

# Y Bwletin



Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press

Y Gwanwyn 2024 - Spring 2024

Editor/Golygydd: Marilyn E. Jenkins

## Swyddogion Y Gymdeithas/ Officers of the Society

Llywydd/President: Anastasia Llewellyn  
[anastasia.llewellyn@gmail.com](mailto:anastasia.llewellyn@gmail.com)

Trysorydd/Treasurer: David Jeanes  
[david@jeanes.ca](mailto:david@jeanes.ca)

Cyn-llywydd/Past President: Geraint Lewis  
[26golwgybryn@gmail.com](mailto:26golwgybryn@gmail.com)

Ysgrifennydd/Secretary: Marilyn Jenkins  
[marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca](mailto:marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca)

Aelodaeth/Membership: John Williams  
[john.williams2@gmail.com](mailto:john.williams2@gmail.com)

## Members at Large/Aelodau yn gyffredinol:

Glenys Hughes  
[gahughes001@gmail.com](mailto:gahughes001@gmail.com)

Sian Jones  
[sianwynn@hotmail.com](mailto:sianwynn@hotmail.com)

Christine Langham  
[cwlangham2@gmail.com](mailto:cwlangham2@gmail.com)

Alison Lawson  
[alisonlawson@rogers.com](mailto:alisonlawson@rogers.com)

David Roberts  
[dbrwc@hotmail.com](mailto:dbrwc@hotmail.com)

Also: [ottawa.welsh.society@gmail.com](mailto:ottawa.welsh.society@gmail.com)

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If you would like to have an item included in  
*Y Bwletin*, please contact the editor at  
[marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca](mailto:marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca)

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

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

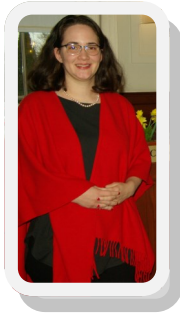
[www.ottawawelsh.org](http://www.ottawawelsh.org)



Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa

Check out our web site and our Facebook page!

## Neges Llywydd/President's Message



Annwyl gyfeillion,

It has been a very busy winter and start of spring for the Ottawa Welsh Society!

While it cannot be said that the Welsh rugby team had a successful Six Nations tournament, members of the society nonetheless enjoyed cheering them on at the Glebe Central Pub. Despite the unfavourable results, there were some moments of brilliance by the young squad.

Our Saint David's Day festivities were well received. It was a pleasure to welcome Emily Scott, Head of Canada for the Welsh Government, and Mary Muckle's harp ensemble at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, which provided the usual excellent service and care. This year was extra special as we wished new honorary member Jean Don a happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! Our very own Marilyn Jenkins directed the Gymanfa ganu, on Sunday, accompanied by Alan Thomas. Many thanks to all involved in both events.

Members of the Society also congregated at Welsh-themed concerts. I had the pleasure of attending a fundraising concert in support of a piano dolly for St. Stephen's Presbyterian, which included a sing-along of some of our favourite hymns.

What fun to meet up with several of you in Stratford for the Ontario Welsh Festival, a wonderful weekend of all things Welsh, with a particular emphasis on music. I thought that bumbling through what I'm told was the Festival's first ukulele performance at a Noson Lawen would be my personal musical highlight, but leading a singalong of *Yma o Hyd* the following night took the cake (although I got rather carried away by the singing and forgot to do any real leading!). My only disappointment about the weekend was that the Gymanfa had to be cut short - and the hymn removed from the program was my favourite, *Calon Lân*!

Please join us for our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 30 at 7pm at Moose McGuire's Pub on McCarthy Road.

Cofion cynnes,

Anastasia Llewellyn

## Secretary/Editor's Message



Following a flurry of activity in March and April, we are now heading into a quieter period for the OWS, but the executive is still working hard to plan for future events

We encourage you all to attend the AGM on May 30 to hear our reports and to ratify the new by-laws, based on the constitution, but mostly to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. We have a number of new members, which bodes well for the future.

The Saint David's Day luncheon attracted fewer participants than last year (approximately 10%) and was down approximately 40% from 2020, our last pre-pandemic affair. Doubtless we will be looking at possible remedies.

We will be discussing future events very soon. If you have any suggestions for events, either in-person or on-line, please contact a member of the Executive (contact info on page 1).

Looking ahead, the film sub-committee is working on a Film Festival for 2025 and we have the North American Festival of Wales to look forward to hosting in Ottawa also in 2025.

Bendithion i chi i gyd,

Marilyn

## Upcoming OWS Events 2023-24

Please look for details on the pages indicated.

May 30 6/7 p.m.	AGM (see page 6)
TBD	Summer Picnic
TBD	Fall Events

## Colofn y Dysgwyr

The dosbarth Cymraeg is moving along in the “Dysgu Cymraeg” program. The recent sessions have focused on the past tense to describe an activity that happened over a period of time or that used to happen.

### Enghreifftiau/Examples

Roedd y tywydd yn braf ddoe. *The weather was fine yesterday.*

Roedd hi'n athrawes. *She used to be a teacher.*

The full conjugation of the verb to be (BOD) would be:

### Affirmative:

Ro'n i	<i>I was/used to be</i>
Ro't ti	<i>You were /used to be</i>
Roedd hi/e/o	<i>She/he was/used to be</i>
Ro'n ni	<i>We were/used to be</i>
Ro'ch chi	<i>You were/used to be</i>
Ro'n nhw	<i>They were/used to be</i>

### Negative:

As in the present tense, change the “r” to a “d”.

Do'n i ddim	<i>I wasn't/didn't used to</i>
Do't ti ddim	<i>You weren't/didn't used to be</i>
Doedd hi/o ddim	<i>She/he wasn't/didn't used to</i>
Do'n ni ddim	<i>We weren't/didn't used to</i>
Do'ch chi ddim	<i>You weren't/didn't used to</i>
Do'n nhw ddim	<i>They weren't/didn't used to</i>

### Interrogative:

O'n i?	<i>Was I?/Did I used to?</i>
O't ti?	<i>Were you?/Did you used to?</i>
Oedd hi/o?	<i>Was she/he?/Did she/he used to?</i>
Oedden ni?	<i>Were we?/Did we used to?</i>
Oeddech chi?	<i>Were you?/Did you used to?</i>
Oedden nhw?	<i>Were they?/Did they used to?</i>

### Enghreifftiau:

I used to live next door. *Ro'n i'n byw drws nesa.*

He was walking to work. *Roedd o'n cerdded i'r gwaith.*

Notes: the full version of the verb is expressed in the table below.

Ro(eddw)n i	Do(edde)n i	O(edde)n i?
Ro(edde)t ti	Do(edde)t ti	O(edde)t ti?
Roedd hi/e/o	Do(edd) hi/e/o	O(edd)hi/e/o?
<u>Ro(edde)n ni</u>	Do(edde)n ni	O(edde)n ni?
Ro(edde)ch chi	Do(edde)ch chi	O(edde)ch chi?
Ro(oedde)n nhw	Do(edde)n nhw	O(edde)n nhw?

*Was/used to      Wasn't/didn't used to      Was?/used to?*

**Ymarfer 1:** Practise translating the following sentences into Welsh.

1. I sang in the choir.
2. Did you speak Welsh at home?
3. Dot was a student in Aber.
4. We were walking across the street when we saw Geraint.
5. The night was cold.
6. There was no money in the bank.
7. Were they at home last evening?

**Ymarfer 2:** Practise translating the following sentences into English.

1. Ro'ch chi'n byw drws nesa yn y gorffennol.
2. O'n ni'n dawnsio yn y stryd?
3. Doedd hi ddim yn gyrru i'r gwaith.
4. O't ti'n mynd i Bryfysgol Caerdydd?
5. Do'n i ddim yn sgwrsio â'r milfeddyg.
6. Ro'n nhw'n rhedeg yn y parc.
7. Doedd y car ddim yn y garej ddoe.

*Mae'r atebion ar dudalen 6.*

*Many thanks to John Williams for his editing skills!*

Anyone who is interested in joining the learners' group Awr Sgwrsio i Dysgwyr may contact Alison Lawon or John Williams:

[alisonlawson@rogers.com](mailto:alisonlawson@rogers.com)

[john.williams2@gmail.com](mailto:john.williams2@gmail.com)

There is always room for more learners.

The group is currently using S4C's Dysgu Cymraeg, Mynediad version 2, Gogledd Cymru. Some members are also using Duolingo's Welsh language and/or S4C's *Say Something in Welsh*. Others are working with online classes directly from Wales.

## Y Gorffennol/the Past

### St. David's Day Luncheon

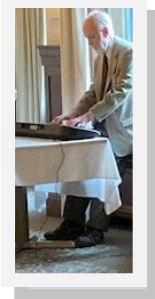
The annual St. David's Day luncheon was held on Saturday, March 2 at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, with 45 in attendance, including a child for the first time in memory.

Our president, Anastasia ably acted as MC for the event. Prior to the meal, she presented member Jean Don, who recently celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, with a corsage along with an honorary membership. Her meal was also complimentary, of course.



*Jean Don at 100*

The presentation was followed by the singing of the two National Anthems, accompanied by Alan Thomas.



*Alan Thomas accompanies the anthems*

The dinner was very tasty, as always, featuring a choice of chicken or salmon, along with leek & potato soup and a lovely dessert. The service was fast and courteous.



*Geraint proposes a toast*

Following the meal, toasts were proposed to the King, St. David and Wales. Emily Scott, the Head of the Welsh Government in Canada, brought greetings and spoke about some economic and cultural activities of the Welsh government in Canada.



*Emily Scott brings greetings*

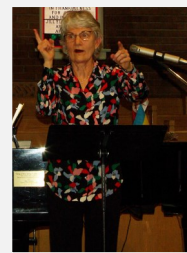
The entertainment, back by popular request, was Mary Muckle and the Ottawa Harp Ensemble. After a lovely 20 minute concert, featuring some well-known tunes, everyone left in a mellow mood.



*Elsie Boulanger-Jones,  
the youngest attendee*

### Saint David's Day Gymanfa Ganu

The annual St. David's Day Gymanfa Ganu was held on March 3, 2024 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Attendance was good, with some new faces as well as old friends in the crowd. The director put the group through their paces in what appeared to be an enjoyable experience for all. Special music was provided by the Evans-Power family: a lovely new arrangement of *Suo gân* and the beloved hymn *In Christ Alone*. During the Te bach which followed many expressed their satisfaction and enjoyment of the afternoon.



*Marilyn conducts*



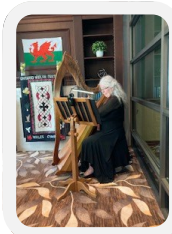
*Evans-Power Family sings*



*Happy attendees at the Te bach 2024*



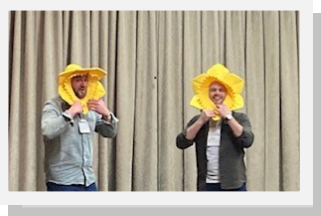
## Ontario Welsh Festival



The annual Ontario Welsh Festival began as always with a greeting from Gwen Davies (former member of OWS) at the registration table and cup of tea with Welsh cakes in the solarium at the Arden Park Best Western Hotel in Stratford. The guests were treated to the lovely tones of Mary Muckle's Celtic lever harp playing Welsh and other Celtic tunes.

The Noson lawen began (almost) on time under the skilled leadership of Myfanwy Davies, a visual treat in a black chiffon top sporting a huge red dragon. The talents of the various members of the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association were showcased, interspersed with various funny stories from the MC. Our own Anastasia Llewellyn played the ukulele and sang. The program ended with a spirited presentation of songs by our guest artists, Trystan Llŷr Griffiths (tenor) and Steffan Lloyd Owen (baritone). Both were accompanied by the wonderful Rhiannon Pritchard who also played for several of the earlier performers.

*Steffan & Trystan getting into the spirit of the Noson lawen.*



*Anastasia & her dad (David)*

Saturday started early with a 9:00 AGM. Business was dealt with quickly and efficiently and the slate of officers was acclaimed. OWS member Laurie Jenkins volunteered to serve on the board and David Jeanes offered to assist the executive in creating a set of By-laws for the association, which must be in place by October.

During the remainder of the morning, Hefina Phillips (remember our speaker from November?) ran her class in beginning Welsh and members were free to browse the marketplace in the hotel lobby. The afternoon was reserved for a bus tour which was enjoyed by a good number of participants. Imagine their surprise when they were greeted at City Hall, not only by the Mayor himself, but also by the sounds of the Celtic harp. Mary Muckle gets around!

The Gold Award Banquet was a tasty and enjoyable occasion. The Gold Award went to Sheryl Clay Newell, who directed a Gymanfa for us here in Ottawa in 2019. She has also done much to keep Welsh alive in Ontario and to keep Welsh music flowing. She was very helpful in the move of Dewi Sant Church to Timothy Eaton Memorial Church. A photo was taken of the Gold Award Winners who were in attendance.



As always, the concert was a highlight of the weekend. The three musicians provided a varied and most enjoyable program of solos (vocal and piano) and duets in Welsh and other European languages. The performance ended with a rousing rendition of *Hen wlad fy Nhadau* and the traditional standing ovation followed the performance.



Both evenings ended with an "Afterglow" for the strong of heart and constitution. Hymns were sung and the soloists were prevailed upon to provide additional treats.

On Sunday, after a leisurely morning, people found their way to the Avondale United Church, which is approximately 2.5 kilometres from the hotel. The Gymanfa itself was conducted by Betty Cullingworth and Sheryl Clay Newell, in turns. Both of these ladies are Gold Award winners and have conducted gymanfoedd for us here in Ottawa. The organist, Matthew Coons was new to us, but is known to the Toronto crowd from Dewi Sant United Church and as principal accompanist for Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir. It was a rousing session, beginning with *Blaenwern* and ending with *Cwm Rhondda* (followed by "*Hen Wlad fy Nhadau*" and the usual "God Be With Us".) There were smiles and hugs as the group disbanded and people began their journey home. We offer many thanks to those hardworking organizers who planned and executed a wonderful weekend of Welsh culture.

## Y presennol/The present

### AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on May 30 at Moose McGuire's Pub on McCarthy Road beginning at 7:00 p.m. Those who wish to buy dinner may arrive at 6:00 p.m. You will be receiving information about an important motion regarding by-laws which are required by law in Ontario. The sub-committee has tackled the issue and created a set of by-laws to replace our constitution. The proposed by-laws have also been sent out electronically to all members. If you have questions, it would be helpful if you contact one of the executive members prior to the meeting. All members are listed on the front Y Bwletin, as always.

- Marilyn, Secretary/Ysgrifennyddes

## Membership

Membership levels held up well for the year 2023-24. We had 65 paid-up members compared with 66 for the previous year. Total membership was 95, indicating that some 30 memberships were not paid.

To address this, we contacted members that we had not heard from for a few years and as a result have removed those that could not be contacted by either phone or email. Everyone with a current email address has been left on the list as well as those that we know have no email address.

Going forward (2024-25) we have a total membership of 90, a mix of single (29) and family (36) members. Only forty-four (44) of our membership fees have been received so far, well below where we would expect to be at this time of the year. Our administration costs are modest, but we have very high insurance costs and are dependent on our fees for keeping the Ottawa Welsh Society alive and running.

A membership form is attached (see page 7) and fees may be paid by cheque or e-transfer. If uncertain of your payment status, please send an email to [john.williams2@gmail.com](mailto:john.williams2@gmail.com) or phone at 613-234-2778.

Diolch yn fawr.

John Williams, Membership Secretary

NEW!! Our webmaster, David Speck, has made our forms into fillable pdfs. Go to our website at [www.ottawawelsh.org](http://www.ottawawelsh.org) and find the membership form on the home page. Information on where to send the form electronically appears at the bottom of the form.

## Y Gorffennol/The Past (cont'd)

### Not Walls But Bridges

Congratulations to Mary Muckle's Ottawa Harp Ensemble, which performed another lovely concert at St. John's Anglican Church in Kanata. In addition to the guest musicians, (Douglas Brierly on violin, Fanny Marks Bray on cello, Marilyn Jenkins, voice and our own Cantorion Cerdd Dant) the harps presented some lovely previously unheard melodies and arrangements. Not Walls But Bridges was well-received by a large audience; the harp group always draws a crowd according to the organizer. On behalf of the performers, I offer many thanks to the OWS members who made the trek out to Kanata to help swell the numbers.

### Atebion am yr Ymarfer 1

1. Ro'n i'n canu yn y côr./Roeddwn i'n canu yn y côr.
2. O't ti'n siarad Cymraeg gartref?/Oeddet ti'n siarad Cymraeg gartref?
3. Roedd Dot yn fyrwr yn Aber.
4. Ro'n ni'n cerdded ar draws y stryd pan welson ni Geraint./Roedden ni'n cerdded ar draws y stryd pan welson ni Geraint
5. Roedd y nos yn oer.
6. Doedd dim arian yn y banc.
7. O'n nhw gartref neithiwr?/Oedden nhw gartref neithiwr?

Answers to Exercise 2.

1. You lived next door in the past.
2. Were we dancing in the street?
3. She was not driving to work.
4. Did you (used to) go the Cardiff University?
5. I was not chatting with the vet.
6. They were running in the park.
7. The car was not in the garage yesterday.

## OTTAWA WELSH SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2024

The form is also available on the [website www.ottawawelsh.org](http://www.ottawawelsh.org)

Note: Membership year is March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025

**Please complete all areas to ensure our information is up-to-date and send the form with your membership fee, as indicated below.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Children/other family members \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ Cell 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 2024-25

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

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

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

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send your cheque directly to the membership secretary:**

John Williams  
518 Rochester St. Unit 1401  
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5W4

**or send via e-transfer to [ottawa.welsh.society@gmail.com](mailto:ottawa.welsh.society@gmail.com).** There is no need for a security question at our end. However, if it is required by your financial institution, you may use “what is this payment for?” The answer would be “membership”. **Please use the message box to give your name and the type of membership (single/family),** as well as changes to your address, email address and phone number(s). You can also send the completed renewal form to [john.williams2@gmail.com](mailto:john.williams2@gmail.com). The email list will be updated prior to the AGM.