



Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant – Valley Press

Mis Ionawr 2011 – January 2011

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St. DAVID'S DAY LUNCHEON BANQUET

Saturday, February 26th

Following a highly successful event last year, we are once again going to celebrate Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant/ St David's Day with a luncheon banquet in the gracious surroundings of the Royal Ottawa Golf Club. Please join us to honour our patron saint while enjoying good fellowship and excellent food. We will then have the pleasure of hearing Mary Muckle, a local Ottawa harpist familiar to many of you, share some of her extensive knowledge of the harp and entertaining us with a selection of harp tunes.

- Time:** Reception 11:30 am - 12:20 pm
Lunch Banquet 12:30 pm
- Venue:** The Royal Ottawa Golf Club 1405 Aylmer Road, Gatineau, Quebec, J9H 7L2
- Menu:** This year we are offering a choice of chicken or vegetarian meal.
- Cost:** Early bird tickets \$45 each, deadline February 12th, \$50 each thereafter.
- Dress code:** Business casual - no jeans or cargo pants.

To order your tickets, please see the accompanying form and contact Myfanwy Davies at (613) 526-3019 or e-mail myfanwy57@sympatico.ca

OWS GYMANFA GANU

Sunday, February 27th 3 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 470 Roosevelt Ave.

Come and join us to sing some wonderful hymns in English and in Welsh. It is sure to be a very special occasion. Alan Thomas will be our conductor, Carolyn Portelance, John Griffiths and Duncan Schutte will be soloists and Deirdre Piper will accompany us on the organ.

Please bring your Welsh Hymn Book, if you have one.

We always have a friendly reception afterwards. Everyone is invited to bring something to nibble with their tea or coffee.

Please come and support us in this event.

Saint Brigid's Eve Concert

With Ellen McIsaac, Director, the Ottawa Celtic Choir, Mary Muckle, harp and voice, Kirsten Carlson, flute and the penillion choir, Cantorion Cerdd Dant.

WHEN: Saturday, **January 29**, at 7.30pm

WHERE: Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts, 310 St. Patrick Street (Entrance at Cumberland).

Tickets are \$10 in advance/ \$15 at the door. Tickets are available at The Ottawa Folklore Centre, Bank St. and The Leading Note on Elgin St. For more information, please phone Alison Lawson at 613-725-2704

LET'S HEAR IT FOR SAINT DAVID

Are you fed up about the amount of attention local radio stations give to St Patrick's Day compared to St David's Day? We can do something about it if we are all willing to blitz the radio stations with requests for Welsh music for March 1st.

Please think about which Welsh singer, group or instrumentalist you would like to hear played or perhaps a piece by a Welsh composer, and then all we have to do is ASK! The more people who get in touch with the stations, the more likely they are to take notice of us.

I'm sure you all have your favourites but some suggestions are:

Classical

Bryn Terfel(of course!), Katherine Jenkins(hugely popular in Wales for classical and pop music), Shannon Mercer(our home grown Welsh singer), Geraint Evans, Gwyneth Jones, Dennis O'Neill, Aled Jones, Osian Ellis, Rhys Meirion(does great duets with Bryn Terfel), Robert Tear, Margaret Price.

Popular music

Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey, Harry Secombe, Dafydd Iwan, Charlotte Church, Elin Fflur, Sian James, Huw Rhys Bowen, Geraint Lovegreen, Hogia'r Wyddfa, Duffy and a host of other groups.

Instrumentalists

Robin Huw Bowen-triple harp
Catrin Finch- harpist including the electric harp-was Royal harpist to Prince Charles.

Composers

Karl Jenkins, William Mathias, Alun Hoddinot, Robat Arwyn, Ivor Novello, Grace Williams, Henry Walford Davies.

I have tried to get contact information for the main local radio stations. Here it is!

1.CBC 103.3 FM-classical music

The main programme to target is Tempo, hosted by Julie Nesrallah. She is based in Ottawa although the programme is national. You can write to her at

Tempo, CBC Radio 2, Box 3220, Station C, Ottawa K1Y 1E4

Or use the e-mail contact form at

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio2/program/e-mail-forms/tempo/email-tempo.html>

You can also e-mail light music programmes at CBC 103.3 by using the e-mail contact form at

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio2/program/e-mail-forms/r2drive/email-r2drive.html> and

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio2/program/e-mail-forms/canadalive/email-canadalive.html>

2. CBC Ottawa 91.5 FM-light music

Ottawa Morning, host Kathleen Petty: Ottawa Morning, CBC Ottawa, PO Box 3200, Ottawa, On K1Y 1E4

Or use the e-mail form at www.cbc.ca/ottawamorning/contact/

All in a Day, hosted by Alan Neal: All in a Day, PO Box 3220, Station C, Ottawa K1Y1E4

Or use the e-mail form at www.cbc.ca/allinaday/contact/

3. Majic100-100 FM-light pop music

Phone the request line at 613-750-1100 and ask for Ian March, or e-mail him at ian.march@majic100.fm or write to 87, George Street Ottawa K1N 9H7

4.CHEZ 106 FM-light music

Call 613-750-1061 or e-mail cosmo.grant@ottawaradio.rogers.co

5.BOB FM

Call 613-789-2486 and ask for Milky(before 1 p.m.) or Vinney

Or e-mail at whatever@939bobfm.com

6. Jewel Radio

Phone 613-241-9850 and ask for Ted Silver or e-mail at ted@jewelradio.com

PLEASE HELP US WITH THIS -IF WE ALL SEND IN A REQUEST WE CAN ALL BE VERY PROUD ON ST DAVID'S DAY! I SUGGEST SENDING IN YOUR REQUESTS TWO OR THREE WEEKS AHEAD FOR THE CBC PROGRAMMES.

For more advice/information, please call Alison Lawson at 613-725-2704

Welsh Film Night at the University of Ottawa

We are pleased to announce that the OWS in conjunction with Celtic Studies at the University of Ottawa will be screening the movie Third Star (2010) as part the St David's Day celebrations. This will be the first time that this film has been shown in North America.

'Third Star' was written and produced by Vaughan Sivell and shot on location in West Wales and stars Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Burke, JJ Feild, Adam Robertson, Hugh Bonneville, Karl Johnson, Nia Roberts, Eros Vlahos. It was chosen to close the Edinburgh Film Festival earlier last year. It was also chosen to be screened in the Zurich Film Festival in September and will be shown as part of

'Wales Week 2011' in both New York and Los Angeles in March in association with BAFTA and the Welsh Assembly Government .The film is billed as the uplifting and often hilarious story of four childhood friends who take an ill-advised camping trip to the stunning coastal area of Barafundle Bay in Pembrokeshire. The film depicts a touching and comical adventure dealing with friendship, heroism and love.

WHEN; 3 March, 7:30pm

WHERE: University of Ottawa, Fauteux Building (Main Campus off Laurier Ave) room 147A

For directions see <http://www.uottawa.ca/maps> or call Pawl at 613-562-5800 (3767).

There will be no admission charge.

Under Milkwood March 24 to April 2

Dylan Thomas's play, Under Milk Wood, will be performed at the

Shenkman Centre in Orleans from March 24 (Thursday), 2011 to April 2 (Saturday) with no performances Sun, Mon, Tues or Wednesday of the second week. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

Under Milk Wood is produced by The Ottawa Theatre School, with guest artists Annie Lefebvre and Todd Duckworth, and the Third Year Students . Direction is by Janet Irwin.

For more information and to purchase tickets, contact the Box Office

of the Shenkman Arts Centre: 613 580 2700 or 1 866 752 5231
245 Centrum Blvd, Ottawa, ON, K1E 0A1

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL GOLD AWARD

The Ontario Welsh Festival has established an annual award , the GOLD AWARD, to be given to a person who has contributed greatly to the Welsh Community in Ontario. An awards committee, comprising a representative from the Ottawa Welsh Society, the Toronto St David's Society, Dewi Sant Church and chaired by the President of the Festival, and with input from the Welsh community of Ontario, is currently making a decision on the matter: Lezlie Wood is the Ottawa representative.

This year's recipient will be announced at the banquet to be held on Saturday evening, April 30th at the Festival in Niagara Falls and will be presented with a plaque at that time.

For more information, please contact Lezlie Wood at

ldwood7@sympatico.ca or phone 613-225-8845 (evenings only).

The Ontario Welsh Festival April 28- May 1, Niagara Falls, Ontario

By Hefina Philips, Toronto

Fiftieth Anniversaries deserve special celebrations. Our annual event begins on Friday evening but in 2011 the weekend will be extended by another day. (The Sheraton Falls View Hotel is aware of our plans and the "special" price agreed upon for the weekend will include the Thursday night).

Who would have thought in 1961 that the weekend would continue to be such a success fifty years later. During the past half century the various Boards of Trustees have ensured that attendees have been exposed to the best that Wales has to offer as regards choirs and directors. Our cymanfaoedd are superb. I will never forget the first that I attended (in Niagara Falls actually in the early 80s). I was astonished to hear such hymn singing so far from home. At the end of the Sunday's afternoon session, Cerwyn Davies was so moved that he described the singing as a truly religious experience.

For the 50th we return to the venue of the very first Cymanfa- Niagara Falls. The event promises to be spectacular. The guest choir is the young, award- winning CF1. A strange name for a choir, you may comment. It is the postal code of the venue where the choir practices. Those of you familiar with Yr Urdd (the League of Welsh Youth) will understand when I explain that the choristers are made up of Urdd members who have moved to work in the Cardiff area. The Urdd plays a very important part in the lives of children from Welsh speaking homes as well as children who are sent to Welsh schools by English speaking parents. CF1 is an opportunity for many of those Urdd members to socialize & make music together- all through the medium of Welsh.

Their director, Eilir Owen Gruffudd, an energetic, enthusiastic musician, is also conductor of Côr Godre'r Garth and teaches at Trinity College, Carmarthen- part of the University of Wales. In his "spare time" I sincerely hope he finds time to help his gorgeous wife, Leah, with the raising of their baby son, Aaron

What about this extra day that we have tagged on to the Weekend? There will be a programme arranged for that day and evening. A winery tour is being arranged for the day and a pub night with entertainment at night. Just make sure that you reserve an extra night - if you haven't done so already.

Registration forms will be mailed at the end of January. Please do your utmost to support the 2011 celebrations.

Reserve rooms at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel by phoning : Local number 905-374-1077 ,Toll Free 1-877-353-2557.

For more information, please visit www.ontariowelshfestival.ca or e-mail us at information@ontariowelshfestival.ca or phone Alison Lawson at 613-725-2704.

CBC Rewind - Jan 6, 2011- My Son Dylan

See <http://www.cbc.ca/rewind/>

From 1959, a portrait of Dylan Thomas, in the words of his mother. His life may have been short and troubled, but his poems continue to fascinate even more than 50 years after his death at the age of 39.

Bob Dylan borrowed his name, his poem that urges listeners to "rage, rage against the dying of the light" is often read at funerals and studied in schools and the stories of his drinking are legendary. Dylan Thomas is one of those poets who, perhaps because his writing is so lyrical, perhaps because he died tragically at the age of 39, continues to fascinate. Thomas' public readings in the United States in the early 1950s enchanted audiences. And after his death, his American publisher, James Laughlin remarked: "Surely there was a miracle that anyone who was so helplessly messed up in his living could have turned out such beautiful poems."

January 6, on Rewind, an hour from the program Project 60- that was first broadcast in December 1959. It's called "My Son Dylan."

You can listen to this on the website.

Wales goes to the polls 3 March 2011

by Pawl W Birt

For the third time since 1979 two days after St David's Day the Welsh electorate will be voting in a referendum. This time they will be deciding whether to extend the existing powers of the Welsh Assembly or not. The Welsh electorate voted in favour of the establishment of the Welsh Assembly in 1997. The Assembly has power to legislate in the area of twenty subject areas which include agriculture, education, the environment, health, housing, local government, economic development, highways and the Welsh language. The question which will put before the Welsh electorate in this referendum will be 'Do you want the Assembly now to be able to

make laws on all matters in the 20 subject areas it has powers for?' At the moment there are areas within all the 20 areas which require the involvement of the House of Commons in Westminster. A 'yes' vote in the referendum would remove the need for negotiation between the two governments and the need for the House of Commons and House of Lords to scrutinize proposals from the Welsh Assembly, which is the case at the moment. It would give powers to the Assembly to decide how to use the Assembly's law-making powers in all areas of its present legislation. The referendum will therefore only be concerned with legislation within the area of the twenty subject areas. In other words, even with a 'yes' vote, the Assembly would have no say regarding defence, tax or welfare benefits.

'I wish I could speak Welsh!'

There are many ways of learning Welsh of course. You can go to an evening class, join a class in the University of Ottawa during the daytime, go to a course organised by Cymdeithas Madog in North America, even go on a trip to Wales and find one of the many opportunities to learn Welsh there. Yet, there is one way which will not cost you anything, and which is successful and entertaining. It will certainly help you to break the ice and start talking Welsh like real Welsh-speakers do (ie not book Welsh!). I am talking, of course, about the several Welsh courses available free on the internet.

One internet introduction to Welsh which we have used in conjunction with other materials at the University of Ottawa can be found on the large Welsh learners' site run by BBC Wales. It works on the basis of introducing the learner to short (approx 1-2 minutes) videos that play out everyday situations which are natural and sound like clips from real life (for once!). As a Welsh teacher of some 20 years standing, I would recommend this particular introduction to spoken Welsh.

Go to the following internet address:

www.bbc.co.uk/wales/learnwelsh/bigwelshchallenge/course/

Click on the enter course button. I suggest you skip the introduction and go straight to the option of learning the basics of Welsh in North Walian or South Walian form. You will then see a choice of sixteen typical situations. If you're new to Welsh it's probably best to start with greetings, and how to exchange information. You will then see three choices of video on that subject. Click on the video you want to see and you will be able to watch the short clip which is in Welsh. You can help yourself to learn by clicking on 'subtitles' (which give the script in Welsh or English), or 'speech bubbles'. You can also click on 'vocabulary' or 'helpful notes' which will add further information so that you fully understand the clip you have been watching. The actors who play the parts are very natural and unlike other video courses I have seen, come over in a way that doesn't get between the learner and the language. If you shy of speaking Welsh in a traditional classroom (most people are), then this kind of introductory video course is helpful because it allows you to practise with a tutor. You can choose either Glyn or Siân and they will guide you through a conversation based on the material you have just been watching! For this application you need to click on 'tutor'. What is useful in these kind of introductory video-courses is that it will prepare you to interact with real-life Welsh speakers whether in Wales or here in North America. And remember, it doesn't cost you anything!

Welsh language and Culture at the University of Ottawa

by Pawl W Birt

The Celtic Studies programme at the University of Ottawa is probably well-known to most members of the Ottawa Welsh Society, but perhaps what is less known is the extent to which Welsh culture and language are taught in that programme, which makes that institution the foremost in Canada when it comes to the study of Wales. The Welsh language has been taught at the University without a break for some 25 years now, which is almost certainly a record in Canadian University terms. The OWS was instrumental in starting that process. Today's students who come from all kinds of backgrounds are fascinated by the Celtic world, and the study of Wales is very much part of this area of study. We now have over 450 registrations annually in Celtic Studies which means that these students will all go away with some knowledge of Wales. It is not only the study of language, but also of history, and culture and its many forms. This year for instance, we have 42 students taking the Introductory Welsh Language and Culture course which as well as providing a basic knowledge of Welsh, gives the students a view of who the Welsh are, their origins, and what is happening in Wales today. Some of the gems of Welsh literature such as the Mabinogi and Dafydd ap Gwilym are studied in two other courses: Early Celtic Literature and Medieval Celtic Literature. The development of Welsh Christianity -St David and the early 'saints' of medieval Wales can be studied in the Celtic Christianity course. So much for the past, but many other courses in the programme such as Celtic Language Promotion, and an Introduction to the Celtic World have a strong emphasis on today's Wales, its Assembly politics, language planning and Welsh media. Last year we started a new course on Music in the Celtic World which has an important component on Wales (to be taught again this summer by the way). Luckily, we have a team of part-time teachers who are devoted to their courses, and of course a Chair of Celtic Studies who believes that Wales, its history, politics and culture are an integral part of Celtic Studies in North America.

The Ultimate St David-Dewi Sant.

by Pawl W Birt

This is the time of year, perhaps the only time of year when we give a thought to St David, and raise a glass to him as the ultimate symbol of Welsh nationhood. This is probably rather unfair to Dewi Sant, since his lifestyle was so different to most of his contemporaries, not to mention our own contemporaries. He would have felt most at ease probably with his fellow monks in the south-west and the visiting brothers in the faith from Ireland. Yet the story of David, and how the cult of St David survived over the centuries, and even beyond the Protestant Reformation is a remarkable one and worthy of attention since it gives us another view of the history of Wales, and for that matter the history of Brittany where he is also well remembered in placenames and in the literature of the Bretons. The standard study of St David was published in 2007, *St David of Wales: Cult, Church and Nation* edited by J. Wyn Evans and Jonathan M. Wooding, and published by the Boydell Press in the UK. This book brings together a large selection of chapters by as many authors, and is devoted to various aspects of David over the ages. One of the knotty problems in David-studies is the question of the text of the *Life of St David* attributed to Rhygyfarch. But since there are several versions of his *Life* in both Latin and Welsh, which text is Rhygyfarch's has been a problem. Some of the most interesting chapters in the book are concerned with David outside of Wales, since he had an important following during the middle ages in Paris, Brittany and Ireland, not to mention parts of England. David's mother Non is still revered in

Brittany (Non's chapel in Wales can be seen close to the cathedral in St David's still). The book also has an interesting chapter about how St David became a symbol of nationhood, as early as the tenth century as the famous poem *Armes Prydein Fawr* demonstrates. Since Wales is no longer a Catholic country, there is little mention of David in church services today except in passing. In the middle ages there was copious liturgical material devoted to the cult of David, some of which remains intact today. Before the advent of Protestantism into Wales, the Roman rite allowed for considerable local variation in the liturgy of the saints. This as Owain Tudor Edwards shows in the book allowed for the feast of St David to be commemorated locally in Wales, probably from the seventh century. The office of St David was in fact celebrated not only in Wales but in England, Scotland, Ireland and most probably in Brittany as well. Unfortunately in the 1920s and 1930s St David's Cathedral and St Non's Chapel became the scene of fierce hostility between Anglicans and Catholics. All in all, this highly detailed book demonstrates how David from his monastic origins to his nationalistic role in the twentieth century has been a symbol of Wales for at least 1300 years, and his flag and his procession are likely to march on for some time still.

Following is a 19th century comic verse written about a judge sorting out the Welsh surnames as part of the "anglicization" process. The poem was taken from the Glamorgan rootsweb list from a submission supplied by John Gareth and given to him by John Ottery.

Then strove the judge with main and might
The surrounding consonants to write
But when the day was almost gone
He found his work not nearly done.

His ears assailed most woefully
With names like Rhys ap Griffith Ddu,
Aneirin, Iorweth, Ieuan Goch,
And Llwyarch Hen o Abersoch,
Taleiesin ap Llewelyn Fawr
And Llun ap Arthur bach y Cawr.

Until at length, in sheer despair,
He doffed his wig and tore his hair
And said he would no longer stand
The surnames of our native land.

Take ten, he said, and call them Rice,
Take another ten and call them Price,
Take fifty others call them Pughs,
A hundred more I'll dub them Hughes,
Now Roberts name some hundred score,
And Williams name a legion more.

And call, he moaned in languid tone,
Call all the other thousands - Jones.

-Anonymus

Local News

The OWS regrets to announce the death of the mother of one of our members.

OSTIGUY, Madeleine Hill In Ottawa on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 of Cancer. Predeceased by her husband Lt. Col. Jacques Ostiguy and son Paul. Survived by her children and grandchildren. The family wishes to acknowledge their sincere gratitude to all friends, caregivers and medical personnel who so ably helped and assisted during their mother's illness.