

Sywddogion Y Gymdeithas */ Officers of the Society*

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Dear members and friends,

I hope that you took part in the St. David's Day activities last month, and enjoyed them to the fullest. Indeed, the events that your volunteer Society organized and delivered constitute our main annual opportunity to showcase Wales to the broader Ottawa community, to pay tribute to its rich history and culture while celebrating the Wales of today.

The next major event is the Annual General Meeting. This is an important occasion for us to listen, learn and align with members' expectations, and for you to elect a new Executive Committee for 2012-13. We need your active participation to ensure that we deliver on our mandate. On that note, I would strongly encourage all to attend. The Society will continue to thrive and to offer relevant programming only if it attracts volunteers who can contribute their input, time and resources. We cannot do it alone!

I look forward to discussing these matters and to socialising with you on Tuesday, May 15th, from 6:00 pm onwards at the Whispers Pub in Westboro.

Annwyl aelodau a chyfeillion,

Gobeithio eich bod wedi cymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau Gwyl Ddewi mis diwethaf, ac wedi mwynhau nhw i'r eithaf. Yn wir, mae digwyddiadau'r Gymdeithas gwirfoddol wedi trefnu a'u darparu yn galluogi ni i arddangos Cymru i'r gymuned ehangach Ottawa, i dalu teyrnged i ei'n hanes cyfoethog a'n diwylliant wrth ddathlu y Gymru gyfoes.

Y Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynnyddol yw ei'n digwyddiad mawr nesaf. Mae hwn yn achlysur pwysig i ni i wrando, i ddysgu ac i gyson â disgwyliaid aelodau, a hefyd ichi etholi Pwyllgor Gwaith newydd ar gyfer 2012-13. Mae angen eich cyfranogiad gweithredol er mwyn ini sicrhau ein bod yn cyflawni ein mandad. Ar y nodyn hwnnw, byddwn yn annog yn gryf ichi gyd fod yn bresennol. Ni all yn Gymdeithas parhau heb gwirfoddolwyr a all gyfrannu eu mewnbwn, amser ac adnoddau er mwyn gynnig rhaglenni perthnasol dros y fflwyddyn. Ni allwn wneud hyn eu hunain!

Edrychaf ymlaen at drafod y materion hyn ac i gymdeithasu gyda chi ar ddydd Mawrth, 15 Mai, o 6:00 pm ymlaen yn nhafarn y 'Sibrydion' yn Westboro.

Gareth

Y Gymdeithas ar y We / The Society on the Net:

www.ottawawelsh.com



Facebook:

Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa

Digwyddiadau Events:

Ebrill 30fed: Awr Sgwrsio Nos Lun, Y Clock Tower, Bank St.am saith o'r gloch.

May 15th / Mai 15fed : Annual General Meeting / Cyfarfod Blynnyddol - Noson Dafarn / Pub Night at Whispers Pub & Eatery, 249 Richmond Road, Ottawa.

Evening starts @ 6pm
AGM @ 7pm

Ein dathliad Gwyl Dewi: by John Price

On Saturday 3 March over sixty members of the OWS and their guests enjoyed a very convivial lunch, a very entertaining talk and some beautiful singing at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club in Aylmer. Guest speaker this year was our fellow member **Dr. Edryd Shaw**, who regaled the guests with tales of his boyhood in Glyn Neath, his education in Neath and Birmingham and his work in the field of remote sensing and the launching of Canada's first earth-observation satellite, Radarsat -- a wonderful success story in sharp contrast to some of the stories of unemployment doom and gloom currently emerging from many parts of Wales. After Ed's talk, we were entertained by the beautiful mezzo-soprano voice of **Armine Kassabian**, a graduate of McGill University and definitely a rising star in the world of music.

Very many thanks to all who helped organize the Banquet: Ed Shaw for giving the talk, Gareth Jones for convening the banquet and preparing the quiz, **Alison Lawson** for making the arrangements with the Golf Club and arranging for Armine to sing, **Marilyn Jenkins** for receiving the payments and meeting guests' wishes for dining companions, **Gaye Brittle** for all her work in setting up the room for the Lunch, **Alan Thomas** for accompanying Armine and **Roy Morris** for turning the pages at the piano. Without such willing and cheerful volunteers, such an event would not be possible.

There may still be members who mourn the demise of the Society's banquet in the form of an evening dinner dance, although it was becoming very difficult to keep the price of that down to a level members found acceptable and the greying of our membership meant that fewer people were prepared to join us for an event that lasted quite late into the evening. Some members may be leery about driving in Quebec but the distance from the northern end of the Champlain Bridge to the Royal Ottawa is probably less than 1/2 mile and should not pose any problems. The Golf Club is a delightful heritage building and the staff are friendly.

Why not give it a try next year?

Kudos to Wrexham: by John Price

The Welsh Assembly and the Welsh Language Board recently announced a scheme to promote the use of the Welsh language in and around Wrexham, which is the first municipality in Wales selected to be a bilingual district.

What does this mean? It means that people in the district will be encouraged to make greater use of Welsh in their daily lives. Signs on more businesses will be in both Welsh and English and some businesses may acquire new (Welsh) names. The *Seven Stars*, a hostelry in the town, will be renamed *Y Saith Seren* and in addition to brewing its own beer, will host artistic events in the Welsh language, including performances by bands, poetry readings, drama and film presentations. It will also serve as the Canolfan Gymraeg Wrecsam (Wrexham Welsh Centre) to promote use of the Welsh language. The Centre's Website claims that "The beer is excellent, the food scrumptious and the atmosphere gives a real Welsh welcome to all." (<http://saithseren.com>)

The Centre is even selling shares to finance future developments, which include the creation of meeting rooms and offices for use by organizations with similar values. For some time now there has been pressure to increase opportunities for education through the medium of Welsh in the area and to offer people learning the language a greater chance to speak it.

In a bid to raise its status to compete with neighbouring Chester, Wrexham also applied for a Royal Charter (and thus City status) on the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. To boost local spirits, the local football team also stands a reasonable chance of climbing out of the Conference League and returning to League Two (the old Division 4) of the Football League. Things are looking up in Wrexham.

What Is A "Gymanfa Ganu?" by Hefina Phillips

The Ontario Welsh Festival will be taking place in Niagara Falls, at the end of this week-April 27-29th.

Until very recently the full title of the Ontario Welsh Festival was The Ontario Gymanfa Ganu. The words "Gymanfa Ganu" were familiar to all Welsh people, as such an event was an integral part of our heritage. What is a Gymanfa Ganu? Its literal translation is a gathering or assembly for the purpose of singing. For any Welsh person it means hymn singing - in Welsh and in four part harmony.

In Wales a Gymanfa Ganu traditionally takes place on Easter Monday or on Whit Sunday. And they didn't just "happen". For several weeks prior to the big event, there were weekly practices when sopranos, altos, tenors and basses learned their parts.

On the big day we all arrived early at the chapel in order to get the best seats. The front row of the gallery was reserved for the most "important" singers (the ones with the best voices and who had attended most practices.) Woe betide the singer who dared sit in the front if he or she did not fit into those categories!

A Gymanfa is a religious celebration, but even as a child I was aware of some less than holy sentiments as those sopranos in the gallery vied with each other as to who had the most beautiful new outfit and hat!! But the singing was always rapturous, and raised the rafters. Such wonderful memories!

The Welsh have retained the tradition of the Gymanfa Ganu wherever they have travelled, and here in North America it still holds firm. The North American Festival of Wales holds its Gymanfa every Labour Weekend, Dewi Sant, the only Welsh church in Canada, holds a Gymanfa every Good Friday, and the Ottawa Welsh Society hold a wonderful Gymanfa on the weekend of the St David's Day celebrations.

The Ontario Welsh Festival has been in existence since 1961, and at the end of April every year Welsh people from Ontario and the United States gather to celebrate our heritage. Although the Gymanfa is the raison d'etre of the weekend, the festival has developed over the years to include several other events. On Friday evening there will be a Noson Lawen (translated as "Merry Evening".) This showcases our homegrown talent as singers, musicians, actors, dancers or comedians.

Let's not forget the children. Children in Wales are taught to perform on stage almost as soon as they can stand. We try to continue the tradition here. So come support our youngsters as they show off their party pieces on Saturday morning.

Traditionally the Saturday night Grand Concert is given by a visiting choir from Wales. This year we are delighted to welcome the mixed choir, Côr Cwmni Da from Pembrokeshire.

And finally to Sunday and the two sessions of hymn singing where a treat awaits you. The Welsh have been blessed with a wonderful ability to sing in four part harmony, and the emotion that emits from the hymn singing will lift one's very soul. It is, indeed, an unforgettable experience. Do come and experience it with us. It isn't too late to book! Why don't you call to reserve your room right now at [1-905-374-1077](tel:1-905-374-1077) or toll free at [1-877-353-2557](tel:1-877-353-2557).

Awr Sgwrsio Nos Lun, Ebrill 30fed

Mae'r gwanwyn bron wedi cyrraedd ac mae'n amser i 'sgwrsio' eto. Dewch i'n cynorthwyo i dafarn Y Clock Tower, Bank St., Nos Lun, Ebrill 30fed am saith o'r gloch.

Spring is almost here! We will be having 'Awr Sgwrsio' at the Clock Tower Pub, 575 Bank Street, Monday, April 30th. at seven o'clock. Please join us. Please contact Alison Lawson for more information-[613-725-2704](tel:613-725-2704) or e-mail at alisonlawson@rogers.com

Dorothy Schuthe Obituary: by Alan Thomas

Dorothy died on March 27th in her 93rd year, and was married to her husband, George, for 48 years. Her three children, Denis, Duncan and Lise, survive her. She was born in Duncan BC, and served in WW2 as a member of the Women's Royal Canadian Service (the Wrens). She was a very popular member of her church and community, and much loved by all who knew her. For the past year or so she lived with Duncan at Unitarian House, where she will be greatly missed by not only the residents but by everyone else. She was bright and cheerful right up to her last few days, when she was admitted to hospital. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family.

Gair o Gymru gan Gwenno

The Welshiest Woman in Wales Writes (a word or two)

'Gwisg genhinen yn dy gap a gwisg e yn dy galon' meddir yr hen ddywediad ac yn sicr mae cyrion pob tref a phentref yng Nghymru yn morio mewn mor mwyn melyn. Mae'r cenin pedr yn tasgu allan o bob clawdd a choedwig ar hyn o bryd a'u pennau lliw menyn yn croesawu'r gwanwyn i'n gwlad. Dwi wastad yn teimlo unwaith mae'r cenin pedr yn dechrau siglo eu pennau pert fe fydd gweddill y gwanwyn yn tasgu mewn trefn fel rhes o ddominos.

A finne mor ffol i feddwl mai ond yng Nghymru oedd hyn yn bodoli – yn ddiweddar gwelais bod pob tref a phentref aethum heibio yn Lloegr yr union r'un peth! Fe aethom fel teulu ar daith i fynu i Lerpwl yn ddiweddar i ymweld a darpar Brifysgol ein merch a gweld y mor melyn a'i arogl persawrys ymhobman.

Os cewch chi gyfle i fynd i Lerpwl mae Amgueddfa y Tate yn ysblennydd ac yn werth ymweld a hi. Yn Amgueddfa Forwrol Glannau Merswy mae na arddangosfa hynod o ddiddorol ar hyn o bryd i gofnodi bywyd byr y Titanic. Mae hi'n ganmlwyddiant y cyfnod pan suddodd y Titanic yn fuan ac mae llawer o raglenni yn cofnodi hyn ar y teledu.

Fe fu fy merch a fy Mam a finne fynu i Lerpwl ar ddiwedd Haf 2008 i ymweld ac arddangosfa Gustav Klimt. A bryd hynny yn Neuadd Saint Sior (Saint George's Hall) fe gyfarfum a 'Jude', cawres Lerpwl (sef 'Hey Jude' gan y Beatles) Mae bellach wedi gadael y'r amgueddfa ers tua 2010 ac mae son y bydd yn ymgartrefu'n fuan yn Amgueddfa newydd Bywyd Lerpwl sydd wedi ei hadeiladu lawr wrth y Dociau.

<http://www.strangecargo.org.uk/portfolio/consultation/reflect/jude-liverpool-giant/>

Pan oeddwn yn byw allan yng Ngwlad Belg n'ol ar ddiwedd y saithdegau a dechrau yr wythdegau r'oeddwn wedi rhyfeddu gyda gorymdeithiau cewri oedd yn digwydd draw yna yn flynyddol ym Mrwsel ac yn Ath. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOXaUtWF-wY>

Cefais syniad wrth weld Jude ac o gofio cewri Gwlad Belg y buasai'n wych o beth petase nin'n gallu cael cewri Cymreig yng Ngorymdaith Genedlaethol Dydd Gwyl Dewi (GGGD) a gan fy mnod yn bue weithgar bryd hynny ar Bwyllgor GGGD dyma fi'n dychwelyd a plannu'r syniad mewn cyfarfod y Bartneriaeth oedd yn trefnu'r Orymdaith erbyn hynna sef GGGD, Y Cynulliad a Chyngor Sir Caerdydd, a dwi'n falch iawn o ddweud fod y cewri wedi ymddangos y flwyddyn diwethaf ac wedi dyblu yn eu nifer eleni.

Dear friends in Ottawa, 'Wear a daffodil in your hat and wear it in your heart' says the old saying, and one that connects very closely with our sense of Welshness and Welsh identity and certainly the outskirts of all towns and villages in Wales are swimming in a bright yellow sea these days.

The daffodils are spilling out from every hedge and forest at this point and their butter coloured heads welcome the spring to our land. I always felt that as soon as the daffodils start shaking their pretty heads, the rest of the spring tumbles into order like a row of dominoes.

I used to be so foolish to think that it was only us Welshies who had this privilege but recently I saw that every single village and town that I passed in England was exactly the same. We recently went on a journey up to Liverpool to see our daughter's prospective university and we saw seas of pungent yellow everywhere.

If you have an opportunity to go to Liverpool, the Tate Museum is wonderful and well worth visiting. There's an exhibition starting very soon at the nearby Maritime Museum about the Titanic. It's a hundred years to this April when the Titanic set sail from Liverpool on her tragic journey and there are several television programmes being broadcast at the moment about this subject.

My daughter and my Mother went to Liverpool at the end of the summer in 2008 to see an exhibition by Gustav Klimt at the Tate Gallery and at that time in the lobby of Saint George's Hall I made the acquaintance of Jude, Liverpool's own fabulous female giant. (that is from the Beatles song 'Hey Jude') She has since left the Museum (in 2010) and they say she is going to take her rightful place in the new 'Museum of Liverpool Life' which has recently opened on the Quayside.

<http://www.strangecargo.org.uk/portfolio/consultation/reflect/jude-liverpool-giant/>

When I was living in Belgium at the end of the Seventies and early Eighties I used to love the Giant Parades that used to happen every year in Brussels and in Ath. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOXaUtWF-wY>

I had an idea when I saw Jude and whilst remembering the Giant Parades held in the Grande Place of Brussels that it would be wonderful to have giants in the National Saint David's Day Parades (NSDDP), I was very proactive on the NSDDP Committee at the time, and I returned and shared my vision and planted the idea in a Partnership meeting (NSDDP, The Assembly and Cardiff City Council) very soon after this and I am very happy to say that the giants appeared last year and have doubled in number by this year.

Dwi'n hynod o falch i allu eich hysbysu for 'Cenwch y Clychau i Dewi' (Geiriau: Gwenno Dafydd, Cerddoriaeth: Heulwen Thomas) Can Dydd Gwyl Dewi gafodd ei lawnsio yn y Cynulliad yn 2008 gan y Llywydd bryd hynny, Yr Arglwydd Dafydd Elis Thomas, wedi cael ei pherfformio yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg yng Ngwasanaeth Dydd Gwyl Dewi Cymru gyfan. Yn ol pob son, mae hi hefyd yn mynd i gael ei pherfformio mewn Noson Lawen yn Rhaeadrau Niagra tua diwedd mis Ebrill. Gobeithio i chi gael Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus a dathliad teilwng. R'wy'n falch iawn o weld fod y dathliadau yn tyfu bob blywddyn yma yng Nghymru a thramor.

Wel gredwch chi byth bobol ond dwi'n sgwennu hwn yn yr ardd yn fy micini!!!! Ydw wir ac mae wythnos olaf Mawrth wedi bod yn eithriadol o fwyn a thyner. Mae'n gysur mawr i ni gyda'r wlad dal yng nghrafanc y dirwasgaid sydd wedi bod yn ein gwasgu ers cyhyd a ddim yn dangos unrhyw arwydd o welliant.

R'oedd theatre mwyaf blaengar Caerdydd, Y Sheman wedi bod ar gau ers bron i ddwy flynedd i gael ei ail-wampio tan yn ddiweddar ac fe es i i berfformiad o 'Sgint' gan y Theatr Genedlaethol yn y wythnos gyntaf o'r Theatr ar ei newydd wedd. Drama oedd hon oedd wedi ei selio ar brofiadau pobl go-iawn yn ceisio ymdopi gyda'r Dirwasgiad. Rhaid dweud fod yn cyntedd yn wirioneddol ysbennedd gyda digonnedd o ofod a'r adnoddau fwyaf blaengar i ddathlu creadigrwydd ein cenedl.

A'r lle arall mae creadigrwydd ein cenedl wedi bod yn amlwg yw ar faes y gad – ie mwd y byd rygbi! Ac am dymor anhygoel gafwyd gan ein bechgyn ni – mae pob clod wedi dod i'w rhan eleni ac o'r herwydd mae ymdeimlad fwy hyderys yn gyffredinol yn ein calonau fel cenedl.

Yn fuan iawn fe fydd etholiadau ar gyfer y cynghorau lleol ac fe fydda i'n sefyll ar ran Plaid Cymru rhywle yng Nghaerdydd. Dwi ond yn sefyll am y profiad mewn ardal sydd yn saff mewn dwylo y Toriaid ers hydoedd.

Gan son am yr etholiadau mae'n bosib eich bod yn ymwybodol fod Plaid Cymru newydd ethol Leanne Wood fel arweinydd. R'oedd y gystadleuaeth yn un dda iawn a'r ymgeiswyr o safon aruchel: Leanne Woods, Elin Jones, a chyn Lywydd y Cynulliad, Yr Arglwydd Dafydd Elis Thomas ond Leanne fu'n llwyddiannus. Gair o rybydd i chi bobl – mae gan y fenyw yma dan yn ei bol ac mae hi'n mynd i wneud gwahaniaeth mawr i'n dyfodol fel gwlad.

Wel dyma fi am y tro - tan tro nesaf a cofiwch ddod adre i'n gweld ni cyn bo hir. www.gwennodafydd.co.uk

I'm extremely proud to tell you that 'Cenwch y Clychau i Dewi' (Ring out the Bells for Saint David. Lyrics: Gwenno Dafydd Music: Heulwen Thomas) the Saint David's Day Song launched at the National Assembly of Wales in 2008 by the Presiding Officer Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas is growing year on year and this year was performed in both Welsh and English in the All Wales Saint David's Day Service, as well as in the Saint David's Day Service at the Houses of Parliament. This song will also apparently be sung in a 'Noson Lawen' (Night of Fun) by a Welsh choir in Niagara Falls at the end of April. I am really delighted to see the Saint David's Day celebrations growing not only in Wales but further afield.

Well believe it or not dear readers I am writing this in the garden in my bikini (not a pretty sight - white walrus spring to mind!) Yes I am and the last week of March has been exceptionally warm and mild. I hope to goodness that that was not our summer! There's snow on the way apparently!

However, it is a comfort to have such nice weather with the country still in the grip of a recession that still shows no sign of abating. Cardiff's most famous theatre, the Sherman had been closed for nearly two years whilst being renovated. I recently went to a performance of 'Skint', a performance about the real life experience of those going through the recession performed by our wonderful National Theatre in it's re-vitalized location and I have to say that the entrance to the building is incredibly stunning with plenty of space and innovative resources to celebrate the creativity of our nation.

And the other place that our nation's creativity has been very obvious is on the national battlefield yes the mud and madness of the rugby field. And what a sensational season our boys have had – every possible plaudit has come their way this year and because of this there is generally more confidence and hope in our hearts this year as a nation.

Before long we will have the local council elections and I will be standing on behalf of Plaid Cymru somewhere in Cardiff. I'm only taking part for the experience, as the area where I will be standing is a very safe Tory seat.

Whilst I'm talking about elections, it's possible you may be aware that Plaid Cymru has recently elected Leanne Wood as their next leader. The competition was a very tough one with all three candidates being of a very high caliber: Leanne Wood, Elin Jones and the previous Assembly Presiding Officer Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas, but Leanne was the successful candidate.

A word of warning folks – this woman has got a fire in her belly and she is going to make a big difference to our future as a nation. Till the next time and remember to come and see us back home before long.

www.gwennodafydd.co.uk

WRITERS NEEDED FOR CELTIC LIFE MAGAZINE

Celtic Life magazine, published in Halifax, is looking for writers to contribute to their print magazine, published four times a year, and to their website.

If you are interested, please contact Stephen Patrick Clare, Managing Editor of the magazine. His contact details are:

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