



Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant – Valley Press Mis Ionawr 2009 – January 2009

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Digwyddiadau - Events for 2009

- Voices & Harps Saturday Jan 31
- St David's Banquet Saturday Feb 28
- Gymanfa Ganu* Sunday March 1
- Shannon Mercer Concert Sunday March 8
- Ontario Welsh Festival - Kingston April 24-26

President's Message

Our St. David's Day Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 28 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The following day (Sunday March 1) we will hold the annual *Gymanfa Ganu* at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Shannon Mercer is releasing a new CD in February, dedicated to the memory of her father. Shannon will give a concert on Sunday, March 8 to celebrate this event at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church,.

The Ontario Welsh Festival is in Kingston this year - on April 24-26. I encourage everyone to attend. It's a great weekend featuring a *Nosen Lawen*, a banquet, concert and two *Gymanfa* sessions.

We still need volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee for 2008-2009. The more people we have on the Committee, the less work there will be for each one.

Please see this newsletter for more information about the upcoming events.

Lezlie Wood, President

'Voices and Harps'

Ellen Maclsaac (voice) and Mary Muckle (voice and harp) are giving a concert in celebration of St. Brigid's Day of Irish, Welsh and Scottish music on January 31, 8 pm at St. Luke's Anglican Church, 760 Somerset W. Guest performers include The Celtic Choir, *Cantorion Cerdd Dant* and harpists Kelly Aminian and Julie Leduc.

Tickets, available at The Ottawa Folklore Centre and at the door, are \$15 general and \$10 students and seniors. For further information contact Mary Muckle at 613-825-1379 or mucklerice@rogers.com.

Join us for the

St David's Day

Dinner and Dance

(traditional Welsh food: leek soup, roast lamb)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28th

Social 6 pm – Dinner 7 pm

PANORAMA ROOM

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL

101 LYON STREET

Speaker: Charles Bassett, retired diplomat and long time member

\$59 / person if ordered on or before February 14th,

\$63 / person for orders received after February 14th

To reserve your tickets, please call John Price at 724-3846, or email at john.price@sympatico.ca

SEE THE ATTACHED ORDER FORM

ST DAVID'S DAY GYMANFA GANU

(Hymn Singing Festival)

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 at 3 p.m.

(If you have a WNGGA Welsh Hymn book, please bring it)

Westminster Presbyterian Church

470 Roosevelt Ave. Ottawa

Everyone is invited to bring something to nibble with their tea or coffee after the service.

The Annual Memberships are NOW DUE.

Send with the attached form.

\$10 per member or \$15 per family

\$ 7 per senior

These fees are needed to pay for running this Society, including producing the Bwletin

CONCERT BY OUR OWN SHANNON MERCER

In memory of her father, Ken Mercer

Many of us remember Shannon Mercer as she grew up in Ottawa and the pleasure it gave us to listen to her beautiful voice as it developed over the years. We are proud of the fact that she has gone on to pursue a very successful musical career.

It gives the Ottawa Welsh Society great pleasure to announce that Shannon is releasing a new CD of Welsh songs. She is dedicating this CD to the memory of Ken Mercer, her father and a well-loved member & Executive member of our society. In honour of this occasion, she is giving a concert in Ottawa along with her early music group, Skye Consort of Montreal. We sincerely hope that you will all support her by attending this concert. It is going to be a very special event.

WHEN: **Sunday, March 8th.**

WHAT TIME: 3 P.M.

WHERE: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wellington Street at Kent

HOW MUCH: \$20

Tickets can be reserved by calling Megan Ross
613-565-0666

There will be a reception after the concert. Any contributions of food will be much appreciated. Please phone Alison Lawson 613-725-2704 .

The Ontario Welsh Festival

Kingston, 2009

The Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association is pleased to announce that they will be holding their annual Ontario Welsh Festival in Kingston this year, April 24-26th.

The festival is a celebration of Welsh music and culture, and draws visitors from all over Canada, the United States and Wales. It started in Niagara Falls in 1961, and has travelled throughout the province from Ottawa to Windsor since then.

The festival will be held at the downtown Holiday Inn which has a spectacular location on the waterfront of Lake Ontario and also at nearby St Paul's Church, a delightful old stone church with excellent acoustics. There will be a full weekend of activities and entertainment.

We begin on Friday night with a traditional Noson Lawen. This is a wonderful opportunity for us all to showcase our talents as singers, instrumentalists, actors, dancers and comedians. If you would like to participate, let us know. Then follows the informal part of the evening when we still find energy and voices to sing around the piano.

On Saturday there are several events of interest including a traditional Children's Hour when the children

are encouraged to showcase their talents in whatever way they wish. In the afternoon there will be a poetry reading followed by a fascinating seminar on genealogy with special reference to researching Welsh genealogy. In the evening, a formal banquet will be followed by a grand concert by the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir at St. Paul's Church.

The Gymanfa Ganu (where we get our name from) will take place on Sunday morning at 10.30 and the afternoon at 2 .30 p.m. at St Paul's Church. Our organist will be Alan Thomas of Ottawa.

It promises to be a great weekend. Mark your calendars now: April 24-26, 2009. Where? The Holiday Inn, Kingston. Reserve your rooms at 1-613-549-8400. And don't forget to check our website for the latest updates:

www.ontariowelshfestival.ca or phone
613-725-2704.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Faggots & Peas Evening

Our Faggots & Peas Evening in November was a sell-out success yet again. One hundred and one adults and eight children sat down to a lovely meal prepared by our kitchen workers. Our faggots & sausages were prepared by our master butcher, John Griffiths, and his wife, Lee. The potatoes were done by Myfanwy Davies and her sister Gwen. Jean Howard arranged the mushy peas. John Price was the event organiser and ran the bar. He and others (including Dorothy Evans and members of the Executive) worked very hard to make it a success. The meal was followed by our *Noson Lawen* or entertainment which was coordinated by Alan Thomas.

Noson Lawen 2008

by Alan Thomas

The entertainment started with John Griffiths, who, of course, was our chef for the evening. He sings in the Choir at Westminster. He sang a song in Welsh entitled "*Mae'r gan yn ein huno*" (A love song).

Emily Duffin, who was the winner of the Kiwanis prize sponsored by the Ottawa Welsh Society, sang "L'il Liza Jane".

Samhurthi Gudarwarena is a music student at Carleton University, and studies voice with Shawne Elizabeth. She sang "I could have danced all night" from "My Fair Lady".

Chris Maskell is a high school student, and studies saxophone with James O'Farrell. He played Handel's "Largo" and "Take Five".

David Jones recited two humorous stories.

Alison Morris sang to her own guitar accompaniment.

Her father, Ian Morris, played a solo on the baritone.

Jean Howard read an interesting account about how Allied POWs in Germany were aided to escape by maps and money etc hidden in Monopoly sets which were distributed to prisoners. She also amused us with a selection of headlines and announcements taken from various publications.

Next were three young violinists; William (age 9), Patrick (age 8) and Leonard (age 5) Paradine - grandsons of Jill Jones. They were accompanied by their mother, Susan Steele. Leonard played a solo called "Whirlpool Waltz". William & Patrick played two duets; one was a study called "Tag" and the other was a reel.

The Ottawa group, which recently returned from a tour with a large North American Welsh Choir in Patagonia, performed two excerpts from their concerts there: "*Dyrchafaf*" (Psalm 121) and "*Yr Arglywdd*" (The Lord), a *pennillion* setting.

Alan Thomas provided most of the piano accompaniment for the evening, and engaged some of the entertainers, for whom he has played at other events.

Editor's Note: We all must thank Alan for the high quality and interesting variety of the program. The evening was a great success.

Local

Tal Griffith's daughter, Sian has emailed to say that Tal (a Past President of the OWS) "has not been too well." She also sent the following:

"Tal, Shirley Griffiths and family think of all their friends in the society often and would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas & a Bright New Year!"

Our Society also received the following Christmas Greetings from Gaiman in Patagonia Argentina:

"Annwyl ffrindiau:

O Batagonia, anfonwn ein cyfarchion atoch, gan ddymino Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi a'ch ceraint.

Cofion, Mirna Jones 'Ysgol Gerdd Gaiman'"

Celtic Studies

Prof. Paul Birt, Chair of Celtic Studies at the University of Ottawa (and a member of our society), sent:

At its meeting on Monday, 1st December, the Senate and Board of Governors of the University of Ottawa voted unanimously in favour of the establishment of a Minor in Celtic Studies. This new program will begin in September 2009.

This is an important step forward for Celtic Studies at the University of Ottawa, and given the growing numbers of those taking Celtic courses, this new

program will provide students with a solid grounding in the discipline.

Paul W. Birt, PhD

Chaire d'Études celtiques, Université d'Ottawa,
70, rue Laurier,(131), Ottawa, ON, K1N 6N5
www.modernlanguages.uottawa.ca/celtic.html
Tél. (613)562-5800(3767)

Welsh calendars

Phil Jeffreys sent the following:

I've come across an excellent provider of Welsh calendars and at a very reasonable price, particularly if ordered in bulk.

The photographer and publisher is David Newbould. His web site is: www.davenewbould.co.uk

His mailing address is: Dave Newbould, Astro House, Gwynfryn, Llanbedr, Gwynedd, LL45 2PA
Phone: + FAX 01341 241538
E-mail: Origins@davenewbould.co.uk

He publishes two different calendars; One is "Snowdonia" the other is "Wales". He also publishes many beautiful greeting cards. He is primarily a photographer, and it shows.

I've been getting his calendars etc. for a few years (for family and a few friends) and am very satisfied with quality and delivery. All his products can be viewed in detail on his web site.

See <http://www.davenewbould.co.uk/>

I used to buy the Calendar Club's calendar of Wales but found it harder to get and of much poorer quality (I think it came from California).

Cheers. Phil Jeffreys (Whitchurch, Cardiff; 1960)
PS I'd love to come to the Faggots'n'Peas but I work until 6.15 PM!

Cadw Sŵn

Colin Jones of *Cadw Sŵn* sends the following:

Once again, thanks to everyone who has bought Mabinogion, the Four Branches. It was interesting to see how many copies sold outside of Wales - the majority! And of course it's still available at www.themabinogion.com.

Anyway, that started me thinking about *Ilyfrau Cymraeg* and *Ilyfrau Cymreig*, and how useful they are if you're learning Welsh for extending vocabulary (*ymestyn geirfa*).

So I took a look on Amazon and found that there is quite a healthy selection of books on Wales, books in Welsh, and books for Welsh learners. Harri Potter and Tintin spring to mind if you're looking for a challenge (*her*), but Welsh dictionaries, grammars, and even books for youngsters are well worth a look.

The next step for me was to collect them all together, put them on a website tailored for Welsh learners and speakers, but still make them available from Amazon for convenience; see www.darllen.co.uk, where everything is available direct from the Amazon UK website. And of course, the more people that buy Welsh books from them, the more Amazon will stock. *Felly, ewch i www.darllen.co.uk i weld!*

Os ydych chi'n byw yn America? if you live in America mae www.darllen.com hefyd.

Does dim cymaint o ddewis, there's not so much choice from the American Amazon or the US version of Darllen, but as above, the more interest people show, the more they'll be inclined to stock Welsh books (Cymraeg a Chymreig). Felly ewch i weld!

Celtfest '09

Those of you who can get over to Cardiff in late March could take advantage of the Celtfest which will be held at the Cardiff International Area on Saturday March 21. This will be an all-day event featuring Cerys Matthews, Wolfe Tones, Dafydd Iwan, Ar Log, Rhys Meirion, Calan and many more.

For more information, see: <http://www.celtfest.com/>

E-mail Error Ends up on Road Sign

Seen and submitted by David Jones

When officials sent an email asking for the Welsh translation of a road sign, they thought the reply was what they needed. Unfortunately, the automated e-mail response to Swansea council said in Welsh: "I am not in the office at the moment. Please send any work to be translated".

See: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/7702913.stm>

So that was what went up under the English version which barred lorries from a road near a supermarket.

"When they're proofing signs, they should really use someone who speaks Welsh," said journalist Dylan Iorwerth. Swansea Council became lost in translation when it was looking to halt heavy goods vehicles using a road near an Asda store in the Morriston area. All official road signs in Wales are bilingual, so the local authority e-mailed its in-house translation service for the Welsh version of: "No entry for heavy goods vehicles. Residential site only".

The reply duly came back and officials set the wheels in motion to create the large sign in both languages. The notice went up and all seemed well - until Welsh speakers began pointing out the embarrassing error.

Welsh-language magazine *Golwg* received photographs of the offending sign from a number of its readers. Managing editor Mr Iorwerth said: "We've been running a series of these pictures over the past months."

"They're circulating among Welsh speakers because, unfortunately, it's all too common that things are not just

badly translated, but are put together by people who have no idea about the language."

"It's good to see people trying to translate, but they should really ask for expert help. Everything these days seems to be written in English & translated."

Editor's Note: there was a more dangerous translation error in the centre of Cardiff three years ago which was a pedestrian sign which read "Look Right" in English but which said "Look Left" in Welsh. I don't know which group they were trying to kill off!
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/north_west/4605768.stm

AWR SGWRSIO

Dewch ac ymunwch gyda ni i sgwrsio yn Gymraeg. 'Rydym yn dechrau grwp newydd sydd am gwrrdd bob mis i ymarfer yr iaith wrth drafod bob math o bwnciau.

LLE? Tafarn Y Clock Tower, 575 Stryd Bank

PA AMSER? 7-9 p.m.

PA DDIWRNOD? nos Lun olaf pob mis

Bydd croeso cynnes i bawb sydd yn siarad Cymraeg neu yn ei dysgu.

Mae'r cyfarfod cyntaf am saith o'r gloch, Nos Lun, Ionawr 26.

Ffoniwch Alison Lawson 725-2704 neu Glenson Jones 592-8957 am wybodaeth.

CALLING ALL WELSH SPEAKERS AND PEOPLE LEARNING TO SPEAK WELSH

Come and join a new group which is being set up to give everyone the opportunity to speak Welsh on a regular basis. We will meet once a month, on the last Monday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Clock Tower Pub, 575 Bank Street. This pub is easily accessible from the Queensway in both directions. Everyone is welcome-please come and support us.

Our first meeting will be on Monday, January 26th.

Please phone Alison Lawson 725-2704 or Glenson Jones 592-8957 for more information.

>> Creative Opportunity <<

Remuneration: Satisfaction and new friends

Experience: Optional

Tasks such as: - Become a member of the executive,
- Assisting at a function,
or with occasional phone blitzes.

If you can assist, even in a small way, please contact our President, Lezlie Wood, at (613) 225-8845 or by email to ldwood7@sympatico.ca or by mail to 205 - 1465 Baseline Road Ottawa ON K2C 3L9

**OTTAWA WELSH SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP AND TICKET ORDER FORM**

Your name _____

Spouse/Partner _____

Children or other family members _____

Your address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email _____

Would you like to receive Y BWLETIN by email? Yes _____ No _____

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP _____ @ \$15.00.....\$ _____
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP _____ @ \$10.00 EA.....\$ _____
SENIOR MEMBERSHIP _____ @ \$ 7.00 EA.....\$ _____

ST. DAVID'S DAY DINNER AND DANCE (SATURDAY Feb 28)

EARLY BIRD TICKETS _____ @ \$ 59.00 EA.....\$ _____
(DEADLINE FOR EARLY BIRD TICKETS IS FEB. 14.)

TICKETS AFTER FEB. 14 _____ @ \$ 63.00 EA.....\$ _____

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR MEAL CHOICE(S) _____ LAMB or _____ VEGETARIAN

ANY SPECIAL NEEDS? _____

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SIT WITH CERTAIN FRIENDS, PLEASE LIST THEM
AND WE WILL TRY TO ACCOMMODATE YOU.

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED.....\$ _____

Please make cheque payable to : **THE OTTAWA WELSH SOCIETY**

and send it with the completed form to:

**John Price
12 - 701 Richmond Road
Ottawa, ON K2A 0G6**

For further information, please contact John at 613 724-3846 or email to john.price@sympatico.ca