

# Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press

Haf 2019- Summer 2019



[www.ottawawelsh.org](http://www.ottawawelsh.org)

Editor / Golygydd: Marilyn E. Jenkins

## Sywdogion Y Gymdeithas/

### Officers of the Society

**President/Llywydd:** Geraint Lewis

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**Treasurer/Trysorydd:** John Williams

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**Membership/Aelodaeth:** Sian Jones

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**Members at Large:** David Jeanes

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Alison Lawson

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Wendy Wynne-Jones

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## Contents

President's Message	p. 2
Introducing the Executive	p. 2
Upcoming Events	p. 2, 4
Learning Welsh Language	p. 3
OWS History/Anniversary!	p. 4
Summer Picninc/BBQ	p.5
Member News	p. 6
AGM 2019	p. 6

*If you have news or contributions to make to the next newsletter, please contact:*

[marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca](mailto:marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca)

Please note: the Ottawa Welsh Society has a new web site. See the new URL below.

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

[www.ottawawelsh.org](http://www.ottawawelsh.org)

Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa

## President's Message



Annwyl Gyfeillion,

After a very busy, successful and enjoyable year, the Society is slowing down for summer. I have been persuaded to hold a summer "picnic" this year. The date will be August 10, 2-7 pm at my home 45 Lynhurst Ave Ottawa. In the interests of trying in some small way to decrease our plastic footprint, I will be asking folks to bring their own reusable cutlery and crockery. We do this at our annual street party and it works well.

On behalf of us all I welcome Wendy Wynne-Jones back to the executive. As many of you know, Wendy served as our President for several years. Must be like the pain of childbirth – you forget after a while and come back for more. Kidding. Croeso nol!

The executive has broadly sketched in the dates for 2019-2020 functions and these will be shared with you shortly. One of the unofficial events in the Fall will be following Wales Rugby XV at Rugby World Cup 2019. I'm in contact with several potential venues in town to see if they will be carrying the games, but it's too early for details yet.

I have to once again thank Glenson Jones for passing on his collection of Welsh literature to me. I've just finished reading *Y Lon Wen* and *Hunangofiant Tomi*, both thoroughly enjoyable reads and suitable for those with a moderate command of the language (lots of North Walian expressions) Another interesting read was *Y Cymry ac Aur Colorado* - the story of the Welsh communities that pioneered mining exploration in Colorado. These books and more are available for browsing and lending, just call me to set up a visit. (613-521-7300).

Wishing everyone a safe enjoyable summer,

Pob Hwyl,

Geraint,

Llywydd

## Introducing the OWS Executive

The Executive met on June and selected the officers.

President	Geraint Lewis
Past President	John Price
Treasurer	John Williams
Secretary	Marilyn Jenkins
Membership	Sian Wynn Jones
Members at large	David Jeanes
	Alison Lawson
	Wendy Wynne-Jones

In the next issues, we will include short bios so you can get to know us better.

As always, if you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact any one of us, using the email addresses found on the front page. Those receiving hard copies of the newsletter may call Marilyn at 613-820-6687.

## Upcoming Events

- August 10 2-7 p.m. **Summer Picnic/BBQ** (see p. 5)  
September 18 7 p.m. **Pub Night** venue TBD  
November 16 7 p.m. **Anniversary Potluck** (see p. 4)  
December 8 3 p.m. **Lessons & Carols** (Westminster)

Keep up to date by visiting the web site at

[www.ottawawelsh.org](http://www.ottawawelsh.org)

## Colofn y Dysgwyr – Learners' Column Teithio yng Nghymru – *Travelling in Wales*

By John Williams



Dyma'r un cyntaf - *This is your first sign*



Gwelwch arwydd fel hyn ar ffordd hanesyddol – efallai rhwng Llangollen a Caergybi - *You may see a sign like this on a historic route – perhaps between Llangollen and Holyhead*

Arwydd – *Sign*: efallai – *perhaps*: rhwng – *between*

Hanes – *History*: hanesyddol - *historic*



Arafwch – mae Ysgol ymlaen - *Slow down there's a School ahead*

Ymlaen – *ahead* Mae'r ffordd ar gau - *The road is closed.*



Buwch – *Cow* Gwartheg - *cattle*



Pan ydych yn cerdded – edrychwch i'r dde ac i'r chwith - *when you are walking look to the right and to the left*

**Be especially careful if you see ones like these two above!**

Edrych – *to look* Edrychwch - *Look*

De – *Right* Chwith - *Left*



Ewch yn araf - *Slow down*

Taith – *journey* Teithio – *travelling*

Cymru – *Wales*: i Gymru to Wales: *Yng Nghymru – in Wales*

## Awr Sgwrsio i Ddysgwyr

It is hard to believe that our Awr Sgwrsio i Ddysgwyr has been going for a year and a half! We have a loyal and hard-working group of learners and a committed group of Welsh-speaking helpers. I'm very pleased to say that everyone has made excellent progress in speaking Welsh. We can all exchange pleasantries, introduce ourselves, give the date, discuss the weather (we are experts at this), describe where we come from, discuss our likes and dislikes, order a coffee, follow driving or walking directions and many other things - quite the list of accomplishments!

There is a range of levels in the group but everyone benefits from actually speaking the language and we all help each other along.

It isn't too late to join us. As I said in the end of term party in June, it isn't going to get any harder this coming year- just lots more opportunity to practise. I can provide any newcomers with an outline of all the sessions we have had so far. Just contact me at [alisonlawson@rogers.com](mailto:alisonlawson@rogers.com)

Our first session this fall will be held on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. at 449 Mansfield Ave. I hope to see you then!

- Alison Lawson

## The Founder of the Ottawa Welsh Society

I have been exploring the early history of the St. David's Ottawa Welsh Society and the life of its founder, David Rees Thomas. I first saw him mentioned in the 1985 book *In Search of the Red Dragon: the Welsh in Canada* by Carol Bennett.

The first St. David's Day dinner was held in Ottawa in 1919, one hundred years ago, and the first Eisteddfod music competition was organized by the society in 1920. The dinners have continued ever since, except for a ten year hiatus due to World War II. The Eisteddfod continued for 8 years but eventually became the Ottawa Music Festival and now, the Kiwanis Music Festival.

My search has taken me through many back issues of Ottawa newspapers, genealogical records, censuses for Canada and Wales, old maps, and reminiscences published in Y Bwletin. I have seen the houses where David lived in Ottawa and have visited cemeteries in Ottawa and Kingston where he and his wife and children are buried. His grave is at Beechwood Cemetery (See picture).

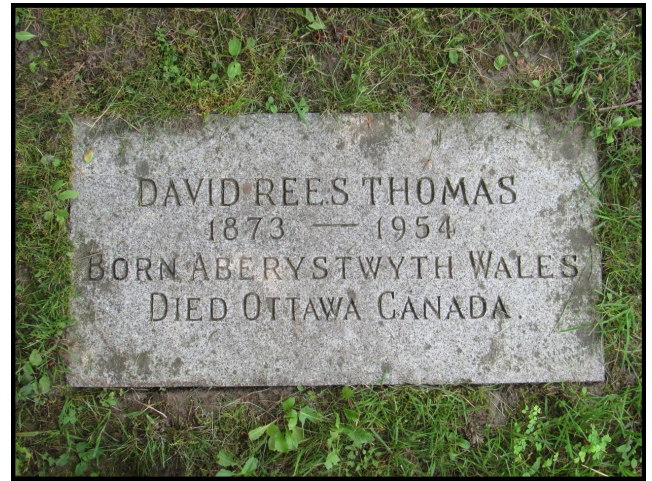
He was born in 1873 on a farm near Aberystwyth in Cardiganshire but emigrated to Canada with one brother, leaving his father and three brothers to continue farming. In Canada he managed a company that operated the log booms on the Gatineau River and married the daughter of Richard Moore, a pioneer of the Gatineau Valley.

After founding the Welsh Society and organizing the Eisteddfods, David served as president of the society and later as honorary president, until his last St. David's Day dinner just before his death in 1954.

I am working on an illustrated talk for this November about David Rees Thomas, his family, the history of the St. David's Day dinners, and the Ottawa Eisteddfods. It is a fascinating story.

- David Jeanes

*Editor's note: There is some confusion about the dates of the founding of the Ottawa Welsh Society. David Rees Thomas has been named as the founder, but the founding date is claimed to be 1894, when he was still in Wales. For now, we're going with the start date as 1919, when the first St. David's Day dinner was held. Stay tuned!*



## Coming up in November

On November 16 at 7:00 p.m., the OWS invites you to an Anniversary celebration and potluck dinner at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Roosevelt. More details will follow in the Bwletin Hydref.

The OWS is celebrating two anniversaries: the 100th anniversary of the founding of the original Ottawa Welsh Society and the 70th anniversary of the current Ottawa Welsh Society.

We are excited by the information that has been dug up by our resident historian, David Jeanes and we expect his presentation will be of interest to all.



# **Ottawa Welsh Society**

## **Family Picnic/BBQ**



**Saturday, August 10, 2019**

**2:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

**45 Lynhurst Avenue**

**(Mooney's Bay area)**



### **What to bring:**

- **something to barbecue, favourite beverage**
- **Lawn chair(s)**
- **Something to share – hors d'oeuvre, salad or dessert**
- **Non disposable plates, cups, cutlery**

**RSVP to Marilyn Jenkins so we have an idea how many to expect.**

**[marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca](mailto:marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca) or 613-820-6687**



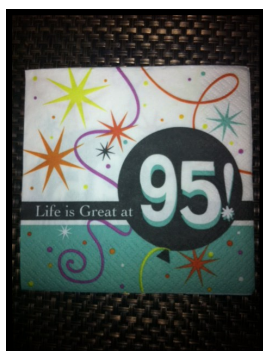


## Member News



Congratulations to Mary Muckle and Jake Rice, who welcome grandson Thomas Eamon O'Neill into their family, firstborn to Kate and Kevin in Montreal.

Congratulations to new members Brian and Denise Jeanes who have a new grandchild, James Luke Spencer, born 5 July 2019 to daughter Hayley and her husband Luke Spencer.



Happy 95th birthday on July 30 to Rowly Jenkins, now residing at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre on Russell Road.

## AGM

The AGM was held on Tuesday, May 21 at Kristy's Restaurant on Richmond Road. A good number of members showed up to socialize over dinner and a few more joined for the meeting portion of the evening. New members and old enjoyed a meal and conversation prior to the meeting. We were tickled to see Stan and Lyndell Hughes and Roy Morris there, still taking an active part in the Society. Following is a summary of the events of the meeting.

As usual, the meeting began with a moment of silence to honour the lives of those members (or their family members) who passed on in 2018-19: Ryan Mercer, John "Ted" Moule, Lynette Hynes, Suzie Jenkins, Dr. Denis Jones, John Martin and Dave Underwood.

Members of the executive presented their respective reports: President, Treasurer, Financial reviewer and Membership Secretary, and which were accepted by a majority vote. A separate report was presented by David Jeanes on the success of the first Welsh Film Festival in Ottawa (very successful in all ways.) We gained a few new members and the Bytowne people were excited about the number of attendees.

The entire executive was re-elected, with one additional returning member (Wendy Wynne-Jones).

One item of new business was raised and following discussion, the members voted to have the executive consider obtaining Directors' insurance for the officers of the Society.

Finally, it was brought to the attention of members that the 2020 Ontario Welsh Festival and the 2021 North American Festival of Wales will both be held in Ottawa and the executive called upon members to step up and volunteer for various jobs that need to be done locally.

As mentioned elsewhere in the Bwletin, a picnic is planned for later in the summer. (See p. 5)

- Marilyn Jenkins