

Bruin



edited by peter.jenkins18@btinternet.com

DISTRICT 1150

BRECON ROTARY UPDATE, INFORMATION, NEWS

October 2009

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

On 23rd September, a grand occasion took place in the Castle of Brecon Hotel, (now under the impressive new ownership of Rotarian Hugh Jones of Crickhowell). The organising committee of the President, Brian Matthews, Hywel Davies and Maurice Parry had arranged a glittering banquet in the ballroom, and it was said that there were 91 seated there. Among the guests was the President of RIBI, David Fowler, and also the District Governor, Bob Higgins and the Mayor of Brecon, Councillor Ieuan Williams. The widows of 7 former Brecon Rotarians were also present, but unfortunately John Morrell, the last surviving founder member still in the Club was not, because he had been admitted into hospital a few days earlier. At the end of the dinner and speeches, (The RIBI President telling a good joke about tennis balls!) people watched the twenty year old video recording lasting 13 minutes of the concert Brecon Rotary had held for Probus. This showing had been arranged by Terry and Linda Dewan. It was hilarious to see some of us in our halcyon days in unusual costume and performing the songs of a variety of eras, and a jolly way to end the celebration of fifty years of Rotary in Brecon..

President ANTHONY EDWARDS
Vice President PAT BUTLER



Jottings from September Council

At the Crickhowell Club on 5th November, there is to be a visit from the Rotarian from Helston who started the shelter box project. If anyone wants to go and hear him, they should ring Brian Cox on 01873-812039

Help is needed by Ebbw Vale club to assist with the National Eisteddfod which runs from 31st July to 7th August 2010. Those willing to help should attend a meeting at Civic Offices, Ebbw on 14th October at 6.30pm

The SEED charity which helps equip some schools in Tanzania was appealing for funds following a serious fire in Idodi which razed the school to the ground, killed 12 pupils and injured another 24.



Forthcoming Events

PLEASE TELL THE GEORGE HOTEL IF YOU ARE NOT COMING TO A MEETING (01874-623422) or E mail on enquiries@george-hotel.com

Sept 28th- Evening meeting 7.30pm with RYLA participants to speak

Sept 30th Indoor bowls versus Probus 6.30pm Leisure Centre. Buffet later

Oct 5th-Business meeting 7.30pm The golf match with Crickhowell Rotarians that day means that there will be visitors

Oct 12th. Evening meeting. Quiz against Abertillery Rotary . Buffet meal, and wives are invited

Oct 19th-Breakfast meeting 8am

Oct 26th-Evening meeting with speaker, yet to be arranged

Nov 2nd-Business meeting 7.30pm

Nov 6th/7th Caledonian Market (see overleaf)



Rotarian of the Month –16
GERALD JONES



BRECON CALEDONIAN MARKET

The name comes from the Islington cattle and general market established in 1855, but which closed at the start of World War II . It was especially noted for miscellaneous second-hand goods, and was much frequented by bargain hunters. That is a pretty good description of what will happen on November 7th in Brecon Market Hall. Thanks to the diligence of a prominent Rotarian, (no names but we all know who this is) the event has built up into quite a big thing. 25 years ago, if you look at the file, Aurwen Davies wrote to all Rotarian wives inviting them to a meeting a few days before the first saturday in November so that they could agree what help in running the market they would give to their husbands. In that year, the yield was £ 1282. Last year we topped £7000, and it was a matter of all hands on deck, with the weeks preceding the event being the time when collections of all manner of saleable (and non-saleable) items were collected. Every able-bodied Brecon Rotarian is asked to turn up at the Market Hall in the early evening of 6th November, be available to man a stall on the 7th (doors open at noon), and if possible commit themselves in the previous fortnight to collecting some of the stuff. Handel and Gareth (pictured below at the turn of the century) are the collection captains. Additional help from family and friends is welcomed.

Gerald is a Llangorse boy, and was brought up on a farm, but when he was 15 his mother died, and he came into Brecon to live with his aunt and uncle. He always had a head for business , and went to work as an apprentice to Jack Brookes of Brookes Radio. By the time he was 25 , the business was his and he has made a great success of it subsequently. If you ask Gerald about his major achievement, he would probably say that raising two wonderful daughters and having a happy home life had been more important than the business (one of his daughters put these words in his mouth-*Ed*). When asked for his opinion of 21st Century Brecon, he strongly believes that the planners have taken the heart out of it. The general trading environment has deteriorated, and traffic hold-ups are common, making the centre of the town less enticing and less prosperous.. He hopes things will improve. As for the Rotary Club of Brecon, the lack of younger people showing an interest in joining the club saddens Gerald, and he questions its future in consequence. For his part, the aims of Rotary International and the help that Rotary gives to people less fortunate are reasons for staying with it. Gerald has been a Member of the club since 1975 and has been happy to be a foot soldier throughout. He picks out ocean cruising as his favourite sort of holiday, and he has travelled widely in the western hemisphere. The Halleluiah Chorus from Handel’s Messiah may claim to be Gerald’s favourite piece of music for a variety of reasons ranging from a noisy youngest grandchild to being an active member of Watergate Baptist Chapel. {Perhaps Handel’s Water music should come in second}. When younger, Gerald indulged in clay and game pigeon shooting, but now, like most of the rest of us, enjoyable sport consists of watching Wales doing well at rugby on the telly. In answer to the question which relates to the subject’s opinion of the world today and where we will be to-morrow, Gerald raises his eyes up to heaven, and says he will keep his thoughts on this for his autobiography.



In more modest days

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| Price of a litre of petrol /diesel at 30th Sept Petrol 107.9.9 pence Diesel 107.9 pence |
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| To access the Rotary District Web site, go straight to www.rotary1150.org . To reach the Main site, try www.rotary-ribi.org There you can click on <i>Districts</i> on side menu |
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