Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press

Yr Hydref 2026 - Autumn 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 Ottawa

Check out our web site and our Facebook page!

Neges Llywydd/President's Message



Annwyl gyfeillion,

We are finally getting that wonderful Canadian summer weather I remember from my childhood… just in time for fall!

I hope you all had a nice summer despite the worrisome weather. While I was sad not to continue the trend of the last two summers of heading to Wales, I thoroughly enjoyed a week of camping and musicmaking in the Laurentians. My only complaint is that it coincided with the Ottawa Welsh Society's annual Family Picnic!

While there are myriad reasons to wish I'd been in Wales in early August, the most disappointing is that I did not get to compete at the Eisteddfod again with Dysgôr, the Cardiff University Welsh language learners' choir. I am so proud of them for winning the Welsh Learners' Choir category! Coming first in an Eisteddfod competition will have to stay on my bucket list for now.

Speaking of learning Welsh, the best thing about September is that activities like choir and Welsh class start up again. I am excited to be starting Dysgu Cymraeg's uwch 3 (advanced 3) this week. It's the last of the courses specifically aimed at learners, after which we are encouraged to sit an exam. Scary, but perhaps an excuse for a trip to Wales?

Fall also brings rugby, men's and women's. I hope to see some of you at the pub to cheer Wales on. Along with these informal meetups, a number of more formal events are in the works thanks to the Society's dedicated committee and volunteers. Stay tuned!

Cofion cynnes,

Anastasia Llewellyn

Secretary/Editor's Comments

Annwyl gyfeillion,

I would like to say thank you to those of you who help by submitting articles and writing reports on past and future events. It makes the job easier and the reading more interesting to have a variety of writing styles.

In particular, our president faithfully produces a note for each and every newsletter.

In this issue, we hear from Chris Smart in the final report on funds the Society sent to Ysgol-y-Cŵm in Patagonia, Argentina, Myfanwy Davies on the hottest rugby game of the year, as well as our usual Welsh learners' column (Colofn Y Dysgwyr) and, what I hope will be a new feature of the newsletter, a page on Welsh history and culture.

I invite you to submit your own creative writing, book reviews and bits of history we might be interested in reading. Contact me directly for more information.

marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca

I look forward to hearing from you.

Bendithion i chi i gyd,
Marilyn

Upcoming OWS Events 2026-27
Please look for details in this newsletter.

November 22	Siân Evans (p. 6)
December 6	Lessons and Carols (p. 7)

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January 31	Gwawr Owen (p. 6)
February 27-28	St. David's Day celebrations

Colofn y Dysgwyr

This is a review of past, present and future tenses using the verbs BOD and MYND.

Geiriau

At home = gartref
Friendly = cyfeillgar*
Workshop = gweithdy
Leeks = cennin
Out(side) = (tu) allan
Early = cynnar*
Late = hwyr

Aggressive = ymosodol
Popular = poblogaidd*
Nice = neis
Italy = yr Eidal
Spain = Sbaen
Available = ar gael

*soft mutation after "yn"

Ymarfer 1

Translate from English Into Welsh.

1. I was travelling in France
2. I am going to Spain
3. I went to Italy.
4. I will be in the office.
5. You are nice.
6. You were aggressive.
7. You will be late.
8. You were early.
9. He is popular.
10. He will be available
11. He was friendly.
12. She went to the class.
13. We went to the play.
14. We are going to school.
15. We were playing outside.
16. You [plural] will be happy.
17. You [pl.] are eating leeks.
18. You [pl.] were running.
19. You [pl.] went to the workshop.
20. They will be at home.
21. They are coming to the party.
22. They were walking.
23. They went to the theatre.

Answers in next column —>

Atebion:

1. Ro'n i'n teithio yn Ffrainc.
2. Dw i'n mynd i Sbaen.
3. Mi es i i'r Eidal.
4. Bydda i yn y swyddfa.
5. Roeddet ti'n neis.
6. Roeddet ti'n ymosodol.
7. Bydd di'n hwyr.
8. Roeddet ti'n gynnar.
9. Mae o'n boblogaidd.
10. Bydd e ar gael.
11. Roedd e'n gyfeillgar.
12. Mi aeth hi i'r dosbarth.
13. Mi aethon ni i'r ddrama.
14. Ydyn ni'n mynd i'r ysgol.
15. Roedden ni'n chwarae tu allan.
16. Byddwch chi'n hapus.
17. Ydych chi'n bwyta cennin.
18. Roeddech chi'n rhedeg.
19. Mi aethoch chi i'r gweithdy.
20. Byddan nhw gartref.
21. Maen nhw'n dod i'r parti.
22. Ro'edde nhw'n cerdded.
23. Mi aethon nhw i'r theatr.

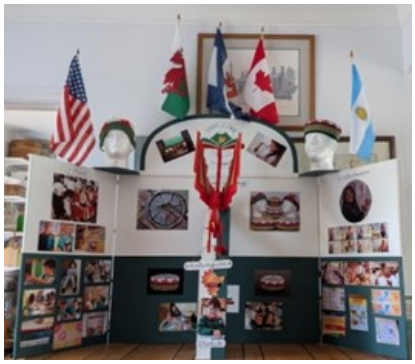
Anyone who is interested in joining the learners' group, Awr Sgwrsio i Dysgwyr, may contact Alison Lawson or John Williams:

alisonlawson@rogers.com

john.williams2@gmail.com

The dosbarth Cymraeg continues to meet under the tutelage of John Williams once a month for instruction and story reading, and later in the month for conversation. The group now includes some new learners.

EISTEDDFOD AM BYTH!



In August 2O25 the OWS's booth at NAFOW enticed gifts to the dragon that entitled the donor to enter a draw for one of the six Welsh-themed hats. The proceeds were to go to support Welsh-language instruction at Ysgol y Cŵm in Patagonia, Argentina. The Society was thrilled when the sum of $2,355 was raised.

The staff of Ysgol Y Cwm, Trevelin, petitioned OWS to make a change: rather than purchase Welsh-language teaching aids, it was proposed to use the funds to enable students to attend the Youth Eisteddfod in Gaiman in 2026.

The OWS agreed and in September 2026 we received news of the event. Well done the students and teachers of Ysgol y Cwm.

Teacher Nia Jones has written to share Ysgol y Cwm's delight and success in their Eisteddfod adventure:

"For the first time, Trevelin was represented by a school delegation: 16 students from the first, second and third years of secondary school at Ysgol y Cwm…accompanied by seven teachers.

The school competed in a wide range of traditional Eisteddfod disciplines: poetry and prose in Spanish and Welsh, music in [other] languages, Welsh dancing and acting. The students captivated the audience, and the whole province will remember this historic first appearance, in which they achieved the following awards:

1st and 2nd prizes in Welsh poetry
3rd prize in Welsh prose
1st prize in Welsh group recitation
2nd and 3rd prizes in reading aloud
1st and 2nd prizes in choral singing.
2nd prize in Welsh dancing.
1st prize in group acting – a song performed in Welsh

2nd prize in Spanish group recitation. *To crown this wonderful and fruitful experience, a young poet from Trevelin brought the top prize back to the Andes: the Eisteddfod Medal…presented by the Municipality of Gaiman.*

The winner, Seren Petersen Jones, a second-year student, stood out among the 92 works submitted under pseudonyms with her piece entitled "The Lighthouse", which deeply moved the judge, Pilar Cimadevilla.

To bring an already extraordinary day to a close, Ysgol y Cwm's Sofía Giorgini was awarded third prize in the same literary competition for her poem "A Manual for Surviving in Patagonia."

Everyone had a wonderful time. The parents were delighted that we were able to organise such a special trip for their children— thanks to the Ottawa Welsh Society!"



Y Gorffennol: Yr Haf

Annual OWS Family Picnic

A small but dedicated group of members attended the picnic in August. It was a truly intergenerational event from two under-10 -year-olds to several over 70-year-olds. We were delighted to have the company of the ap Lwyd family again, and also to meet David and Helga's son, Andrew, who arrived in town for a conference.

Many thanks to Chris and Gina Smart for once again hosting us in their lovely garden. The children enjoyed running around and playing catch. Everyone contributed to the food and Chris and Gina provided cold and hot drinks.

It was lovely to meet in an informal setting and to get to know each other a little better.



Rugby Visit to Ottawa
July 14, 2026



On a very hot, and smoky afternoon in July, two teams of young rugby players faced off at Rowan's Pitch in Barrhaven. The home team was the Barrhaven Scottish Rugby Football Club, and the visitors were from Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun in Penywaun near Aberdare.

Both teams had players ranging in age from 14 to 16 and put on a wonderful display of disciplined and determined rugby. The Welsh team came out on top 66-5.

Later I found out that this exchange has happened a few times in the past. The Welsh schoolboys were hosted by the families of the Barrhaven team and return visits had happened in the past, and were planned for future years. Many friendships have been formed and the atmosphere was jovial.

After the game, a BBQ and cold drinks were offered to both teams, their support staff, host parents, and the half a dozen Welsh Society members who had attended. I was asked to speak a few words of welcome to the Welsh team, which I did, with pleasure.

After leaving Ottawa, the Welsh team travelled to Montreal, Peterborough and Brantford for games, and met with the Toronto Welsh before they returned home to Wales.

- Myfanwy Davies

Online Speakers 2026-27

Sunday, November 22, 2026 at 2:15 p.m. Ottawa time.

Author Siân Evans will speak about her latest book, “1936 The Year of Three Kings”, released on August 27, 2026. The book already has rave reviews in Britain and North America. It presents an alternate view of the reason for Edward VIII’s abdication, relating to a famous comment made by his Majesty during a visit to South Wales, which has been generally misquoted: “Something should be done …”. By all accounts it is a riveting read. E-books and audiobooks can be purchased online. (Note: I have not yet been able to find a source for a hard copy of the book.)

Ms. Evans already has a connection to the OWS; she is a cousin to executive member-at-large David Roberts, who gives the following description of her talk: Siân will focus on the visit of Edward VIII to South Wales in 1936. It's quite the story. Unemployment was very high, the infamous Means Test was applied, there was great social tension, the King's infatuation with Wallis Simpson was starting to emerge, and within just three weeks of the visit the King had abdicated and gone into exile.

Siân Evans is the author of several books, including Queen Bees: Six Brilliant and Extraordinary Society Hostesses between the Wars. Her articles have appeared in many publications, including the Daily Mail, the Daily Express, BBC Antiques Roadshow Magazine, Coast Magazine, National Trust Members' Magazine, and The Lady. A freelance film consultant for the National Trust, she has an MA in Cultural History from the Royal College of Art, London. (From Macmillan Books)



Sunday, January 31, 2027 2:00 p.m. Ottawa time.

Gwawr Owen, founding director of Côr Caerdydd will speak about the choir and its many successes. The choir has won many awards at the National Eisteddfod over the years, and has toured a number of countries in Europe.

The group has formed a close relationship with the composer, Karl Jenkins, appearing on CD recordings of his works *Requiem* and *Cantata* as well as the CD of *Mass for Peace.* Côr Caerdydd has sung with such household names as Bryn Terfel and Barry Manilow. The choir has produced two CDs and it continues to give many charity concerts each year.

This SATB group has appeared on S4C, BBC Television, Classic fm, BBC Radio 2,3,4, Cymru and Wales as well as live at the Wales Millenium Stadium.

There is not a lot available online about Gwawr herself. Suffice it to say the choir’s successes under her leadership speak volumes, beginning with the first public performance, when it won first prize in the Chief Choral competition at the National Eisteddfod. Gwawr announced her retirement from the director’s position following their last concert in May 2026.

Gwawr Owen, too, has a connection to the Ottawa Welsh Society, also through executive member David Roberts: she is the wife of his cousin, Huw Roberts.

We look forward to hearing about her years of making music with Côr Caerdydd.





Y Dyfodol

Service of Lessons and Carols

Our annual observance of the traditional Service of Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 3 p.m., at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Roosevelt Avenue.

Organist Deirdre Piper, will be providing incidental music as well as accompanying the carols. Geraint Lewis will be approaching members to read the lessons, in English, French or Welsh. If you would like to read for us, please contact Geirant at

26gowgybryn@gmail.com

We are pleased to announce that Jennifer Davis has agreed to work with a small volunteer choir to prepare one or two carols for the service. Further information will be sent via email shortly. We encourage you to consider being a participant in this choir. If you don't have email, please contact the secretary at 613-820-6687.

As usual, there will be a Te bach following the service when we can catch up with old friends and make new ones. We ask for donations from your Christmas baking for this part of the event.

- Marilyn Jenkins



Ontario Welsh Festival

The OGGA is getting their news out early and everyone is buzzing with excitement. The 2027 Festival will be held in Kitchener-Waterloo on April 23-25 at the Crowne-Plaza Kitchener-Waterloo.

But what's really got everyone excited is the visiting choir: From Cardiff, multi-award-winning Welsh male voice choir, ***Bechgyn Bro Taf.*** Under the direction of award-winner Richard Vaughan, 'the boys' will present a program of traditional Welsh male-voice music; hymns, folk songs, pop and contemporary works. Hopefully, we will hear some of Richard Vaughan's works!

More details about the Festival will be provided as they are published.

- Marilyn Jenkins



Bechgyn Bro Taf

Hanes a Diwyllaint Cymraeg/Welsh History & Culture

Book Review

If you're like me, your knowledge of Welsh history is sketchy, at best. I have had a book in my library for years and I finally got around to reading it. Sharon Kay Penman's "Here Be Dragons" is possibly as close to an early history of Wales as you can get and it sheds a lot of light on the attitudes that continue to exist today.

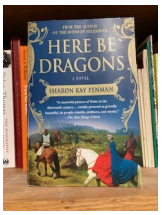
This book details, in very readable prose, the lives of Llewellyn ap Iowerth (1173-1240 CE) and his Queen, Joanna (Siwan, in Welsh), the illegitimate but much-loved daughter of King John of England. John's idea was to control Llewellyn through Joanna, but the he did not count on Joanna falling in love with her husband.

The book is an eye-opener, as it lets us look into the laws and customs of two very different cultures. Women had more rights under Welsh traditions and laws and were generally more highly valued in Wales than in England.

Llewellyn attempted throughout his life to unite the factions in Wales, but it was a constant struggle. He did have some success, and his son became known as the first prince of Wales. Sadly, the alliance was short-lived.

Ms. Penman admits that, despite extensive research, she was often forced to fill in gaps with her imagination. Enough was chronicled to give a good picture of the events of the day. For a true-life adventure/suspense story, "Here Be Dragons" is a great read. I highly recommend it to anyone who is curious about the distant past in Wales.

Marilyn Jenkins



Yr Hen Wlad

Mae Cymru yn fy ngwaed.
Cerdded yn troefedd fy nhadau,
Mae hiraeth yn treiddio fy enaid.
Adref dw i.

- Mewyn

Stan

There was a race of men who mined for coal
an army of hobnailed boots
pick-axe wielders belly crawlers
big Saturday night drinkers and fighters
hard men
carers of pit ponies and canaries in cages
pigeon fanciers greyhound racers
heavenly choir singers on chapel Sundays
soft men
Stan you were one of them
big man you were
sprung rhythm in your crepe-soled footstep
your hair close cropped
nose broken who knows where or when
I watched you shave
kitchen sink the font
where you stood in white vest
baptized the brush with Old Spice soap
the razor steady in your hand
flecks of black diamond
that had pockmarked your skin
glinted in the mirror
and you were oh so gentle with me
as I lay on the sofa head throbbing
you knelt to soothe my forehead
with a cold compress
from you I learnt
hard men could have soft centres
like a box of Black Magic chocolates.

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Editor's note: I would like to feature the creative writing of members. Please submit your work for inclusion in future newsletters.