

# Y Bwletin



Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press

Y Gaeaf 2025 - Winter 2025

Editor/Golygydd: Marilyn E. Jenkins



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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](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,

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i bawb. Somehow, it is already 2025! I wish you all health, peace, and joy this new year.

Thank you to everyone who joined the Ottawa Welsh Society for our fall events. Particular thanks to everyone who helped organize these - we are very lucky to have dedicated members willing to support the equally dedicated committee, from emceeing the September quiz night, to running the Awr Sgwrsio. While I was sad to miss the November film night, I was delighted to be able to tune in to the Service of Lessons and Carols online from a dorm room at Aberystwyth University, having just beaten a red alert storm there in December! I was very lucky to spend most of the fall in Wales.

We are looking forward to several events this winter. First up, National Library of Wales Chief Executive Dr. Rhodri Llwyd Morgan will be giving a talk on Zoom on February 2 at 2pm Ottawa time. This year, March 1 falls on a Saturday, so our luncheon celebrating the patron saint of Wales will be on Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant itself, from 11:30am onwards. Note the new venue: Marconi Centre, 1026 Baseline Road. The following day, Sunday, March 2, we will meet at Westminster Presbyterian for our traditional gymanfa ganu.

Along with these more serious cultural activities, we will be gathering at Glebe Central Pub to cheer on the Welsh men's rugby team in the Six Nations as they take on France (January 31, 3:15 p.m. kick-off) and England (March 15, 12:45 p.m. kick-off). Win or lose, we're happy to support our team!

The last year has been an exciting one for the Ottawa Welsh Society, and 2025 promises to be even more so, as the North American Festival of Wales - featuring the Welsh of the West End, Tudur Owen, Pedair, and more! - visits our city over the Labour Day weekend.

Cofion cynnes,  
Anastasia Llewellyn

## Secretary/Editor's Comments

Blwyddyn Newydd dda! Welcome to 2025!

The executive is excited about our upcoming events, which include a new venue for our luncheon with a new, lower price-tag. (details on page 6)

We also have some new faces for our Gymanfa ganu, including director and soloists (page 6).

The biggest event of the year will be the NAFOW meeting over the Labour Day weekend. There are some big plans in the works and some of our members will be heavily involved. Details will surface in future newsletters.

We are looking forward to an exciting year.

Bendithion i chi i gyd,

Marilyn

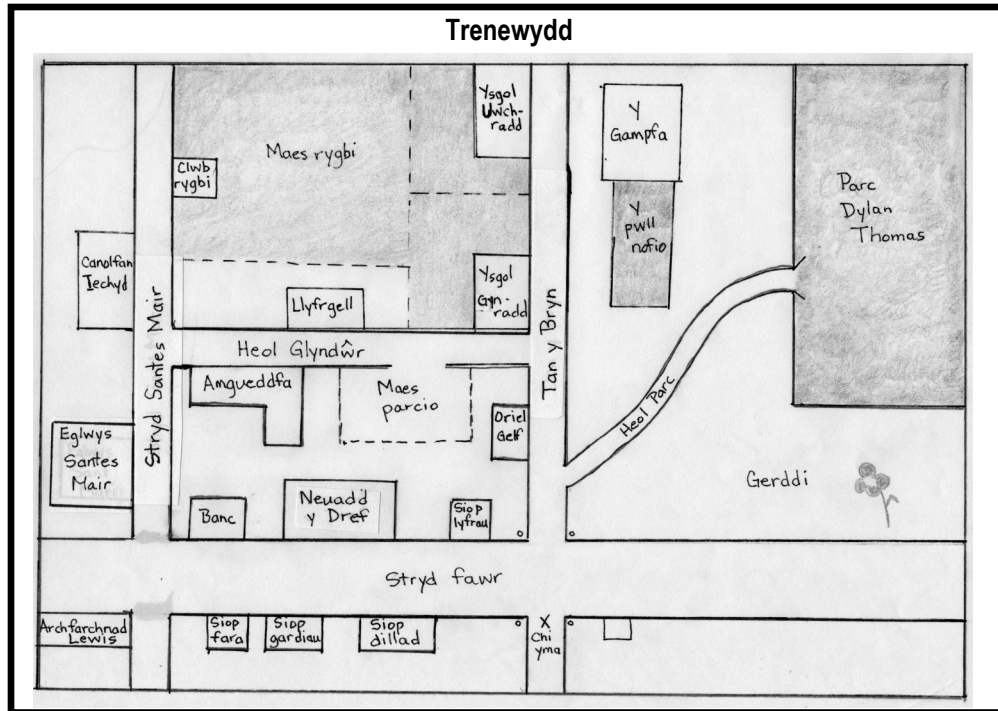
## Upcoming OWS Events 2025-26

Please look for details in this newsletter.

January 31	Rugby (page 5)
February 2	Zoom talk (page 5)
February 22	Rugby (p. 5)
March 1	St. David's Day Luncheon (p. 6)
March 2	St. David's Day Gymanfa Ganu (p. 6)
March 3	Welsh Movie Night (p. 7)
March 8	Rugby (p. 5)
March 15	Rugby (p. 5)
April 25-27	Ontario Welsh Festival (p. 7)
May TBA	AGM
Summer	Annual Family Picnic
Labour Day W/E	NAFOW 2025 in Ottawa (p. 8)

## Colofn y Dysgwyr

The dosbarth Cymraeg continues to meet once a month for instruction and once a month for conversation. This edition of the column features giving directions in Trenewydd.



Fill in the blanks, using the map. Answers to the right. ->->

1. Dechrau a'r X, ewch i'r Archfarchnad Lewis: Ewch i'r gorllewin ar y Stryd \_\_\_\_\_ heibio'r siop \_\_\_\_\_, y siop \_\_\_\_\_ a'r siop \_\_\_\_\_ ac mae'r \_\_\_\_\_ ar y chwith.

2. Dechrau yn yr archfarchnad, ewch i'r Ysgol Gynradd: Gadael yr \_\_\_\_\_ ac wedyn cerdded ar draws y \_\_\_\_\_ a mynd i'r gogledd. Ewch heibio'r \_\_\_\_\_ ar y chwith ac heibio'r \_\_\_\_\_ ar y dde. Trowch i'r dde a cerdded ar hyd Heol Glyndŵr i Tan y Bryn. Bydd yr \_\_\_\_\_ ar y chwith.

3. Dechrau a'r X a mynd i Neuadd y Dref. Gyrru i'r gogledd ar hyd Tan y Bryn. Trowch i'r \_\_\_\_\_ a mynd ar hyd Heol Glyndŵr. Mae \_\_\_\_\_ parcio ar y chwith. Mae'r \_\_\_\_\_ ar draws y stryd a mae'r \_\_\_\_\_, y siop \_\_\_\_\_ a'r \_\_\_\_\_ rhwng y ddau.

4. Dw i eisiau darllen yn y parc. Beth yw'r llwybr cyflyma o'r llyfrgell i'r parc? Ewch i'r \_\_\_\_\_ ar Heol \_\_\_\_\_. Trowch i'r \_\_\_\_\_ ar \_\_\_\_\_ ac wedyn trowch i'r chwith ar \_\_\_\_\_. Mae Parc Dylan Thomas ar ben y \_\_\_\_\_.

**Atebion:**

1. Fawr...dillad...gardiau...fara...archfarchnad.  
 2. archfarchnad...Stryd Fawr...eglwys...amgueddfa...  
 ysgol  
 3. chwith...maes...llyfrgell...banc...lyfrau...neuadd y  
 dref  
 4. dwyrain...Glyndŵr...dde...Tan y Bryn...Heol Parc...  
 Bryn.

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

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

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

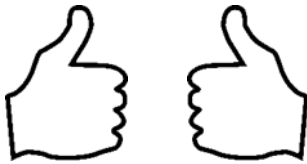
There is always room for more learners. The group is currently using S4C's Dysgu Cymraeg, Mynediad version 2, Gogledd Cymru. Some members are also using Duolingo's Welsh language and/or S4C's Say Something in Welsh.

## Y Gorffennol/the Past

### Film Night

Many thanks go to a number of people for the successful in-person film night. There were close to 30 people in attendance and all were delighted with the choices, "Sing Out Loud" about the revitalization of the Trelawnyd male voice choir and "Only Boys Aloud" about a project to get young men involved in choral singing.

Thanks to the film sub-committee (Alison Lawson, Christine Langham, Sian Griffiths, Jennifer Davis and David Jeanes) for watching so many films to find the best for us. Thank you to David Jeanes (again) for setting up the equipment and running the projection. Thanks to Alison and Lezlie for the tea and coffee set up, to Geraint for the non-alcoholic beer, to the members of the executive who helped set up and clean up and to the attendees who brought desserts and enjoyed the films. All reviews were two thumbs up!



Trelawnydd Male Voice Choir/Côr meibion Trelawnyd

### Carol Service

Our annual Service of Lessons and Carols was well-attended in person by an enthusiastic group from age 2 to 80+. There may also have been an at-home congregation attending via Zoom.

Featured music this year was provided by the Welsh learners' group. Beginning with a rendition of the first verse of Silent Night (Tawel nos) in Welsh, and followed up by a four-part rendition of *Hwiangerdd Mair*. The group gratefully acknowledges the help of some of the teachers and relatives to fill out the côr.

As always, there were readings in French, English and Welsh provided by members of the Society, including some new faces.

Thanks go to Maureen Cleary and Rev. Chris Clarke of Westminster Presbyterian Church for their contributions and assistance with the service and also to Lezlie Wood, our steadfast provider of liquid refreshment in the form of tea and coffee following the service. Alison Lawson also deserves special mention as a worker in the background, without whom many of these events wouldn't happen. David Jeanes once again provided the slides for the hymns and the readings and sat in with Maureen, who looked after sending the service out via Zoom.

Many thanks to all who attended, despite the previous day's snowstorm, and especially to those who provided sweets and other goodies from their kitchens.



## Y presennol/The present - Y Dyfodol/The Future

## Membership

### Zoom Talk

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Chief Executive of the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth has agreed to join us for a zoom session on Sunday afternoon, February 2, at 2 p.m. He will give us an overview of the work of the Library and also share with us some insight into progress in the transcribing of the Peace Petition. You may remember that Hefina Phillips of Toronto gave us an excellent talk last winter on the history of the Welsh Women's Peace Petition of 1923-24. The signatures in the petition are all being transcribed by volunteers, including our own John Williams. Who knows, you might be able to track down your own grandmother's or great grandmother's signature!

The session promises to be really interesting and we encourage you all to join us. We expect that we will have an opportunity to ask questions.

- Alison Lawson



Dr. Rhodri Llwyd Morgan

We are reminded that our membership year end is coming up at the end of February. We encourage everyone to send their fees in, either with their Luncheon reservation, or separately. The information for sending an e-transfer is included on the form. Both forms are available at the end of this newsletter. For those who prefer to fill in the form and send it electronically, our web-master, David Speck has created fillable forms on our website at [www.ottawawelsh.org](http://www.ottawawelsh.org)

Please note, due to rising costs, the vote was taken at our last AGM to increase all fees by \$5. This means the family membership is now \$35, single is \$25 and student is \$20.



### Six Nations Championship Rugby

Once again a small but dedicated group of rugby fans will gather at the Glebe Central Pub to cheer on Wales in this annual event.

Friday, January 31 at 3:15 Wales vs France

Saturday, March 15 at 12:45 Wales vs England

We can also thank Myfanwy Davies for arranging two additional possible viewing parties (double headers) at Moose McGuire's on McCarthy Road.

Saturday, February 22nd at 9:15 a.m. Wales vs Ireland  
11:45 a.m. Scotland and England

Saturday, March 8th at 9:15 a.m. Ireland vs France  
11:45 a.m. Wales and Scotland



## Y dyfodol/The Future

### Saint David's Day Luncheon

Our annual St. David's Day Luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 1 at The Marconi Centre at 1026 Baseline Road at Farlane Blvd.

Time: Cash bar 11:30  
Lunch 12:30

Menu Choices: Chicken Scallopine in white wine sauce  
or  
Oven-baked salmon

\*special dietary requirements can be accommodated

Cost: Early bird (by February 7) \$55, thereafter \$60.

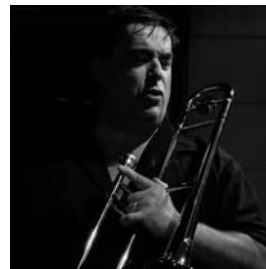
**Entertainment:** Two winners of the Welsh Society Senior Vocal Folk Solo under 21 Class in the Kiwanis Music Festival, Ainsleigh MacInnis (2024) and Alex Becke (2023) will provide a short musical program.

Ainsleigh MacInnis won the award in 2024. She is a first-year undergraduate student at Carleton University majoring in linguistics with a concentration in psycholinguistics and communication differences. She's been singing since the age of nine and is a participant of Pembroke (nine years) and Ottawa (2 years) Kiwanis Music festivals in the vocal category. She loves musical theatre and has been involved with Pembroke's Streetlight Theatre Company since 2012. In July 2023, Ainsleigh was invited to attend the 2-week vocal intensive program for high school students at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. She is a recipient of the Orpheus Trophy for Musicianship and a recent recipient of the GOYA Canadian Musical Theatre Award.

Alex Becke won the award in 2023. She is a grade 12 student, and has been singing for the past five years under the tutelage of vocal instructor Lauren Richardson. She has been fortunate to participate in Ottawa's Kiwanis Music Festival, Ottawa's Winter Festival of Song, Ottawa's Canadian Music Showcase, and Ottawa's National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Vocal Showcase. She has enjoyed the opportunity to represent Ottawa's Kiwanis Music Festival at the provincial level in both classical and musical theatre. Musical theatre is her heartsong and she describes herself as a "musical theatre nerd". She volunteers with Orpheus Musical Theatre's School House program and will be performing in the role of "Emma" this spring in Suzart's production of "The Prom".

## Saint David's Day Gymanfa Ganu

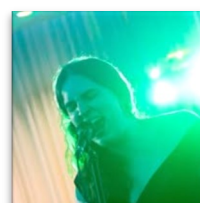
We are pleased to announce that this year's Gymanfa will be directed by Ian Morris, who is well-known to the OWS. The organ accompaniment will be provided by Alan Thomas, a staunch supporter of our Cymanfoedd over many years. Special music will be provided by Heather and Alison Morris



Ian Morris

Ian started singing with the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society as soon as his voice matured and has always been involved in Welsh activities in Ottawa and North America. Working as an understudy to his father, Roy Morris, he has conducted concerts with the OWCS as well as the Concordia German male and female choirs over the years. Ian's primary musical activity over the years, to this day, has been as a brass musician in the Ottawa area, where he has performed with many local bands from classical to jazz and R and B. He is presently featured as the lead trombonist of the *Aardvark* big band and solo tenor horn for the *Maple Leaf Brass Band*. Ian has served as President of the OWS multiple times and as executive board member of the WNGGA. He is also the only person to serve as venue chairperson for 3 WNGGA events including the very successful Ottawa event in 2000.

Growing up in a musical family, Heather and Alison studied piano from an early age while also enjoying listening and singing to all varieties of music. Through their high school years, both were members of the Nepean Concert band while also supporting their school bands, where Heather played the trumpet and bass clarinet and Alison played the flute and guitar. Both women have continued their love of music after high school through participation in community bands and choirs, and continuing to play the piano and their musical instruments of choice.



Heather Morris



Alison Morris

After attending university, Heather relocated to Montreal where she works as a software specialist for True Simulation. Alison attended Algonquin College before joining the RCMP. She has also been a member of the Ottawa Capital Chordettes, a barbershop choir for women.

## Welsh Movie Night at the Bytowne

As part of our St David's Day celebrations this year we are proud to announce that we will be showing a movie at the ByTowne Cinema on Monday, March 3 at 7 p.m.

The movie is called *Y Chwarelwr-y ril goll* /The Quarryman- the lost reel.

'Y Chwarelwr' was the first ever talkie in Welsh made by Sir Ifan ab Owen Edwards and John Ellis Williams. The film depicts the lives of ordinary quarrymen in Blaenau Ffestiniog in the 1930s – work, home, chapel, courtship -and highlights the hardships and tough choices that were part and parcel of life in such a society, alongside its cultural vibrancy and community spirit.

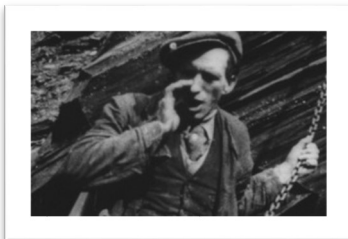
The final reel was lost many years ago. In 2006, producer Ifor ap Glyn, with the support of the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales, which was restoring the film, launched a nationwide appeal for the missing eight-minute reel. The appeal failed, but he was spurred on to re-create the missing reel himself. As in the original production, amateur actors were used, with the new scenes shot on location in Blaenau Ffestiniog and the National Slate Museum in Llanberis. The soundtrack was also replaced and a new music score added. The whole process is depicted in this fascinating documentary, *Y Ril Goll*, followed by the recreated film, *Y Chwarelwr*.

See if you can spot where the last reel kicks in!

(Source: Film Hub Wales; North Wales Live)

We urge you all to support this initiative - you are in for a real treat. It is also a great way of letting Ottawa know that the Welsh are here! Also please forward this notice to your friends.

- Alison Lawson



## Ontario Welsh Festival

The Ontario Welsh Festival will be held in Niagara Falls from April 25-27 this year. Everyone is encouraged to make their reservation at the Crowne Plaza Hotel early. Information on room rates is available at

<https://ontariowelshfestival.ca/registration/>

The usual events will be taking place; the Welcome Tea, Noson lawen, AGM, seminars, concert, and of course, the Gymanfa itself.

Author Barrie Doyle will present a fascinating seminar about Wales' own Romeo and Juliet. He will explore the ill-fated love of poet, Wil Hopcyn, and Ann Thomas, also known as the *Maid of Cefyn Ydfa*. Many of us will have read Barrie's mysteries and his account of Handel's writing of *The Messiah*. The seminar promises to be engaging.

This year's Festival Tour is coming together. More details will be available in due course. In the meantime, think wineries, boutiques and restaurants....

Our excitement continues to build as we anticipate the arrival of Johns' Boys Male Chorus in Niagara Falls for the gala concert at St. Andrews United Church on Saturday, April 26, 2025. Recent snippets of their excellent singing can be found on FaceBook.



The weekend is a great opportunity to renew acquaintances and make new friends. We encourage you to join us!

- Marilyn Jenkins

## NAFOW UPDATE

Plans are coming along well for the North American Festival of Wales that will take place here in Ottawa from August 27 to September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

All events will take place at the Delta Hotel on Lyon Street, Christ Church Cathedral or at nearby venues, such as the Sparks Street Mall. Rooms can now be booked at the Delta Hotel for the duration of the Festival, if you'd rather be in the middle of the action, and not have to worry about travelling back and forth each day. Speaking of travel, the Delta is located at the Lyon light rail station, so you can take the train and not worry about parking downtown.

There will be a couple of free events, but for most activities you will need a ticket, or a Day Pass. More information on these options will be supplied on the Registration form.

On-line Registration for the Festival will be opened around March 1<sup>st</sup>. I will send the link at that time so you can sign up for the various activities on offer. You can pay in Canadian dollars and we have worked out prices that are advantageous for us, considering the exchange rates lately.

Several of you have asked how you can help, and we would appreciate volunteers to assist during the weekend (we will have a volunteer meeting in the spring), donations of Welsh cakes for the Tea Room, and also some financial support. Ticket sales will cover a portion of the costs, but if you'd like to sponsor a specific event, or make a general donation, it would be greatly appreciated. Or you could remember a loved one who has passed away, by making a memorial donation. I will be making donations in memory of my parents and some of my friends who enjoyed the Gymanfa and Festival. Here is the tentative schedule of events that are planned so far:

**WEDNESDAY:** Opening Ceremony in the afternoon (this event will have free admission), and in the evening a Taste of Wales with food and entertainment.

**THURSDAY:** A tour of Ottawa highlighting Welsh connections led by David Jeanes, a writer's workshop, movie screening, Marketplace. Silent Auction, Tea Room, book giveaway, and possible harp lessons or lovespoon carving workshop. In the afternoon a **FREE Street Party**, sponsored by the Welsh Government, will be held on the Sparks Street Mall. Tell all your friends and family, so they can join us for some first class Welsh entertainment! The show will feature the Welsh of the West End, Pedair, Band Pres Llaeggub and URDD clog dancers.

In the evening, back at the hotel, we will be entertained by Comedian and S4C presenter Tudor Owen.

**FRIDAY:** Seminars (two given by Ottawa Welsh Society members), Cinema Wales, Marketplace, Tea Room, Silent Auction, Book giveaway, possible workshops during the day. In the evening the Awards Banquet takes place with entertainment by Manon Ogwen Parry. This event is co-sponsored by the North American Wales Foundation and the Welsh North American Association, and open to all (Tickets are required). That will be followed by a Pub Night and probably some late night singing.

**SATURDAY:** Seminars, Cinema Wales, Eisteddfod, Marketplace, Silent Auction, Tea Room, book giveaway, possible workshops, and meetings. The evening Grand Concert at Christ Church Cathedral will feature Cor y Penrhyn, with soloist Meinir Wyn Roberts. Late night singing back at the hotel is sure to follow.

**SUNDAY:** Church Service at hotel, Afternoon Gymanfa Ganu at Christ Church Cathedral, Te Bach between sessions, Evening Gymanfa Ganu at the Cathedral, followed by a Noson Lawen at the hotel to wrap up the weekend. There will be free admission to the cymanfaeodd, but donations would be appreciated.

**MONDAY:** Tour (details still being worked out)

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact one of

Myfanwy Davies at [myfanwy57@sympatico.ca](mailto:myfanwy57@sympatico.ca)  
or 613-526-3019,

or Alison Lawson at [alisonlawson@rogers.com](mailto:alisonlawson@rogers.com)  
or 613-725-2704

We think we've planned something for everyone, and look forward to seeing you at the Festival. We are expecting around 500 attendees from across Canada and the United States, as well as many performers and presenters from Wales. It will be a great opportunity to recharge your Welsh batteries, make new friends, and visit with those you might not have seen for a while.

- Myfanwy Davies

(Editor's note: we will give you some details on the various entertainers in future newsletters. MEJ)



# St. David's Day Luncheon Reservation Form 2025

March 1, 2025 at the Marconi Centre on Baseline Road

**Note:** Early bird deadline is **(received by)** February 7, 2025 with each meal costing \$55.

Every effort will be made to seat you with your friends if your reservation is received by **February 7, 2025**, however, with the threat of Covid-19 still around, there will be a **limit of 6 people** per table.

After February 7, the meal cost will be \$60. All reservations must be received by February 14, 2025 to ensure your meal choice. Special dietary needs can be accommodated.

There are two choices for the meal: Chicken Scallopine in white wine sauce or Oven-baked salmon. Soup, dessert, tea and coffee are included and there will be a cash bar.

Please complete a section for **each participant**, indicating choice of meal.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Chicken Scallopine in white wine sauce      ☐ Oven-baked Salmon

Please list any special needs, including accessibility issues (walker, wheelchair, etc.):

Please indicate **any food allergies** or sensitivities:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Chicken Scallopine in white wine sauce      ☐ Oven-baked Salmon

Please list any special needs, including accessibility issues (walker, wheelchair, etc.):

Please indicate **any food allergies** or sensitivities:

## Summary:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Scallopine @ \$55 (early bird) \_\_\_\_\_ or \$60 (received after February 7, 2025)

\_\_\_\_\_ Oven-baked Salmon @ \$55 (early bird) \_\_\_\_\_ or \$60 (received after February 7, 2025)

Total paid: \_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing a cheque. ☐ I am paying by e-transfer. ☐

Friends with whom we would like to share a table (maximum 6 people per table):

Please send a **cheque** made out to the *Ottawa Welsh Society* or use the convenient **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 "luncheon". Completed forms may be mailed to (digital forms may be sent by email):

Marilyn Jenkins, 267 McClellan Road, Nepean, ON K2H 8N7

Questions may be emailed to: [marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca](mailto:marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca) or phoned to 613-820-6687

**You may also take this opportunity to pay your membership dues. Family \$35. Single \$25 or Student \$20**

## OTTAWA WELSH SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2025

A fillable version of this form is available at [www.ottawawelsh.org](http://www.ottawawelsh.org)

Note: Membership year is March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 EA..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 EA..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Christine Langham  
104-2625 Regina Street  
Ottawa, ON K2B 5W8

**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/student),** as well as changes to your address, email address and phone number(s). You can also send the completed renewal form to [cwlangham2@gmail.com](mailto:cwlangham2@gmail.com)

The email list will be updated prior to the AGM.