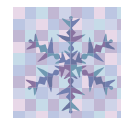


Y Bwletin



Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press

Y Gwanwyn 2023 - Spring 2023



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Contents

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Upcoming Events Summary</i>	2
<i>Colofn y Dysgwyr</i>	3, 6
<i>Y Gorffennol/Past events</i>	4-5
<i>Y presennol/ Current events</i>	5
<i>Y dyfodol/Future events:</i>	6
<i>In Memoriam</i>	
<i>Clive James</i>	7
<i>Rob Woods</i>	8

If you would like to have an item included in Y Bwletin, please contact the editor at
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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!

Neges Llywydd/President's Message

Annwyl gyfeillion,

What an exciting time to be part of the Welsh community here in Ottawa!

In the dark of winter, we gathered to celebrate Saint David's Day, first with the reinstatement of our annual luncheon at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, and then with a Gymanfa ganu at Westminster Presbyterian Church. The weekend was a resounding success, with many commenting on how nice it was to be back together after so long - and I did not receive a single complaint that the luncheon coincided with the Six Nations Wales vs. England match!

The month of March saw us gathering weekly at the Bytowne Cinema for our second film festival. While some of the films were of a depressing nature, the consensus was that they were all well worth watching.

More recently, the Ontario Welsh Festival was held here in Ottawa, and many of our members participated. The dysgwyr group performed *Y Pren Ar Y Bryn* at the Noson lawen on Friday night, with past president Geraint Lewis stealing the show with his enthusiasm for his hometown. None of us present will soon forget the world-class concert and Gymanfa at Christ Church Cathedral. Thank you to the organizers for another great weekend!

We heartily invite you to join us for our annual general meeting on Thursday, May 25 at Moose McGuire's Hunt Club, which you may remember from our World Cup viewings. Along with the AGM, this will be a chance to socialize with fellow members. Further information will be communicated shortly.

Cofion cynnes,

Anastasia Llewellyn



Secretary's Message

As secretary, I often get messages from members in response to notices. I am happy to respond to all emails. The messages that are hard to read are those which indicate the member would like to attend, but doesn't go out at night, or doesn't want to go alone.

As I read these notes, I often wonder if there isn't some way we can make sure no one misses out. Is there someone who could pick up and drop off a member in this position? It is something to think about. If you have any suggestions, please send them in.

I want to remind everyone that there are several ways of finding out about future events. The most reliable is our web site, which is faithfully tended by member David Speck. Be assured, if you leave a message on the web site, David passes it along and it gets dealt with.

Our Facebook page is managed by Dr. Pawl Birt. We try, with varying degrees of success, to post events on this page. This does not apply to members only events, though, as the page is open to the public.

My very best wishes to everyone for a healthy, happy summer.

- Marilyn Jenkins

Editor's Message

Once again we are overwhelmed with losses in the OWS. The In Memoriam for **Meriel Mills** and for **Dr. John Davies** will be included in the summer bulletin/Bwletin yr Haf.

Upcoming Events 2023

Please look for details on the pages indicated.

AGM May 25, 2023 at 6/7 p.m. (See page 5)

Summer Event TBA

Fall Events TBA

Colofn y Dysgwyr

The *dosbarth Cymraeg* continues to evolve and is now meeting once a month for language and grammar instruction and practice. The group is still welcome to join the Welsh speakers for conversation.

In this issue we will learn the future, *Y Dyfodol*, of the verb BOD.

Bydda i	<i>I will</i>
Byddi di	<i>You (singular) will</i>
Bydd e/o/hi	<i>He/she will</i>
Byddwn ni	<i>We will</i>
Byddwch chi	<i>You (plural/formal) will</i>
Byddan nhw	<i>They will</i>

Enghreifftiau/Examples

Bydda i'n nofio yfory.

I will be swimming tomorrow.

Byddi di'n gorwedd ar y traeth ddydd Sadwrn.

You (sing.) will be lying on the beach on Saturday.

Bydd hi'n trwsio'r to dros y penwythnos.

She will be repairing the roof over the weekend.

Bydd o'n coginio pryd o fwyd blasus wythnos nesa.

He will be cooking a tasty meal next week.

Byddwn ni'n dawnsio yn y glaw nos yfory.

We will be dancing in the rain tomorrow night.

Byddwch chi'n ymweld â ffrindiau yn Sbaen dros y gwyliau.

You will be visiting friends in Spain over the holidays.

Byddan nhw'n mynd i'r llyfrgell bob wythnos yn yr haf.

They will be going to the library every week in the summer.

Ymfarfer 1.

Translate into English.

1. Byddwn ni'n hapus ar lan y môr
2. Bydda i'n mynd i'r parti.
3. Byddan nhw'n yfed yn y dafarn.
4. Bydd o'n bwyta brecwast am hanner awr wedi naw.
5. Byddwch chi'n gweithio bob dydd.
6. Byddi di'n hapus nes ymlaen.
7. Bydd hi'n gyrru'r lori.

Atebion ar dudalen 6. /Answers on page 6.

Exercise 2.

1. They will be walking to school next week.
2. You (plural/formal) will be starting to work tomorrow.
3. I will be cooking supper tonight.
4. He will be running home.
5. We will be going to church tomorrow.
6. You (familiar) will be eating supper later.
7. She will be reading the novel on Sunday.

Atebion ar dudalen 6. /Answers on page 6.

Geiriau

Nofio - swimming
Gorwedd - lying
Trwsio - repairing
Coginio - cooking
Ymweld â - visting
Yfory - tomorrow
Wythnos - week
Penwythnos - weekend
Nesa - next
Dros y gwyliau - over the holidays
Traeth - beach
To - roof
Pryd o fwyd - meal
Ffrindiau - friends
Swper - supper
Llyfrgell - library
Nes ymlaen - later
Heno - tonight
Ar lan y môr - at the seashore

Y Gorffennol/the Past

St. David's Day/Dydd Gŵyl Dewi

Y ginio/the Luncheon

Having missed the 2021 and 2022 versions of the St. David's Day Luncheon, the Society was very excited to celebrate together, in person, on February 25, 2023!

Fifty-one members enjoyed a very tasty meal in a smaller, but nonetheless elegant dining room. John Price presided over the proceedings, including his very popular "Cwis". Once again, many participants were stumped by his questions, but there was much convivial bantering over the answers.

Following the meal, we watched an on-screen, pre-recorded message from Mark Drakeford, the First Minister of Wales, who wished us well and indicated the interest of the Welsh Parliament and the government in maintaining ties with the diaspora.

The entertainment consisted of a lovely set of songs performed by Mary Muckle and members of the Ottawa Youth Harp Ensemble. The sound of the harp never fails to stir the hearts of the Welsh wherever they may be.



John Price
Quizmaster & MC

Y Gymanfa ganu/The Singing

The following afternoon, Sunday, February 26, a sizeable group of members met under the direction of Alan Thomas, accompanied by organist Mark Moss. The singing was enthusiastic, and Alan kept the pace up, generally asking for only two verses per hymn. The Rev. Christopher Clarke of Westminster Presbyterian led the devotional parts of the service and extended a warm welcome to all.

Following the singing, a *Te bach* was held, capably organized by Lezlie Wood. Many thanks to her and the other volunteers who helped set up and tidy up. Thanks also to all of you who provided your baking to go with the beverages.

Ottawa Welsh Film Festival

The second Ottawa Welsh Film Festival took place on the four Mondays of March at the Bytowne Cinema on Rideau St.

All four movies were well-attended by members of the OWS and members of the general public. After three intense and moving stories, (*Mr. Jones*, *Patagonia* and *Morfydd*) it was a relief to see the humorous *American Interior*. All in all, this was another successful Welsh Film Festival. We think it is the only one in North America!

Ontario Welsh Festival

Finally, after three years of drought, we were able to gather for the Ontario Welsh Festival. And it was here, in Ottawa!

It was a smaller gathering, but no less enthusiastic, and there were new attendees. There seems to have been an influx of immigrants from Wales in the last few years.

The Welcome Tea was elegant and quiet, despite some lighting problems, Mary Muckle and her group providing soothing and familiar tunes on the harp.

It was agreed by all that the Noson Lawen was wonderful. The guest soloists performed, and were highly entertaining as well as being very skilled and sensitive musicians. Members of OWS contributed a number of items, including Jennifer Davis' recorder group, the Dosbarth Cymraeg and Myfanwy Davies. Jennifer's group played a variety of recorders and a lovely group of Welsh folk songs; the Dosbarth Cymraeg provided an entertaining version of *Y Pren ar y Bryn*, a well-known Welsh cumulative song; and Myfanwy read a humorous account of schoolmates getting together for dinner over the decades. You can ask her about that one. In addition, *Merched Dewi* and several solo singers provided spirited performances.



Y Dosbarth
Cymraeg with *Y Pren
Ar y Bryn*

The AGM was held on Saturday morning, and we are pleased to note that there are now two new members on the executive committee. There was an unusually long list of members who have passed on, due to the pandemic delays.

Saturday featured an in-person presentation by our own Anastasia Llewellyn. This was a reprise of her excellent talk on the significance of the publication, in 1588, of the Holy Bible in the preservation of the Welsh language. It was very well-received, with some interesting comments and questions from the audience following. Also offered were a screening of *Y Syrcas*, a Welsh-language film, and a bus tour, thanks to David Jeanes, featuring sites of significance to the Welsh.

The highlight of the weekend for many was the concert, featuring John Ieuan Jones (baritone), Steffan Lloyd Owen (baritone), Eiry Price (soprano), and Rhiannon Pritchard (piano). As Myfanwy commented, there were no words to convey the feelings of the audience. The programme was varied and fast-paced with commentary by the performers between numbers. There were some lovely duets and trios, in English, Welsh, Italian, Latin and French. Not even the showers that accompanied us on our way back to the hotel could dampen our spirits!

On Sunday, following a leisurely breakfast, everyone again headed to Christ Church Cathedral for the focus of the week-end: the Gymanfa!

John Ieuan Jones can now add "Gymanfa director" to his resume. He was an enthusiastic and encouraging leader, keeping things moving and providing interesting facts about the hymns. There was a good supply of singers, although numbers were a bit low in some sections. Our own Alan Thomas once again excelled at the organ, providing a solid support for the singers. According to the director, he was also helpful in giving suggestions regarding "how we do" some hymns.

Everyone went home from the weekend with some wonderful memories. Many thanks are due to the organizers, both from Toronto and from our own Society. Alison Lawson and Myfanwy Davies worked tirelessly behind the scenes for months, along with their volunteers.



Steffan, Eiry, Myfanwy, Rhiannon and John

Y presennol/The Present

AGM

After much discussion, it has been decided that the AGM will be held at Moose McGuire's Pub on Uplands Drive on Thursday, May 25, 2023. Dinner at 6, meeting starts at 7.

We look forward to a good turnout. Masks are welcome during the non-eating portion of the evening.



Remember the **Quiz Night**? Here is the last installment:

24. From which Welsh town does soprano Katherine Jenkins hail?
25. What was the cause of Dylan Thomas's death?
26. What Welsh band was the first popular Western rock band to play in Cuba?
27. In what Welsh town or city was the Football Association of Wales founded?
28. Where in Wales is the site of the World Bog Snorkelling Championship?
- 29..The only Welsh member of *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, Terry Jones, died a few years ago after suffering from dementia for a number of years. Where was he born?
30. Which James Bond was also born in Colwyn Bay?
31. What was the original name of what is now known as University of Wales Trinity St David's?
32. How many universities are there in Wales at present?
33. Which town in Wales was the first place in the world to have a passenger railway?
34. In her song "You Don't Need", from the 1984 album, *No Borders Here* Canadian pop star Jane Siberry includes the words "and my heart is black and heavy, it is slugs of" (and here she mentions a town in Wales. Of which town in Wales did she claim to be singing this as an image to convey feelings of abandonment and sadness?

Answers on page 7.

Y Dyfodol/The Future

The executive committee anticipates a summer picnic, around the middle of the summer. Details will be forthcoming in the Summer Newsletter/Bwletin.yr Haf.

The Executive anticipates that many of the usual events will take place in the coming months. This may include a Pub/Quiz Night, a Film Night, some sort of fall event, and the Service of Lessons and Carols. There has been some discussion about providing a mix of online and in-person events so that everyone may participate.



Cinio Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant/ St. David's Day Luncheon

Atebion ar gyfer Ymarfer 1:

1. We will be happy by the sea.
2. I will be going to the party.
3. They will be drinking at the pub.
4. He will be eating breakfast at half past nine.
5. You will be working every day.
6. You will be happy later.
7. She will be driving the truck.

Atebion ar gyfer Ymarfer 2:

1. Byddan nhw'n cerdded i'r ysgol wythnos nesa.
2. Byddwch chi'n dechrau gweithio yfory.
3. Bydda i'n coginio swper heno.
4. Bydd o'n rhedeg adre.
5. Byddwn ni'n mynd i'r eglwys yfory.
6. Byddi di'n bwyta swper nes ymlaen.
7. Bydd hi'n darllen y nofel ddydd Sul.

Answers to Quiz Questions 14-23

24. Neath
25. Not alcohol, as many seem to think, but swelling of the brain caused by bronchial pneumonia (he had suffered from lung problems for a large part of his life and was a fairly heavy smoker). In fact his ailment should have been treated with antibiotics but he was given morphine and went into a coma.
26. Manic Street Preachers
27. Ruabon
28. Llanwrtyd Wells The competitors aim to complete two consecutive lengths of a 60 yards (55 m) water-filled trench cut through a peat bog in the shortest time possible, wearing traditional snorkel, diving mask and flippers. They complete the course without swimming, relying on flipper power alone.
29. Colwyn Bay
30. Timothy Dalton
31. St David's College, later St David's University College (1971-2010)
32. Eight: Cardiff, Swansea, Aberystwyth, Bangor, Wrexham Glyndwr, South Wales, Cardiff Metropolitan and University of Wales Trinity St David.
33. Swansea -- the first fare-paying passenger railway in the world was the Oystermouth Railway in 1807, later known as the Swansea and Mumbles railway, it first used horse-drawn carriages.
34. Merthyr Tydfil

In Memoriam



Dr. Clive James

Clive was born in April 1940 in Llangyderne, where he attended the local Primary School. During his high school years the family moved to Llansaint but he still always regarded Llangyderne as his home. He was a keen sportsman at school, representing the county and being honoured with carrying the baton for the Commonwealth Games. Clive gained a first class honours degree in Botany from Aberystwyth University, then went to Cambridge University to complete his doctorate, gaining the title Dr. Clive James and making his mother so very proud.

Clive met his wife, Glenys, in the London Welsh Society and their travels began, taking them to Rome, Peru, Canada, Mexico and the Cayman Islands where they stayed for 30 years before returning home to Wales in 2021.

Clive was always collecting Welsh memorabilia and making sure they were the first things packed when they moved to his next location. He had a love for Welsh poetry and would regularly recite poems, captivating his audience. Clive was thrilled to go home to Wales in his final months. He could always hold the attention of a full room whether that was in his work or with family and friends everyone always listened attentively to one of the most interesting, articulate and intelligent men you would ever meet.

Anyone who has met Clive would agree he was a very special person. Confident, with an infectious sense of humour, he was the life and soul of the party.

He was so interesting, with an inexhaustible wealth of stories, about Wales and about other parts of the world; about people he knew and people he'd met. He was also always interested - in other people, in their stories, in you, yourself. He could, and would, talk to anyone about anything.

Clive was a fluent Welsh speaker and great champion of Wales. Which is why, when he and Glenys came to Ottawa in 1968 he put so much energy and effort into the Welsh Society. At that time the Society was struggling. Clive, along with Don Mills, Tal

Griffiths and a few others breathed new life into it, attracting many new and younger members. It became what the RCMP described as the most active ethnic society in the city.

Clive participated in everything, Noson lawen, Gymanfa, car rallies, social evenings. He and Tal formed a small group with John Griffiths and Charles Bassett to sing Welsh songs, usually in Tal's basement but also at Noson lawen. The performances won no Oscars but provided immense fun and enjoyment.

Clive first witnessed poverty in the 1970's while working for the Food and Agriculture Organisation and Canadian International Development Agency in Ethiopia, Kenya and Mali. He always maintained that feeding the world would become the world's most formidable challenge.

Working mainly out of Cornell University he developed seeds, mainly rice varieties, that revolutionized nutrition, particularly in Asia. He was honoured by the Chinese Government and the Pope, among others, for his contribution.

So yes, he was a special person and a very good friend and we in the Welsh Society owe him a great debt.

Clive and Glenys moved to Mexico in 1981 to work for the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre where he served as a Deputy Director General for research. During this time he created a molecular genetics lab. It was there that he developed a close working relationship with Norman Borlaug, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate who is known as the 'father of the green revolution'. During this time Clive travelled the world with Norman, gaining knowledge everywhere he went. No one can argue that Clive had an amazing life, travelling the world [and] meeting fascinating people.

Clive will be missed; he gave back so much, personally and professionally.

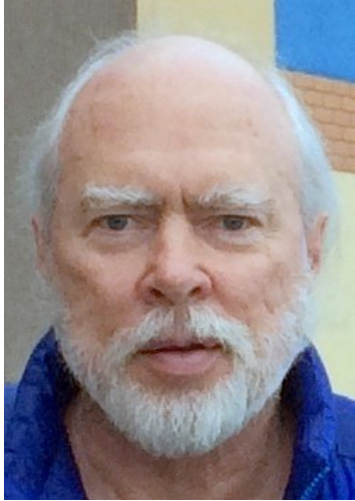
Clive's funeral took place in Carmarthen on January 4, 2023.

Excerpts from the official eulogy given at Dr. James' funeral, and a remembrance written by Charles Bassett, current member of OWS.

Photo courtesy of funeral-notice.co.uk



In Memoriam



Robert Gordon Woods
1953-2023

In his 70th year following a multi year struggle with Lewy body dementia Rob has finally been released.

Rob was born in Kingston in October 1953. He attended school in Kingston before he escaped to the big city when he was still fairly young. He had a number of careers, all involving physical skills. He began as a much sought-after carpet cleaner and moved on to renovations. He was most well-known for his house painting skills. He got his start when he painted his uncle's apartment as a teenager. Everything he did was meticulous and after he moved to Ottawa his skills eventually evolved until he was much in demand as a master house painter.

Rob was passionate about playing softball, seeking out pickup games and involvement with leagues when they were available. His other great love was movies and he amassed a very large collection during his lifetime. He was playful and fun - his favourite character was Tigger, which he had tattooed on his shoulder. He leaves a humungous collection of stuffed Tiggers.

Rob was a family man, in the sense that he loved family. He adopted Laurie's family and did his best to be friends with everyone. Although he had no children of his own, he quickly took on the role of mentor to Laurie's youngest daughter in her teen years. He was much loved by his nieces for his childlike sense of fun. Camping with Uncle Rob was a great adventure to the younger generations that were lucky enough to accompany him. His love of fishing showed an appreciation of the quieter pursuits, despite his definitely extrovert personality.

Rob became involved with the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society (aka The Welsh Choir) because Laurie was in it. He contributed to the sound of the bass section despite his struggle with the Welsh language songs. He could be counted on to lighten the mood with his humorous take on things. Occasionally his sense of humour got him in trouble with other choristers, but it never lasted.

Rob and Laurie attended many of the OWS events over the years, as well as participating annually in the Ontario Welsh Festival (aka Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association gathering.). Through the years, Rob did his best to add to the bass part of the hymn-singing.

In the Society, Rob felt a particular kinship with Rick Bellwood, husband of Myfanwy Davies. The two couples often had social times together, and sometimes traveled together. Rick and Rob did enjoy their after dinner cigars!

With the onset of his disease, Rob gradually withdrew from activities, and as it progressed, his world necessarily shrank. He still managed to maintain a sense of humour, often making caregivers laugh with him.

In his final months, Rob had some faithful visitors from his church (Kanata Baptist). He will be remembered and mourned by many, his clients among them. You could always rely on Rob for an excellent job.

The Celebration of Rob's life took place on January 28. The minister, the Rev. Bob Davies (yes, a Welshman) spoke of Rob's humour and told stories no one else had heard. As always, the attendees came away with a new appreciation for the depth of the character we knew as Rob Woods.

Laurie and the family were touched by the number of members of the OWS turned out on a snowy, cold day to honour Rob's memory.

Donations may be made in memory of Rob to the Dementia Society or to Kanata Baptist Church.

- Laurie Jenkins and Marilyn Jenkins

