



# BRUIN

## Brecon Rotary Update Information News



Photo: Derek with David & Onwell, the two students on the first RYLA course. Derek is the smallest one in the middle (photo by Pippa I assume)

### COMMITTEE COMMENTS NEW GENERATION

As immediate past President Derek could reasonably have believed that he would be entering calmer waters particularly at the start of the new Rotary year. No such luck however as can be seen in the photograph above. Derek, together with Phillipa, found themselves involved in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards visiting Dol-y-Coed to enjoy a barbecue at the end of one of the courses. This year our Club has sponsored six students participating during the last two weeks of July and the first week of August. All the students expressed their appreciation at having taken part on the course and two students in subsequent correspondence have confirmed an interest in Rotary. Indeed, David from Gwernyfed High School is very keen to raise funds within the school for the Rotary Polio-Plus project. The Club has sponsored young students to attend RYLA for a number of years and it is a clear opportunity for the Club to

project Rotary within the school environment.

Last year's Youth Speakers Evening was extremely successful and the Club is organising a similar evening for 15th October. The RYLA students and other young people whom the Club have sponsored will be invited to speak.

Again this year the Club is busy organising Young Chef and Young Musician competitions. January 17th 2013 has been pencilled in as a date for the local round of the Young Chef competition at Gwernyfed High School. Last year we held the Young Musician competition at Christ College, Brecon. It is unlikely however that this venue will be available this year as a result of new building works. The venue will be determined shortly and with a view to holding the competition around the middle of November.

The biennial Drama Festival that the club organises will be held in the spring of 2013. The three local schools

### Dates for your Diary

**Saturday 1st September**

*Sennybridge Show - Shelterbox*

**Monday 3rd September**

*Business meeting*

**Sunday 9th September**

*Huntingdon House BBQ*

**Monday 10th September**

*Dinner*

**Monday 17th September**

*Borderers Museum visit*

**Monday 24th September**

*Dinner - speaker*

**Tuesday 25th September**

*Council meeting*

### Bottle Rota

**Monday 3rd September**

*Maurice Parry*

**Monday 10th September**

*Ian Richards*

**Monday 17th September**

*Ian Roberts*

**Monday 24th September**

*Terry Stephens*

**Monday 1st October**

*Mike Stratford*



participated in 2011 and it is hoped that Crickhowell High School will participate once again joining Gwernyfed High School, Brecon High School and Christ College to showcase their talent by



performing in a professional environment.

The Young Photographer 2013 competition is open to students aged from 7 years to 17 years. Brecon club competition entries are to be submitted before 15th March 2013 and the winners will be announced by 21st April 2013. Full details of all Youth activities can be found on the club website [www.breconrotary.com](http://www.breconrotary.com)

Terry Dewan

**SPEAKERS CORNER**

Our speaker on Monday 20th August was Hayley Ridge-Evans, wife of Mike Evans. She is the director of operations for Prime Cymru

which is the Prince of Wales's initiative for mature enterprises (he is the founder and President).

They develop new initiatives to persuade employers that older people's experience and skills are a valuable asset and can make a real difference to the success of Welsh businesses

**AMUSING ANECDOTE**

Will tells his boss " I'm not well today I can't come in to work" Boss - When I'm ill I go home and make mad passionate love to my wife and I'm cured. Next day Will turns up to work and his boss asks how he is. Will replies - "Much better - and you have a nice house

boss!"

The film director, the late Billy Wilder when told that an abrasive film critic was going to review his latest film commented "It's like asking the Boston strangler for a neck massage"

MauriceParry

**In Next Months Issue**

Nick Morrell  
Photo for the Month

Barry Tomlinson  
Presidents update



**Photo for the Month from Gareth Griffiths**

This is a picture of me on top of Llangors Hill on Boxing Day. Every year a group of us walk from Bwlch to Llangors – ending up in the local pub. It is a tradition that has been going for many years. I find it is a chance to walk, talk and catch up with friends during the festive season. All my family walk (hangover included) – apart from mother in law who heads straight for the pub!! and I really enjoy their

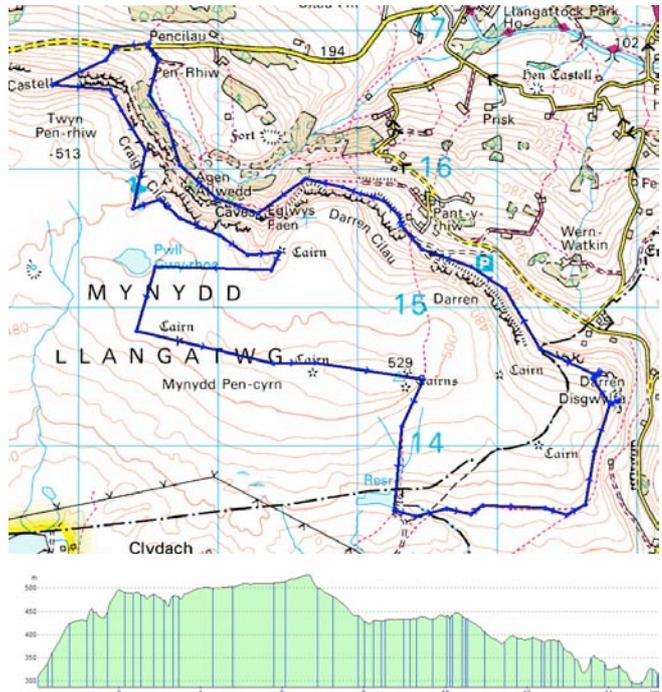
company and the shared experience. It is good to walk the turkey off and blow away the cobwebs although there is usually someone who offers the mince pies and a nip of something to keep out the cold!! People of all ages and paces mix together – some people like to yomp and some are more strollers – my children are usually much quicker than us as Liz likes to keep stopping to enjoy the view. The scenery is always stunning and the weather is never the same from year to year, we have walked in wind, rain, hail, snow and brilliant sunshine but always enjoyed it and have a great sense of achievement in the end.

I have spent most of my adult life in this area and a trip up Llangors Hill is a must at different times of the year. I find the place peaceful and calming and love to look down on the lake and survey the fields carefully monitoring what the farmers are doing.



### WALK IN WALES - A TEN MILE CIRCULAR LLANGATTOCK MOUNTAIN WALK

This walk is just under ten miles and takes a good five hours but is well worth the effort as it has many interesting features. The start is by the cattle grid outside Llangattock on the road leading to the B4560 mountain road between Llangynidr and Beaufort. This road is the highest B road in Wales and over fifty years ago I used to travel along it daily from Llangattock when working for RTB in Ebbw Vale.



Andrew & The Lonely shepherd - The one behind!

The path leads up onto the escarpment which runs around the northern and eastern edges of the mountain which is basically a big lump of limestone honeycombed with some of the longest cave systems in Britain. The summit plateau is flat boggy moorland and on the south side is the Clydach Gorge, birthplace of the Welsh iron industry. Celtic tribes fought bloody battles on the plateau and left memorials to their dead in the form of burial cairns. When you first reach the plateau you are rewarded with wonderful views of a hidden valley, the Waun Ddu bog which is a nature reserve almost 500 feet below and also in the distance the Sugarloaf and Black Mountains at the far side of the Usk valley.

A detour to the right into a small shallow valley leads to the largest shakehole I have ever seen, formed when the surface rocks collapsed into a cavern formed by water erosion. In wet weather two streams disappear into this shakehole to the



Shakehole

caves below. The next point of interest is the Llangatwg Swallet where a mountain stream disappears into boulders and reappears at the bottom of the Clydach Gorge on the other side of the mountain. Above is a large cairn which is the remains of an old burial chamber.

Go west to the lake Pwll-Gwy-rhoc which is not obvious as it lies hidden in the middle of the plateau. It occupies the site where the Mercians



were defeated in 728 AD by the men of Morgannwg in what is described in ancient manuscripts as a blood bath. It's a spooky place known locally as the Witches' Pool and the water is sometimes blood red and never still. There are or were burial cairns on every high point all around. Head south east to a ridge and then east passing several cairns until you reach the summit at Twr Pen-cyrn where there are two large burial cairns, a trig point and fine views in all directions.



The Bloreng

A faint path (not as clear as the OS map would have it!) leads to the dam of a disused reservoir which you cross, turn left and follow an old tramroad (built to carry limestone to the iron-works in Nantyglo) with wonderful views eastwards. Pass a lonely house down below and take the right hand fork of a three-way junction leading to the Lonely Shepherd which is an un-quarried pinnacle of rock showing how much has been removed. Take care passing a vertical quarried cliff and explore the fine trench quarry and other workings nearby.

Heading west-north-west towards the obvious cliffs you meet a stony track dropping down to a gap in the fenced corridor of a gas pipeline. Climb gently towards the cliffs until you join a tramroad then cross a spoilheap to a higher tramroad (there were lots in this area!) which links all the Llangattock quarries on this stretch



Rock fall

of the escarpment. There are several cave entrances in these rock faces. One narrow passage leads to the famous Ogof y Darren-Cilau cave which comes out on the other side of the mountain. There are over 30 kilometres of passages and a huge cavern 30 metres wide and 45 metres high known as the Time Machine. Follow the track along the base of the cliffs past Pinnacle Bay and make your way round to the left to enter the Craig y Cilau Nature Reserve with stunning views. Pass several entrances to the cave called Eglwys Faen (Stone Church) and further on one to Ogof Agen Allwedd, a cave system with 35 kilometres of explored passage. A waymarked path then leads to the Waun Ddu bog, a Nature Reserve information board and the starting point by the cattle grid.



Andrews walking partner

Andrew Wakley

### Thanks to our Contributors



**Terry Dewan**  
for New Generation report



**Gareth Griffiths**  
for Photo of the Month



**Andrew Wakley**  
for Walk in Wales



**Maurice Parry**  
for Amusing Anecdote