

Y Bwletin



Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press

Haf 2020 - Summer 2020

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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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You can read articles from previous editions of *Y Bwletin* on our web site:

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

www.ottawawelsh.org



Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa

Check out our web site and our Facebook page!

President's Message



I was set a challenge by one of our members, Tim Mark, earlier in the year. A family member had acquired a new puppy and was investigating the family name "Dysa." Tim was unsure of pronunciation and meaning so turned to me as a potential source of knowledge. He knows better now. Neither Google nor my sister (who is a member of the Gorsedd) was any help either. I think an (non OWS) executive decision has been made regarding pronunciation, but if any of you have any information you think might be relevant, please contact me.

Stay safe and sane. This pandemic seems set to run for a while. It may well disrupt our plans for Fall and Christmas but we live in hope.

Pob Hwyl
- Geraint Lewis

President's Letter Summer 2020/ Anerchiad y Llywydd, Haf 2020

Annwyl Gyfeillion,

What a year this is turning out to be, and still your Society continues to function thanks to the dedication and technical expertise of many committed individuals.

Zoom has been a particular useful tool, enabling Alison Lawson and John Williams to organize our Awr Sgwrsio for both beginners and more fluent Welsh speakers. It also enabled the executive to meet and deliberate, and hosted our AGM on July 9 to which you were all emailed a link. Apologies to those who are not tech savvy but it was the best we could do given the circumstances.

The AGM was surprisingly well attended, and some details of the proceedings are included in this Bulletin. I wanted to draw your attention to the instruction from the meeting attendees that the Executive must get Directors' Insurance. This is in addition to our event insurance, and will boost our overhead substantially. This led to the other vote to increase our Annual Membership fees to cover the added costs. The fees have not been increased in many years, and as they stand currently do not cover overall expenses. The increases are unlikely to break most folks' budgets; the new figures are \$30 for a family, \$20 for an individual and \$15 for students. Please renew.

Report on AGM 2019-20

Nineteen members of the OWS met through ZOOM on July 9, starting at 7:00 p.m. It was a new experience for some, and old hat for others. Following a moment of silence in recognition of those who had passed on in the previous year, the executive members presented their reports, which were all accepted, and the "new" executive (no changes) was elected.

Highlights:

The membership directed the Executive to research and purchase Directors' Insurance as soon as possible. To aid with this, the membership voted to increase the membership fees to \$30 per family, \$20 per single and \$15 per student, beginning in 2021.

Myfanwy Davies reported on the plans for NAFOW 2020 which is slated to take place here in Ottawa. The guest group is the Dunvant Male Choir and seminar presenters include locals Pawl Birt and Alan Thomas, as well as a mystery writer and an expert on the Welsh in the Arctic! Our friend Rev. Neil Wallace has agreed to participate as well.

There was a presentation by the Film Festival committee and the membership authorized the committee to spend up to \$2000 in support of a second festival in 2021.

Congratulations were offered to Geraint on his election as President of the OGGA.

Colofn y Dysgwyr – Learners' Column

Saying Yes and No
Cadwch ati! – keep it up!

By John Williams

Saying Yes and No in Welsh

We have found out that saying yes and no in Welsh is not as straight forward as in English.



Generally, we use the verb in the question to reply, which also depends on the tense of the verb. Choosing the right yes/no is often just a matter of repeating back the relevant verb. In spoken Welsh, you will hear people using *le/Na* or *la/Naci* for Yes/No, so if you have trouble remembering any of the responses below, try using them!

PRESENT TENSE (BOD)

Ydy Alison yma heddiw?	<i>Is Alison here today?</i>
Ydy	<i>Yes she is</i>
Nac ydy	<i>No she isn't</i>

FUTURE TENSE (BOD)

Fydd Geraint yma yfory?	<i>Will Geraint be here tomorrow?</i>
Bydd	<i>Yes, he will</i>
Na fydd	<i>No, he won't</i>

PERFECT TENSE (BOD)

In the North, you can respond to these questions using Do / Naddo.

Wyt ti wedi gorffen?	<i>Have you finished?</i>
Ydw	<i>Yes, I have</i>
Nac ydw	<i>No, I haven't</i>

Do – yes ; Naddo – No

Wyt ti wedi bod yn Montreal?	<i>Have you been in Montreal?</i>
Ydw	<i>Yes, I have</i>
Nac ydw	<i>No, I haven't</i>
Do - Yes	Naddo – No

Ydy Judith wedi ffonio?	<i>Has Judith phoned?</i>
Ydy	<i>Yes, she has</i>
Nac ydy	<i>No, she hasn't</i>
Do - yes	Naddo – no

INDEFINITE

The response to any question containing “Oes” is always

Oes / Nac Oes.

Oes gwers heno?	<i>Is there a lesson this evening?</i>
Oes	<i>Yes there is</i>
Nac oes	<i>No, there isn't</i>

Oes gafr eto?
Oes, (heb ei godro!)
(No translation – only if you sing!)

EMPHATIC

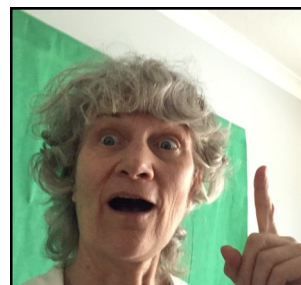
The response to any question that does not start with a verb is:

le/la or *Na/ Naci*.

Ti sy'n dysgu Cymraeg?	<i>Are you the one learning Welsh?</i>
<i>le/la</i> - Yes	<i>Na/Naci</i> – No

Athrawes ydy hi?	<i>Is she a teacher?</i>
<i>le/la</i> - yes	<i>Na/Naci</i> – no

Gareth sydd yn chwarae yfory?	<i>Is it Gareth who is playing tomorrow?</i>
<i>le/la</i> - yes	<i>Na/Naci</i> – no



Gorffwysfa

by David Jeanes

In 1997, the year of my parents' 50th anniversary, my father Bill Jeanes ordered a heavy cast metal sign for their house on Massey Lane in Rothwell Heights. He paid \$240 for a 23-inch long sign, with enamelled reliefs of a maple leaf, a red dragon and the name "GORFFWYSFA".

As "Place of Rest" in Welsh, (sometimes mistranslated as "Place of Peace"), it was the name of the 1868 house at 24 Sussex Drive, built by Vermont-born lumberman and M.P., Joseph Merrill Currier, for his new wife Hannah Wright, daughter of Ruggles and granddaughter of Philemon.

Neither Currier nor the Wrights had any known Welsh connections or ancestry, but the name was already well-known in tourist guides to Snowdonia from 1853, 1847, 1801 and 1773, as an inn in Llanberis pass, which is still there, the last rest stop before the ascent of Snowdon itself.

The name was used by the later owners of 24 Sussex, William Cameron Edwards and Gordon C. Edwards, but when the federal government expropriated and extensively remodelled the house in 1950, as the prime minister's official residence, it was decided to drop the Welsh name.

The only Welshman who lived there was Major General Sir Ivor Herbert, later Lord Treowen, grandson of Lady Llanover, commander of the Canadian Militia. He rented it from 1890-93 after W.C. Edwards' death, then moved to Earncliffe from 1893-95 after Sir John A. Macdonald died.

My Dad, Bill Jeanes, in his 50th wedding anniversary speech in 1997, thanked Dr. Lyn (Llewellyn) Davies for suggesting it. He and his wife Kathleen were the first neighbours to welcome our family to tea in our second week in Manor Park in 1957.

I only just discovered his speaking notes while looking for something else in my Dad's diaries. Lyn Davies, who died in 2006, was the father of a friend of mine, Jonathan Davies, who still lives in Ottawa. <https://ottawacitizen.remembering.ca/obituary/gwilym-davies-1066122666>

My parents received the sign around the end of the year and, after the January 1998 ice-storm, installed it beside their front door. They were photographed by a neighbour with the sign on 25 January 1998, as a winter scene for their next Christmas card picture.

The Gorffwysfa sign stayed at 13 Massey Lane until my mother's death in 2008 and my father's subsequent move to the Rockcliffe retirement residence. I kept it and displayed it at the memorial reception there when he died in 2014. It is now at our home.



David Jeanes speaking at the
St. David's Day Luncheon 2018

Member Announcements



**Ontario Welsh Festival
Gŵyl Gymreig Ontario**

Annwyl Gyfeillion,

It is with great sadness that the OGGA Board has decided to cancel our 60th Anniversary Gŵyl Ontario, scheduled for Niagara Falls in April 2021.

This was not an easy decision. Several factors contributed, all COVID 19 related. The pandemic is ongoing, with decisions by various levels of government that have affected border crossing, social distancing, and maximum numbers that can safely gather indoors. The demographics of our Welsh community, and the role of singing in close proximity in potential transfer of the virus are also considerations. Choirs are unable to practice, and travel is curtailed.

We had a contract with one of the Niagara Falls hotels that would penalize us significantly if we chose to proceed in hope but have to cancel closer to the date of the Festival. By cancelling now, our maximum at risk cost is our deposit, but we are negotiating with the hotel to transfer the booking and deposit to 2022.

The OGGA Board is considering options for a smaller gathering for April/May 2021 perhaps in Toronto that would be logistically easier to stage should circumstances allow. We will keep you informed,

Pob Bendith,
Geraint Lewis
Llywydd Cymdeithas Gymanfa Ganu Ontario.

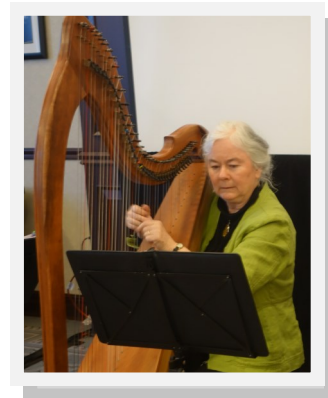
Harp Concert

Mary Muckle and friends were forced to cancel their concert at St. Luke's Anglican Church in the spring due to Covid-19 restrictions.

A new date, October 4, 2020 has been booked, subject again to restrictions. Participants include the Ottawa Youth Harp Ensemble, Cantorion Cerdd Dant (Jennifer Davis, Alison Lawson, Myfanwy Davies, Maureen Carpenter), soprano Marilyn Jenkins, flautist Emily Johnson, violinist Douglas Brierly and of course, Mary Muckle on harp.

Keep an eye on our website for further announcements about this and other events.

www.ottawawelsh.org



Upcoming Events

Monthly Awr Sgwrsio (Welsh speakers)
 Awr Sgwrsio Dysgwyr (Learners)
 Contact Alison Lawson to participate online.
 alisonlawson@rogers.com

November 14 Potluck and activities (TBA)

December 13 Lessons and Carols

In Memoriam



Felicity (Flick) Lines

It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of Felicity (Flick) Lines on March 9, 2020. Née Ann Moore of Newport, Wales, Flick worked as a Registered Nurse in London England prior to emigrating to Canada where she raised her family, eventually resettling to Bermuda before retiring to Peterborough, Ontario.

During her days in Ottawa, Flick was an active member of the OWS while her children were in their teens. She was a keen participant in the Seniors' Teas, the choir and a gracious hostess to visiting rugby teams. She served on the OWS Executive with then-husband Mike Sinclair. They were very involved in the National Gymanfa held in Ottawa in 1977. She was a good friend to Vronwen Davies, Jeannette Hudson and Bev Cleland, among others. Her children remember the OWS with fondness, and the current members of the Society who were around during the 60s and 70s remember Flick as a very kind woman, with a mischievous side, getting up to some interesting hijix with Vronwen and Bev. She was greatly missed when she moved away with second husband Tom Lines, a Bermudan.

Flick will be remembered as a Girl Guide Commissioner, friend, activist and generous volunteer, a hard worker, voracious reader, avid traveller, keen bridge player and soft-hearted dog lover. She will be sadly missed by her loving children, Johanna Sinclair (Harold) and Ian Sinclair (Loren), her cherished grandchildren Liam, Stefano and Sienna, dog Mukluk and her brother Noel Moore and his family. In lieu of flowers, the family suggest a memorial donation to the Peterborough Regional Health Centre Foundation prhcfoundation.ca



"Flick, Vronwen, Bev and Jeannette can now have their Spin Dins in heaven." (Myfanwy Davies)



**Shelah Williams
1939-2020**

Shelah Caroline Williams (nee Courtney) began her life's journey in 1939 in Aklavik, NWT, the eldest daughter of Henry (Pat) and Lillian Courtney, and ended it at the Élisabeth Bruyère Hospice Palliative Care Unit on May 7, 2020. This journey involved short stays in Northern Ontario before spending her schooldays in Sarnia and Brockville (BCVI). While in Brockville she spent many happy summers at the family cottage on Charleston Lake with her sister Moira Hudgin and where many cousins visited every summer.

A well-rounded student, Shelah excelled in the sciences, winning prizes and scholarships in high school and university to pursue her studies at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Shelah obtained B.Sc. (1961) and M.Sc. (1966) at Queen's University and taught science in high school. In 1963 she married David Williams, a fellow graduate student at Queen's. Shelah decided to switch fields and spent a year at University College, London, UK. studying Librarianship and a year at the National Science Library in Ottawa. Her love of teaching persuaded her to spend the rest of her career as teacher-librarian at Rideau High School, Ottawa. She continued to challenge herself by completing Western's Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program. Shelah and David attended many OWS events over the years and were well-known to long-term members. Shelah and David were great supporters of the arts, encouraging students by establishing scholarships in music at Ottawa and Queen's Universities. Other beneficiaries included Ottawa and Ontario theatre, opera and music organisations - especially Opera Lyra Ottawa and the National Capital Opera Society. She and David combined their love of travel with their love of the arts, attending operas, plays and classical music events locally and internationally. This was only stopped by an unexpected diagnosis of an inoperable cancer which Shelah was unable to defeat.

In Memoriam



Margaret Alice Roberts (née Stebbeds)
1922-2020

Margaret passed away peacefully and pain-free at Stittsville (Granite Ridge Care Community) on Tuesday May 5, 2020 at the age of 97. Born in Wealdstone, now part of Greater London, UK on November 24, 1922 to Susan Mary and Alfred Collen Stebbeds, Margaret was a graduate RN working in London during WWII. She married the love of her life, Bob, in January 1949. Margaret and Bob immigrated to Canada in 1952 and lived in Toronto, Cooksville and Winnipeg before settling in Bell's Corners (Ottawa) in 1960. Margaret was an active parishioner at Christ Church, Bell's Corners.

Margaret will be remembered by members of the OWS and the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society as gentle, supportive and a tireless worker during her many years with the choir. She served as President of the choir at a transitional point and was a great comfort and help to the director. Her strength, encouragement and patience were boundless. After the loss of her singing voice, Margaret continued to support OWS events and was a frequent attendee at the St. David's Day Dinner/Luncheon and at the Ontario Welsh Festivals. Her passions, in addition to her family, were gardening, tennis, skiing and later in life world travelling and sailing with her fond companion John Martin. Margaret continued to live in her beloved "51" until a stroke made it no longer possible for her to care for herself. Truthfully, a part of her was lost then. She continued to be the gentle, kind and loving Mum and Nana the family had all known, but her ability to communicate was diminished through a number of debilitating strokes.

Margaret was predeceased, 37 years before, by her loving husband Harold (Bob) Roberts. She was also pre-deceased by a brother, Geoffrey and a sister, Norah. Her remaining sister, Brenda, lives in Shillingstone, Dorset.

Margaret leaves behind her beloved children, Susan Roberts O'Brien and Jane Roberts-Long (James Long), and cherished grandchildren Erinn Heritage (Mark Heritage), Stephen O'Brien (Melissa Very O'Brien) and Diana Ritondo (Marco Ritondo). Margaret was also the "bestest" Nana-Nana to Emma Heritage, and Blaire and Shea O'Brien.

Margaret is now at rest, leaving a legacy of fond memories and too many photos to catalogue. The family would like to express their gratitude to the staff of Granite Ridge and Stillwater Creek for the care and tremendous support they gave to Margaret in her final years. Due to the current health crisis a celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider supporting the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. Condolences, tributes and donations may be made at www.tubmanfuneralhomes.com



Margaret singing with her friends in OWCS
Christmas 1985

