

Y Bwletin

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Contents

President's Message	2
Colofn yn Dysgwyr	2
Upcoming Events	2
Past Events	3-5
Welsh Language & Culture	2, 7
Member Items	6-9

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YSGRIBL Y LLYWYDD/PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we embark on a new year in the Society's existence, I should express thanks to Wendy Wynne-Jones and Judith Winstanley, who stepped down at this year's AGM, for their hard work on the committee in recent years in deciding on policy and in helping in the implementation of events. I know that they will both continue to attend some of our functions and I am confident that they will still be willing to pitch in, so I thank them for that. I also wish to thank Pawl Birt, David Jeanes and Geraint Lewis for agreeing to join the Committee and look forward to hearing the fresh ideas and approaches I am confident they will share with us.

This year's AGM was held on 31 May at Kristy's Restaurant on Richmond Road in Westboro and the attendance was very gratifying. This facility is fully accessible, which may have encouraged many to come along, and a door prize was offered (won by Pawl Birt), which may have helped even more to get people out to help chart the Society's course for the next twelve months. It is safe to say that the OWS is in sound financial health (thanks to John Williams's stewardship) and, judging by the contributions made to the general discussion of "Whither the OWS?" well endowed with lively minds. There appeared to be a consensus that we should do what we could to capitalize on the wonderful spirit of Welshness and fondness for Welsh culture engendered by the Gŵyl Gymreig Ontario. Only you will be able to tell in the fullness of time whether we succeed in doing that, but I hope you will become as involved as you can in the process and share in that splendid spirit. See you soon.

John Price

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 12	Patagonia Evening
December 11	Service of Lessons and Carols
March TBD	St. David's Day celebrations
May TBD	OWS AGM
TBD	Welsh Film Festival

COLOFN Y DYSGWYR

Timau rygbi a pêl-droed Cymru yn
(llythrennol ac yn drosiadol) polion ar wahân.

Hwn oedd y gorau o weithiau, yr oedd y gwaethaf o weithiau. (Charles Dickens – A Tale of Two Cities). Gwelwyd Cymru ar ei gorau ond hefyd ar ei gwaethaf. Er i'r tîm rygbi cenedlaethol gael ei gwyngalchu yn Seland Newydd, gan golli pob gêm brawf yn erbyn y Crysau Duon, mae'r tîm pêl-droed, ar y llaw arall, yn mwynhau llwyddiant ysgubol yn Ewro 2016. Yn sgîl y fuddugoliaeth ddiweddar dros Ogledd Iwerddon, mae tîm pêl-droed Cymru drwyddo i rownd chwarteri olaf y gystadleuaeth.

Y tro diwethaf i dîm pêl-droed Cymru wneud cystal oedd adeg Cwpan y Byd yn 1958, pan gollon nhw yn y rownd chwarteri olaf o 1-0 i Brasil.

Yn anffodus, trechwyd Rygbi XV Cymru'n llwyr, er bod ganddyn nhw dîm cryf. O ganlyniad, bydd tipyn o hunanholi a dysgu gwersi o'r profiadau a gafwyd yr ochr draw i'r byd.

Geirfa

Gwyngalchu – whitewash

Llwyddiant ysgubol – resounding success

Yn sgîl – as a result of

Tipyn o hunanholi – some soul searching

Mae Swyddogion Cymdeithas Gymraeg Ottawa wedi bod yn edrych am wahanol ffyrdd i ehangu'r aelodaeth, gan ymestyn allan i'r gymuned Gymreig ehangach. Un awgrym a gafwyd fyddai manteisio ar ddigwyddiadau ym myd y chwaraeon hyn, fel cyfle i bobl ddod at ei gilydd, naill ai mewn tafarn neu far chwaraeon er mwyn ymdaflu i hwyl yr achlysur.

The Ottawa Welsh Society has been looking for ways to expand the membership, by reaching out to the wider Welsh community. One suggestion would be to take advantage of Welsh sports events such as football or rugby, as opportunities for folks to get together, in a pub or bar, and get in the mood of the occasion.

Feedback on this column, as well as new ideas are always welcome.

- Geraint Lewis

ST. DAVID'S DAY EVENT

Forecasts of Snowmageddon probably contributed to the low turnout at this year's St David's Day event held in the warm and welcoming environment of the Reception Room at the British High Commission. Our host was Deputy High Commissioner Tom Barry, who welcomed those attending (and pre-empted much of the president's introductory speech) by noting some of the Canadians of Welsh origin (including Steve Nash) who have made major contributions to various fields of endeavour. This year's guest speaker was Karine Fisher, who spoke about Welsh language learning in Wales, the subject of her studies at the University of Ottawa, to the interest and delight of those present. The room was festively decorated and the excellent edibles organized and provided by Committee members Alison Lawson, Marilyn Jenkins, Gaye Brittle, Wendy Wynne-Jones and Judith Winstanley. Sincere thanks are owed to them as well as to our guest speaker, the bar staff of the High Commission for keeping us appropriately irrigated, to all who attended, especially High Commission staff, who enthusiastically joined in the gathering when they could easily have chosen to get ahead of the storm and relax comfortably in their own homes.



Deputy High Commissioner
Tom Barry



Members of the Ottawa Welsh Society

ST. DAVID'S DAY LUNCHEON

The dining room of the Royal Ottawa Golf Club was filled almost to overflowing this year by the Ottawa Welsh Society's Annual Luncheon. Numbers were augmented by the ladies of Merched Dewi, the ladies' choir from Toronto that provided the musical entertainment. Arrangements at the Club had been made by Alison Lawson, sign-ups were skillfully handled by Marilyn Jenkins, who also assigned diners to tables and researched the historical background to the bards after whom the tables were named. Our guest speaker was Society member Professor Pawl Birt, holder of the Chair of Celtic Studies at the University of Ottawa, who spoke, amusingly and poignantly on the subject 'A Welsh-language Odyssey: Travels in Wales and Beyond'. After Pawl's talk, the gathering was entertained by the ladies of Merched Dewi, who sang a splendid variety of songs, conducted by Betty Cullingworth, which were greatly appreciated by those attending. A big thank you to all members of the OWS Committee who contributed to the organization of this year's event, to Pawl Birt for his address, to the singers and conductor of Merched Dewi for sharing their musical skills so generously with the gathering and to our accompanist Alan Thomas.



Dr. Pawl Birt



John Price

GYMANFA GANU

The annual Gymanfa ganu was held on the day following the Annual Luncheon at Westminster Presbyterian Church, and was conducted by Betty Cullingworth, with Alan Thomas as the accompanist. A splendid selection of our favourite hymns was sung and the spirit in the church was quite wonderful. Our very own pick-up choir, Côr Alltudion Westminster, organized by Bob Price and whipped into shape by Alan Thomas, performed two selections. Marilyn Jenkins and John Griffiths sang a duet. We owe thanks to Betty for taking on the conducting duties for the event, for all the Merched Dewi members who stayed on in Ottawa to take part in the event, to Alan for his musical talents and to all who contributed in any way to the success of the event. Special thanks go to our honorary Welsh pastor, Rev. Neil Wallace.



Betty Cullingworth



Côr Alltudion Westminster

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL

The annual Ontario Welsh Festival held in Ottawa from April 22 to 24 was a rousing success. From the opening tea, featuring Mary Muckle on the harp and Welsh cakes made by bakers from near and far, to the closing Gymanfa ganu, directed by the two directors from Wales, attendees received a good dose of Welsh culture.

Two members of the Ottawa Welsh Society led seminars: Mary Muckle on the lever harp, and Pawl Birt on the Welsh in Patagonia. Both seminars were well-attended and greatly enjoyed.

The highlight of the weekend for many, was the gala concert, featuring the Three Welsh Tenors and the Côrddydd from Cardiff. Much was written about these groups in previous newsletters. Suffice it to say, they lived up to their reputations and more. It was gratifying to the local committee that Dominion Chalmers United Church was filled for this concert!

The Noson Lawen on Friday evening was entertaining, as always. This year, a small harp ensemble was featured near the beginning of the evening, again led by Mary Muckle. In addition, several local members participated with songs and humorous readings.

The Awr y Plant on Saturday morning also featured harps, and a story narrated by the inimitable Hefina Phillips, and performed by the children. Several youngsters also performed on their instruments or sang. There was even one young joker in the mix.!

For the OWS, another highlight of the weekend was the presentation of the annual Gold Award to our own Roy Morris, longtime director of the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society and conductor of many Gymanfas, as well as chair of the local committee for the 2000 National Gymanfa held at the Westin Hotel and Congress Centre here in Ottawa.

The AGM was well-attended, and a door prize was awarded.

Next year's Gymanfa Ganu will take place at The Arden Park Hotel in Stratford, Ontario. It will be held from April 21-23. The guest choir from Wales will be Côr Llanddarog, a mixed voice group from Carmarthen. The musical portions will be at Avondale United Church in Stratford.

- Marilyn Jenkins

SCENES FROM THE ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL 2016 IN OTTAWA



Roy Morris
Gold Award Winner 2016



Mary Muckle leading a Lever Harp Seminar



Gymanfa Session on Sunday, April 24, 2016
at Dominion-Chalmers United Church



Gold Award presented by 2014 winner Myfanwy Davies
of the Ottawa Welsh Society



The Three Welsh Tenors with accompanist Caradog Williams

TAKING BILL JEANES' ASHES TO WALES

When my father died, on July 1st, 2014, my sister Rosemary, brother Brian and I decided that it was important that he have a final resting place in Wales, where he, his grandparents and his great-grandparents were all born. But we also felt it important to scatter some of his ashes in the Ottawa River, at his favourite



spot near the family home of 50 years in Rothwell Heights. This was also where we had all scattered my mother Joyce's ashes in 2008.

The most important spot for my father in Wales was the small village of Michaelstone-y-Fedw, straddling the border of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire, just outside Cardiff. It was here that his parents and grandparents were buried, and where he had been for his mother's

burial. We first visited the spot as a family in 1962, and I had been back many times since. The grave is in a corner of the churchyard and there is a view over the low wall behind it across the field to Cefn Mably mansion.

Cefn Mably was the Welsh estate of the prominent Kemeys-Tynte family until 1916, but that name and the male line are now extinct. (Curiously there is one Kemeys-Tynte family member buried in Beechwood Cemetery, here in Ottawa). My grandmother grew up on the estate and personally knew the butler and the liveried footmen, while my great-grandfather and his parents were employed "upstairs-downstairs" style at the mansion. My great-great-grandmother was nursemaid at Cefn Mably in 1855

While researching my own Welsh family history, I made a close study of the Kemeys-Tynte family, whose roots go back to the Norman conquest but who intermarried with many prominent Welsh families. I gave an illustrated lecture about the Kemeys-Tyntes and Cefn Mably in the village in 1994. So many people showed up, that they overflowed the village hall and my talk had to be given in the church itself!

We arranged that Rosemary and I would meet in Cardiff and take Dad's ashes to the church. I was able to arrange with the church wardens to prepare a hole beside the grave and to make an entry in the burial register. Rosemary and I and our spouses were on our own when we actually deposited Dad's ashes. The

committal prayers had already been said by Rev. Jim Beall, (whom my Dad and I had known for many years), at a family memorial service in Ottawa, so we just said a few simple prayers at the gravesite.

It was a beautiful late spring day. We were also able to visit the church, walk around the mansion, (which has been rebuilt after a major fire, to contain luxury flats), have a delicious pub lunch in the Cefn Mably Arms next to the church, and visit an elderly lady whom I know, whose family has farmed there for a hundred years!

My younger brother Brian was not able to be with us, as he and his wife were on a pre-arranged holiday in Italy and could not alter their flight arrangements. But Brian and his wife have just been to Wales this June, staying in a farmhouse B&B near Abergavenny, and making the one-hour drive to see Dad's final resting place.

Rest in Peace, Dad!

- David Jeanes



David and Rosemary at the gravesite
16 April 2015

WALES REACH THE SEMI-FINALS OF EURO 2016

July was a good month for Welsh football (soccer). Having topped their group in the knockout stage, and ahead of England, they went on to beat N. Ireland in the round of 16 and Belgium 3-1 in the quarter-final; quite a result as Belgium was ranked #1 in Europe and #2 in the world.

Reaching the semi-finals along with powerhouses Germany, France and Portugal was a historic achievement for Wales even after losing 2-0 to Portugal. They were supported loudly and enthusiastically by members and friends of the Society at the Georgetown Sports Bar.

Watch this space and our website for future soccer and rugby games – come along for the hwyl – you will enjoy it!



Wales score against Belgium



Half time against Portugal

OPPORTUNITY: LEARN WELSH LANGUAGE IN WALES

Dear Society,

My name is Gwenno and I work for the Welsh for Adults Centre in Aberystwyth. Every August we hold an Intensive Summer Course, which is a course for people who want to learn Welsh. It's a very popular course with people from all over the world attending. Different levels are offered, from complete beginners to Advanced levels, something to suit everyone!

It's possible to attend the course for a week, two weeks, three weeks or for all four weeks. We do offer accommodation for the duration of the course in our University Halls with a choice of en suite and non en suite rooms.

Here is a link to further information

[http://www.learnwelshinmidwales.org/uploads/](http://www.learnwelshinmidwales.org/uploads/taflen_wybodaeth_amser__13.06__9_hydref_terfynol.pdf)

[taflen_wybodaeth_amser__13.06__9_hydref_terfynol.pdf](http://www.learnwelshinmidwales.org/uploads/taflen_wybodaeth_amser__13.06__9_hydref_terfynol.pdf)

Annwyl Gymdeithas,

Fy enw i yw Gwenno ac rwy'n gweithio i Ganolfan Cymraeg i Oedolion yn Aberystwyth. Pob mis Awst rydym yn cynnal Cwrs Dwys Haf sef cwrs ar gyfer pobl sydd â diddordeb dysgu Cymraeg. Mae'n gwrs poblogaidd iawn gyda phobl o bob cwr o'r byd yn dod atom. Mae gwahanol lefelau ar gael o ddechreuwr pur i lefelau hyfedredd.

Gellir mynychu'r cwrs am wythnos yn unig, neu bythefnos, tair wythnos neu'r mis cyfan. Rydym hefyd yn darparu llety ar gyfer hyd y cwrs yn ein neuaddau Prifysgol gyda dewis o ystafelloedd en-suite a dim en-suite.

Dyma linc i fwy o fanylion

[http://www.learnwelshinmidwales.org/uploads/](http://www.learnwelshinmidwales.org/uploads/taflen_wybodaeth_amser__13.06__9_hydref_terfynol.pdf)

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A fydddech cystal â rhannu'r neges hon gyda'ch aelodau os gwelwch yn dda? Peidiwch ag oedi cyn cysylltu os oes gennych chi neu unrhyw aelod gwestiwn am y cwrs.

The winner of the Ottawa Welsh Society Award at the Kiwanis Music Festival, Victoria Punstel, has sent a lovely thank you note to the treasurer.

"I'm honoured to have qualified for the Ottawa Welsh Society Award! I was so happy to learn that I had won a scholarship. I'm eager to use this money toward future music lessons so I may compete once again next year! I cannot thank you (sic) enough for your generosity."

Once upon a time in Wales: being Welsh

Part 2

I am Cardiff born and bred but the Wales and the Welsh of the novel I remember from visits up the valleys, to family in Mountain Ash, before we left for Canada in 1954. I was eleven. The outside WC, the cold water tap at the kitchen sink, the tin bath, and the coal-fire range in the kitchen of my Auntie Rose Richards could be the Morgan house in the novel. And, although pithead baths started to be built before WII I remember seeing men coming up the steep streets of Mountain Ash coal-black, their helmets on and their tin snap under their arms. I saw the overhead skips pulled by cable through the valley, asked what they were and learned about slag heaps. These came into my life again when we heard that a cousin, a Matron in Cardiff's Royal Infirmary, had rushed to Aberfan in 1966 when 116 children perished from the slag that engulfed their school.

These memories make a read of *How Green Was My Valley* more history than novel. Wonderful writing transforms fact into the story of generations of Welsh mining villages. Below are short quotes from Llewelyn to remind those of you who have read him how good he is and to coax others to take him out of the library.

These passages are keyed to themes of life in Wales.

Education pp 167, 69

"Nothing so pretty as good pencils, and I do think the feel of a long pencil in your fingers is as good to the taste as something to eat.

That night Mrs. Tom Jenkins came up to give me a polish in sums, written and mental. My father and mother, Ivor and Bron, and Davy were all round the table listening, and everybody quiet, pretending not to look.

We were doing very well, up to the kind of sum when a bath is filling at the rate of so many gallons and two holes are letting the water out. And please to say how long will it take to fill the bath, when my mother put down the socks she was darning and clicked her tongue in impatience.

"What is the matter?" my father asked her.

"That old National School," my mother said. "There is silly the sums are with them. Filling up an old bath with holes in it, indeed. Who would be such a fool?"

"A sum it is, girl," my father said. "A sum. A problem for the mind. Nothing to do with the National School, either."

"Filling the boy with old nonsense," Mama said.

"Not nonsense, Beth," my father said, to soothe, quietly, "a

and takes so long. How long to fill? That is all."

"But who would pour water in an old bath with holes?" my mother said. "Who would think to do it, but a lunatic?"

"Well, devil fly off," my father said, and put down his book to look at the ceiling. "It is to see if the boy can calculate, girl. Figures, nothing else. How many gallons and how long."

"In a bath full of holes," Mama said, and rolled the sock in a ball and threw it in the basket, and it fell out, and she threw it back in twice as hard. "If he went to school in trows full of holes, we should hear about it. But an old bath can be so full with holes as a sieve and nobody taking notice."

"Look you," my father said to Mrs. Jenkins, "no more baths. Have you got something else?"

"Decimals. Mr. Morgan," said Mrs. Tom, "but he is strong in those."

"Decimals," said my father, "and peace in my house, for the love of God"....

"Well, no wonder," my mother said, and glad to blame someone else. "Those old Frenchies, is it? If I had known that, the book would never have come inside the house."

"O, Beth," said Dada, "there is an old beauty you are. Go now, before I will push you on the floor."

"Frenchie, indeed," my mother said, "and decimal points, move up and down. Like monkeys. With Frenchies and old baths full of holes, what will come to the boy?"

"A scholarship," said my father, "that is what I would like."

"Scholarship? Well, I hope so, indeed," my mother said, for the sound of the word was like the name of an anthem. "What the world is coming to, I cannot tell you."

"Sleep, now then," my father said, "not for you to worry about the world, is it? Think of the old Queen with a Jubilee of worry to think about, and be thankful."

"I wonder does she know about this decimal point?" my mother said.

"Oh, hell open and crack," said my father, and out went the lamp. "The poor old lady is asleep these hours. Let us follow. Good night, now."

"Go and scratch," said Mama.

Coal pp338-339

"For hour after sweating hour, bent double standing only when we were flat on our backs, we worked down there, with the dust of coal settling on us with a light touch that you could feel, as though the coal was putting fingers on you to warn you that he was only feeling you, now, but he would have you down there, underneath him, one day soon when you were looking the other way...."

The muscles of the belly might feel to be tearing apart long before the end of the day, so bent we were. Ivor would kneel, lie on his side, stand sideways and bent, or on his back, with sweat making his skin into black silk, but never a pause, never a stop, till it was time for eating, or for a swill of tea to take dust from the throat....

And, O, what joy to come up in the cool air of night after hot hours in the light of candles, light that crawled with dust that sometimes shone. Then I knew, and knew with thanksgiving, why we sat on doorsteps when the sun was out. Only to be quiet, and rest aches, looking at clean light, feeling the blessing of the sun, free, for a couple of hours, from the creeping touch of the fingers of coal."

**Tea** pp178

"There is good a cup of tea is when you are feeling low. Thin, and plenty of milk, and brown sugar in the crystal, in a big cup so that when your mouth is used to heat you can drink instead of sipping. Every part of you inside you that seems to have gone to sleep comes lively again. A good friend of mine is a cup of tea, indeed."

Song pp 153, 154

"We used to walk quietly for a bit till we were out of the houses of the village, and then my father or mother started a hymn softly, and the girls caught up with their parts, Angharad and Bron in contralto, Ceridwen in soprano, and then the boys all came in, and you heard the echo running to catch up, all over the Valley..."

Sing, then. Sing, indeed, with shoulders back, and head up so that song might go to the roof and beyond to the sky. Mass on mass of tone, with a hard edge, and rich with quality, every single note a carpet of colour woven from basso profundo, and basso, and baritone, and alto, and tenor, and soprano, and alto and mezzo, and contralto, singing and singing, until life and all things living are become a song.

O, Voice of Man, organ of most lovely might."

For me those four themes echo conversations I heard when Welsh uncles and aunts gathered at my grandparent's hearth. But there are many more. Look up the novel and search for *slag* (96-97), *union* (199-200) and *strike* (228). And for a bonus read Llewellyn helping his hero, Huw learn 'the game of woman' (419-421)

Sources:

Part One:

* *The Story of Gifach Goch* by Katie Olwen Pritchard. Pp109-112. Starling Press. 1973 The pictures have been copied from this publication and from *Gilvach Goch In Cameo* Volume 2 by the same author.

** The World of Max Boyce Decca PA 469, 1971. (Previously Max Boyce in Session MCT 207. On YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7itxshX1i4o> and the lyrics at http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk/folk-song-lyrics/Duw_Its_Hard.htm.

Part Two

*** *How Green Was My Valley*. Richard Llewellyn. Penguin, Modern Classics. 2001 The full text with a file for each chapter is found at <http://www.unz.org/Pub/LlewellynRichard-1939>

