

Y Bwletin



Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press

Gaeaf 2021 - Autumn 2021

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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 January 2021



Annwyl Gyfeillion,

Hope springs eternal with the arrival of every New Year, but this year especially. Hope for the rapid effective distribution of COVID vaccines, the demise of the pandemic and the resumption of all those activities and relationships that have been so sadly missed for so long.

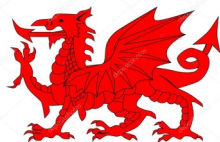
Along the lines of rebirth, our youngest daughter gave birth to our fourth grandchild on December 14, 2020. Mother and child are doing well and we have been seeing baby Madeleine almost daily through the magic of Facetime. We can't wait until we get to hold her in real life.

OWS has tried to move online as much as possible, for which a lot of thanks goes to the executive for their ideas, technological savvy, and enthusiasm to keep going.

It is inevitable that our usual Gymanfa Ganu and Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant celebrations are not possible in traditional format this year, but we are working on alternatives and will keep you posted as they become clearer.

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda I Bawb,

Geraint



Membership in the OWS

It is that time of year again. The luncheon won't be happening, but expenses do go on and membership fees are due on March 1. Please send your completed form (see p.9) to the Membership secretary directly. **Please note that the AGM voted to raise the fees to cover additional costs incurred due to an increase in insurance coverage. See the membership form for new rates. We are looking into making it possible to pay by e-transfer. Stay tuned for updates on the web site.

Note: The new mailing list is always created from the membership forms that come in every year.

Blwyddyn Newydd dda i chi.

Marilyn

Virtual Upcoming ^ Events 2021

Details for the upcoming events are on pages 5 and 6.

January 30-31	7p.m. Film Night "Calon Gaeth"
February 28	3 p.m. Mini Gymanfa
March 1	7p.m. Online drama "West"

A link will be emailed during the week prior to each event.

Please note: Those brave souls who wish to participate by phone must phone Marilyn at **613-820-6687** to register. They will then receive a call from an executive member to give them the phone number to call in.

Colofn y Dysgwyr – Learners' Column

Here is a summary of the Learners evening held in January 2021. Sesiwn 27! Cadwch ati! – keep it up!

Mynd - to go

es	mi es i	<i>I went</i>
est	mi est ti	<i>you went (single)</i>
aeth	mi aeth o/ef/hi	<i>he/he/she went</i>
aethon	mi aethon ni	<i>we went</i>
aethoch	mi aethoch chi	<i>you went</i>
aethant	mi aethon nhw	<i>they went</i>

Dod -to come

des	mi ddes i	<i>I came</i>
dest	mi ddest ti	<i>you came (single)</i>
daeth	mi ddaeth o/ef/hi	<i>he/he/she came</i>
daethon	mi ddaethon ni	<i>we came</i>
daethoch	mi ddaethoch chi	<i>you came</i>
daethant	mi ddaethon nhw	<i>they came</i>

Cael- to get

ces	mi ges i	<i>I got</i>
cest	mi gest ti	<i>you got (single)</i>
cafodd	mi gafodd o/hi	<i>he/she got</i>
cawsom	mi gawsom ni	<i>we got</i>
cawsoch	mi gawsoch chi	<i>you got</i>
cawsant	mi gawsant nhw	<i>they got</i>

Gwneud – to do

gwnes	mi wnes i	<i>I did</i>
gwneest	mi wneest ti	<i>you did (single)</i>
gwnaeth	mi wnaeth o/hi	<i>he/she did</i>
gwnaethon	mi wnaethon ni	<i>we did</i>
gwnaethoch	mi wnaethoch chi	<i>you did</i>
gwnaethant	mi wnaethant nhw	<i>they did</i>

As in Latin, Spanish, and other languages, Welsh verbs decline so the use of the pronoun is not strictly required. This gives us short and long forms of speaking.

Es ddoe./Mi es i ddoe. *I went yesterday.*
 Aeth Gwyn adref./Mi aeth Gwyn adref. *Gwyn went home.*
 Ces anrhegion Nadolig./Mi ges i anrhegion Nadolig. *I got Christmas presents.*
 Daethant o Montréal neithiwr./Mi ddaethant nhw o Montreal neithiwr. *They came from Montreal last evening.*
 Gwnes fy ngorau./Mi wnes i fy ngorau. *I did my best.*

Asking questions, we just drop the mi

Est ti?	<i>Did you go?</i>
Gest ti?	<i>Did you get?</i>
Dest ti?	<i>Did you come</i>
Wneest ti?	<i>Did you?</i>
Aethoch chi?	<i>Did you go?</i>
Gawsoch chi?	<i>Did you get</i>
Daethoch chi?	<i>Did you come?</i>
Wnaethoch chi?	<i>Did you?</i>

Mynd - Dod - Cael - Gwneud

Wyt ti'n mynd yfory?	<i>Are you going tomorrow?</i>
Wyt ti'n dod yfory?	<i>Are you coming tomorrow?</i>
Wyt ti'n cael annwyd?	<i>Are you getting a cold?</i>
Wyt ti'n gwneud rhywbeth yfory?	<i>Are you doing anything tomorrow?</i>

Using gwneud to form a past tense

Beth wnaethoch chi dros y gwyliau?/Beth wneest ti dros y gwyliau?	<i>What did you do over the holidays?</i>
Mi wnes i fynd i Boston	<i>I went to Boston</i>
Mi wnes i aros yn Ottawa	<i>I stayed in Ottawa</i>
Mi wnes i chwarae pel droed.	<i>I played soccer</i>
Mi wnes i chwarae gyda'r wyrion.	<i>I played with the grandchildren</i>

Or the shorter form

Es i Boston.	<i>I went to Boston</i>
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Using the long form and **gwneud** allows you to form a past tense. This is useful if you don't know how to form the past tense of chwarae or aros!

Chwaraeais – I played
 Arosais – I stayed

Geirfa - vocabulary	
Annwyd	A cold
Anrheg(ion)	Present(s)
Wyr(ion)	Grandchild(ren)
gorau	best
rhywbeth	something

Fall Social with David Jeanes

With 36-plus attendees, including some on the phone, our first Zoom social event was dubbed a success. David Jeanes provided a very interesting illustrated talk about homes his ancestors inhabited in Wales. He has clearly spent a lot of time researching and visiting his ancestral homes in Pembrokeshire and around Cardiff.

Following the talk, we sang several favourite Welsh tunes, accompanied by Alan Thomas on the piano and organ, all pre-recorded, thanks to Alan and Alison Lawson, who met, safely distanced, at Westminster Presbyterian Church. We all look forward to the day we can see each other and sing together again in that same building. The sounds of *Unwaith Eto'n Nghymru Annwyl*, *Ar Hyd Nos*, *Cwm Rhondda* and *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau* reverberated through our speakers and into our homes. Many thanks to Alan and Alison for their ongoing dedication.

Interspersed with the songs were opportunities to chat with old friends and new in breakout rooms. These were randomly assigned, so we didn't know who we might meet in the rooms. The host was able to call us all back, usually with a 60 second warning so we could wrap up our discussion. We all appreciated the opportunity to check in with people we hadn't seen in almost a year!

As a first attempt at an online social event, it was a great success. Many thanks to those of you who joined us.



*A typical Executive meeting on Zoom
Where all the brilliant ideas begin...*

November Film Night

On November 14, we held our first online film night. Members of the executive reviewed several short films produced by young film-makers in a program called "It's My Shout". This program helps train directors, crew, writers and any other film job you can think of. In many of the films, locals are included in the cast. Alison Lawson reviewed many, many of these films and provided the executive with a short list, from which three films were selected: *Pili palod Penygroes*, *Jiw Jiws* and *François*. Each one was approximately 10 minutes in length and was followed by a ten-minute chat in randomly selected groupings of four or five. Each film had a social message but was entertaining in its own right. These films are available to watch on YouTube. If you type the name of the film into your search engine, it should come up right away. If you want to explore other films, try "It's My Shout".

Approximately 27 members participated and everyone expressed pleasure in the choices. Some of the discussions related to the films and others were just catching up.

Service of Lessons and Carols

Our long-held tradition of Lessons and Carols went on, not as usual, but in as joyful a way as possible, with about 50 members in attendance. Readings were done "live" from homes across the city, including long-time and newer members. English readings were done by Lezlie Wood, Christopher Smart and Wendy Wynne-Jones, Welsh readings by John Williams, Jennifer Davis and Geraint Lewis, and a French reading by Anastasia Llewellyn.

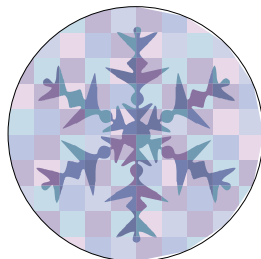
A lovely solo, comprised of two versions of *Away in a Manger*, one in Welsh and the other a new English tune, was pre-recorded by the very young Mira, a granddaughter of members of the Society.

The Cantorion Cerdd Dant with Alison Lawson, Barbara Colton, Maureen Carpenter and Jennifer Davis performed a lovely carol, *Ar noson fel heno*, accompanied by Mary Muckle. Each singer recorded their part at home and sent it along to John Lawson, who mixed the parts with the harp accompaniment and produced a recording for our enjoyment. A lot of work for all concerned, but the end result was worth the effort!

As always, Alan Thomas presided at the organ, also pre-recorded, and everyone was encouraged to sing along from the comfort of their home.

There was some time at the end for socializing. Not our usual *Te bach*, but enjoyable nonetheless. Many thanks to all who put this together for us in a difficult year. Blwyddyn Newydd dda i pawb!

Film Night on Zoom



You are invited to join us as we watch

"Calon Gaeth" (*A Conquered Heart*)

in Welsh with English subtitles

Based on the 1979 novel "A Small Country" by Siân James.

Directed by Ashley Way.

Starring Rhian Morgan, Nia Roberts, Catrin Morgan, Mark Lewis Jones.

Green Bay Media - Talbot Studios, 2006, with the co-operation of S4C.

"Rich family saga of love, devotion, deceit and adultery. Josi Evans runs off with the local school mistress, Miriam, leaving behind wealth and esteem to find a life of love and human contact."

Date: January 30 & 31, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Note: the film will be shown in two parts with optional chat rooms following each.

This is how it works:

If you are a member of the Society, we will email the link to you a few days before the event.

If you are not a member, you must contact the executive at

ottawa.welsh.society@gmail.com

A few days before the event, those who wish to participate online will be sent the link in an email.

Those who wish to participate on the phone will be called with the phone number you will need.

***To ensure that you get a phone call, please register your intention to participate by calling Marilyn at **613-820-6687** by Wednesday, January 27, 2021

St. David's Day Mini Gymanfa

On February 28 at 3:00 p.m., we plan to hold an online mini Gymanfa ganu. There won't be a conductor this year, but we will be singing along with previously recorded gymanfa assemblies. Five hymns have been chosen and the recordings will come from NAFOW (North American Festival of Wales).

We plan to have a social time afterwards, including a surprise video.

St. David's Day Celebration March 1, 2021

This year we will bring you a live performance on Zoom all the way from Wales. **West**, a play by award-winning writer Owen Thomas, features only two actors, Gwenllian Higginson and Gareth John Bale, who also directs.

This play was commissioned by and premiered at the North American Festival of Wales in 2019 and has toured extensively since then, including online.

"Using the lyrical and evocative language of playwright Owen Thomas, [the actors] gave us a vivid picture of the excitements and sorrows of a young couple leaving their home...and traveling to a place they knew so little about."

Following the one hour performance there will be a real time Question and Answer period with the actors who will be the official hosts of the event.

Some reactions to the play: *"It is hard to see this play, so brilliantly played on Zoom by two actors, without gaining new empathy and understanding of refugee and immigrant friends who have similar experiences. I loved it!" Kay T.*

"The actors brought so much energy and emotion....This play remind[s] us of the hardships and sorrows our ancestors experienced and the strength and tenacity that carried them through." Janice B.

"This is an intimate play, a story about love and the meaning of home. With only two characters...it is perhaps especially powerful with the intimacy of Zoom." Don B.

"...it makes you think as well as feel....Who, where and what matters? What does 'Home' mean? If ever 'Hiraeth' is summed up, then this is it." James Scannell

You can read an interview with the playwright here:

<https://getthechance.wales/2019/08/13/an-interview-with-welsh-playwright-owen-thomas/>

Let's Hear It for St. David!

Would you like to have the same amount of attention given to St. David's Day on local radio stations as for St. Patrick's Day? We can do something about it if we are all willing to blitz the radio stations with requests for Welsh music for March 1st. Please think about which Welsh performer you would like to hear or perhaps a piece by a Welsh composer, and then ASK! The more people who get in touch with the stations, the more likely they are to take notice of us. Here are some thoughts:

Classical : Bryn Terfel(of course!), Katherine Jenkins, our own Shannon Mercer, Geraint Evans, Gwyneth Jones, Aled Jones, Osian Ellis, Rhys Meirion

Popular music: Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey, Harry Secombe, Dafydd Iwan, Charlotte Church, Elin Fflur, Sian James, Huw Rhys Bowen, Geraint Lovegreen, Hogia'r Wyddfa, Duffy...

Instrumentalists: Robin Huw Bowen-triple harp, Catrin Finch (harpist including the electric harp, Royal harpist to Prince Charles.)

Composers: Karl Jenkins, William Mathias, Alun Hoddinot, Robert Arwyn, Ivor Novello, Grace Williams, Henry Walford Davies.

Here is contact information for a few local radio stations.

1. **CBC 103.3 FM-Tempo:** A national programme hosted by Julie Nesrallah who is based in Ottawa. Contact her by writing to Tempo, CBC, 181 Queen St, Ottawa, ON K1P 1K9, or https://cbchelp.cbc.ca/hc/enca/requests/new?ticket_form_id=114094002553

2. **CBC 103.3 FM- All in a Day:** Hosted by Allan Neal. Contact him at All in a Day, 181 Queen St, Ottawa, ON K1P 1K9, or use the e-mail contact form above.

3. **Majic 100:** Write to Majic 100, 87, George Street Ottawa K1N 9H7, or use the e-mail contact form: <https://www.iheartradio.ca/majic-100-3/contact-us>

4. **Jewel Radio:** Write to them at Jewel 98.5, 127 York St, Ottawa, ON K1N 5T4, or use the e-mail contact form: <https://985thejewel.com/music-inquiries/>

Please help us with this. If we all send in a request, we can all be very proud on St. David's Day! Send in your requests to CBC programmes two or three weeks ahead

For more advice/information, please call Alison Lawson at 613-725-2704.

In Memoriam



Shirley Griffiths

It is with profound sadness that we share the loss of Shirley Griffiths at the age of 95, on November 21, 2020 in Carmarthen, South Wales. Shirley was predeceased by husband Tal and is survived by daughters Julie and Sian, and granddaughter Anna Caitlin.

Although Shirley was born a Canadian in Windsor, Ontario and was English on her mother's side - she had the heart of a fierce Welsh woman, hewn from the slate of her beloved Snowdonia. She lost her mother at the tender age of four while on a visit to the UK. She was then raised by her father's mother - who only spoke Welsh—in the mountain resort town of Llanberis. Shirley quickly became fluent in this strange new language. She maintained a great attachment to Ysgol Brynrefail, where many lifelong friendships were forged.

Shirley was extremely proud of her Welsh heritage. A love of Welsh culture and history was learned early at the knee of her auntie Janet who was active in the Urdd (see following article), whose goals and mission Shirley made her own.

She trained as a teacher during World War II at St Mary's College, Bangor going on to teach in London. She recalled hearing bombs whistling past on visits to her Father's sister, Margaret, in Manchester.

Shirley met Tal, originally from Carmarthen, on a train in Cardiff during the early 1950s. She was early, he was late. He was on a visit home from Morocco where he worked. But she didn't catch the travel bug from him... As soon as it was safe to do so at the end of World War II, she was among the first tourists to be issued with a passport in order to travel to continental Europe just months after the end of the war. First port of call? The Netherlands. On the ferry on the way over, she told a fellow passenger that she admired their silk coat - only to be told it was made from

a paratrooper's parachute. It was a time when rations were still in effect. She recalled how six people would have to share just one tea bag - weak tea indeed!

Tal noted her details from her suitcase and that's how it all started. He was impressed that she read posh newspapers, like The Observer. She said his voice reminded her of Rossano Brazzi, Emile de Becque, the male lead in South Pacific. In fact, as Julie recalled, he used to sing Some Enchanted Evening to her when they toured the Caves of Hercules outside of Tangier where they married in 1953 and settled in their early years.

In 1957, Shirley and daughter Julie joined Tal in Montreal, where Sian was born. They became active in the St David's Society of Montreal. They moved to Ottawa in 1967 and Tal took up a post as a high school teacher. They became very active in the Ottawa Welsh Society. Shirley stood in as Membership Secretary. They hosted many memorable song-filled evenings gathered around a piano in their home made pub in the basement and participated in both Ontario and National Gymanfoedd Ganu.

Both Tal and Shirley taught in the Welsh school which ran during the late 70s on Saturdays. Shirley enjoyed their many visitors from Wales - old friends and relatives and new friendships made from visiting rugby players, teachers, academics, musical performers, harpists and of course choirs - including one choir member, a man of the church, who remarked how much he enjoyed "the holy water" available in the house (ie wine!)

During a Canada Day Celebration, Tal and Shirley donned traditional Welsh dress to represent the Welsh community in Canada. Shirley was in charge of costume design.



Her passion for the promotion of Welsh culture led her to be on the founding committee of the University of Ottawa Celtic Chair. New friendships and connections were forged with members of the Scottish and Irish Communities in Ottawa. She'd be very proud about how it has grown and expanded today.

During the 1970s, Shirley retrained as a social worker. She stayed in touch with and remained concerned for many of the kids long after they left her care.

Shirley enjoyed belonging to many communities and was for a time President of the Country Place Community Association, where her main focus was providing more activities for area children.

Shirley was the travel planner of the family and set her eyes on lands faraway: Egypt twice, and Portugal, opting to camp using homemade sheetbags which she sewed together. Later, there was a fascinating tour through Israel (staying with former Ottawa Welsh Society Alumni, Gwyn Morgan, EU Ambassador to Israel at the time.)

Many in the Welsh community will recall that in addition to the many Noson Lawens, Faggots and peas dinners, picnics, St. David's Day dinners, concerts, and wine & cheese events, Shirley could be found at Antiques Shows held on the Eastern Ontario/Northern US Antiques circuit where she was a firm fixture. In fact, that steely North Walian determination served her well as, at age 85, she endured hours in the rain in a long queue for an Antiques Roadshow recording at Aberglasney Gardens in Carmarthenshire to get the opinion of an expert, only to disagree with his assessment!

Hiraeth called Shirley and Tal back to Wales. After the most amazing send off by the Ottawa Welsh Community, they settled in Carmarthen in 1995. It became a base for fresh adventures: trips to France, Germany, Italy and included a night camping in the car. They became more involved in the wider Celtic community forging new friendships through the Carmarthen Twinning Association - which is twinned with Lesneven in Brittany in France and As Pontes in Galicia, Spain. Shirley remained very engaged in life in Carmarthen including the Civic Society, the Carmarthen Museum, U3A (University of the Third Age), and even became a founder of the local tour guides, another outlet to share her story-telling skills and deep love of history.

Shirley loyally nursed Tal until he passed away in Jan 2011. She made two further trips to Ottawa, reprising her many friendships with friends in the Welsh community.

Shirley was a community-builder, intensely curious, generous-spirited, a great conversationalist and story-teller, amateur historian, avid reader of books and reciter of poetry. One member of the Welsh community recalled that Shirley and Tal were always among the first to welcome new arrivals from Wales to Ottawa, making sure they got settled and had everything they needed. She was also someone who would not hesitate to use her contacts book to ensure people had the support they needed through difficult times. Most importantly, Shirley's door was always open and the kettle was always on.

- Sian Griffiths

***Urdd**

Urdd Gobaith Cymru's Hat Campaign

Urdd Gobaith Cymru is a national voluntary youth organisation founded in 1922. In 2019, it claimed over 56,000 members between the ages of 8 and 25. It provides a range of activities in Welsh for children and youth. It also has five residential centres.

The main aim of the organisation is to ensure that all children and youth in Wales are given the opportunity to play a constructive role in society and develop personal and social skills.

The following is taken from a press release from the Public Relations Manager, Branwen Rhys Dafydd:

"Urdd staff have responded to recent Covid-19 restrictions by arranging a vast array of opportunities for its members. These include digital youth work workshops, sport sessions within some regions across Wales, a series of masterclasses for those interested in the arts industry, and outdoor activities for vulnerable young people.

"The Urdd is facing the biggest challenge in its 98-year history due to Covid-19. It has been forced to cut its workforce in half, close its three centres which attract over 40,000 visitors annually and suspend its community, sports and arts activities, including the Urdd Eisteddfod. As a result, it is expected to see a reduction in income of £14 million and losses of more than £3.4 million over the next two years."

"For those who can afford to do so, we ask that you please support our 'Hat to Help' campaign this winter. Show your support by wearing our red, white and green bobble hats and in return, we promise to continue to make the young people of Wales our priority.

Aaron Ramsey, Natasha Harding and Ben Davies are some of the big sporting names showing their support for by wearing their new bobble hats.

In a video that includes many familiar faces from the FAW, Aaron Ramsey and company are proud to consider themselves one of the Urdd's 4 million former members and are thankful for the happy memories. [Watch the video here.](#)

The hats are for sale via the website: www.urdd.cymru/hat.



OTTAWA WELSH SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2021

The form is also available on the website www.ottawawelsh.org

Note: Membership year is March 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022

Please complete all areas to ensure our information is up-to-date and send the form with your membership fee, as indicated below. Please note new rates approved by the membership in July 2020.

Name _____

Spouse/Partner _____

Children/other family members _____

Address _____

Street _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (_____-_____-_____) Alternate phone (_____-_____-_____) _____

Email address(es) _____

Would you like to receive Y BWLETIN and notice of events by email? Yes ____ No ____

Please note that special events notices are sent electronically only and not via Canada Post.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP _____ @ \$30.00 EA..... \$ _____

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP _____ @ \$20.00 EA..... \$ _____

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP _____ @ \$15.00 EA..... \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please send your remittance directly to the membership secretary:

Sian Wynn Jones
39 Hereford Place
Ottawa, Ontario
K1Y 3S6

If you are unsure if you are paid up, please contact Sian directly at sianwynn@hotmail.com or at 613 -722-9294.

Diolch yn fawr.

2021-01-06