

Y Bwletin



Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press

Y Gwanwyn 2025 - Spring 2025

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If you would like to have an item included in
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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,

I am writing to you from a very sunny Cardiff, where I am completing a final round of PhD research and writing. I am very sorry to be missing this year's AGM on May 22 at Moose McGuire's, which I hope many of you will attend.

The winter saw a fascinating talk by National Library of Wales Chief Executive Dr. Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, and a couple of gatherings of rather downtrodden Welsh rugby fans. The bulk of our events took place around Saint David's Day, though. Huge thanks to everyone who was involved in our March activities, either as organizers or attendees. The March 1 luncheon was well attended. Guests enjoyed a short speech from Melanie Sayers, Head of Economy and Trade Policy at the UK High Commission, followed by entertainment provided by two recent Kiwanis Music Prize winners, Ainsleigh MacInnis and Alex Becke. The Ottawa Welsh Society has a long history of sponsoring these young musicians, and it was wonderful to see the tangible results of our support. Those present also enjoyed the gymanfa ganu the following day, directed by Ian Morris, with organ accompaniment provided by Alan Thomas. Finally, members of the OWS met for a third day in a row at the ByTowne cinema for a presentation of *Y Chwarelwr: Y Ril Goll* AKA *The Quarryman: The Lost Reel*, the first ever Welsh talkie.

The Ottawa Welsh Society will be very present at the North American Festival of Wales, which will take place in Ottawa this coming Labour Day weekend. Members of the executive committee had a chance to meet the NAFOW organising committee in April, and it appears to be shaping up into a fantastic long weekend of music, culture, and then some.

In the meantime, I wish you a lovely summer.

Cofion cynnes,

Anastasia Llewellyn

Secretary/Editor's Comments

Annwyl gyfeillion,

We've had a busy spring as indicated by our president and detailed on pages 4 and 5. With NAFOW fast-approaching, we will be looking for volunteers and supporters in various capacities (see p. 7).

In this issue, you can relive (or read for the first time) the talk given by Dr. Morgan, the Chief Executive of the National Library of Wales in Aberswyth (p. 4).

You will see that the Welsh Learners' Column is tackling the tricky question of how to say yes or no in Welsh.

What you will not see (yet) is an In Memoriam page for our dear friend, John Griffiths. We have not forgotten. There will be a loving remembrance for him in the Autumn Bwletin.

We hope to see many of you at the AGM (p. 6) and, hopefully at a Family Picnic during the summer. Most especially, we hope to see a huge representation at NAFOW. You can take in as little or as much as you want.

Many blessings/Bendithion i chi i gyd,
Marilyn

Upcoming OWS Events 2025-26

Please look for details in this newsletter.

May 22	AGM at Moose McGuire's (p. 6)
Summer	Annual Family Picnic (TBD)
Labour Day W/E	NAFOW 2025 in Ottawa (p. 7)

Colofn y Dysgwyr

The dosbarth Cymraeg continues to meet once a month for instruction and story reading, and later in the month for conversation.

One of the big issues that comes up in the dosbarth Cymraeg, is how to say "yes" or "no" in answer to a question. Teacher John Williams tells us to just repeat the verb, in whatever tense is used in the question. We will look at this approach over the next few columns, focusing on the present tense in this issue.

Enghraifft:

Are you going to school? Yes (I am)/No (I am not).

Wyt ti'n mynd i'r ysgol? Ydw/Nac ydw. (Long answer: Ydw, dw i'n mynd i'r ysgol./Nac ydw, dw i ddim yn mynd i'r ysgol.

Ymarfer 1: Translate the sentences into Welsh and give the answers. Keep in mind that short answers are perfectly acceptable: yes/no. Ydw/nac ydw.

1. Is he going to work? Yes/no
2. Are they going to the concert?
3. Do they live in Swansea?
4. Are we going to the play?
5. Are you (plural) going to make dinner?
6. Are you cleaning the house?
7. Is he washing the car?
8. Are you coming?
9. Is she ready?
10. Are they reading the book?
11. Is he writing to the secretary?
12. Do you (formal) write poetry?
13. Is he going to the library?
14. Are they building houses?
15. Are we early?

Geiriau

Concert	Cyngerdd
Swansea	Abertawe
Dinner	Cinio
To wash	Golchi
Ready	(yn) barod
Poetry	Barddoniaeth
Library	Llyfrgell
Early	(yn) gynnar

Ymarfer 2:

Cyfieitha'r braddegau i'r Saesneg. Cafodd yr atebion eu rhoi, ond mae atebion byr yn iawn.

1. Ydy'r merched yn aros yn yr orsaf?
2. Ydych chi'n barod i fynd?
3. Ydyn nhw eisiau lemonêd?
4. Ydy'r brodyr yn cerdded?
5. Ydyn ni'n mynd i'r angladd?
6. Wyt ti'n gwyllo'r ffilm?
7. Wyt ti eisiau dod adre, Geraint?
8. Ydyn nhw'n hoffi golchi'r car?
9. Ydych chi'n mwynhau gwranddo ar y radio?
10. Wyt ti'n gallu darllen Cymraeg?

Geiriau

Orsaf	Station
Angladd	Funeral
Adre	Home
Gwranddo (â)	to listen to
Graddegau	sentences

Answers may be found on page 9 of this Bwletin./Mae'r atebion i'w cael ar dudalen 9

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

alisonlawson@rogers.com

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, Uned 20. 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

Zoom Talk a Hit!

On a cold Sunday afternoon in February, a small group signed on to Zoom to hear Dr. Rhodri Lloyd Morgan speak about the work of the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, where he is the Chief Executive. For those of you who were unable to attend, here is an account of his presentation.

Dr. Rhodri Llwyd Morgan is a graduate in Welsh History and Librarianship from Aberystwyth University. His doctorate was obtained at Cardiff University.

Dr. Morgan started with the disclaimer that he is new at the library, but his presentation was very detailed. He was speaking to us from the Reading Room which he likened to a cathedral. Aberystwyth was established in the Victorian Age, the first university in Aberystwyth. In the early 1900s London (i.e. British Government) supported a call for a National Museum and Library. The Museum (Amgueddfa) was established in Cardiff and the Library (Llyfrgell) in Aberystwyth. In 1911 the King laid the cornerstone, in 1915 the acquisition of books began and in 1916 the library was open for use.

Over the years, materials were donated from various sources. Queen Victoria's private surgeon donated many printed materials and manuscripts.

The Library's charter calls for the collection of all written knowledge about all Celtic nations. There are six legal deposit libraries throughout the British Isles given the right to receive one copy of everything published in Britain and Ireland. A van pulls up every Tuesday delivering 4000 publications.

The library is also a research library. One can register online to get a 'reader's ticket'. Other activities include exhibitions, a lively events program, an excellent volunteer program and a school visit program that allows local school children to visit the building. In fact, schools visit from across the country.

Collections housed in the National Library include Laws of Hywel Dda, the Black Book of Carmarthen, and other ancient texts. The building holds the archives of the Church in Wales, chapels, estate collections, eminent individuals, Welsh political figures, literary illuminati (Welsh and Anglo-Welsh) and various organizations and societies. Works of Art, their provenance and historical significance are on record, from many eras.

The library is dedicated to the preservation of books, which includes digitization, rebinding and acid wash. The photographic collection includes the earliest known photo taken in Wales. There are over a million maps such as farm estates, etc. The earliest known map (1573) of Wales is also there.

There are 8 million books in 300 languages, such as the earliest book printed in Welsh; national and regional newspapers are housed here, have been digitized up to 1919 and are available to view online:

<https://newspapers.library.wales/>

Finally, the building also houses a Wales Broadcast Archive, featuring 100 years of BBC, 60 years of ITC and 40 years of S4C. Included in this collection are scripts and clips from various presentations. This collection has also been digitized. At the moment you can listen or watch at the library (only).

A recent project of the National Library is involving the Women's Peace Petition that we heard about from Hefina Phillips of Toronto. To recap, there was a meeting of Welsh women in Aberystwyth in 1923 to organize a group to get women's signatures on a petition to encourage American women to push their President to help form the League of Nations to promote world-wide peace. They got 390,296 signatures, over half the population of Wales. The documents were placed in a casket and taken across America by a group led by Annie Hughes Griffiths, gaining countrywide support. The casket holding these documents was put into the Smithsonian for safe-keeping and was lost for years! Once it was found, it was returned to Aberystwyth. The project has been working, with volunteers, including our own John Williams, to digitize the signatures. It is an ongoing project, but you can search for relatives if you have an address and a name. John Williams can give more information on how to do it. (Note: I found my relatives' signatures from Llangloffan, a farm in Pembrokeshire!)

Following this fascinating talk, there was a lively discussion amongst the 18 viewers and our guest. We will try to keep you updated on some of the ongoing projects.



Saint David's Day 2025

The Luncheon

On Saturday, March 1, a good crowd of sixty-one people arrived at the Marconi Centre on the heels of a snowstorm. Outside was cold and blustery, but inside, it was warm and friendly. It was a treat to see some members who had not been in a few years.

Everyone, from Elsie, aged 7 (going on 17) to Jean aged 101, enjoyed a meal of leek soup, a choice of salmon or chicken with pasta and veg, and a tasty desert.

The meal was followed by a short but enthusiastic greeting from Melanie Sayers, on behalf of the British High Commissioner. Then two lovely young soloists, winners of the Welsh Society prize in Folk music in 2023 and 2024, presented twenty minutes of music. Ainsleigh MacInnis and Alex Becke performed beautiful renditions of folksongs and musical theatre. Accompanist Sonja Deutsche was an added delight.



Melanie Sayers



Our soloists

The Gymanfa

A reasonable number of singers turned out to the annual St. David's Day Gymanfa on Sunday, March 2. This year we had a new director: Ian Morris. Ian and Alan worked together to make an enjoyable afternoon and the singers responded. Heather and Alison Morris, Ian's daughters took time from their busy schedules to prepare, at a distance, three hymns as the special music: Mae d'eisiau di bob awr, Rhys and Sarah. The third was a favourite of our friend, the late John Griffiths* and the congregation was encouraged to sing along to celebrate John's life and love of music.

As always, there was a Te bach following the service, with Lezlie Wood leading the tea and coffee preparations and many members contributing Welsh cakes and other yummy treats.



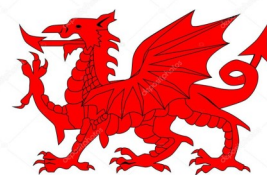
Ian Morris, Director



Gymanfa attendees

Welsh Movie Night

For those who could make it, the celebration of all things Welsh continued on Monday, March 3, with a screening of *Y Chwarelwr – Y Ril Goll*, the first Welsh-language film, made in 1935. A unique feature of the film was the use of untrained actors. When the film was rediscovered, it was found that the last reel was missing. The script, however, was found and the producer set out to recreate the last 8 minutes of the film, using locals from the original town. The documentary tells the story of this recreation with all its challenges, and then runs the whole film with the new material spliced onto the end of the old. The challenge to the audience is to spot the moment when the modern-day actors take up the story. There was a small but enthusiastic group present for the presentation, and Alison Lawson once again provided a table of materials at the back of the theatre, promoting the OWS.



Y Presennol/The Present

AGM 2025

Date: Thursday, May 22, 2025

Time: 5:30 Dinner 7:00 Meeting

Location: Moose McGuire's Pub,
McCarthy Road and Paul Anka Drive

Share a meal, get caught up with friends and be a part of the decision-making in the Ottawa Welsh Society. Maybe consider joining the executive.

Moose McGuire's has set aside a room for us to enjoy for the evening.

If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Jenkins at 613-820-6687.



Membership

"Membership...is open to persons of Welsh origin or connected by marriage with a person of Welsh origin, and to those of non-Welsh origin who have an interest in Wales, its language and culture." (By-laws, 2024)

We would like to remind you that there is a small fee for membership, which may still be submitted along with a completed form. The form is important because it helps to ensure that our information is complete and up-to-date. Many thanks to those who have already completed this task.

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.

Our web-master, David Speck, has created fillable forms on our website at www.ottawawelsh.org.

If you prefer to use paper and send a cheque, please contact Marilyn Jenkins at 613-820-6687. She will be happy to send you a paper copy through Canada Post.



Youngest member Elsie



Oldest member Jean

Y Dyfodol/The Future

NAFOW Update

Plans for the North American Festival of Wales continue to fall into place. The schedule is now packed with activities from the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday afternoon (August 27th) to the Noson Lawen on Sunday night (August 31st), and there are a few more events still to be added.

Several events will be free, and open to the public, including the WelshFest that will be held on Sparks Street Mall on Thursday afternoon. This event is being sponsored by the Welsh government, so please tell all your friends about it. Artists will include the Welsh of London's West End shows, Pedair (a well-known female folk group) and other stars from Wales.

For other events you will need to have a ticket, or purchase Registration for the weekend. Three of our Society members are presenting seminars, and I hope you will support them. More details on every aspect of the Festival can be found on www.nafow.org

It's been a busy couple of weeks, and there are a lot of details still in flux, so this will just be a quick review of a few of the major areas I'd like you to think about. My plan is to present a more complete report at the AGM, and then to send a detailed list of jobs out by email soon after.

We had a good turnout at our volunteer meeting a few weeks ago, and I am pleased that some key positions have been filled. But we need more help. The biggest responsibility for the local Society is to run the Tea Room. We need 2,000 Welsh cakes, and volunteers to staff the room from Thursday afternoon through Sunday morning at the hotel. There will also be a tea between the two gymanfa sessions on Sunday, and since that will be held at Christ Church Cathedral, we can offer Bara Brith and other goodies in addition to Welsh cakes.

Another big job is local advertising. We want everyone to know about Wales, and this Festival in particular, so Alison Lawson and her team will need more volunteers to put up posters, deliver post cards and help with other tasks. We will also need greeters, and people to help with smaller jobs on the weekend. More details will be coming soon. At the volunteer meeting, I was asked about sponsorships and donations for the overall Festival, or for specific events. I am putting a list together and will share that probably next week. Donations can be made when you register, or separately. A nice way to remember friends and family members who are no longer with us is to make a memorial donation. I'll be doing that.

Myfanwy Davies



Tudur Owen, comedian



Grand Concert, Côr y Penrhyn

MEMBER NEWS

Upcoming Concert



Pegi Jenkins, a past president of the OWS, longtime accompanist to the OWCS and current Music Director at St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church has been organizing a series of concerts to raise funds for a variety of charities important to her and her congregation. In a past concert, OWS members joined the audience for an afternoon of mostly Welsh music. Pegi usually includes a sing-a-long portion in her programs. You are welcome to attend on June 1 for an evening of lovely music, featuring the St. Stephen's choir and soloist Deanna Singh. Both have been featured in previous concerts, and are always well-received.



Pegi Jenkins



Deanna Singh

OWS Members Honoured

Myfanwy Davies and Sheila Pepper were named Distinguished Woman by Femmes remarquables Ottawa Distinguished Women in a ceremony at the Maison de la Francophonie on April 1, 2025.

Myfanwy was nominated under the Lifetime Contribution category and Sheila under the Community Pillar Category. For more information go to

<https://frottawadw.ca/ottawa-distinguished-women/>



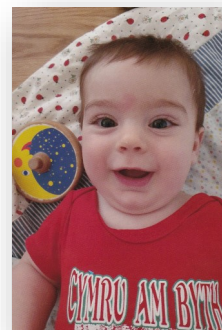
Myfanwy Davies



Sheila Pepper

In other news....

Bjorn Gantner, grandson of Mary Muckle and Jake Rice shows off his Welsh heritage.



Colofn y Dysgwyr: Atebion

Atebion Ymarfer 1:

1. Ydy e'n mynd i'r gwaith? Ydy, (mae e'n mynd i'r gwaith).
2. Ydyn nhw'n mynd i'r cyngerdd? Ydyn, maen nhw'n mynd i'r cyngerdd./Nac ydyn, dydyn nhw ddim yn mynd i'r cyngerdd.
3. Ydyn nhw'n buw yn Abertawe? Ydyn, (maen nhw'n buw yn Abertawe).
4. Ydyn ni'n mynd i'r ddrama? Ydyn, dyn ni'n mynd i'r ddrama./Nac ydyn, dyn ni ddim yn mynd i'r ddrama. NEU
Ydych, dych chi'n mynd i'r ddrama./Nac ydych, dych chi ddim yn mynd i'r ddrama.
5. Ydych chi'n gwneud y cinio? Ydyn, dyn ni'n gwneud cinio./Nac ydyn, dyn ni ddim yn gwneud cinio.
6. Wyt ti'n glanhau'r tŷ? Ydw, dw i'n glanhau'r tŷ./ Nac ydw, dw i ddim yn glanhau'r tŷ.
7. Ydy o'n golchi'r car? Ydy, mae o'n golchi'r car./Nac ydy, dydy o ddim yn golchi'r car.
8. Wyt ti'n dod? Ydw, dw i'n dod./Nac ydw, dw i ddim yn dod.
9. Ydy hi'n barod? Ydy, mae hi'n barod./Nac ydy, dydy hi ddim yn barod.
10. Ydyn nhw'n darllen y llyfr? Ydyn, maen nhw'n darllen y llyfr./Nac ydyn, dyn nhw ddim yn darllen y llyfr.
11. Ydy o'n ysgrifennu i'r ysgrifennydd? Ydy, mae o'n ysgrifennu i'r ysgrifennydd./Nac ydy, dydy o ddim n ysgrifennu i'r ysgrifennydd.
12. Dych chi'n ysgrifennu barddoniaeth? Ydw, dw i'n ysgrifennu barddoniaeth./Nac ydw, dw i ddim yn ysgrifennu barddoniaeth.
13. Ydy o'n mynd i'r llyfrgell? Ydy, mae o'n mynd i'r llyfrgell./Nac ydy, dydy o ddim yn mynd i'r llyfrgell.
14. Ydyn nhw'n adeiladu tai? Ydyn, maen nhw'n adeiladu tai./Nac ydyn, dydyn nhw ddim yn adeiladu tai.

15. Ydyn ni'n gynnar? Ydyn, dyn ni'n gynnar./Nac ydyn, dyn ni ddim yn gynnar.

Atebion Ymarfer 2.

1. Ydy, (mae'r merched yn aros yn yr orsaf.)/Nac ydy, (dydy'r merched ddim yn aros yn yr orsaf.)
2. Ydyn, dyn ni'n barod i fynd./Nac ydyn, dyn ni ddim yn barod i fynd.
3. Ydyn, maen nhw eisiau lemonêd./Nac ydyn, dyn nhw ddim eisiau lemonêd.
4. Ydyn, mae'r brodyr yn cerdded./Nac ydy, dydy'r brodyr ddim yn cerdded.
5. Ydyn, dyn ni'n mynd i'r angladd./Nac ydyn, dyn ni ddim yn mynd i'r angladd. NEU:
Ydych, dych chi'n mynd i'r angladd./Nac ydych, dych chi ddim yn mynd i'r angladd.
6. Ydw, dw i'n gwyllo'r ffilm./Nac ydw, dw i ddim gwyllo'r ffilm.
7. Ydw, dw i eisiau dod adre./Nac ydw, dw i ddim eisiau dod adre.
8. Ydyn, maen nhw'n hoffi golchi'r car./Nac ydyn, dydyn nhw ddim yn hoffi golchi'r car.
9. Ydw, dw i'n mwynhau gwrando ar y radio./Nac ydw, dw i ddim yn mwynhau gwrando ar y radio. NEU
Ydym, dyn ni'n mwynhau gwrando ar y radio./Nac ydym, dyn ni ddim yn mwynhau gwrando ar y radio.
10. Ydw, dw i'n gallu darllen Cymraeg. Nac ydw, dw i ddim yn gallu darllen Cymraeg.