

Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press

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www.ottawawelsh.com

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Editor's comment: many thanks to all the contributors to this edition of Y Bwletin. If you have news or contributions to make to the next newsletter, please contact:

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

www.ottawawelsh.com



Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa

Check out our web site and our Facebook page!

President's Message

The OWS Executive is pleased to announce that Geraint Lewis has accepted the position of President for the 2017-18 year. John Price will stay on as Past President.

Annwyl Gyfeillion,

Well, it seems if you miss a meeting you get nominated for stuff. While I was in Wales hiking Offa's Dyke this last June (see article on page 6 and 7), the OWS executive determined I should be nominated as President for the coming year. It is a position I accept with a degree of trepidation as I am much more comfortable being a "back-bencher".

On my recent visit to Wales I saw firsthand how the traditions I grew up with of chapel, gymanfaoedd ganu, and Welsh at home were changing as Wales becomes increasingly secular. The Society faces similar challenges in the coming years as the original founding cohort of members diminishes. How do we connect with the newer generation or the children of past Welsh immigrants? How does the society help the Welsh language and culture survive in Ottawa? We have examples such as *Yr Awr Sgwrsio* organized by Alison Lawson. I am open to other suggestions that can help us.

I look forward to serving the Welsh community here in Ottawa, and will lean heavily on the wise longstanding members who have worked so diligently in the past. Special thanks to our past president John Price for all his hard work, good grace and humour over the past several years.

Hwyl

Geraint

Secretary's Message

Many thanks to those who attended the AGM in May. It was an enjoyable meeting, with most attendees opting to arrive in time to share a meal.

Please note the email addresses on the front cover of this bulletin. If you have suggestions, comments, questions for any of us, please make use of these email addresses. I will also include, at the bottom of this message, my telephone number for those who do not have email accounts.

We try to be timely getting out information about cultural and social events, but sometimes life intervenes. Our webmaster, David Speck, keeps our website as up-to-date as possible. I invite you to check it out. He is always working to improve it.

We have a number of events planned for the coming months, some purely social, others cultural or spiritual. We look forward to seeing you at some or all.

Our first event is a bit up-in-the-air, but the planners still hope to get it off the ground. Look for an email about a picnic around the end of July or early August.

The next event will be the annual Pub Night at the Heart and Crown in the Byward Market on September 19. More information will go out via email closer to the time. Also, check the website.

Please carefully read the page in this bulletin about our fall event. We need support and contributions (not monetary) to make this exciting event work.

Have a wonderful summer.

- Marilyn Jenkins (613-820-6687)

Upcoming Events

September 19	Pub Night
November 18	Wales in Canada 150
December 10	Lessons and Carols
February 24	St. David's Day Luncheon
February 25	St. David's Day Gymanfa Ganu
March 1	St. David's Day Reception
May ???	AGM 2018

Celebrate Wales in Canada 150!

Wanted: historical materials of all kinds, such as

Memories about emigrating

Video interviews

Photographs

Family trees

Vintage clothing

Letters



Wanted: Stories about:

War Brides



Home children

Immigration to Canada 1867 – 2017

Wanted: Volunteers

- Organizers
- Presenters
- Artists

Interested? Contact marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca

Or call Marilyn at 613-820-6687 as soon as possible so we can get going on the organization.

This event is scheduled for **November 18, 2017** at Westminster Presbyterian Church

***All donations will be carefully and respectfully handled, and returned to their owners following the event.

The Ontario Welsh Festival 2017

The Ontario Welsh Festival took place in Stratford, April 21 to 23. It was a rainy, cold weekend outside, but the Festival was full of warmth and good times. The Welcome Tea was once again graced by the presence of Ottawa harpist Mary Muckle, with some assistance by recorder player Jennifer Davis and one or two numbers with Merched Ottawa. Later that evening, the Noson lawen was packed with a very lively audience. Although it was a rather long program, the acts were enthusiastically received and included a number of OWS members, singing, reciting and telling funny stories.

On Saturday morning, AGM was conducted efficiently and was concluded quickly, with no major issues raised. Two seminars representing Welsh culture followed. The first was a talk by Barrie Doyle, author of *The Excalibur Parchment* and *The Lucifer Scroll* (hot off the presses). Barrie shared his experiences researching for his novels in Wales and England, and spoke of the writing process, including the necessity of making decisions to include some details, while excluding others.

The second seminar was an Introduction to Welsh led by Hefina Phillips. Hefina referred to the interactive presentation as “speed dating in Welsh”. It was a lively and fun way to learn some essential Welsh phrases, such as “_(name)_ dw i” and “dw i’n hoffi gwin gwyn” or “dw i’n hoffi cwrw”. Hefina’s light-hearted and encouraging manner must inspire the attendees to seek out other opportunities to learn the language.

The Saturday evening banquet was well-attended and the Gold Award was presented to Betty Cullingworth, who has worked tirelessly to preserve Welsh music and culture in the Toronto area. Betty was the conductor of the OWS 2016 St. David’s Day Gymanfa Ganu.

The concert, presented by Côr Llanddarog from Carmarthen, was thoroughly enjoyable, with two vocal soloists and a trumpeter adding to the pleasure of the evening. The audience was thrilled. The emphasis, of course, was on Welsh music, much of it contemporary, such as *Tangneffeddwy* by Waldo Williams, arranged by Eric Jones.

Each evening the die-hards stayed up until the wee hours at the Afterglow, singing, visiting with old friends and making new ones. For some, this experience is second only to the Gymanfa itself in popularity.

Finally, on Sunday, there were two Gymanfa sessions. The local congregation received us warmly and was not disappointed as the attendees sang their hearts out. The conductor of Côr Llanddarog, Meinir Richards, kept things moving smartly. As always, the afternoon session was less well-attended as folks pulled up stakes to head home early, but the singing was nonetheless enthusiastic. The Ottawa crew stayed on to the very end, then got together later for dinner in the hotel.

We heartily recommend the experience! Next year in Kingston, so no excuses Ottawa!

- Marilyn Jenkins



Meinir Richards conducting the Gymanfa with Côr Llanddarog in the background

Cornel dysgu Cymraeg

Treigladau - Mutations

Last time we saw the first set of mutations - meddal (soft). This time we'll look at the other two - trwynol (nasal) and llaes (aspirate). Apart from speaking and understanding correctly, knowing how the beginnings of words change really helps if you are using a dictionary.

Treigladd Trwynol (nasal)– some examples

Usage - ar ôl yn neu fy - after in or my

yn Nhregaron - in Tregaron

yng Nghaerdydd - in Cardiff (Caerdydd)

fy mrawd - my brother (brawd)

fy nefaid - my sheep (dafed/defaid)

yng Ngwent - in Gwent

ym Mhenmaenmawr - in Penmaenmawr

Treigladd Llaes (aspirate)

Usage - ar ôl ei - after her (possessive)

ar ôl a - after and

ei phlant - her children (plant)

ei thad - her father (tad)

ci a chath - dog and cat (cath)

bwrdd a chadair - table and chair (cadair)

Mae fy mrawd yn byw yng Nghymru - my brother lives in Wales.

Mae gennynt gi a chath - They have a dog and a cat.

Rhedodd Mair at ei phlant a'i thad. Mair ran to her children and father.

Rhaid i mi brynu bwrdd a chadeiriau. - I must buy a table and chairs. (cadair/cadeiriau)

Possible Mutations			
Radical	Soft	Nasal	Aspirate
p	b	mh	ph
t	d	nh	th
c	g	ngh	ch
b	f	m	
d	dd	n	
g	-*	ng	
m	f		
ll	l		
rh	r		
* = omit the letter			

- John Williams

Other opportunities to learn Welsh include BBD Wales sites

Such as The Big Welsh Challenge at

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/learnwelsh/bigwelshchallenge/>

which has short videos of conversations in Welsh. You can choose to have balloon Welsh/English, or English/Welsh subtitles. Lots of fun. I have spent some time with this and with the site previously mentioned, Duolingo.

www.duolingo.com

Learn Welsh at

www.bbc.co.uk/wales/learning/learnwelsh/

Keep watching this column for other possibilities!

See page 7 for an article in the Welsh language.

- Marilyn Jenkins

Hiking Clawdd Offa

To hike Llwybr Clawdd Offa has been a longstanding dream of mine, and this June it came to fruition.



Five of us started in Prestatyn, with the final destination of Chepstow in mind. We had arranged with a local company to handle all the accommodation and baggage transfers, so all we had to do was carry a small day pack with food, water and some rain gear, and hike.

The trail was very well signposted, the outfitter had provided us with detailed maps, and one of our number had a GPS app on his cell phone, so we had no excuse for losing our way, which we managed to do within 1 km of setting out!

The entire trail covers over 180 miles, but the actual Clawdd Offa is only visible for about 80 of those.



It has long been thought that the Dyke was built by Offa, King of Mercia to separate his Kingdom from the neighbouring Welsh principalities – maybe he got tired of losing his sheep, who knows?

The hike itself is very physically and mentally challenging with a total ascent of over 28,000 feet over the length of the trail, so we made full use of the offered “full Welsh breakfast” – which differed little from its English cousin.

The trail is incredibly scenic and we were lucky to have reasonable weather to enjoy the views. We also took one rest day in Trallwng (Welshpool) and visited Powis Castle and its gardens. This was a very worthwhile detour and enjoyed by all.

We met between one and eight people a day hiking the path in the more conventional S- N direction but in a land of over 68m people it was possible to be quite alone, (except for the million or so sheep that were our constant companions.)

The entire hike took 15 days and gave us an amazing sense of accomplishment on finishing. This hike must rate among the best in the world for so many reasons. As my BC companions pointed out we were never worried about bears, cougars or weird tropical diseases, and there was usually a pub somewhere nearby at day's end.



- Geraint Lewis

(Note: See Welsh translation on page 7.)

Cerdded Clawdd Offa

Mae cerdded Clawdd Offa'n hen freuddwyd i mi a'r mis Mai yma fe ddaeth yn wir.

Dechreuodd pump ohonom ym Mhrestatyn gyda'r nod o orffen ein taith gerdded yng Nghas-gwent. Roeddem wedi trefnu gyda chwmni lleol ynglŷn â llety a chludo bagiau, felly, roedd ond angen i ni gario pecyn bach o fwyd, dŵr a dillad glaw wrth gychwyn ben bore.

Cafwyd digon o arwyddion ar hyd y llwybr a derbynion ni fapiau manwl gan y trefnydd cyfarpar. Roedd gan un person yn ein plith app GPS ar ei ffôn symudol, felly, doedd dim rheswm i fynd ar goll - ond fe wnaethom, o fewn 1 km o'r man cychwyn!

Mae'r holl lwybr yn ymestyn dros 180 milltir ond mae Clawdd Offa'i hun ond yn weladwy am oddeutu 80 milltir o'r cyfan.

Credir ers oesoedd mai adeiladwr y clawdd oedd Offa, Brenin Mersia, er mwyn gwahanu'i Frenhiniaeth o'r tywysogaethau Cymreig cyfagos; efallai iddo flino ar golli'i ddefaid - pwy a wŷr?

Mae'r heicio'i hun yn heriol, yn gorfforol ac yn feddyliol, gyda'r uchder ar hyd y llwybr yn codi i dros 28,000 troedfedd. Felly, roeddem wrth ein bodd â'r cynnig o 'frecwast Cymreig llawn', sy'n bur debyg i'r 'full English breakfast'!

Mae'r golygfeydd ar hyd y llwybr yn anhygoel o hardd ac roeddem yn ffodus i gael tywydd cymharol braf i'w fwynhau. Cawsom ddiwrnod o seibiant yn y Trallwng (Welshpool) a chael cyfle i ymweld â Chastell Powis a'r gerddi yno. Bu'r ymweliad yn werthchweil a mwynhaodd pawb.

Byddem yn cwrdd rhwng un ac wyth o bobl y dydd a fyddai'n cerdded gan amlaf o'r De i'r Gogledd, ond mewn gwlad â mwy na 68 miliwn o bobl, roedd yn bosibl mai ni oedd yr unig rai'n heicio (ar wahân i'r miliwn neu fwy o ddefaid a gadwai gwmni cyson i ni!)

Treulion ni 15 diwrnod yn cwblhau'r daith gerdded ac roedd y teimlad o gyrraedd y diwedd yn rhyfeddol! Mae'n rhaid bod yr heic hon gyda'r gorau yn y byd am gymaint o resymau. Fel y nodwyd gan fy nghydgerddwyr o B.C., Canada, nid oedd angen i ni boeni am eirth, cwgarod na heintiau trofannol, ac fel arfer, byddai tafarn cysurus ar gael ar derfyn dydd!

- translation by Geraint's sister Gwen

What do our membership fees pay for?

Every year we send out reminders to members to renew their membership. So, what happens to that money?

Annual commitments

- provide a bursary award for a folk song class in the annual Kiwanis Music Festival.
- support the larger Welsh community through donations to the Ontario Welsh Festival and the North American Festival of Wales
- provide paper copies of *Y Bwletin* to members who do not have email accounts. (*Note: An 8-page bulletin can cost \$1.65 to print and mail out. Larger bulletins cost more to produce and can, occasionally cost more to mail. Multiply that by three or four issues per year and, for those 37, the majority of your (\$10) fees can go toward the bulletin.*)
- provide food free of charge for an annual reception at the British High Commission.

Periodic commitments

- provide bursary money for students traveling to Wales to study the Welsh language. We hope to do more of this in coming years.

As we look to the future of the OWS, we want to know who will continue to support this work in promoting Welsh culture.

If you have not paid your fees in two years, you will be contacted and asked if you wish to continue to be a member of the Ottawa Welsh Society. If you are not sure if you have paid your fees, please contact Sian at 613-722-9294 or sianwynn@hotmail.com.

Membership forms are available on the web site www.ottawawelsh.com

or from Marilyn via email or Canada Post.

Please send completed forms to Sian at
39 Hereford Place, Ottawa, ON K1Y 3S6.

DEWI SANT HOMECOMING WEEKEND!!

September 23 and 24, 2017

Celebrating 110 Years

of Welsh Worship, Culture and Fellowship in Toronto

In 1907, a small group of newly-arrived Welsh immigrants to Toronto gathered to worship in Welsh and share fellowship with tea and Welsh cakes. In 2017, from that small beginning, Dewi Sant Welsh United Church is celebrating their 110th anniversary, building on the foundation of those early days.

Mark your calendars for our homecoming weekend of celebration!!

- **Saturday, September 23 at 2 PM:**
A concert featuring the **Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir**.
Merched Dewi, the Welsh Ladies Choir of Dewi Sant, will also be performing.
Tickets are \$25, available from the Church office, 416-485-7583 or info@dewisant.com;; online from **Eventbrite**; or from members of Merched Dewi.
- **Sunday, September 24 at 11:00 AM:**
Rev. Emeritus Dr. Cerwyn Davies, and Rev. Lord Roger Roberts from Llandudno, Wales will officiate at our worship service. This special service will be followed by a **reception in the Fellowship Hall**.

As part of our 110th anniversary celebrations we are launching a fundraising effort: **\$110 for 110 years**, asking you to donate \$110 or an amount of your choosing to support the financial well-being of Dewi Sant. (A tax receipt will be issued for any amount over \$10). This donation can be for yourself, for someone in your family, a special birthday or anniversary, or any other occasion you wish to commemorate. Please consider joining in this initiative. (Please note that all cheques should be made payable to Dewi Sant Welsh United Church).

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church is a beautiful place to worship and gather in Christian fellowship. Whether you attend regularly or as an occasional visitor, Dewi Sant WUC, the only Welsh church in Canada, is here for all of us.

Lynette Jenkins, Chair of the 110th Anniversary Committee

Clarice Terry, Clerk of Session



Dewi Sant Welsh United Church at 33 Melrose Avenue Toronto

P.S. If you are planning to attend these festivities in September, please get in touch with Alison Lawson. If there is enough interest, we might be able to coordinate our plans in some way.

Phone 613-725-2704 or email alisonlawson@rogers.com

Welsh Culture

Sewing a fine seam - Quilt of Belonging

Those of you who passed through the main corridor of Ottawa City Hall any day between June 23 and July 5 would have been astonished and entranced by the Quilt of Belonging hanging magisterially along one side of that huge space.

This ambitious, community-based collaborative work is the brainchild of Esther Bryan, a woman who lives not far from Ottawa in the small rural town of Williamstown, Ontario. She began the project in 1998 and in the subsequent six and a half years searched out individuals or groups to do a textile representation of the different cultural backgrounds that make up the diversity of Canada. The result is what she calls in her own words an 'invisible tapestry of humanity'.

It is huge, measuring 120 ft by 10 ft, and is comprised of 263 blocks representing 71 First Nations groups and every nation known to have had at least one person living in Canada at the turn of the new millennium. So to be hackneyed it is 1960's mind-blowing. Look carefully and you will see narrative depictions of where we come from and what we choose to celebrate as culturally inspiring or significant to us.

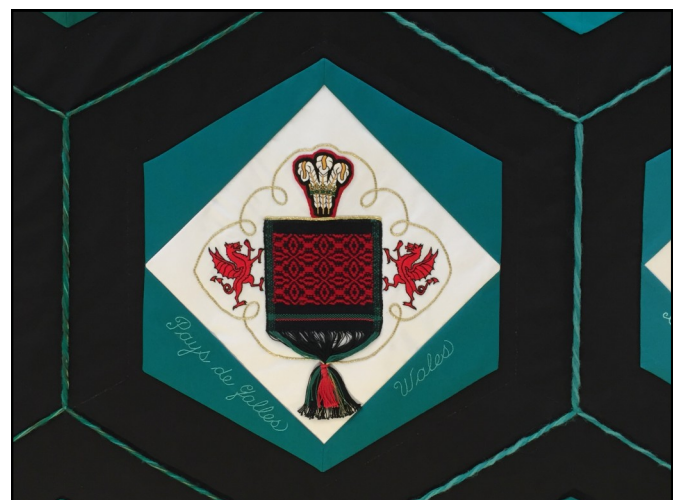
The mosaic itself it speaks of enormous perseverance, if not permanent eye strain for those volunteers who contributed 4600 hours of their time. The diamond shaped blocks are set into hexagons and arranged brilliantly to capture a vivid colour spectrum along the quilt length. The quilt connects the patterns and squares with brightly-coloured winding corded wools that frame each block, but equally tie to each neighbouring art piece to symbolize the interconnectedness of a multicultural Canada. The foundation row at the bottom displays the works of First Nations, Inuit and Métis contributors; the three rows above show the work of immigrant Canadians detailing or anthologizing their country of origin; and within the centre of the top multi-hued border of integration is a solitary red maple leaf with iridescent gold beads and threads on a red velvet background. The resourcefulness of each contributing artist or group is apparent in their choice of materials - banana peel, coconut palm wood, tapa cloth, bark, coins, satins, sequins, beads, hides, sealskin, butterfly wings and the list could go on and on.

It is far too hard to isolate and show one block in this immensely beautiful quilt but we were given permission to show the Welsh weaving in the Bwletin. It is worked in dramatic black and red wools with green thread framing and was created by Daphne Howells; the 3 ostrich feathers crest at the top of the diamond shape was stitched by Elsie Sloan representing bravery and such feathers remain part of the current Prince of Wales' coat of arms. The red heraldic dragons signifying courage at left and right sides were done by Reina Cross. Further information on this particular tapestry and on the other stunning blocks can be found in Bryan, E. & Friends, (2017) *Quilt of Belonging - The Invitation Project* (5th ed.). Williamstown, ON: Marquis.

If you missed it in Ottawa but are travelling in Ontario this summer and are interested in quilty pleasures as one was called it there will be showings at Hamilton, July 11 to August 16 at The Cotton Factory and at the Toronto CNE August 18 to September 4.

Do check out the Quilt of Belonging website: <https://www.quiltofbelonging.ca/>. You will be fascinated, and details of the delightful companion book are all there.

- Gwenda Davies



Items of Interest

There was an interesting BBC story recently about a Welsh migration to Ukraine in 1870, though they had to leave after the 1917 Russian Revolution.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-40345030>



Today Donetsk is a self-proclaimed pro-Russian republic. Wikipedia confirms the Welsh origins of the city. The population is comparable to Ottawa.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donetsk>

- David Jeanes

What do Inuktut, Maori and Welsh have in common?

All three languages have had to struggle to stay alive in an anglo-centric world.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Carleton University, in partnership with Prince's Charities Canada, is assisting with a research tour of the United Kingdom by the Atausiq Inuktut Titirausiq Task Group. Click the link below to find out how the successful revival of both Welsh and Maori in the United Kingdom is being examined for best practices to aid in the support of the Inuktut language.

<https://carleton.ca/fass/2016/inuit-tapiriit-kanatami-atausiq-inuktut-titirausiq-task-group-slals-and-cognitive-science-prof-to-visit-uk/>