

Y Bwletin



Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press

Y Gaeaf 2026 - Winter 2026

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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



Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry

Neges Llywydd/President's Message



Annwyl gyfeillion,

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! We wish you all a happy, healthy New Year 2026.

A big diolch to everyone who came out to the Ottawa Welsh Society fall events, which included watching Wales (finally!) win a rugby match, and a film night. The Service of Lessons and Carols boasted a small but energetic crowd. Did you know that the first appearance of nine lessons and carols is thought to have been at Truro Cathedral in Cornwall? A little Celtic connection!

Those who attended our screening of *Gwladfa*, during which we followed along as musician Gwilym Bowen Rhys explored Welsh Patagonia, will be pleased to note that he is one of three virtual speakers this winter. The other two are Dan Rowbotham, familiar to many for this work as director of the Madog Center for Welsh Studies in Ohio, and Robert Humphries, director of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre in Nebraska.

No matter the outcome, the die-hard fans will continue to meet up at Glebe Central Pub to cheer on the men's rugby team during some of the Six Nations matches.

Our annual Saint David's Day luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 28, at the Marconi Centre, with the gymanfa ganu falling on March 1 itself.

We hope to see many of you this winter!

Cofion cynnes,
Anastasia Llewellyn

Secretary/Editor's Comments

Blwyddyn Newydd dda! Welcome to 2026!

The executive committee has met already in 2026 and there are plans for an exciting series of talks given by members of the Welsh community in North America and in Wales.

The usual activities will be taking place around St. David's Day. See page 6 for details about those activities.

The Awr Sgwrsio I Dysgwyr continues to meet in the Swedish Restaurant at IKEA Pinecrest; usually the first and third Mondays of the month. Contact John Williams for further details (info on page 3.)

Very important: there are two forms included in this newsletter that we ask you to fill out and return; the luncheon reservation for St. David's Day, and the Membership renewal form.

We all look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks.

Bendithion,
Marilyn

Upcoming OWS Events 2026-27

Please look for details in this newsletter.

January 25	3 p.m.	Zoom Talk (p. 5)
February 7	11:40 a.m.	Rugby (p. 5)
February 8	3:00 p.m.	Zoom talk (p. 5)
February 15	10:10 a.m.	Rugby (p. 5)
February 21	11:40 a.m.	Rugby (p.5)
February 22	3:00 p.m.	Zoom talk (p.5)
February 28	11:30 a.m.	Luncheon (p. 6)
March 1	3:00 p.m.	St. David's Day Gymanfa Ganu (p. 6)

Colofn y Dysgwyr

The dosbarth Cymraeg continues to meet once a month for instruction and once a month for conversation.

YES/NO in the future tense

The future tense follows the same pattern as the present, using the verb *bod* in assertive or negative form: *bydd/na fydd* (*note mutation in the negative*)

Bydda, bydda i... Yes, I will (be)
Na fyddi, fyddi di ddim... No, I will not (be)

Ymarfer 1

Translate into English.

Na fydda, fydda i ddim.
Bydda, bydda i yno.
Byddi, byddi di'n barod am yr arholiad.
Na fydd, fydd hi ddim yn hoffi'r cinio.
Bydd, bydd o yn y dosbarth.
Na fyddwn, fyddwn ni ddim yn hapus.
Byddwch, byddwch chi'n mynd fel grwp.
Na fyddan, fydda nhw ddim yn gyrru i Abergwaun.
Byddwn, byddwn ni yno mewn pryd.
Na fyddwch, fyddwch chi ddim yn mynd ar y bws.

Geiriau

Arholiad - exam

Mynd fel grwp - to go as a group

Gyrru - to drive

Abergwaun - Fishguard

Exercise 2

Answer as indicated (yes/no), using full sentences. In some cases there is an indication who is answering the question. (I, you, we, you (plural))

Enghraifft:

Will you be going to the gym tonight? Yes.

Bydda, bydda i'n mynd i'r gampfa heno.

Will we be going to the gymanfa? (Yes, we)

Will you be there? (no, I)

Will she come with a friend? (yes)

Will they build a school here? (no)

Will we go on the train? (yes, you)

Will I be there in time to practice? (no, you)

Will he want to play rugby? (yes)

Will I be able to see anything? (no, I)

Will you be making supper? (yes, you)

Will they understand the play? (no)

Atebion ar Tudalen 7 /Answers on page



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

john.williams2@gmail.com

alisonlawson@rogers.com

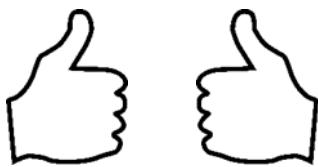
Atebion ar Tudalen 7

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

Film Night

On Saturday, November 22, despite the terrible traffic everywhere, a group of members gathered at Westminster Presbyterian Church hall to view the documentary film *Gwladfa* and socialize while enjoying desserts and beverages. The film documents the history of Welsh immigration to Patagonia, through the eyes of musician Gwilym Bowen Rhys, with lots of music and poetry. Attendees were pleased to see the segment featuring *Ysgol y Cwm*. Once again, thanks to Alison Lawson for her work to secure permission to screen the film.



Attendees at Film Night 2026

Carol Service

Sunday, December 7 at 3 p.m. the Society gathered for our annual Service of Lessons and Carols. As usual, snow was in the forecast, and may have deterred some of our members from venturing out. Despite the low numbers, the carols were sung lustily and the readings, in English, French and Welsh, were read with feeling. Sadly some of our usual readers were unable to attend due to illness. A highlight of the service was soprano Mira Parthasarathy, granddaughter of Elaine Tunbridge, singing David Meece's lovely carol, *One Small Child*. As always, there were plenty of goodies to be had at the Te bach following the service.



Mira Parthasarathy



Y presennol/The present

Membership

2026 Ottawa Welsh Society Guest Speaker Series

Join us this winter for a special series of talks about Welsh culture! All talks are on Sunday at 3pm on Zoom. If you enjoy the series, please consider making a freewill donation to the OWS (by cheque or e-transfer to ottawa.welsh.society@gmail.com).

January 25: Welsh culture and history with Dan Rowbotham, Madog Center for Welsh Studies, University of Rio Grande, Ohio

Many of our members know Dan from his participation in NAFOW and the Ontario Welsh Festival. Join us for a presentation and chat about Welsh culture and history.

<https://www.rio.edu/campus-life/campus-facilities/madog-center-welsh-studies>

February 8: *Gwladfa* with Gwilym Bowen Rhys, musician, Wales

Members who attended our November projection of *Gwladfa* will be thrilled to have the chance to hear from musician and presenter Gwilym Bowen Rhys himself.

<https://www.gwilymbowenrhys.com/en>

February 22: Canada in *Y Drych* with Robert Humphries, Great Plains Heritage Centre, Nebraska

If you attended NAFOW in Ottawa, you might have heard Robert Humphries talk about the how Welsh American newspaper *Y Drych* reported on Welsh events in Canada. Since then, Robert has unearthed further stories to share with us.

<https://greatplainswelsh.org/>

- Anastasia Llewellyn

NOTE:

Details about the presenters will be sent out ahead of time, via email, and the Zoom links will be sent out a few days prior to each event.

We are reminded that our membership year end is coming up at the end of February. We encourage everyone to review their status and membership type and 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

The family membership is \$35, a single is \$25 and a student is \$20.

One executive member has requested a personal reminder of his membership status - he may be ahead or behind in his payments. The secretary has agreed to send out personal notices. It was also suggested that not everyone reads the newsletter, but we know that cannot be true.

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 for some of the games in this annual event.

Games you might want to watch at the Pub:

Saturday February 7 11:40 a.m. England v. Wales

Sunday February 15 10:10 a.m. Wales v. France

Saturday February 21 11:40 a.m. Wales v. Scotland

Saturday March 14 12:40 p.m. Wales v. Italy

Y dyfodol/The Future

Saint David's Day Luncheon

Our annual St. David's Day Luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 28 at The Marconi Centre at 1026 Baseline Road at Farlane Blvd.

Lunch

Time:	Cash bar	11:30
	Lunch	12:30

Menu Choices*:

Chicken scallopini with white wine sauce
or
Oven Baked Salmon

*special dietary requirements can be accommodated

Cost: Early bird (by February 13) \$60, thereafter \$65. Reservation form is at the back of this newsletter as well as on our website. The website version will be a fillable pdf.

Speech: A representative from the British High Commission will bring greetings.

Entertainment: This year we will have the great pleasure of being entertained by two very talented prize-winning young musicians. Alex Becke won the Ottawa Welsh Society Senior Vocal Folk Solo under 21 Class in the Kiwanis Music Festival in both 2023 and 2025. I'm sure you will remember her lovely performance in last year's St David's Day lunch and she tells me she is preparing a Welsh piece, especially for us this year.

Also delighting us will be harp player, Sofia El Chaar, who won first prize in one of the harp classes at the NAFOW eisteddfod here in Ottawa last fall. Those who attended the Eisteddfod can attest to her very lovely playing.

What a wonderful duo of talents to enjoy.

Saint David's Day Gymanfa Ganu

The Gymanfa will be held in the sanctuary of Westminster Presbyterian Church on Roosevelt Avenue on Sunday, March 1 at 3:00 p.m. and followed by a te bach.

The conductor: Shannon Mercer, soprano

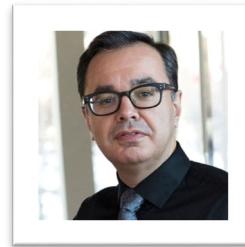


Shannon grew up in the Ottawa Welsh Society, singing her way into our hearts from an early age. She went on to become "one of Toronto's classical treasures", "much in demand for her interpretation of contemporary music" and has produced numerous CDs, and appears in a couple of operas on DVD. For more information about her singing career, we invite you to visit her website at

<https://shannonmercer.com/biography/>

Shannon is now based in Ottawa, teaching in person and online from her studio and singing as a soloist at Christ Church Cathedral.

The organist: Thomas Annand



This year our organist will be Thomas Annand, a well-known local artist who won the first prize in the RCCO National Organ Competition in 1987. Tom has pursued his career as an organist, harpsichordist and conductor both locally and abroad. He spent three decades as Director of Music at St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa. Performing in concerts with the National Arts Centre orchestra and other professional groups, such as Thirteen Strings and the recently-formed a capella group Senza Nomine are but a few of his professional achievements.

Colofn i Dysgwyr Tudalen ateb

Atebion ymarfer 1

1. No, I will not.
2. Yes, I will be there.
3. Yes, you will be ready for the exam.
4. No, she won't like the dinner.
5. Yes, he will be in the class.
6. No, we won't be happy.
7. Yes, you will be going as a group.
8. No, they won't be driving to Fishguard (Abergwaun).
9. Yes, we will be there in time.
10. No, you won't be going on the bus.

Atebion ymarfer 2

1. Byddwn, byddwn ni'n mynd i'r gymanfa.
2. Na fydd, fydd i ddim yno.
3. Bydd, bydd hi'n dod efo ffrind.
4. Na fyddan, fyddan nhw ddim adeiladu ysgol yma.
5. Byddwch, byddwch chi'n mynd ar y trêf.
6. Na fyddi, fyddi di ddim yno mewn pryd i ymarfer.
7. Bydd, bydd o eisiau chwarae rygbi.
8. Na fydd, fydd i ddim yn gallu gweld unrhyw beth.
9. Byddwch, byddwch chi'n gwneud swper.
10. Na fyddan, fyddan nhw ddim yn deall y ddrama.

Ontario Welsh Festival

The Ontario Welsh Festival will be held in Kingston from April 24-26 this year. The featured choir will be [Cantorion Gogledd Cymru](#). Everyone is encouraged to make their reservation at the hotel name early. Information on room rates will be available this month 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.

The event is so close to Ottawa, we hope for a good turnout from our members.



Cantorion Gogledd Cymru



Holiday Inn Kingston Waterfront



St. Paul's Anglican Church Kingston

St. David's Day Luncheon Reservation Form 2026

February 28, 2026 at the Marconi Centre on Baseline Road

Note: Early bird deadline is (received by) February 13, 2026 with each meal costing \$60.

Every effort will be made to seat you with your friends if your reservation is received by **February 13, 2026**, however, with the threat of Covid-19 still around, there will be a **limit of 6 people** per table.

After February 13, the meal cost will be \$65. All reservations must be received by February 20, 2026 to ensure your meal choice. Special dietary needs can be accommodated.

There are two choices for the meal: Chicken Scallopini in white wine sauce or Oven-baked salmon. Leek Soup, tiramisu, 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 Scallopini with 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 Scallopini with 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 Scallopini with white wine sauce @ \$60 (early bird) _____ or \$65 (received after February 13, 2026)

____ Oven-baked salmon @ \$60 (early bird) _____ or \$65 (received after February 13, 2026)

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. 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 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 2026

A fillable version of this form is available at www.ottawawelsh.org

Note: Membership year is March 1, 2026 to February 28, 2027

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 2026-27

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 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 cwlangham2@gmail.com

The email list will be updated prior to the AGM.