

# Y Bwletin



Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press

Yr Haf 2025 - Summer 2025

Editor/Golygydd: Marilyn E. Jenkins



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You can read articles from previous editions of  
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Y Gymdeithas ar y We / The Society on the Net:

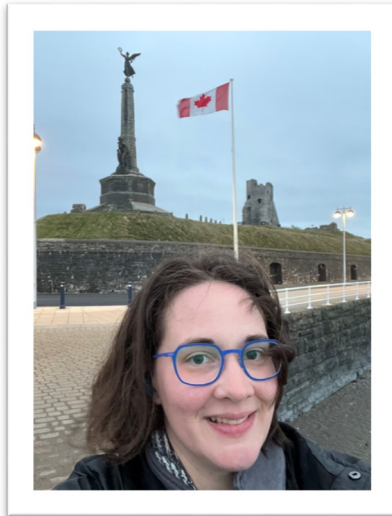
[www.ottawawelsh.org](http://www.ottawawelsh.org)



Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa

Check out our web site and our Facebook page!

## Neges Llywydd/President's Message



Annwyl gyfeillion,

I write to you from Aberystwyth, where I spent a day at the National Library of Wales, and attended an academic conference all about social research in Wales. As I walked along the flag-lined prom last Friday, I was struck by the judicious placement of the Canadian flag! (See photo.)

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who came out for our AGM on May 22. I am really pleased that all of last year's members of our executive committee have agreed to stay on for another year!

We are in for another quiet summer, although we are planning to get together for the annual family picnic on Saturday, July 19. Thanks to Marilyn Jenkins and David Speck for agreeing to host a second consecutive picnic. At last year's event, we welcomed some new faces among the familiar ones.

Registration has opened for the North American Festival of Wales, of which the Ottawa Welsh Society is a proud sponsor. We hope you will join many of us in Ottawa this coming Labour Day for what promises to be an exciting long weekend.

In the meantime, stay cool!

Cofion cynnes,  
Anastasia Llewellyn

## Secretary/Editor's Comments

Annwyl gyfeillion,

Summer has arrived at last! This newsletter contains reports on past events, future events and what's going on over the summer.

This year, we have our annual family picnic in July. To finish the summer in style, we are hosting the NAFOW event at the end of August, over the Labour Day weekend. There is so much happening there that it is hard to take it all in. See Myfanwy's summary on page 7 for details. We are also asking that you consider volunteering for one of the many jobs described in the article. This is also a rare opportunity to meet and celebrate our heritage with the wider Welsh diaspora without leaving Ottawa!

Past events include the Ontario Welsh Festival which is described in detail on pages 4-5. If you missed it, take heart. You can attend next year's event which will take place in Kingston, much closer to home.

The AGM report (page 6) has some details that might interest you, as will the Member News, on page 8.

Please read about the exciting fundraiser planned for Ysgol y Cwm at NAFOW on pages 9-10.

As always, the Welsh learners' column is on page 3. Again, many thanks to John Williams for his invaluable contribution.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the picnic.

Bendithion i chi i gyd,  
Marilyn

### Upcoming OWS Events 2025-26

Please look for details in this newsletter.

July 19/20	Annual Family Picnic	4-8 p.m. (p. 6)
August	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.*

Continuing on our quest to understand the 'yes/no' conundrum, we will look at another construction of the present tense.

Enghreifftiau:

Mae dafad yn y cae. *There is a sheep in the field.*  
Oes dafad yn y cae? Oes/nac oes. *Is there a sheep in the field? Yes/no.*

Mae pensil ar fy nesg. *There is a pencil on my desk.*  
Oes pensil ar fy nesg? Oes/nac oes. *Is there a pencil on every desk? Yes/no.*

Ymarfer 1: Answer the questions. Translate if you wish (translations on page 8.) Note: Some of the sentences relate to the dosbarth Cymraeg attendees.

1. Oes ffenestr yn dy ystafell wely?
2. Oes sofa yn eich ystafell fyw?
3. Oes siopau da ym Mayshore?
4. Oes gan John gwallt llwyd?
5. Oes gan Alison spectol?
6. Oes gan Geraint ffôn symudol?
7. Oes gan Glenys gath?
8. Oes gan Dot wyrion?
9. Oes gan Marilyn gar?
10. Oes biro yn dy fag?

### Geiriau

Nesg – mutation of desg - desk

Wallt – mutation of gwallt – hair

Perlysiau – herbs

Ardd – mutation of gardd – garden

Teithiau – trips

Ychydig – a few

Ngwyr—mutation of wyr

Ymarfer 2: Translate each question and answer into Welsh. In each case, it is perfectly acceptable to answer with only oes/nac oes.

1. Is there is a wild dog in the house? No. (there isn't a wild dog in the house.)
2. Are there are three cats under the bed? Yes (there are three cats under the bed.)
3. Are there lots of books in the library? Yes (there are lots of books in the library.)
4. Is there is a lion watching your grandson? No, (there isn't a lion watching my grandson.)
5. Is there is a piano in the living room? Yes, (there is a piano in the living room.)
6. Are there any eggs in the fridge? Yes, there are some eggs in the fridge.
7. Are there are herbs from the garden? Yes (there are herbs from the garden.)
8. Is there is a big bus on the road. No, (there is no big bus on the road.)
9. Are there are lots of parks in Cardiff? Yes, (there are lots of parks in Cardiff.)
10. Are there are only a few tickets to the game left?\*

Yes, (there are only a few tickets to the game left.)

\*Difficult example.

Answers on page 8. Atebion ar y dudalen 8..

Anyone who is interested in joining the learners' group, Awr Sgwrsio i Dysgwyr, or the Welsh speakers chat group, 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, 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

### OWF 2025

A small contingent from Ottawa arrived at the Brock Hotel in Niagara Falls to attend the Ontario Welsh Festival and lend their voices to the Gymanfa ganu. The format was familiar, with the usual events, including the Welcome Tea, a bus tour, the Marketplace, Noson lawen, the Annual General Meeting, the Gold Award Banquet, the concert, and, of course the Gamanfa session.

We were sorry that Mary Muckle was unable to join us due to a sudden illness that made it impossible for her to travel. The organizers scrambled and organized recorded music in time for Friday afternoon.

The bus tour was a visit to the Wayne Gretzky winery, which included tasting of several wines and some whiskey. Needless to say, some money was spent in the winery's shop. The bus driver provided an interesting monologue of past events, including his own near accident involving the Queen Mother. Carys, our host, had prepared a fun quiz on numerous topics relating to Wales to keep us busy during the short trip between the Brock Hotel and the winery.

The Noson lawen was ably MC'd by OWS member Myfanwy Davies, who also provided lots of humorous stories. A number of Ottawans contributed their talents, including Pegi Jenkins, who had the attendees singing along to her offering, "What's Up" (4 Non Blondes).



Pegi Jenkins sang "What's Up" to an enthusiastic response from the audience.

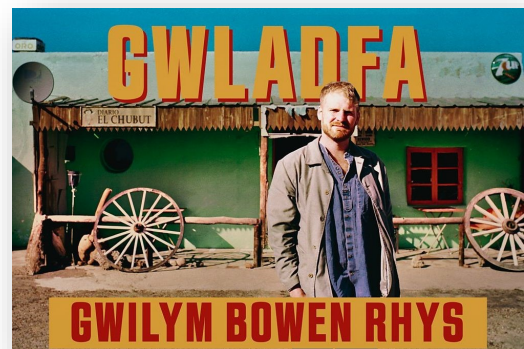
The AGM went smoothly. Changes to the By-laws required by provincial law are progressing and there is a full slate of officers at the helm. There is always, in the background, some concern for the viability of the Festival going forward. A distressing number of the old guard were missed at this year's festival and it is evident something needs to change to attract the younger generation.

The seminars were entitled *Romeo and Juliet in the Valleys*, *Welsh Cakes* and *Sinema Wales*. The first, presented by Barry Doyle, author of *The Oakgrove Conspiracies Trilogy*, was the true and tragic story of Ann Maddocks and Wil Hopcyn of the South Wales Valleys, kept apart by her ambitious mother. Sadly, the story ended badly for all concerned.

The seminar on Welsh cakes included discussion on variations to the recipe, the best ingredients and baking methods. Some discussion centred around the types of additions, such as chocolate chips, various dried fruits and even what kind of fat to use. A highlight was a video chat with a baker of Welsh cakes par excellence. Of course, there were samples to try!

David Jeanes attended *Sinema Wales*, which was entitled "Gwladfa". He sends the following report:

In this 2-hour documentary, Welsh folk musician Gwilym Bowen Rhys travelled to Patagonia to discover the history of the Welsh settlers who emigrated there in 1865. The Welsh language is still alive in many areas and Gwilym was inspired by the history, language, music and culture as he met many of the locals. The film was shown twice at the festival. It was mostly in Welsh with English subtitles. The first episode of this travelogue series was televised on S4C in Wales on 6 January 2025. The whole series was combined into this documentary. I found it to be engaging and entertaining. Rhys visited communities throughout Welsh Patagonia, meeting people, mostly Welsh-speaking, of all ages and from all walks of life. The cinematography was excellent and there was lots of music along the way. The importance of Welsh language schooling was evident, as some of the Welsh speakers had no other connection than through the schools.



Sinema Wales provided an engaging and entertaining documentary about the Welsh in Patagonia



The Gold Award went to Gwen Davies, former OWS member and sister to Myfanwy Davies. It was a well-deserved and, some think, overdue honour. Gwen has been registrar and solver of problems for years and is well-known to all who have attended the festival.



Gwen Dodson receives her Gold Award from Sheryl Clay-Newell

Johns' Boys provided a wonderful evening of music with nuance and enthusiasm. Soloists came from within the group much to the delight of the audience. Everyone was thrilled with the concert. The 'boys' also participated in the Noson lawen on Friday night and in the Gymanfa on Sunday.



Johns' Boys at the Gymanfa on Sunday

Sunday was a more relaxed day, with the one Gymanfa session at St. Andrew's United Church, directed by Johns' Boys conductor Aled Phillips and accompanied by the organist from Dewi Sant United Church in Toronto, Matthew Coons. Everyone was well on the road by 4:00, satisfied for another year.



Gymanfa on Sunday afternoon



Matthew Coons at the organ and Aled Phillips on the podium



## Y Presennol/The Present

### Annual Family Picnic

Date & Time: Saturday July 19 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
(Rain date: July 20)\*

Location: The home of Marilyn Jenkins & David Speck at 267 McClellan Road, near Greenbank and West Hunt Club Roads.

What to bring:

Your own dishes and cutlery

Something to barbecue, if you wish; something to share, if you wish

Chair\*\*

Coffee, tea and lemonade will be provided.

R.S.V.P. to [marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca](mailto:marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca)

Please note that David and Marilyn will make their barbecue available for your use.



Bring Your Own Picnic 2024

\*Please note we are also reserving the following weekend (July 26-27) if the 19<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> is a complete washout.

\*\*Optional, there are some chairs available.

## Membership is Open

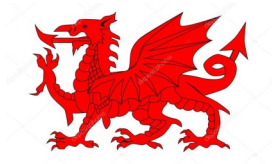
"Membership...is open to persons of Welsh origin or connected by marriage with a person of Welsh origin, and to those of non-Welsh origin who have an interest in Wales, its language and culture." (By-laws, 2024)

If you are reading this but are not yet a member, we would invite you to participate fully in the Society. 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.

The family membership is \$35, single is \$25 and student is \$20  
Fillable forms are available on our website at

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



## The Past (continued)

### The AGM

A good number of current members convened at Moose McGuire's for our annual review of events and finances.

Our president was in Wales pursuing her studies, so the meeting was chaired by our VP/Treasurer, David Jeanes. The President's report was read by the secretary. All reports are available in the Minutes which will be published before the next meeting, but if you are in a hurry, you can email the secretary at [marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca](mailto:marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca)

Some notable moments included a report from Myfanwy Davies on the preparations for NAFOW over the Labour Day Weekend. The meeting confirmed last year's decision to donate \$2000 to NAFOW, including \$1000 from the Meriel Mills Memorial Fund. The meeting also decided to support the Het Cymraeg initiative proposed by Chris Smart and John Williams.

A further proposal was made that the OWS consider providing financial support as a sponsor to Distinguished Women of Ottawa. This will be discussed and considered by the executive.

## Y Dyfodol/The Future

### NAFOW

Can you believe that two months from now, we'll be in the midst of the North American Festival of Wales?

Arrangements are being finalized and details are being filled in. We now have 95 separate events listed on the schedule, and it's possible that a few more will be added before the Festival begins.

Please check the latest **Schedule at a Glance** on [www.festivalofwales.org](http://www.festivalofwales.org)

**REGISTRATION** is open and I urge you to sign up soon. That's also on the [www.festivalofwales.org](http://www.festivalofwales.org) website. Be sure to choose the Canadian payment option.

In my last message to the OWS, I listed the Free Events, including the Street party on Thursday afternoon sponsored by the Welsh Government. I also listed the events that you have to buy a separate ticket for, like the Grand Concert, meals and the comedy night. All other events are covered by the Pass sold through Registration.

The best value is to get a **Festival Pass** which is \$85 Cdn for the whole weekend. If you only want to attend for one day the cost is \$40 Cdn for that specific day. We are trying to encourage young people so a youth pass is \$15 for the whole weekend, and the youth pass includes a ticket to the Grand Concert and the Comedy Night.

You will need a Festival Pass to attend the **SEMINARS**, and I urge you to support Anastasia Llewellyn, Pawl Birt and Mary Muckle who are involved in three of the 31 presentations. (Check the Schedule at a Glance for titles of the other talks.) Mary Muckle is also running harp workshops that you can attend, with a Pass. Another seminar of note is by the National Library in Aberystwyth and they will talk about the audio tapes made by Glenys James when she and Clive were living here in Ottawa.

Information on the **EISTEDDFOD** has recently been added. There are recitation competitions in English, Welsh and French, as a nod to Ottawa's bilingual status. Another first is harp competitions. There will be a contest for solo beginner harpists, another for advanced solo harpists, and the last is for a harp ensemble.

Of course, there are singing competitions, and the winner of the hymn singing contest (in Welsh) will perform for us on Sunday.

The semi-professional category winner may be offered a prize to aid them in competing in Wales next summer.

If you can't sing, play or recite, perhaps you can write a funny limerick. Maybe you are crafty and would like to enter a piece in the Visual Arts competition. Full details on all these contests will be found on the Festival website. Entry to the competitions is included in your Festival Pass. If you don't buy the pass, there is a \$25 entry fee to compete, to help defray our expenses.

We are still looking for **VOLUNTEERS**. Have you started making Welsh cakes? I have. Please remember that our main task as the host Society is to look after the Tea Room. We need 2,000 Welsh cakes, and lots of people to staff the room at the hotel on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We also need volunteers to look after the tea that is provided at the Cathedral between the two gymanfa sessions on Sunday. Kim Power has kindly offered to be the co-ordinator for the tea, so please contact her at [jkrd.power@sympatico.ca](mailto:jkrd.power@sympatico.ca) to offer your baking and time.

We also need volunteers for a variety of other jobs. Jennifer Davis [kjdavis100@sympatico.ca](mailto:kjdavis100@sympatico.ca) has offered to be the local co-ordinator, so please contact her to arrange an hour or two to help. We will need lots of guides and greeters, as well as people to help with harp schlepping, flower arranging, silent auction, marketplace, concert setup, looking after the mobility lifts, the Fun & Games table, and at the Festival Registration Desk. There's something for everyone!

Another big job, that is ongoing now, is publicity. Alison Lawson is working with Judith Winstanley and Alison Peake to spread the word in Ottawa. They are contacting media, churches, choirs and other Festivals. Three of us are spending next weekend at the Almonte CeltFest to drum up interest in NAFOW. If you are in a church, or choir, or group that might be able to stick up a poster, or put a blurb in an email, please contact Alison at [alisonlawson@rogers.com](mailto:alisonlawson@rogers.com)

If you are involved with a business that might want to advertise in the program booklet, the deadline for submissions is July 28<sup>th</sup>. That also includes printed lists of donations and sponsorships, so please make sure your contributions are sent in soon so they can be properly recognized.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far, and for those who have shown support in other ways. This is going to be a great Festival and I look forward to seeing you all there.



## MEMBER NEWS

Former president and past member of the OWS, Pegi Jenkins, has released a solo album, *Songs from Our Hearts*, online. It is available for streaming or download on Spotify and other platforms. Check YouTube as well. She is planning the actual physical release for this coming Fall.

The accompaniments performed on piano by Josef Domitrovits, Pegi's son. Some members will remember Joe and his sister Jolani from OWS children's events.



Member Mary Muckle, our wonderful harpist, and author of the book *Harp and Soul—A Harp Ensemble Tutorial*, was recently interviewed for a podcast, Melody Makers. You can see and hear the interview and some harp ensemble playing at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WN1Ks47AAw>

And also on Spotify.



## Colofn y Dysgwyr: Atebion

Ymarfer 1:

1. Is there a window in your bedroom?
2. Is there a sofa in your living room?
3. Are there any good shops in Bayshore?
4. Does John have grey hair?
5. Does Alison have glasses?
6. Does Geraint have a cell phone?
7. Does Glenys have a cat?
8. Does Dot have any grandchildren?
9. Does Marilyn have a car?
10. Is there a pen in your bag?

Ymarfer 2: Translation and question.

1. Oes ci gwyllt yn y tŷ? Nac oes, (does dim ci gwyllt yn y tŷ.)
2. Oes tair cath o dan y gwely? Oes, (mae tair cath o dan y gwely.)
3. Oes llawer o lyfrau yn y llyfrgell? Oes, (mae llawer o lyfrau yn y llyfrgell.)
4. Oes llew yn gwylio eich wyr? Nac oes, (does dim llew yn gwylio fy ngwyr.)
5. Oes piano yn yr ystafell fyw? Oes, (mae piano yn yr ystafell fyw.)
6. Oes wyau yn yr oergell? Oes, (mae wyau yn yr oergell.)
7. Oes perllysiau o'r ardd? Oes, (mae perllysiau o'r ardd.)
8. Oes bws mawr ar y ffordd? Nac oes, (does dim bws mawr ar y ffordd.)
9. Oes llawer o barciau yng Nghaerdydd? Oes, (mae llawer o barciau yng Nghaerdydd.)
10. Oes dim ond ychidig o docynnau sydd ar ôl i'r gêm. Oes, (dim ond ychidig o docynnau sydd ar ôl i'r gêm.)



## YSGOL Y CWM an OWS Fundraiser

### The Hat. The School. The children

#### Yr Het

It began with a hat from Nicaragua given by a friend, who was hinting that an old chap's longish hair could be tamed. It was cherished and showing its age when Georgina, looking for a knitting project for an Ottawa Knitting Guild competition, using a new and challenging mosaic knitting technique, that had to be multicoloured. Gina's doodles finally came up with a motif, *Y Ddraig Goch*, for a *Het Gymreig*! Gina knit, it won a prize, and I wore it often enough for it to be noticed.



#### Yr Ysgol

Coincident with this knitting project, a visit to an OWS evening in 2019 by folks from *Y Wladfa* in Trevelin, Patagonia, shared stories of the children and teachers of *Ysgol y Cwm*, their primary school with its Spanish curriculum and Welsh classes to encourage children to be bilingual.



The OWS was looking for an activity to raise funds for the school at a *Noson Lawen*. A raffle was chosen, one of Georgina's *Het Gymreig* being the prize. This raffle raised \$400.

**Ottawa Welsh Society**

**Yr Het Gymraeg**

16 November 2019

**No. 023**

Proceeds go to Ysgol y Cwm, Patagonia

Thank you for your support!

Diolch yn Fawr!

**\$2**

The children in a reading class using the books bought with funds from the raffle.



Two OWS members commissioned Georgina to make Hetiau Gymreig for their families, which added a further \$200 to the funds raised.

That encouraging response converged with news of the OWS being chosen to host the 2020 NAFOW gathering in Ottawa. With a chance to connect with a larger public, several more *Hetiau Gymreig* were knit for a second raffle to be offered to a sympathetic gathering of *Cymry*.

COVID intervened; plans for the NAFOW Ottawa gathering paused....

## Post COVID...let's try again

With NAFOW plans for the Ottawa gathering confirmed the OWS is renewing its effort to mount a fundraiser for *Ysgol y Cwm*.

Plans are underway and this advert will appear in the NAFOW 2025 Brochure:

**NAFOW Diaspora-gifting-Argentina Diaspora**




The Ottawa Welsh Society is raising funds to support **Ysgol y Cwm** (The Valley School) in **Y Wladfa, Trevelin, Patagonia**.



Look for the flags on the **Het Gymreig** Booth in the NAFOW Market. Come! Make a gift! to the pupils, teachers and parents of The Valley School that preserves the Welsh Language in the Welsh Colony in **y Wladfa**



A gift will give you a chance to win one of the four **Het Gymreig**.

**The Draw will be at the Concert on Saturday night**

Gifts of cash, cheques and e-transfers will be managed by the Ottawa Welsh Society. OWS is not a charity and cannot issue a tax receipt.

Donations for **Ysgol y Cwm** welcome from NAFOW member Welsh Societies.

Provincial law states that a raffle cannot be used to raise funds destined for use outside Ontario. People at the NAFOW gathering will be encouraged to make a cash gift to *Ysgol y Cwm*. A numbered ticket (similar to that used for raffles) will be given to each gifter; one side will be retained by the gifter; the stub will go into the box to be held until tickets are drawn for the winners of the *Het Gymreig*.

The OWS's *Ysgol y Cwm* display will be in the NAFOW Marketplace for the duration of the Festival.

By happy coincidence OWS member, Professor Paul Birt, is offering a NAFOW lecture on *The Patagonian Dream and the Next Generation*. This will increase the awareness of *Y Wladfa*, and *Ysgol Y Cwm*'s effort to preserve the "Language of Heaven".

Christopher Smart / John Williams

On a personal note: I have an ancestral connection with *Yr Wladfa*. In 1865 William Austin (18) and Thomas Austin (17) were taken from the workhouse in Merthyr Tydfil, where poverty and mischance had driven them, to sail on the *Mimosa* to Patagonia. Both boys went on to be successful businessmen and leaders in the Colony. Their father (1822-1870) is my Second Great Grand Uncle. I am in touch today with two cousins from the maternal Austin lineage in the Colony.

Christopher Smart