catley, Erin Bishop and Rob Lancaster, who all attended this year's RYLA course

Andy Meek, Head of Centre, Storey Arms, who described, from the perspective of the centre, the effect of RYLA on young people during their time there

Chloe, Isha & Amy of Huntingdon House: we supported them with funding for equipment for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Jane Fletcher, who told us that the support from Rotary affords Young Carers time to be children, and offers them time to themselves

- **Hayley**

## Our Community Chest – serving the community

Our Community Chest Small Grants Scheme was introduced in the Spring of 2017.

The scheme's aims were to make small grants available to local community and voluntary groups, as well as to raise the profile of Rotary within the local community. The financial support was made in terms of non-recurrent grants within a budget of £2,500.

The Scheme allows voluntary clubs and organisations an opportunity to bid for grants of up to £500. The application process was activated twice in the first year and we propose to continue this bi-annual approach.

Applications needed to describe how the money given would enable applicants to respond to a community need or meet the needs of the local community by helping to strengthen and maintain a clean, safe, attractive and thriving environment.

A simple application form is initially reviewed by a panel of Rotarians that includes the Club's President and Treasurer. Shortlisted organisations are then visited by Rotarians to find out more about the work they do and to gain a greater understanding of how they will benefit from the grant.

Over the past year 12 organisations have been supported to the sum of £5,450. Beneficiaries include Talgarth Luncheon Club, Brecknock Little Theatre, Brecon Volunteer Bureau, South Powys Youth Music, Brecon Prom Fest, take pART, Brecon Neuro Café (Stroke Association), Brecon Folk and More Club and 1st Brecon Scouts.

Successful applicants must provide updates and feedback on how the money is being utilised and what benefits are being seen, and some are also invited to speak at a Club dinner to raise the profile of the organisation amongst Club members.

- **Cath**

## Brecon with Bells On – engaging with the community

Members of the public who visited our tent on Saturday 18 November were offered Messages in a Bottle and a children's colouring competition but, apart from the seasonal cheer freely provided by Rotarians, the most popular attraction proved to be our bright yellow rotary coin-guzzling device, which will find a new home on top of the wishing well in Bethel Square.



## That was a year, that was

I'm a writer. That, at least, is my designation in the Club's membership booklet. And that, I guess, is why Owen and Carol persuaded me to succeed to the Bruin editor's desk. And that's why the question I most frequently field from members of the Club is "What do you write?" My answer inevitably occasions a swift change of subject since I'm a natural bore by inclination, and what I write about is of little concern to the overwhelming majority of the populace at large. So let me introduce myself in the words of others.

In April of this year I travelled to South Africa to be invested with the National Order of Ikhamanga: Silver "for his excellent contribution to the field of history and his impressive body of work in literature. His work exhumes stories of the dead and brings them to life so that the living can continue to learn." The Order of Ikhamanga is awarded by the Presidency for achievements in arts, culture, literature, music, journalism, and sports. The official programme included biographical descriptions of the recipients (I've been unable to resist discreetly wielding my editor's blue pencil):

"Prof Jeff Opland was born in Cape Town, and studied at the University of Cape Town (UCT), where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language and a Bachelor of Science degree in Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, as well as an MA and a PhD for a comparison of the Anglo-Saxon, Serbo-Croatian and Xhosa traditions of oral poetry.

While holding appointments at UCT, the University of Durban-Westville and Rhodes University, he undertook fieldwork in the Eastern Cape, amassing a considerable collection of recorded isiXhosa poetry and literature in print.

He has also taught at the Universities of Toronto and Yale, Vassar College and Charterhouse, as well as the University of Leipzig. In 1972 he won the English Academy of Southern Africa's Thomas Pringle Award for a literary article. He has published anthologies of South African and isiXhosa poetry, and studies of Anglo-Saxon and isiXhosa literature.

Prof Opland has contributed to a new and progressive historiography through his dedicated and painstaking research into the works of such luminaries as Samuel Edward Krune Mqhayi (Xhosa poet and historian), Reverend Isaac Wauchope (who died in the sinking of the SS *Mendi*) and many others.

He brought to light an important period of enlightenment and resistance not only in the then Cape Colony but in the whole of south and southern Africa.

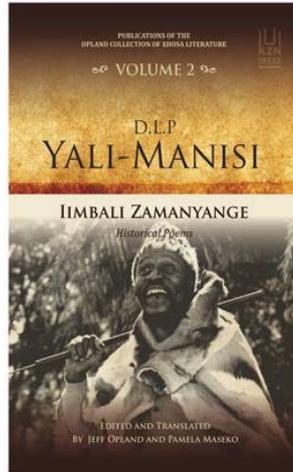
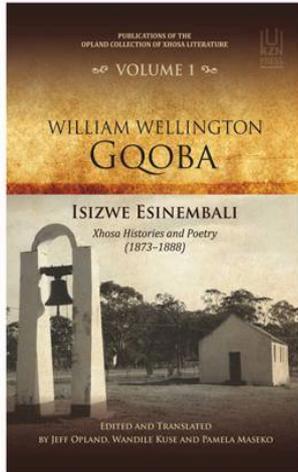
The single most important achievement of Prof Opland is that he mainstreamed the culture of a colonised and oppressed people by devoting his exceptional scholarship to its rediscovery and contextualisation.

A body of literature which had survived for decades, hidden deep within innumerable reams of old newsprint buried in obscure locations at home and abroad, was unearthed, edited, contextualised and published, thus recognising its authors and restoring pride and a sense of dignity to a formerly colonised people.

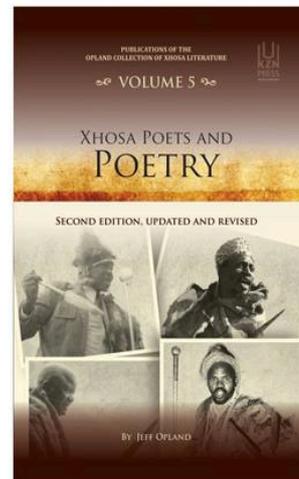
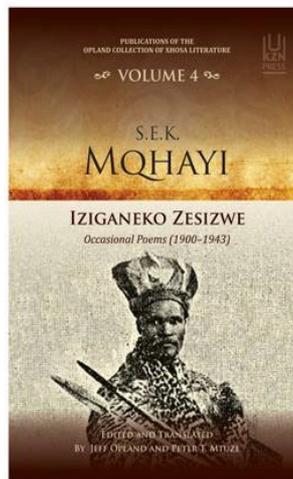
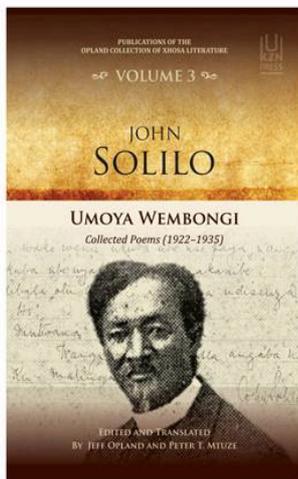
Some of these works include *The Nation's Bounty: The Xhosa Poetry of Nontsizi Mqgqwetho*. Mqgqwetho was the first and only female poet to produce a significant body of work in isiXhosa. The book challenged the view that poetry was the preserve of males and elevated the agency of Xhosa female writers.

Two other important works were *The Dassie and the Hunter*, which chronicles the life and poetry of David Yali-Manisi, an extraordinary Xhosa praise poet, and *Xhosa Oral Poetry*, the first detailed study of the tradition of oral poetry based on actual fieldwork.

This is a tradition that goes back hundreds of years and has evolved to become a feature of many important gatherings in South Africa. It caught the imagination of the world and came to its own during the inauguration of former President Nelson Mandela in 1994."



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Publications of The Opland Collection of Xhosa Literature Volumes 1 to 5 (2015-17)

Just as I was settling down back home in Uskside, news came that the first two volumes in the series I'm producing (with a little help from my friends) had been shortlisted for the annual South African Literary Awards in the category Literary Translators. Both of them won awards. The citation for the first volume, containing the writings of William Wellington Gqoba, read:

“The book William Wellington Gqoba is a great collection of poetry and history. The tapestry it displays shows an incredible connection between culture, language and poetry. This is one book that would be invaluable as we search for the decolonisation of knowledge. Gqoba was trained by missionaries, the colonialists, yet the topics covered by the collection in this volume makes the reader pose questions to that system. The Great Debate on Education, The Xhosa Idioms, the religious debate as well as the history of the Xhosa are relevant topics as we search for relevant knowledge in the contemporary Africa. The book will also enable the reader in Africa a chance to dig deep into Africa's past whilst also trying to understand the Western notions of knowledge. Furthermore, Gqoba's works put into context the reason to fight selfish Eurocentric knowledge.”

And the citation for the second volume, assembling eight historical poems by D.L.P. Yali-Manisi, read:

“The collection is a wonderful collection of historical poems by Yali-Manisi. One cannot help but applaud the work of the translators who have tried to keep the original meaning and expression although not always easy or possible. The collection is great because it supports the oral history mode to tell the African story, this is made more exquisite by the voice of the imbongi. The reader cannot miss Yali-Manisi’s rhythm in the poems, rhythm that reminds one of great Xhosa praise poets such as Mbutuma and Mqhayi. Yali-Manisi tells the history of Mfecane, Mlanjeni’s War and Nongqawuse’s calamity with the expertise of a great story teller and lists the facts like a great historian would. It is the creative prowess of the translators that makes one vouch for the strength of this collection.”

So that’s what I write about, although I wouldn’t have put it quite the same way. If I’d have told you what I write about, I’d have had you yawning in seconds.

Be that as it may, such recent recognition of what I write recedes in the light of my standout achievement of the year: in January I moved from Godalming in Surrey to Brecon, and shortly thereafter transferred to the local Rotary Club, where I’ve been warmly welcomed into the fellowship of the Club. Believe me, those are the real life changers.

- Jeff

## The Zulus visit Brecon

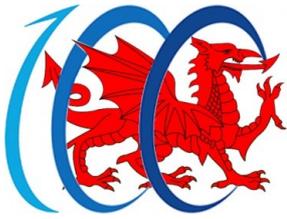
The Friends of the Royal Welsh Regimental Museum in Brecon were very proud to welcome 100 Zulus to Brecon in August. This year is the 135th anniversary of King Cetshwayo’s visit to the UK and his meeting with Queen Victoria after the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879. The Zulus marked this anniversary with a visit to London, tracing the king’s footsteps, and with a series of celebrations in Brecon and Cardiff. Roger and his wife Ann played key roles in organizing and facilitating this visit.

## Mike upward bound



Mike's commitment and hard work for the Club has earned him a Paul Harris Fellowship. As if that were not enough, he has been elected Assistant Governor for Area 8 after an approach from our current AG, Christina Thorpe. He will assume duty as from July 2018. In the meantime he is working closely with Christina to try and establish Satellite Clubs in our area during the current Rotary year. Everyone in the Club congratulates him, and wishes Owen well in his Presidency.

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1917 - 2017



Celebrating 100 years of  
Rotary in Wales

### Bottle Rota

November - **Neil**  
December - **Terry Stephens**  
December - **Paul**  
December - **Barry**  
December - No Meeting  
January - No Meeting  
8 January - **Andrew**



Hayley takes the cup!



Crickhowell petanque – no results available

### Speakers

- 27 November - Gaynor Madgwick on Aberfan
- 22 January - Julie Williams, Regional Fundraising Manager, Ty hafan
- 26 February - Katie Evans, report back on Guides grant
- 26 March - Roy Garnell BEM\* on anti-terror duty during the Troubles
- 23 April - Julian Atkins, new CEO, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

