



# Bruin

District 1150



BRECON ROTARY UPDATE, INFORMATION, NEWS

August 2008

President MAURICE PARRY  
Vice President ANTHONY EDWARDS

## A Room with a View

The Charter Night in the Ballroom at the George Hotel was an enjoyable affair, with John Hopkins handing over the chain of office to Maurice, and Maurice in turn handing over the Vice Chairman's ribbon to Anthony Edwards. Martin Dean, Zone Assistant Governor presented the Club with the Best Club in the District Award, which was a surprise to say the least. (It makes you wonder about the other 73 clubs!) There were the minimum of speeches, but what was said was just enough with John saying that he had enjoyed his year, and Maurice saying how committed he was to making the coming year a good one. After the formalities, Maurice introduced Meirion Wyn Jones, the highly talented Assistant Organist at Brecon Cathedral. He sang some lovely Welsh Songs and some familiar English ones, such as the one which heads this article. Meirion said that he had entered a Rotary Public Speaking Contest 20 years ago. We all thought Maurice had made an inspirational choice of speaker, and what a tenor voice!

### JOHN SCORES TWICE.

John Nancarrow masterminded two fund raising events for the Club recently. His team collected £450 by selling raffle tickets for a £100 hamper at the Co-op in aid of Jaipur Limb Project, and his other team earned £397 by selling programmes on the Eppynt for the Quinton Car Rally. In the event the £100 winner donated his prize to Usk House.

### Hello Dalai!

Our speaker on 14<sup>th</sup> July was Ruth Packard who is a graduate of the School of Oriental Studies in London. Ruth moved to Brecon about four years ago and is something of an authority on Tibet, particularly its social and political history. She was introduced to the 17 members present by Andrew Wakley and took us on a quick canter through the fascinating history of Tibet from the earliest times to the present day. She illustrated her talk by passing around a number of old photographs and postcards of the country and some taken on a visit she made in 2006. Although much of Tibet is a high altitude arid plain the east of the country is very fertile and agriculture predominates. Parts of the country are very beautiful. The Tibetans are an ethnically distinct race and have lived in the area from prehistoric times. The silk road ran to the north of the country and fostered early trading links. In the 9<sup>th</sup> C a treaty with China recognised both as sovereign nations. Buddhism arrived via China in the 7<sup>th</sup> C and has, more than anything, shaped Tibet's society right up to the present day. Much of the country's wealth has gone into monasteries to support the very large proportion of the population who become monks and nuns and there is a reluctance to modernise despite British persuasion. Ruth described the Tibetans as a lively and energetic people with an independence of spirit – possibly it is the latter which has endeared them to the British! Since the communists came to power in China there has been much suppression and suffering in Tibet. 6000 monasteries were reduced to rubble during the Cultural Revolution and many monks and nuns were murdered. 'Re-education' is still going on although not much is heard about it in the west and news of dissent is suppressed. Ruth's talk instigated a number of questions from the floor and she was thanked for her talk by John Hopkins.

Contributed by R Doylend.  
Thanks a lot, Richard





**Bottle Rota**

- Aug 4th-Ian Richards
- Aug 11th-Peter Scott
- Aug 18th-Terry Stephens
- Aug 25th- no meeting
- Sep 1st-Brian Strawford
- Sep 8th-Barry Tomlinson
- Sep 15th-Mike Tompkinson
- Sep 22nd-John Wiggins
- Sep 29th-Bob Wood

**Rotarian of the month-2**

John Morrell is now an honorary member but is also our only remaining founder Rotarian. He came to Brecon in 1952 from Kings Lynn, because a fellow partner in Stevenson, Smart and Sons, Accountants, Wyndham J James by name, fancied returning to Wales and asked John to come to join him in a new branch in Brecon. and he agreed, with no regrets.



**SORRY, ROB**

Imagine the horror on the face of the manager of the George Hotel who had brought in an extra chef to deal with the Rotary Breakfast scheduled for the 21st July, when only 8 Rotarians arrived, and he had received only 1 apology (from Hywel Davies). He has now been given a sheet with all our names on it and columns for future Mondays. **Please visit or ring** the George Hotel (01874-623422) to make your intentions clear for whatever forthcoming period you deem appropriate.. We owe this to our long-suffering Manager, who up until now has uttered the mildest of complaints.

When asked what his proudest moments have been, he mentions the starting of our Caledonian Market, the object being to raise money for a swimming pool since children were often drowning in the river at that time. He remembers that the yield at the first one was £450! He also takes pride in creating with a friend the Cradoc Golfcourse having the courage and conviction to buy Pennoyre before the demolition men had the same opportunity. He has been Treasurer of our Club for a record 30 years (Nick take note), hence there was no time for John to be President of the Club.

The Death of Pearl Rich

Those of us who remember Ray and Pearl Rich will regret the passing of Pearl. (Ray was a member of the club from 1961 until he died a couple of years ago.) They were a devoted pair, and Pearl always came with him to the events such as Youth Speaks and Young Musician. Ray's family first settled in Brecon in 1839, when Solomon Rich, a soldier in the Gloucestershire Regiment arrived here.

Of Brecon, John says that he likes it a lot but it is supposed to be quiet and sedate, not raucous as it sometimes is nowadays. He likes being in Rotary too, but like Maurice last month, says that we have not enough young blood, and we urgently need to remedy this. His favourite piece of music is the Lost Chord, and his favourite sports team is Sunderland FC, John having been born in that famous North East of England town. John's most memorable holiday was in 1965 when he went for a week with a pal to St Andrews and was actually successful in the ballot to play on the famous Old Course. Unfortunately, at one of the holes he took 14 shots to get out of the bunker....so maybe memorable for the wrong reason, eh, John.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- Wednesday 6th August from 6pm  
Bowls versus Probus (bring a plate of eats)
- Thursday 14th August 7pm  
Visit to Treberfydd with wives for a tour, wine and finger buffet. *First come basis*
- Wednesday 20th August 7.30pm  
Council. Venue to be announced later
- Monday 22nd September  
Robert MacDonald, Artist

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Price of a litre of petrol/diesel at 28th July :-  
Petrol 115.9 pence/ Diesel 129.9pence