

Y Bwletin

Haf - 2018 - Summer



www.ottawawelsh.com

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(Part 3 of continuing series on immigration to North America from Wales)

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!



*Ein llywydd yn a dafarn yn gwyllo rygbi
Our president in the pub watching rugby*

The AGM

The Ottawa Welsh Society Annual General Meeting was attended by 25 paid up members. Most of those attending also enjoyed a good meal together before proceeding to business. As always, there was a brief moment of remembrance for those who have passed on, and then the Agenda and Minutes for 2017 were quickly dealt with.

Highlights of the meeting include

- The updating of the Constitution to reflect current practices, particularly in the matter of a quorum on the Executive and the use of electronic media for notifications.
- The proposal to hold a Welsh Film Festival in collaboration with the Bytowne Theatre.
- The Executive remains the same for another year.

- Reported by Marilyn Jenkins, Secretary

Due to a very busy summer schedule, Geraint is unavailable for comment... Have a lovely summer, everyone!

Upcoming Events

July	Annual Picnic	Cancelled
October	Pub Night	TBA
November	Film Night	Nov. 17
December	Lessons & Carols	TBA

Editor's Notes

The OWS Executive met in June and voted to maintain the same positions as in 2017-2018. There was much discussion about the upcoming season, including a picnic. We thought we were set to go, but, alas, the best-laid plans, etc. etc. At the time of printing, it seems unlikely there will be a picnic this summer.

On a happier note, we are planning a pub night in October and a film night in November, complete with pizza and beer/wine.

We have heard from Ellen MacIsaac that the Celtic Choir will be presenting "A Child's Christmas in Wales" in readings and songs on December 8, at Tabaret Hall. Members are welcome to join in. For further information please contact Ellen directly at 613-552-3964 or email her at

ellen@laughingbrook.ca

Please read our updates through emails and check out the website for details of all our events for the year.

www.ottawawelsh.com

Member News

We were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Ryan Gareth Mercer, age 11, grandson to Muriel Mercer and nephew to Shannon. Our thoughts are with the family at this difficult time. Please see the following link for more information.

<http://www.tubmanfuneralhomes.com/families-in-our-care/john-ted-moule/2652/>

Some members might recall John "Ted" Moule, a long-time member, who passed away in June, just six months after his wife of 72 years, Sadie, died. Further information on his life is available at:

<http://www.tubmanfuneralhomes.com/families-in-our-care/john-ted-moule/2652/>

Colofn y Dysgwyr – Learners' Column

Here is a summary of the three Learners evenings held in April - June 2018 Cadwch ati! – keep it up!

Sessiwn 4

Lle wyt ti'n byw? - Where do you live (familiar)

Lle dach chi'n byw - Where do you live (formal)

O le wyt ti'n dod yn wreiddiol? - Where are you from originally (familiar)

A ti / A chi? – and you (familiar/formal)

Lle wyt ti'n gweithio? - Where do you work? (familiar)

Beth dach chi'n wneud? – what do you do? (formal)

Beth wyt ti isio i frecwast? - what do you want for breakfast? (familiar)

Beth dach chi'n hoffi? – what do you like? (formal)

Answering Yes and No

Wyt ti'n hoffi coffi- ydw/nac ydw - Do you like coffee? (familiar) Yes/No

Ydach chi 'n hoffi coffi? - formal

Wyti ti'n byw yn Kanata? - ydw/nac ydw Do you live in Kanata? Yes/No (familiar)

Ydach chi'n gweithio yn y brifysgol? Ydw/nac ydw - Do you work at the university? (formal)

Geirfa Sesiwn 4	Vocabulary
canu	singing
rhedeg	running
eistedd	sitting
siarad	talking
bwyta	eating
edrych ar y teledu	watching television
siarad ar y ffon	talking on the phone
dawnsio	dancing
yfed llefrith/llaeth	drinking milk
chwarrae pel droed	playing football
mynd am dro	going for a walk
coginio	cooking
ysgrifennu	writing
Pwy – Beth – lle -	Who – What - Where
Ydw / nac ydw	Yes / No



Sessiwn 5

Pwy wyt ti? - who are you (familiar)

Pwy ydy o? - who is he? **Owen ydy o** - he's Owen

Pwy ydy hi? - who is she? - **Sian ydy hi** - she's Sian

Lle mae o'n byw? - where does he live

Mae o'n byw yn Lerpwl. - He lives in Liverpool

Lle mae hi'n byw? - where does she live

Mae hi'n byw yn Kanata . - She lives in Kanata

Beth mae o'n wneud? - what is he doing

Mae o'n cysgu/darllen - he's sleeping/reading etc

Beth mae hi'n wneud? - what is she doing

Mae hi'n canu/yrgrifennu - she is singing/sleeping etc

Twm ydy o? - Is he Twm? Answer **le / Naci**

Helen ydy hi? - Is she Helen? Answer **le / Naci**

Dw i ddim yn gwybod - I don't know

Dw i ddim yn siwr - I'm not sure

Geirfa Sessiwn 5:	
athraw/athrawes	teacher
garddwr	gardener
ffermwr	farmer
adeiladwr	builder
gyrwr	driver
nyrs	nurse
plismon	policeman
siopwr	shopkeeper
trydanwr	electrician
ysgrifennydd/ysgrifenyddes	secretary
Swyddog gweinyddol	Administrative



Sessiwn 6

1 – un; 2 dau/dwy; 3 tri/tair; 4 pedwar/pedair

Un brawd a dwy chwaer – one brother and two sisters

Tair modryb - three aunts

Pedair cadair ac un bwrdd - four chairs and one table

Oes brawd 'da ti/ 'da chi? - Do you have brothers?

Oes, mae dau frawd 'da fi. - Yes, I have two brothers

Na, does dim brawd 'da fi - I have no brothers

Oes merch 'da ti/ 'da chi? - Do you have any daughters?

Oes, mae tair merch 'da fi. - Yes, I have three daughters.

Na, does dim merch 'da fi. - No, I have no daughters.

Oes plant 'da chi? - Do you have children?

Oes, mae tri blentyn 'da fi - Yes, I have three children

dwy ferch ac un mab - two daughters and one son.

Geirfa Sessiwn 6:	
Gŵr a gwraig	Husband and wife
Brawd a chwaer	Brother and sister
Plentyn / plant	Child / children
Mab a merch	Son and daughter
Wyr / wyres	Grand son/daughter
Wyrion	Grand children
Nai / nith	Nephew / niece
Modryb / Anti	Aunt
Ewythr/ Wncwl	Uncle
Nain / Mamgu	Grandmother
Taid / tadcu	Grandfather
chwaer yng nghyfraith	Sister in law
brawd yng nghyfraith	Brother in law
Aber	Mouth of a river
Betws	A house of
Llan	A church
Bryn	Hill
Castell	Castle
Caer/ Gaer	Fort
Coed	Wood
Ffynnon	Well or spring
Glan	River bank or shore
Glyn	Glen
Llyn	Lake or pool
Nant	Stream or valley
Pentre	Village



Ontario Welsh Festival

A good-sized and enthusiastic group of Welsh from Ottawa attended the Festival in Kingston from April 27-29.

The usual featured events were much-appreciated by all. The Welcome Tea featured Welsh cakes made by a small group of dedicated ladies, and music presented by OWS member Mary Muckle on her harp. She had with her some students who made the two-hour trip to provide lovely Celtic music for both the Welcome Tea and the Noson Lawen.

The Noson Lawen was fun, as always, with the usual suspects and several really good acts from the guest group, Côr Gleision, from Cardiff. The event was emceed by a member of the choir and the final act included a singalong written for the occasion. The acts included Rossini's infamous soprano duet based solely on the sounds of two cats meowing, as well as some more traditional songs. The Penillion ladies from Ottawa and Merched Dewi from Toronto presented some lovely Welsh music. Also included was a reprise of a humorous reading featuring misunderstanding between the generations (you had to be there!).



Mary Muckle and the ladies Penillion group from Ottawa

Côr y Gleision
Singalong



The AGM on Saturday was sparsely attended, but business was dealt with swiftly and the notion of a 60th anniversary Gymanfa weekend in 2021 was introduced. A committee is being formed and plans are already underway for a gala weekend back in Niagara Falls where the OGGA started. Contact the Ontario Welsh Festival if you would like to help.

president@ontariowelshfestival.ca

There were two "workshops" provided. Hefina Phillips reprised her very popular Welsh language class for beginners. Alison was very proud of her students' contributions to the hour. The second session was a showing of a choice of Welsh films, including *Dark Horse*. There were a few technical hiccups, but the films were enjoyed by those who attended.

The most meaningful moment for many of the Ottawa crowd was the presentation of the Gold Award to Alison Lawson (see article on page 6), who has given countless hours of time to the fostering of Welsh culture and language, most recently heading our Society's Awr Sgwrsio Dysgwyr.

The choir was directed by the young and energetic Richard Vaughan and accompanied by the lovely and talented Rhianon Pritchard, who just happens to be Richard's wife. Their solo spots on piano were excellent! The choir itself was animated and committed to quality performances. There were many ovations and happy faces after the concert.



Côr y Gleision at the Gymanfa session

The Gymanfa sessions were lively and fast-paced. There were a few new hymns to be stumbled through, but the singers and guests were universally happy with the whole day.

The Marketplace featured some interesting crafts, including Celtic pottery (custom work available), woolen goods and lots of jewellery. OWS contributed books and CDs with a request for donations to the Ontario Welsh Festival.

If you wanted a break from the hustle and bustle, Kingston also offers many places to walk and visit, including stores, restaurants, parks and historical sites.

2018 Gold Award Winner!

On April 28, 2018, the Ontario Welsh Festival honoured our own Alison Lawson with the annual Gold Award. Alison is the third recipient of this award from the Ottawa Welsh Society, following Myfanwy Davies and Roy Morris.



(Note: The following text is based on and edited from the original published on the Ontario Welsh Festival website. MEJ)

What adjectives come to mind when one thinks of Alison?

Extremely friendly, musical, dedicated, dependable, organized, determined, unassuming, and very Welsh! Born and bred in Llandudno, Alison has lived in Ottawa since moving there in the 1980s. She has been involved with everything Welsh in Ottawa, including the Ottawa Welsh Society, the annual St David's Day reception at the British High Commission, the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society, as well as the University of Ottawa choir, Westminster Presbyterian Church choir and a madrigal group. Alison formed a Parti Cerdd Dant in Ottawa, being responsible for all aspects of training the group - music and language. Many of these activities are still a part of her busy life.

It was Alison who was the prime mover in bringing the Festival to Ottawa in 2016. Nothing was left to chance and each "i" was dotted and each "t" crossed. Everyone agreed that it was one of the best weekends ever.

Along with several other Ottawa choristers Alison often joins Merched Dewi in Toronto for special events. She was also a member of the North American Welsh Choir and toured with them to Patagonia.

Alison was a Board member of the Ontario Welsh Festival for many years and worked tirelessly in the background for the WNGA, organizing two of their Eisteddfodau.

Alison herself is proudest of Yr Awr Sgwrsio! In order to ensure that native Welsh speakers had the opportunity to maintain fluency in their mother tongue Alison organized a monthly get-together

where only Welsh is spoken. In the past year, Alison led in the formation and teaching of a class for beginners in the Welsh language, which is greatly supported by the members of the original Awr Sgwrsio group.



Alison receiving the Gold pin from last year's recipient, Betty Cullingworth

In addition to her work promoting Wales and Welsh culture, Alison volunteers with a reading programme for Grade 7 students and also works with the four daughters of the Syrian family that she helped sponsor.

Along with her husband John, who is also very musical, she finds time to enjoy the outdoors year round, and to crisscross the country, visiting their grandchildren in Nanaimo and Boston.

As one member of the Ottawa Welsh community puts it, Alison is being honoured for her hundreds, perhaps thousands, of hours of volunteer work for the Welsh community in Ontario and beyond.



Alison responded that she felt honoured to be chosen for the award. She came to Canada to study, met John and stayed. She is a proud Canadian, but will always hold Wales and the Welsh community in her heart. Seeing the enthusiasm of the OWS and the members of the OWF in action, Alison is optimistic about the future of Welsh culture in Ontario. Congratulations from all of us, Alison!

JOSEPH HOWARD JONES (b. 1856)

Mary Muckle

My great grandfather, Joseph Howard Jones, was born in 1856, in St. Asaph, Wales. He was a choir boy in the St. Asaph cathedral and as an adult had a fine baritone voice. He was orphaned at an early age and sent to Military School in England. He enlisted in the Welsh Fusiliers and fought in the Ashanti campaign in Africa, from which he was invalided home with shrapnel leg wounds.

In 1882, he came to Canada, where he first worked in Fenelon Falls on the construction of the Trent Canal. In 1883, he settled at Longford Mills, Rama Township in Muskoka. He became a bookkeeper for the Longford Lumber Co. In 1883, he married Annie Franklin, the daughter of English settlers on Sparrow Lake, Muskoka. Joseph and Annie had seven children. The family sang four part harmony together, mostly Welsh hymns, I was told. Joseph was a native Welsh speaker. When the forests around Longford were depleted, Joseph opened a general store and post office in the newly founded village of Hamlet, on the Severn River at Sparrow Lake. In 1901, the Jones family moved to Gravenhurst where Joseph worked as long as he was able while coping with rheumatoid arthritis. In later life, after Annie's death, he was cared for by his adult children.

The Jones house in Gravenhurst is still the home of Joseph and Annie's descendants. I remember there was a painting in the dining of Ruddlan Castle, in the folk art style.



Joseph Howard Jones

From 1882-1885, Joseph kept a journal. I have a copy of this journal and a few of his letters. This is an excerpt from a letter which he wrote to a friend in Wales. Thomas Williams and Robert Davis, along with John Jones, Tom Price Jones and David Evans were his companions aboard ship to Canada and during their first settlement in Muskoka.

"Respecting Thomas Williams, I am sorry to say that I did not succeed in instructing him during the voyage as he did not seem to take an interest whatever in reading. He was more inclined to singing and assisting the crew". Of another friend he wrote "I beg to inform you that you will probably be surprised to learn that Robert Davis insists on going home again. He does not seem to like Canada at all. I am strongly under the impression that he longs for his Father and Mother. He often talks about them. I beg to say that there is no city in Canada bearing the name of Ontario. Ontario is a province, the capital being the city of Toronto....."

He continues: "I am proud to state that we have divine service according to the Church of England once every fortnight. The service is held in a little schoolroom which is let to different denominations. There is a divine service held also by the Methodists and the Presbyterians. The clergyman is very kind to us and is much pleased at our going to church to sing all the chants which used to be read, but now that we attend, they are sung."

In the same letter, he gives the following account of working in the lumber industry.

"Respecting the mill, it keeps going during the summer months until the fall. That is when it gets too cold and much frost. After the mill is closed we will be sent off to the bush to cut down more trees for the 6-7 months ready for the next season.

I will endeavour to explain to you as well as I can how the logs are sawn. In the first place, they are drawn out of the lake by chains, then they go through a very large circular saw which is 16 and ½ feet in the circumference.....

The circular saw takes off the sides of each log and prepares it for the "Gang". The gang consists of about 30 saws together and these work together up and down at a very quick rate to enable to cut 2 logs at a time in less than 5 minutes. From the gang, the planks go through the trimmer and the edging saws where they are made into different sizes.

The average number of planks sawed in a day is about 50,000."

(The names of the different woods are as follows – ash, oak, hemlock, basswood, elm, butternut, maple, beech, birch, pine, balsam, spruce, cedar and poplar.)"

He concludes this letter by saying that luxuries are few. He writes: "We hardly know what milk is. We do not get any sugar or milk in our tea." The following are entries from his journal.

Nov. 26, 1882: "Worked all day at the canal. Snow 8 feet deep. Sold my military suspenders to Tom Jones for 30 cents. Fell on stones and hurt my back. Made a resolution this day not to drink any intoxicating drink nor smoke."

The church was an important part of his social life and provided some link to his life in the old country.

In his journal on Dec. 17, 1882 he wrote: "Went to church in the morning, Good congregation. Went to Sunday School, was appointed Sunday School teacher by Rev. Mr. Logan. A warm and beautiful day. Went to evening service, good congregation, sermon most appreciated " and in brackets he wrote the topic of the sermon which was, "(I die daily)."

Dec. 25: "Attended divine service in the morning. Received a letter from Col. S. L. Miller, Welsh Royal Fusiliers. Christmas time seems much duller than in England. No holly or mistletoe to be seen."

Joseph's perceptions of the indigenous peoples of Canada and of their home and native land was typical of his time. He wrote on Feb. 9, 1883:

"There are still existing in some parts of Canada, Indians who lead the same life as that prior to its discovery. They have no clothing but the skins off wild animals. When a chief or warrior dies, they do not bury him, but take his body and place it on some boards which are placed on top of poles 20 feet high.

They are that ignorant that they believe he has gone to paradise hunting fields and every morning they bring a bowl of soup and lay it at the bottom of the poles. When during the day animals passing by would lick the soup clean out, the poor Indians are under the impression that the body has eaten it. ...". He concludes this entry with "Very stormy winds, Cold. Lost 60 cents."

Sept. 14, 1883: "Got married to Annie Franklin, aged 22, at Sparrow Lake. Spent our honeymoon at Toronto, a week."

The following are a few journal excerpts from 1884-1885

Sunday, May 25: "Was at Sparrow Lake with Annie, a beautiful day. Went to the Free Methodist Church in the evening. A woman preacher."

March 31, 1885: "Rebellion in the northwest commenced last week."

April 4: "great excitement in Winnipeg respecting the rebellion."

April 9: "News of the Russians having attacked the Afghans killing 500. One officer, two subalterns, 10 soldiers killed of the Russians and 29 wounded. Another report states that the Russians were defeated."

The journal ends shortly after this. My Aunt Doris worked with great-grandfather Jones' handwritten account and gave typed copies to her four nieces and nephews, of which I am one.



Joseph and Annie Jones with their family. They are posing at Hamlet, beside the Severn River, which flows out of Sparrow Lake, Muskoka. Joseph was the general store owner and post master for the small Hamlet settlement..



Outside of their house at Longford, Muskoka where Joseph was employed by the local lumber company, until the forest was logged out..