

# Y Bwletin



Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press

Y Gwanwyn 2026 - Spring 2026

Editor/Golygydd: Marilyn E. Jenkins



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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,

A heartfelt diolch yn fawr iawn to everyone who attended our winter events, from the Ottawa Welsh Society's annual Saint David's Day luncheon and gymanfa ganu to rugby-watching at the Glebe Central Pub to Zooming into our series of talks about Welsh culture. It is no longer fair to describe those who meet to watch the Six Nations rugby as a *crowd per se*, but cheering on the struggling men's team is more bearable with even a few other supporters. The awr sgwrsio run by John Williams has welcomed some new members, and received some new books, thanks to the Meriel Mills Memorial Fund. Alison Lawson has kindly been providing personal attention to beginner learners.

Despite not one but two musicians having to bow out due to severe colds, our Saint David's Day weekend was a great success. Our luncheon was well attended, and those present heard from UK High Commissioner Rob Tinline about his interest in Wales. What a treat to then listen to 15-year-old harpist Sofia El Chaar. We were sorry that singer Alex Becke was unable to join us, but we enjoyed pianist Sonja Deunsch Plourde's selection, and appreciated her willingness to step in. We are awfully grateful to Marilyn Jenkins for adeptly conducting the gymanfa ganu in Shannon Mercer's absence. I am always so impressed by the sound produced! Thanks to organist Thomas Annand and Rev. Bob Mackenzie for their enthusiastic participation as well.

OWS members who missed the live series of Zoom talks about Welsh culture can access the video recordings of Dan Rowbotham, Gwilym Bowen Rhys, and Robert Humphries. The first 10 minutes of Gwilym's talk are unfortunately missing, but the rest is nonetheless well worth hearing.

Several members of the Ottawa Welsh Society are heavily involved in this year's Ontario Welsh Festival, which will be in Kingston from April 24-26. We are all thrilled that this year's Gold Award recipient is Alan Thomas. I am excited to be giving a seminar - not about the Welsh Bible this time, though I have no doubt a reference or two will sneak in! I hope to see many of you in Kingston.

Please join us for our annual general meeting on May 21 at 7 p.m. at the Clocktower Brew Pub. And if you've got a bit of time and energy to spare, please feel free to reach out for a chat about joining the committee for 2026-2027!

Cofion cynnes,  
Anastasia Llewellyn

## Secretary/Editor's Comments

I will add my heartfelt invitation to join us at the AGM on Thursday, May 21. Come at 6 for dinner and stay through, or at 7 for the meeting. This year's venue is new: the Clocktower Brew Pub in Westboro, 418 Richmond Road. I have been assured that there is plenty of parking on the side streets. See page 8 for details.

We also encourage you to attend the Ontario Welsh Festival. It will be held in Kingston, which is the closest to us it can get without being here in Ottawa! Mary Muckle and Anastasia will be presenting and our own Alan Thomas will be receiving the OGGA Gold Award. Read through the rest of the newsletter for details.

Bendithion i chi i gyd.

Marilyn

### Upcoming OWS Events 2026-26

Please look for details in this newsletter.

April 24-26	Ontario Welsh Festival (Kingston)
May 21 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	AGM dinner at Clocktower Brew Pub AGM begins
Summer	Annual Family Picnic (TBD)

## Colofn y Dysgwyr

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

Adolygu "Yes/No" - Reviewing Yes/No

Answer the following questions using full sentences.

Enghraifft:

Cwestiwn: Wyt ti'n mynd i'r capel heddiw? (No)

Ateb: Nac ydw, dw i ddim yn mynd i'r capel heddiw.

Cyfieithiad: Are you going to chapel today?

No, I am not going to chapel today.

1. Wyt ti wedi ceisio pannas? (Yes)
2. Dyn ni eisiau nofio? (No)
3. Oedd e'n gwranddo ar y radio? (Yes)
4. Fuodd hi yn Ffrainc y llynedd? (No)
5. Ydyn nhw'n mynd i'r ysgol? (Yes)
6. Oedd hi'n bwyta cinio? (No)
7. Wna i fynd yno? (No)
8. Ydyn nhw'n dod i'r cyngerdd? (Yes)
9. Fyddi di'n well erbyn amser cinio? (No)
10. Dych chi'n coginio brechwast. (No)

For extra practice, translate the sentences into English.

Atebion ar y colofn nesa.

Ymarfer 2:

1. No, I don't want to go to the dentist.
2. Yes, I like shopping.
3. No, I can't go out tonight.
4. Yes, I will go to the theatre with you.
5. No, I don't have any pink pencils.
6. No, I don't like parsnips.
7. Yes, I was eating lunch with your boyfriend.
8. No, I didn't go to Egypt last year.
9. Yes, you will see me at the meeting.
10. No, they won't be in the class tomorrow.

Atebion Ymarfer 2 ar dudalen 8.

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, 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.

Atebion ymarfer 1:

1. Ydw, dw i wedi ceisio pannas.
2. Na, dydyn ni ddim eisiau nofio.
3. Oedd, roedd e'n gwranddo ar y radio.
4. Na, fuodd hi ddim yn Ffrainc y llynedd.
5. Ydyn, maen nhw'n mynd i'r ysgol.
6. Nag oedd, oedd hi ddim yn bwyta cinio.
7. Na wna, wna i ddim mynd yno.
8. Ydyn, maen nhw'n dod i'r cyngerdd.
9. Na fydda, fydda i ddim yn well erbyn amser cinio.
10. Na, dydyn ni ddim yn coginio brechwast.

Translations:

Yes, I have tried parsnips.  
No, we do not want to swim.  
Yes, he was listening to the radio.  
No, she was not in France last year.  
Yes, they are going to school.  
No, she was not eating lunch.  
No, I won't go there.  
Are they coming to the concert?  
Will you be better by lunch time?  
No, we are not cooking breakfast.

## Welsh Reading Books for Learners

With the generous donation to the Ottawa Welsh Society by the Meriel Mills family, a memorial fund was established in 2023 that would be used by the Society to promote the Welsh language, music and culture. This is the Meriel Mills Memorial Fund – “Cronfa Goffa Meriel Mills”, in Welsh.

A donation from the fund was used in 2024 to purchase reading books for the Welsh Learners Group – “Awr Sgwrsio”. These books complement the course book and are well used such that a further set of books has now been purchased, again with a donation from the Memorial Fund.

For those interested, our course book is Dysgu Cymraeg - Mynediad Gogledd Cymru. We use the North Wales version that is a little different from the South Wales version.

Now we have six books:

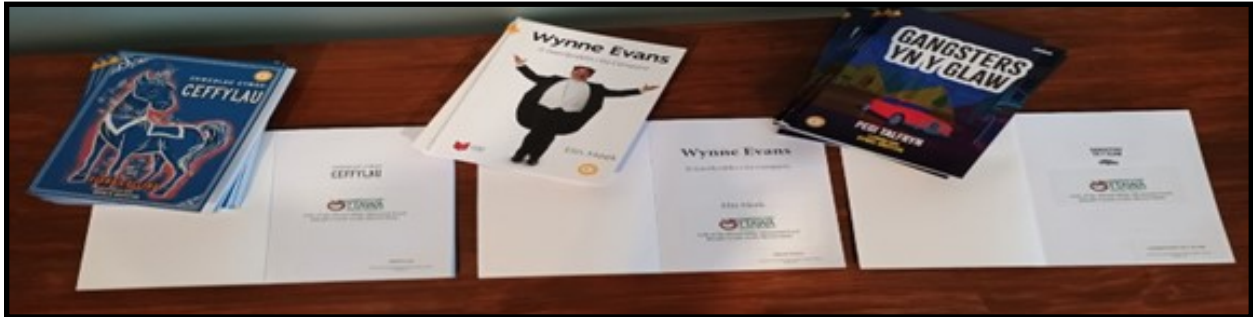
1. Blacmél
2. Agor y Drws
3. Gorau Glas
4. Wynne Evans
5. Gangsters yn y Glaw
6. Ceffylau

The reading level of the reading books advances with the course book so we are very pleased that we have now that we have reached level 4 and are about to start reading “Wynne Evans”.

Each book has a book plate that you can see in the photo below, acknowledging the donation.

The books are the property of the Ottawa Welsh Society so anyone may borrow them. Get in touch or, better still, join us as we meet twice a month on Monday mornings.

By John Williams



These are our new reading books.

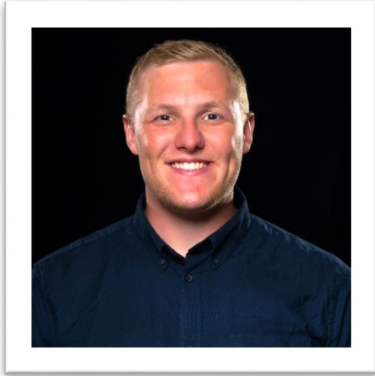
Editor's note: Please contact John Williams if you are interested in joining the learners' class.

[j.williams2@gmail.com](mailto:j.williams2@gmail.com) or 613-234-2778

## Y Gorffennol/The Past

### Zoom Series

**Talk #1: Llangeitho, lle heddychlon. (Llangeitho, a peaceful Place) by Dan Rowbotham**



This was a Zoom talk given by Dan Rowbotham, Director of the Madog Centre for Welsh Studies in Ohio.

Dan started the talk with a brief description of the Madog Center and its activities in support of the Welsh language and North American Welsh culture.

Llangeitho - the Church of Ceitho - is his home village in Cardigan, with a population of 740, a church, chapel, pub owned by his grandparents, village hall, shop cafe and school. It's a rural community but close to Aberystwyth and Lampeter. Although it is a small village it has had an outsized influence on the outside world. Dan highlighted three of its notable inhabitants: Daniel Rowland, Henry Richard and Annie Hughes Griffiths.

Daniel (1713 - 1790) was a key figure of the Welsh Methodist revival, a hymnist and preacher of renown whose sermons drew thousands to his services in Llangeitho. The chapel was Capel Gwynfil—a small spartan structure with a door behind the pulpit which when opened enabled him to preach to those inside and the crowds outside the chapel. He was debarred from the Church of England in Wales for his Methodism, but despite this he is buried in the grounds of the village church rather than the chapel. His statue is on the grounds of the chapel. Go figure.

Henry (1812 - 1888) is another character with a commemorating statue. He was educated in Llangeitho and graduated as a Calvinistic Methodist minister in the Welsh chapels of London, of which there were several as a strong Welsh speaking community existed in certain areas of the city.

Henry was noted as an outspoken Peace Advocate. He became Liberal MP for Merthyr Tydfil in 1868 and used his

position and oratory to oppose war and British overseas interventions (e.g. the Crimean War). He opposed conscription, and spoke internationally on these topics. He was also a passionate advocate for Welsh language rights, Welsh education, religious freedom and self-governance for Wales.

Annie (1873 - 1942, (Annie Cwrt Mawr) was one of 10 children, and another passionate peace advocate. Annie was key to the establishment of the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. She was active in the Welsh Womens chapter of the League of Nations. She organised the Women's Peace Petition of 1923, which was an appeal from the women of Wales to the women of the United States to encourage the US to strengthen the League of Nations. The petition was signed by over 390,000 women of Wales, and carried in a wooden chest which toured the US with her advocating peace to the women of the US. It culminated with a meeting with then-President Calvin Coolidge . The chest now resides in the National Library of Wales and Annie rests in the cemetery of Llangeitho.

Dan finished his talk by reading the poem Gweithred Yw Gobaith, a message of peace from Yrdd Gobaith Cymru and leaving his contact information [welsh@Rio.edu](mailto:welsh@Rio.edu) for anyone interested in exploring Welsh NA matters in greater depth.

Anastasia Llewellyn is to be commended for arranging this series of Zoom talks. They have all been interesting and of a high standard.

by Geraint Lewis

## Saint David's Day 2026

### The Luncheon

Fifty members made reservations to attend the annual luncheon. Sadly, two were unable to attend due to illness, but one drove all the way from Kingston to join in the celebration.

The theme for the table names this year was Welsh language singers: Charlotte, Rhys, Katherine, Bryn, Dafydd, Gruff, Catrin and Gwilym.

With our president as MC, the event proceeded smoothly despite the last-minute cancellation by one of our performers, who had a bad cold. We were fortunate that the accompanist, Sonja Deunsch Plourde volunteered to play a mini piano recital, ending with a singalong of two well-known Welsh folk songs.

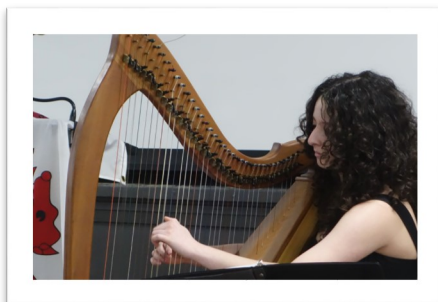
Our speaker was Robert Tinline, the British High Commissioner to Canada, who attended with a member of his staff who has a particular connection to Wales. He focused on the ways Wales and Canada are connected.

Many thanks to David Jeanes, Marilyn Jenkins, Alison Lawson and Ian Morris for their part in making this a special day. We would also like to thank the staff of Marconi Center for their cheerful service.



Robert Tinline,  
British High Commissioner

Sofia El-Chaar



### The Gymanfa

The best-laid plans...

In our winter issue of *Y Bwletin*, we promised to have our own award-winning soprano, Shannon Mercer, as our conductor. Sadly, Shannon was fighting a nasty cold and by the middle of the week prior to our Gymanfa, she lost her voice.

Having assisted Shannon in her planning, I stepped in to a job I've done quite a few times before and the Gymanfa went on. Despite some technical glitches, one of which had our guest organist, Tom Annand on his knees fixing the organ, we managed to have a successful and pleasant afternoon. The singing was enthusiastic and lovely to hear. Many thanks to Tom also for pitching in with some solo spots. He was so pleased to be revisiting the music of a country he lived in for a year as a child.

Thanks to Alison, Helga and Glenys for setting up the Te bach and to everyone who supplied the food.

Special thanks to Rev. Bob Mackenzie for his willingness to serve despite the late invitation.



OWS at Westminster Presbyterian Church



Marilyn serves as a last-minute substitute

Photos courtesy of D. Jeanes, A. Llewellyn and M. Jenkins.

## Zoom Talk #2: Y Wladfa by Gwilym Bowen Rhys



A group of 16 members of OWS met online to hear some background from Gwilym on his work as a presenter for the documentary *Y Wladfa*, which was featured at our film night in November.

He indicated that although he had been to Patagonia on a previous occasion, this was his first experience as a presenter and, thanks to the Covid lockdown, his Spanish had improved immeasurably since his previous trip.

Gwilym enthusiastically recalled some of the history of Y Wladfa. In the early years of Welsh settlement in Patagonia, the nomadic people of the area had helped the settlers with their farming. Later, when the Argentinian government planned to move the nomads out so the land could be used for farming, a representative of the Welsh community, Lewis Johns, sent a letter to the government begging them to not send in the army as the nomads had been so helpful to the Welsh in their early years in Patagonia.

We learned that forty years ago, none of the young people spoke Welsh, but, in the 1990s, Welsh education became a regular part of the curriculum. Today, the young generation and their grandparents are able to communicate in yr hen iaith, but their parents, the middle generation cannot. After the cameras and production crew headed home, Gwilym stayed on and got to know some of the local characters. Find out about Gwilym's experience with mate (mah-tay) and learn about the expression "cwrw da yn curo dŵr" as well as the survival of Welsh folk music by listening to the recording of the talk, minus about ten minutes at the beginning. See the link below.

Shareable link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/aA3abefqfpwy69jEvRD9\\_IisZJr-CcFD3TVcyO19dC08VXAxQHjZjeMyHG-Zwf7D.D8FcWAZ3\\_kIRUzq0](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/aA3abefqfpwy69jEvRD9_IisZJr-CcFD3TVcyO19dC08VXAxQHjZjeMyHG-Zwf7D.D8FcWAZ3_kIRUzq0)  
Passcode: a8\$6e=1m

## Zoom Talk #3: Y Drych and The Welsh in Canada by Robert Humphries



18 members and friends of the OWS met on Zoom to hear Robert Humphries, part-time director of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre in Wymore Nebraska. Robert was born in Newport, Wales and now lives in Wisconsin. Robert spoke on "Y Drych and The Welsh in Canada."

*Y Drych* was founded in New York City in 1851 and was folded into the current newspaper, *Ninnau* in 2003. In the nineteenth century it was a source of information from Wales, Great Britain and New York for Welsh immigrants in Canada. News from Canada also filtered down and was featured in *Y Drych*. These reports did not necessarily feature Welsh people, just items from Canadian news, such as the execution of Patrick J. Whelan, who assassinated Thomas Darcy McGee, and the Red River Rebellion.

As years went on there were reports in *Y Drych* of Welsh performers touring in Canada, slate workers in the New Rockland Quarry in the eastern townships (Quebec), and a 15-voice male voice choir which was "without equal". News came from across Canada and the Canadian government even took out ads to entice farmers with free land in the prairies: 160-acre farms suitable for growing wheat. This was land taken from the indigenous people of Canada. Immigrants came from Y Wladfa (Patagonia) after severe flooding in 1902.

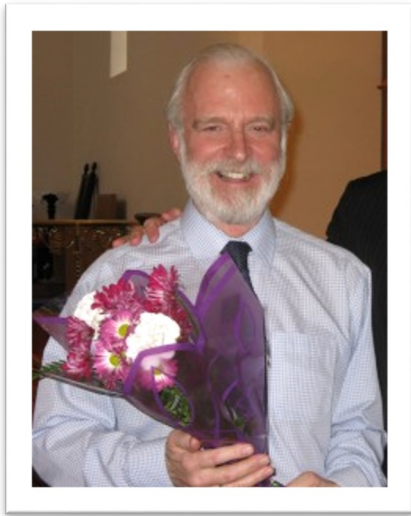
Through the years, articles appeared about Welsh society activities across Canada. Of particular interest to our Society was an article in *Ninnau* (the successor to *Y Drych*) about the "National Gymanfa Ganu" held in Ottawa in 1977, featuring BBC/CBC personality, John Morgan.

There were many more interesting articles included in the talk. To hear the whole talk, you may go online to the shareable link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/3YT4gBm\\_RqRYaB92eQi80CmU\\_dVQ8vzETHfUHkgeX3H8m03GXyrybiLsGFnwV0Kk.zjkW85lxKj3BL1n3](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/3YT4gBm_RqRYaB92eQi80CmU_dVQ8vzETHfUHkgeX3H8m03GXyrybiLsGFnwV0Kk.zjkW85lxKj3BL1n3)  
Passcode: p5&x4q%Y

Many thanks to our president, Anastasia for arranging this and previous talks in this series.

## Ontario Welsh Festival Gold Award Winner, 2026



It is our pleasure to announce that the well-deserving winner of this year's Gold Award is Alan Thomas of Ottawa.

If you are a regular attendee of the Festival you will be totally aware that Alan was the long-standing accompanist - an integral part of the Festival in fact until very recently when health issues affected his participation. Alan was not only the organist at the Cymanfaoedd but also accompanist for anyone who depended on him for musical support - professional soloists as well as those of us who just wanted to participate in the Noson Lawen. Alan was always willing and available for any and all musical events during the Festival weekend.

A long-time member of the Ottawa Welsh Society, Alan not only accompanied their Côr Alltudion, but also conducted them. He usually played the organ for the St David's Day Gymanfa and the Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols. Alan could be depended upon to musically support any event put on by the OWS.

Despite living in Ottawa and being a member of the Ontario Welsh Festival, Alan was also willing and able to accompany rehearsals and performances at the North America Festival of Wales. In fact, he was the official NAFOW accompanist for 15 years.

Alan also played for a small group of Ottawa members of the North American Welsh Choir, when they were rehearsing ahead of concert tours.

Born and raised in Neath, South Wales, he was educated in Wales and in England. Alan received degrees from the Universities of Manchester and Reading. He was on the staff of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales and accompanied for Emmanuel on a TV series.

He moved to Ottawa to take up the position of Director of Music at Ashbury College. Alan has taught music in the Ottawa area for many years and is known for being very encouraging to young performers and for showcasing young musical talent in Ottawa. He is especially known for his involvement with the annual performance of Come Sing the Messiah each Christmas, leading the practices preceding the event (involving between 250 and 300 singers). Incredibly he also played the organ during the main event which involved 700 singers, an orchestra and, of course, soloists.

Alan was also choir director and organist at Westminster Presbyterian Church for 40 years.

In addition to his musical skills Alan can also be described as a classical scholar- reading Latin, Greek and Hebrew. He has travelled the world and loves doing cryptic crosswords!

We congratulate Alan on this well-deserved honour.

Hefina Phillips (with input from Alison Lawson and Myfanwy Davies)

The award will be presented at the Banquet during the Ontario Welsh Festival which will be held in Kingston, Ontario from April 24-26. Further information is available at

<https://ontariowelshfestival.ca/>

Members Mary Muckle and Anastasia Llewellyn will be presenting at the Festival. Mary will be playing at the Welcome Tea and likely the Noson Lawen and Anastasia will be presenting a new talk. She has provided this description:

*In this talk, Anastasia Llewellyn weaves tales of her recent travels to Wales into a discussion of Welsh culture and history, through a selection of Welsh-themed objects which each hold special meaning to her. From family history to fashion, via music and sports, these objects reflect Anastasia's journey as a Welsh learner, as well as her academic research.*

The guest male voice choir on Saturday night will be *Cantorian Gogledd Cymru* under the direction of Aled Edwards, and accompanied by Ruth Lloyd Owen.

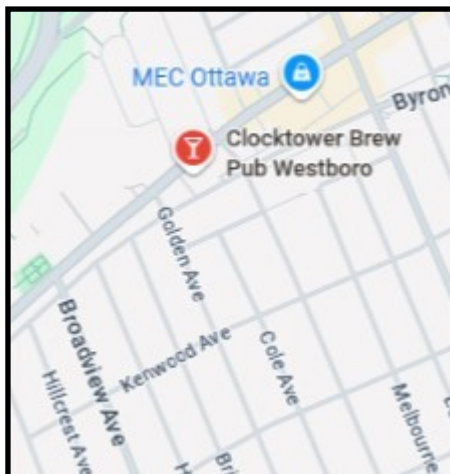


## AGM

The AGM will be held on May 21 starting at 7 p.m. at the Clocktower Pub, 418 Richmond Road in Westboro.

Free parking is available on side streets, paid parking on Richmond Road.

Those wishing to share a meal should arrive no later than six to get their orders in.



Menus are available at:

<https://www.cloctower.ca/summermenu>

Atebion ymarfer 2:

1. Nac, ydw, dw i ddim eisiau mynd at y dentydd.
2. Ydw, dw i'n hoffi siopa.
3. Nac ydw, dw i ddim yn gallu mynd allan heno.
4. Bydda, bydda i'n mynd i'r theatr gyda ti.
5. Nac oes, does dim pensiliau pinc gyda fi.
6. Nac ydw, dw lli ddim yn hoffi pannas.
7. Oeddwn, roeddwn (ro'n)n i'n bwyta cinio gyda dy gariad.
8. Naddo, es i ddim i'r Aiff y llynedd.
9. Byddi, byddi di'n gweld fi yn y cyfarfod.
10. Na fyddan, fyddan nhw ddim yn y dosbarth yfory.

## 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 are pleased to announce that as of March 23, 2026, 96% of our membership from 2025 has renewed.

Our web-master, David Speck, has created fillable forms 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.

Geiriau olaf Dewi Sant/*St. David's last words:*

*"Byddwchh lawen,  
Cadwch y ffydd,  
A gwnewch y pethau bychain  
A welsoch ac a glywsoch gennyf i."*

*"Be happy,  
Keep the faith,  
And do the small things  
That you saw and heard from me."*

# In Memoriam

## John Griffiths

1932-2024

John was born in Ystalafera, the youngest of two brothers. He went to school in the Ystalyfera area, where he first met Roy Morris. He trained as a butcher at the local Co-Op in Cwmllynfell, where he worked until 1964, when he immigrated to Canada.

John married his long-time sweetheart, Nan Jeffreys, in 1954. In 1956, their first daughter, Karen was born. Sadly, she passed 2 years later in a tragic accident. In 1960 they were blessed with their second daughter, Lynn, who remained their only child.

In 1964 opportunity knocked, and Nan's family paved the way for their departure from Wales to start a new life in Ottawa.

John was hired immediately as a butcher by Benny Steck who owned the IGA on Merivale Road. The two men became and remained good friends for their entire lives. Benny had played for the Ottawa Rough Riders and invited John to accompany him to CFL football games, which John did for many years.

Through his love of rugby, John met several Welsh expats and the family soon joined the Welsh Society. John served on the OWS executive committee and was President for 2 years.

When the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society was formed in 1968, John and Nan were original members. They also performed as part of an octet of Welsh-born singers, doing folk songs, as "advertising" for the National Gymanfa that was coming to Ottawa in 1977. The group was directed by Roy Morris and also featured Don and Meriel Mills, Tal Griffiths, Albert Davies, Jeanette Hudson and Jean Howard.

John organized the successful OWCS choir tour to Wales in 1990, using his contacts to set up concerts and billeting. He continued to sing with the OWCS until it folded in 2009. He performed a solo at many choir concerts, and was featured on the first choir album "Songs of our Homelands". He later performed duets with various soprano friends, including Shannon Mercer, Marilyn Jenkins, Sheryl Clay and Meriel Simpson.

John and Nan divorced in 1976, and several years later he met Lee Orendorf. A few years later they married and resided together in Ottawa. Lee became an integral part of the Welsh Society and John's particular group of friends.



John & Lee at the Davies home

John was known for many years for his sausages made by hand, using spices he would bring back from Wales. His sausages were coveted by all who tasted them. People were thrilled to receive packages as gifts and tokens of appreciation. John made all the faggots and sausages for the most popular Welsh Society dinner, the Faggots and Peas and Bangers and Mash. He also procured steaks and took care of the BBQ when we had a summer picnic.

John contributed his lovely voice to many OWS events, including Christmas and St. David's Day services and Noson Lawens, usually accompanied by Alan Thomas.



John and Alan at Noson Lawen in 2015

Through Alan, John became involved with Westminster Presbyterian Church where he joined the choir and helped out with all sorts of jobs, from minor mechanical repairs to watering the Christmas poinsettias. He performed solos at various services, including O Holy Night at the Christmas Eve service, a special memory.

John and Lee also attended many Ontario Welsh Festivals, where he would perform at the Noson Lawen, or the main concert. He attended several National Gymanfas, performing as a member of the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society, and competing in the Eisteddfod at the 2000 Ottawa festival.

In addition to becoming a CFL fan, John continued to follow rugby, particularly the Welsh teams. He attended games at Twin Elms or Lansdowne Park whenever a Welsh team came to visit.

# In Memoriam

He also enjoyed playing darts with friends at the Richmond Legion, and he spent many quiet hours fishing from a small boat. John was a kind, generous and loyal friend to many. He had a wicked sense of humour and was loved by all. Ian Morris has described him as “a wonderful person and the nicest man that I have had the pleasure of knowing.”

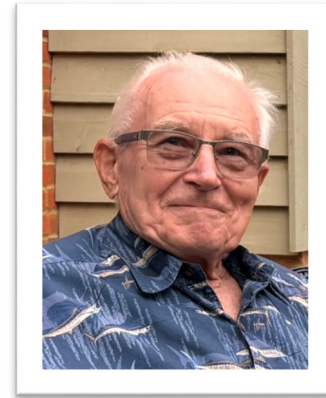
For me, John was more than a friend. He was family. He and my father were very similar and became close friends. After my father died in 1978, John would check on us and help out with any minor issues that arose. Whenever my mother was organizing a party, John and Lee were near the top of the guest list. John sang solos at my wedding and at those of my sisters, and other Society friends. In later years, Rick and I would include John and Lee in our Grey Cup parties, and they even joined us on a cruise in the Caribbean. John was a part of my life for so many years, his passing has left a hole, with only warm memories to remember him by.



John at his 80th birthday party with guests Jean Don and Roy Morris



John cooking his famous sausages at OWS picnic 2017



**Charles Philip Bassett**  
1937 — 2026

Charles died suddenly, following a brief illness, on February 22. He was 89. He was born and raised in a small village in Wales. Along with the love of his life for 70 years, Sandra, he graduated from Cardiff University. They were married in 1961, living near Manchester, England.

In 1968, Charles moved their young family to Ottawa, accepting a job with the Public Service Commission. He went on to work at the Post Office and Privy Council Office before finding his true passion and extended family at the Canadian International Development Agency. At CIDA he held various positions, including Vice-President of the Africa, Corporate Affairs, and Central and Eastern Europe branches, ultimately becoming Senior Vice-President. From 1989 to 1993 he was Canadian Ambassador to Angola and Mozambique and High Commissioner to Botswana and Zimbabwe, living in Harare. Upon leaving the public service he was appointed Canadian Executive Director to the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C., where he lived until retiring back to Ottawa.

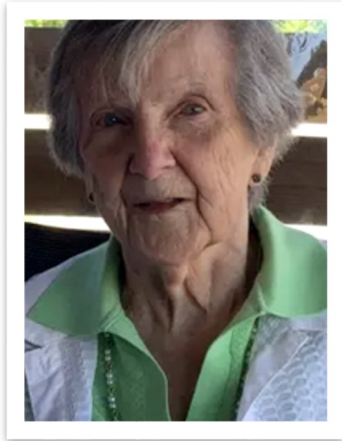
Charles had boundless energy and was always on the go and doing things. He loved travel, classical music, telling overly elaborate jokes and stories, gardening, wine tasting and life. He was a passionate and talented home cook and made countless excellent meals over the years for his family and many friends. He leaves behind his three children, Caroline, Christopher and Matthew, and eight grandchildren, Alexa, Jason, Justine, Joshua, Adam, Liam, Rhys and Miles.

Charles was a long-time member of the Welsh Society, and was seen most recently at the 2025 St. David's Day luncheon. His photo says it all - his humour saw him through the many challenges he faced. The Society looks forward to the opportunity to celebrate his life with his family at a future date, yet to be decided.

By Myfanwy Davies, assisted by Lynn Griffiths

From Tubman, with additional comments by M.E. Jenkins

# In Memoriam



**Lyndell Anne Rutherford Hughes**  
1932 - 2025

Lyndell was born in Vancouver in 1932 and raised on a small acreage in Burnaby, BC. She loved to reminisce about her simple, happy family life featuring picnics, and school and church activities.

Lyndell loved school and was a teacher at heart. After a year of teaching in a two-room schoolhouse in B.C., she decided life in the city was more to her liking and took up a teaching position in Hamilton, Ontario. While visiting a friend in Ottawa, she was introduced to a delightful Welshman, Stanley Hughes. Sparks flew instantly and Stan and Lyndell were married in Ottawa in 1958.

Lyndell and Stan were best friends, an inseparable team with a shared sense of humour, love of family, and a strong sense of community. They had 3 children: Robert, Glenys, and David. They suffered a devastating loss when Robert passed away in 2011, but their strong faith and immense shared love helped them weather the storm.

Lyndell wrote letters on behalf of Amnesty International for Prisoners of Conscience, donated blood to the Red Cross for years and provided comfort to palliative care patients, their families, and staff at The Riverside Hospital. She was awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers for her "exceptional volunteer achievements" as a spiritual care volunteer with The Ottawa Hospital for over 22 years.

A leader in her community, Lyndell was involved in local politics and Neighbourhood Watch activities. She cherished her life-long friends at First United Church in Ottawa. She volunteered her time and musical skills to produce school operettas and special ceremonies. Editors of the Ottawa Citizen and Globe and Mail newspapers happily published her witty and pointed

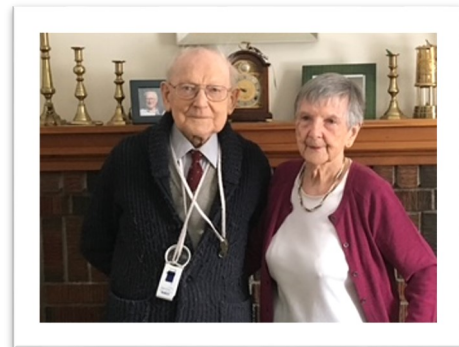
letters about politics (and politicians!), the Church, religion, social justice, and women's rights.

Stan and Lyndell were frequent attendees at Welsh Society events and she shared his pride in his Welsh heritage. Her daughter, Glenys, now serves on the executive of the Society and is working on learning the Welsh language.

Lyndell was a knowledgeable and well-read individual. She attended university in her fifties and graduated from Carleton University with a BA with Distinction with a major in Religious Studies in 1986.

Lyndell could strike up a conversation with anyone. She was genuine and kind, always looking for ways to make the lives of others better. She was a prime example of a life well-lived; demonstrating how to live with integrity, purpose, commitment, and compassion.

A Celebration of Life was held at First United Church on Friday, August 29, 2025, with a number of OWS members in attendance.



By the family, edited by M.E. Jenkins