

Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press
Gaeaf 2015 - Winter 2015



www.ottawawelsh.com

Llywydd / President: John Price
Editor / Golygydd: Marilyn E. Jenkins

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda – Bonne Annee – Happy New Year

Sywdogion Y Gymdeithas/ *Officers of the Society*

President/Llywydd:

John Price

john.price@sympatico.ca

Vice-President/Is-Lywydd:

vacant

Secretary/Ysgrifennydd:

Marilyn Jenkins

marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca

Treasurer/Trysorydd:

Alison Lawson

alisonlawson@rogers.com

Membership/Aelodaeth:

Sian Jones

sianwynn@hotmail.com

Members at Large:

Gaye Brittle

rgbrittle@hotmail.com

Wendy Wynne-Jones

w.wynne-jones@sympatico.ca

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Y Gymdeithas ar y We / The Society on the Net:

www.ottawawelsh.com



Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa

**GAIR Y LLYWYDD/
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Blwyddyn newydd dda ichi gyd.
Happy new year to everyone.

As you will see from the pages of this issue, your Society has been active in the last four months and intends to be at least equally active in the coming months. It is even possible that a further pub night can be organized before our AGM, which also features a quiz and takes place at a congenial hostelry, is held in May.

It is at the AGM that a new Executive Committee is elected and, even if the current members of the Executive all agree to stay in office and continue to run the Society's affairs for another year, we are beginning to feel the pressure of the years and the efforts expended on behalf of the Society. I believe that the current members of the Executive derive a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction from the Society's activities and from helping to organize them; I know I do. However, a time comes when even the most uncomplaining of people feel that the return on the effort invested is no longer what it once was and that they would appreciate some new blood and the support of others.

This is, therefore, an appeal to all who read this issue of *Y Bwletin* to give some serious thought to joining the Executive, or at least to helping organize the events, which remain generally popular. New ideas and new faces would be very welcome. After all, many hands make light work and it is better that those helping hands appear before there are none left to do the work.

While we have not reached that particular stage yet, it must be acknowledged that if there is no renewal in the Executive and no encouragement for new people to join the Society, the OWS may have to consider disbanding, which is not, I am sure, what most of its current members wish to see.

You have long since made your New Year's Resolutions and may even have broken some of them, but can you nevertheless resolve at this time to give some very serious thought to what you can do to help out the Society in 2015, and possibly even take appropriate action?

I look forward to seeing you at our events in the next few months.

JOHN PRICE

Digwyddiadau/Events:

January 30 Reception BHC Dylan Thomas

February 28 St. David's Day Luncheon

March 1 St. David's Day Gymanfa Ganu

Pub night and quiz

23 September saw over a dozen OWS members gather in the Peter Divine Room at the Heart & Crown on Clarence St. in the Byward Market to eat, drink and answer quiz questions concerning all aspects of Welsh life. While the quiz was not conducted in a formal way (in fact it probably seemed downright anarchic to any non-members of the Society who happened to wander into that room), the shrieks of laughter and general merriment emanating from the OWS tables indicated that people were having a good time. The quiz-master now needs to renew his stock of questions for the St David's Day Luncheon and future such convivial evenings and hopes to find some to which "Brecon" is not the answer, though he cannot, for the life of him, think what other answers there could possibly be in a quiz about Wales.

JOHN PRICE

Noson Lawen

Numbers attending this year's Noson Lawen on 22 November were down from those of recent years: around 70 people attended the event held in the hall at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Faggots and sausages, mushy peas, mashed potatoes and (not on the same plates) apple pie and ice cream were consumed with gusto and in large quantities. The meal was expertly prepared by Catrin and Ian Morris, Wendy Wynne Jones kept track of the numbers attending and their payments, the usual suspects ran the bar.

The crowd singing *Mae hen wlad fy nhadau*



Alan Thomas organized the Noson Lawen portion of the evening, ensuring that there was a broad range of entertainment on offer from members and non-members, and accompanied many of the numbers. A huge thank you is here expressed to the Committee members for their hard work in ensuring that the event would go ahead as well as to all those who set up the hall and all who pitched in to return chairs, tables and the temporary stage back to where they belonged, who helped serve the meals and clear up afterwards, those who strutted their stuff to entertain the audience members and all others who contributed in any way to the success of the evening, rousingly expressed in an enthusiastic rendition of *Mae'r Hen Wlad fy Nhadau* at the end of the proceedings.

JOHN PRICE



John Griffiths,
tenor



Marilyn Jenkins,
soprano

Carol Service

The Society's annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in the afternoon of 14 December, a pleasantly mild day ... in contrast to the weather on the dates scheduled for our Carol Services in recent years. The attendance of about 50 was down somewhat from figures achieved since moving the service to the afternoon but the reduced numbers in no way detracted from the enthusiasm and musicality of the proceedings.

Rev. Neil Wallace, retired Minister of Cityview United Church, presided over the service, at which a solo, *Ar gyfr heddiwr bore*, was presented by Marilyn Jenkins, accompanied by Gaye Brittle, and the Westminster occasional choir/Cor alltudio Westminster, accompanied by Alan Thomas, sang *O Deued, pob Cristion* and *Telynau aur y nef*.

Many thanks to readers Geraint Lewis, Wendy Wynne Jones, Eirwen Thomson, Robert Price, Rhiannon Power, Lezlie Wood, Jean Howard and John Price who read the traditional portions of scripture prophesying and describing the birth of Christ and its immediate aftermath and, in true Welsh style, many verses of the carols were sung in harmony.

Following the service, refreshments provided by many of those attending were served in the church hall where good wishes of the season and good fellowship were shared.

JOHN PRICE

FREE BOOKS ON THE GEOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND RAILWAYS OF WALES

A number of books on Wales focusing on the geography, geology and railways of Wales - in particular Mid-Wales- are available to any member interested in these topics. The collection includes many volumes on the Cambrian Railway; the geography of Radnorshire; the History of Wales and an Atlas Brecheiniog (a Welsh Atlas of Breconshire) .They are part of the estate of David Hammonds, formerly of Aberdovey, Wales, who died recently in Merrickville.

Please contact Alison Lawson for further details at 613-725-2704 or
alisonlawson@rogers.com

A CELEBRATION OF DYLAN THOMAS

*Please join us
at the
British High Commission
to honour Dylan Thomas and
his contribution to the prose
and poetry of Wales*

Friday, January 30th, 2015

*5.30p.m.-7.30p.m.
Cash Bar*

Location :
British High Commission
80 Elgin Street
Ottawa K1P 5K7

Please Note:

- ☐ This event has limited space, guest list will be allocated on a first-reply basis
- ☐ No parking is available on site
- ☐ This invitation is non-transferable. **It is essential to RSVP**

RSVP to Wendy Wynne Jones by
Sunday, January 25th at:
w.wynne-jones@sympatico.ca
or phone 613- 260-7763

Close by the Sea: The Music from Celtic and Nordic Islands

Mary Muckle and her talented associates will present a concert on Sunday, March 1, at 8pm, St. Luke's Anglican Church, 766 Somerset St. W.

Mary Muckle, harp & harpsichord
Virginia Dunsby, flute
Doug Brierley, violin
Julie Leduc, harp

The Ottawa Youth Harp Ensemble and a special guest appearance by **Cantorion Cerdd Dant**.

Admission is by donation.

For further information, please contact

Patagonia Celebrates

We have received notice of a big celebration happening in Patagonia in 2015. As part of the 150th Anniversary of the Welsh town of Trevelin, a special group walking tour is planned for November, with a fund-raising component.

The Welsh communities in the Andes have officially invited Rhys Meirion and Cerddwn Ymlaen to bring 150 people from Wales to Patagonia to raise money to help two of Rhys' passions – the survival and increased use of the Welsh language in Patagonia and organ donation in Wales, in memory of his sister Elen.

Check out details of the walk at:

<http://www.teithiautango.co.uk/index.php/en/special-group-tours/66-cerddwnymlaen>

**Gwledd Dydd Gwyl Dewi /
St. David's Day Banquet
Saturday, February 28th, 2015**

We will once again have the pleasure of celebrating Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant/St. David's Day with a luncheon banquet in the gracious surroundings of the Royal Ottawa Golf Club.

Please join us to honor our patron saint while enjoying good fellowship and excellent food. Our guest speaker will be Melanie Courtmanche, a Francophone graduate in Celtic Studies (primarily Welsh) of the University of Ottawa. She received a Master's degree for a thesis on Welsh poet/artist David Jones. Melanie has also travelled and studied in Wales.

This will be followed by a short recital by the **Ottawa Choral Society Ensemble** who will delight us with a variety of songs. The OCS Ensemble is a fund-raising venture of the Ottawa Choral Society, one of Canada's prominent symphonic choruses. Small ensembles of 8-20 choristers sing for various special events. I am sure you will recognise three Cymraes in the group.

Time:

Reception 11:30 am - 12:20 pm
Lunch Banquet 12:30 pm

Venue:

The Royal Ottawa Golf Club
1405 Aylmer Road,
Gatineau, Quebec, J9H 7L2

Menu: This year we are offering a choice of chicken or vegetarian meal.

Cost: \$49 each, before **February 13th**,
\$55 each thereafter.

Dress code: Business casual - no jeans or cargo pants.



OTTAWA CHORAL SOCIETY ENSEMBLE

Featured artists at the 2015 St David's Day Luncheon

The OCS Ensemble is a fund-raising venture of the Ottawa Choral Society, one of Canada's prominent symphonic choruses. Small ensembles of 8-20 choristers sing for various special events. Over the Christmas season they can be found in shopping malls where they both entertain and raise funds for the general operation of the choir. The group recently participated in the Victorian Christmas celebration at Fairfields, part of the Nepean Museum. Past performances include birthdays, weddings, memorial services and conferences.

The Ottawa Choral Society is fast approaching its 75th anniversary. In addition to its subscription series, the choir is a regular guest of the NAC Orchestra and a collaborative partner of the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra.

For more information about the Ottawa Choral Society, please visit their web site at <http://www.ottawachoralsociety.com/>

ALISON LAWSON

Please complete the reservation form found at the end of this Bwletin, and return to Marilyn Jenkins before February 14th to benefit from the early bird price and preferred seating.

CELTIC MTL 2015

May 2-3 2015

Concordia University, Montreal

Celtic MTL 2015 is a convention set up to promote and educate the population about the Celtic Nations.

This convention will have numerous Celtic societies and organizations which will be present to showcase their heritage, and introduce themselves to people who are interested in learning more about their Celtic background or even Celtic culture in general. Furthermore, this show will be comprised of artists, musicians, guest speakers, and performances by locals and visitors from outside of Montreal.

The Ottawa Welsh Society will have a display and Dr Paul Birt will be giving a talk. The convention will be taking place in the downtown campus of Concordia University both in the EV and Library buildings.

There will also be demonstrations of song, dance, literature, and culture during the course of the day in the DeSeve Cinema located inside the LB building.

There will be associations from across the country who will attend this event.

Please come out for this historical weekend event where you will have the chance to meet the entire Celtic Nation in one giant setting! You might be surprised what you learn and or discover about your own background.

For more information, please go to the convention website at
<http://www.montrealcelticsociety.org/mtl-celtique-2015--celtic-mtl-2015.html>

If anyone is interested in helping with the OWS display for the weekend, please contact Alison Lawson at 613-725-2704 or

TRAVELS IN WALES

We're sure Ottawa Welsh Society members will be pleased to read of the recent travels in Wales by Robert Lloyd, son of Geoff and Barbara Lloyd.

Geoff and Barbara are long-time members of the society and Robert was our 'techie in shining armour' who helped us set up the original OWS website way back when.

He has recently been travelling the world including a visit to Wales. You will find out how Wales looks through the eyes of a first-generation Canadian by visiting his site:

<http://stophavingaboringlife.com/?s=wales>

ALISON LAWSON

REMINDER

All Ottawa Welsh Society memberships are due for renewal on March 1, 2015.

Single \$10

Family \$20

Please complete the form (available on the web site and in this newsletter) and send it to:

Alison Lawson
449 Mansfield Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K2A 2S6

N.B. Please ensure your email address is correct.

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL NIAGARA FALLS

April 24-26, 2015

We invite the Ottawa Welsh community to join us in beautiful Niagara Falls for a very special weekend celebrating our Welsh heritage and culture.

We are returning to the lovely Marriott Gateway on the Falls Hotel where we have the same fantastic hotel rates as last year- \$125 city view, and \$145 Fallsview per night, double occupancy. Please note that the deadline for reserving at these rates is MARCH 24. Why don't you call to reserve your room right now directly with the hotel at 1-905-374-1077 or toll free at 1-800-618-9059.

We are thrilled to welcome our 2015 Guest Choir, **Côr Rhuthun**, a mixed voice choir from Denbighshire, North Wales under the leadership of the renowned Welsh composer, **Robat Arwyn**, with accompanist Mair Jones and soloists Kate Griffiths and Meirion Wyn Jones. This concert is going to be a musical delight. The choir won the main competition for mixed choirs in the National Eisteddfod six times and their soloists are also National Eisteddfod winners. The choir has made many appearances on television and radio over the years. They have also released 7 recordings. To top it all, they are directed by Robat Arwyn, who is a legend in Wales. I'm sure everyone will recognize the names of his songs, such as *Yfory*, *Gwin Beaujolais*, *Benedictus* (a duet arrangement sung by Bryn Terfel and Rhys Meirion), *Atgof o'r Sêr* and *Brenin y Ser*.

Other must-see events at the 2015 Festival are:

□ The Sunday Cymanfaoedd Canu, led by Robat Arwyn accompanied by our own Alan Thomas. This is really the heart and soul of the Festival, so please come and sing your heart out!

□ The Friday evening where you can be part of the entertainment.

□ The Saturday morning **Awr Y Plant**, showcasing the talents of our children under the exceptional leadership of Hefina Phillips.

□ The fifth annual Gold Award presentation at the Saturday evening where your presence will help to make that event extra special.

□ Welcoming tea on Friday afternoon, during which Ottawa's harpist, Mary Muckle will be providing a soothing backdrop.

Why don't you bring your children or grandchildren along to enjoy the fun?

For more information, please see

www.ontariowelshfestival.ca

or e-mail us at

president@ontariowelshfestival.ca

or

alisonlawson@rogers.com

or phone Alison Lawson at 613-725-2704

ALISON LAWSON

**Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir
coming to town!**

The **Ottawa Celtic Choir** is pleased to announce that they will be presenting a joint concert with the **Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir**.

Date: April 11, 2015

Location: All Saints Anglican Church, 347 Richmond Road, Ottawa

Time: Concert starts at 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm.

Tickets: \$20 for adults, \$18 for students

This promises to be an excellent event. Please come and support it.

For further details, contact Ellen MacIsaac
ellen@laughingbrook.ca
or by phone at 613-552-3964.

UPDATE

The Rev. Clifford and Christine Evans have moved to Port Perry, Ontario to live closer to their children.

The Evans have been a fixture in the OWS for many years. We celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with them, and then their 60th.

Clifford was the chaplain for the OWS for many years. He was a cheerful and welcome sight at all the official functions of the Society.

The inevitable physical infirmities and the challenges of Ottawa's winters led to a reduction in their participation in various activities, but they continued to support the Society as they were able.

We wish the Evanses much joy in their new home and good health for many years to come. Let us know when the 70th Anniversary comes along, Cliff and Christine!

Editor's note:

Christine has asked that we give out the following contact information:

cliffordevans0@gmail.com

HAPPY NEWS

Laurie Jenkins and Rob Woods recently became grandparents for the second time, when Laurie's daughter, Sandra Stringer-Conlon gave birth to a lovely, big boy, Quinto Rowly Thomas, named after two of his great-grandfathers. Congratulations to Sandra, John, Laurie, Rob, Margaret (Conlon) and the rest of the clans on both sides!

Many will remember Sandra singing at the National Gymanfa in 2000, here in Ottawa. She is currently on leave from her teaching position at the University of Lethbridge.

St. David's Day Luncheon Reservation Form 2015

February 28, 2015 at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer, Qc

Note: Early bird deadline is (**received by**) February 13, 2015 with each meal costing \$49.

After the deadline, the meal cost will be \$55.

There are two choices for the meal; regular and vegetarian.

Every effort will be made to seat you with your friends if your reservation is received by February 13, 2015.

Please complete a section for **each participant**.

Name _____

☐ Regular lunch ☐ Vegetarian lunch

Please list any special needs: _____

****Please indicate any food allergies or sensitivities:** _____

Name _____

☐ Regular lunch ☐ Vegetarian lunch

Please list any special needs: _____

Please indicate any food allergies or sensitivities: _____

Summary:

_____ regular meals @ \$49 (early bird) _____ or \$55 after February 15, 2014 _____

_____ vegetarian meals @ \$49 (early bird) _____ or \$55 after February 15, 2014 _____

Total enclosed: _____

Friends with whom we would like to share a table: _____

Please include a cheque made out to the Ottawa Welsh Society.

Completed forms and cheques may be mailed to:

Marilyn Jenkins, 267 McClellan Road, Nepean, ON K2H 8N7

Questions may be emailed to : marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca or phoned to 613-820-6687

20150107

OTTAWA WELSH SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2015

Please complete all areas to ensure our information is up-to-date and send the form with your membership fee, as indicated below.

Name _____
Spouse/Partner _____
Children/other family members _____

Address _____
Street _____
City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____
Telephone (____)-____-____ Alternate phone (____)-____-____
Email address(es) _____

****Would you like to receive Y BWLETIN and notice of events by email? Yes___ No ___**

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP _____ @ \$20.00.....\$ _____
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP _____ @ \$10.00 EA.....\$ _____

Please choose one of the following options for remittance:

Send directly to treasurer:

Alison Lawson
449 Mansfield Avenue
Ottawa, ON
K2A 2S6

OR

Send **with** reservation for the St. David's Day Luncheon to:

Marilyn Jenkins
267 McClellan Road
Nepean, ON
K2H 8N7

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