



Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant – Valley Press Mis Mai 2004 – May 2004

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Digwyddiadau - Events for 2004

- Pot Luck Supper and Annual Meeting Tuesday May 18
Welsh Course – 1 week July 18-25
Picnic Saturday July 31
North American Festival of Wales – Buffalo Sept 2, 3, 4, 5

Ottawa Welsh Society Pot Luck Supper & AGM

- Pot Luck Dinner** 6 pm for 6:30 pm Tuesday May 18
Annual General Meeting 7:30 pm

Bromley Road Baptist Church, 1900 Lauder Ave. Ottawa
Bring an appetizer, main course, salad or dessert

(Please note: the church does not allow alcohol.)

Annual Picnic

Saturday July 31, 2004 – from 2:30 pm

At the home & pool of Barbara Colton
360 rue Honfleur, Gatineau

(from Champlain Bridge, go West on the upper Aylmer Road
and then turn right at the 4th road past the Champlain Golf
Course [about 2 km from bridge])

Please contact Barbara by July 26 at 819 771-0515 to
confirm your attendance and your choice of the following
food:

Steaks \$ 8.00, Hamburgers \$ 3.00 or Hot Dogs \$ 1.00 .
Potato salad and coleslaw will be provided. All food has to
be pre-ordered so we can ensure that we have enough.
Bring your own drinks, special food, lawn chairs, picnic/card
table, swim suits, towels, etc. Some soft drinks will be for
sale.

BBQ will start shortly after 5:00 pm.

Special Welsh Course Coming to Ottawa

Cymdeithas Madog announces that its annual Welsh
language and culture course will this year be held at
Carleton University July 18-25. This course which attracts
some 65 students each year is taught mainly by Welsh
teachers brought over from Wales.

It is not just a language course, but also gives students (of
all ages) an opportunity to enjoy Welsh culture of all kinds.
The many activities and workshops include a film night
which showcases a brand new Welsh language movie, as
well as invited speakers for the early afternoon sessions.

The course is proud to present Mark Abley from Montreal,
whose highly readable book about languages including
Welsh has been published internationally. The course is
very friendly and there are no exams! Much more
information can be found from the course website at
<http://www.madog.org> or from Paul Birt at 819 684-1560.

2004 North American Festival of Wales

The North American Festival of Wales will be held in
Buffalo, NY on Sept 2-5 this year so there is no reason why
MOST of you cannot drive there! Many will remember the
excellent one we hosted in Ottawa in Sept 2000. Several of
us are planning to attend.

There will be a Welsh Antiques and Collectable Show, as
well as a Marketplace, Tearoom & Eisteddfod competition. A
selection of five tours have been arranged and Children's
activities are planned. There is a selection of 20 seminars
ranging from historical to modern subjects and from music to
dance to cooking to Welsh Language.

The Thursday Concert will be traditional Welsh folk music
featuring the Crasdant group from Wales including Robin
Huw Bowen and his triple harp. The Saturday Concert will
include the Toronto Male Voice Choir, Robin Huw Bowen
and Sandra Stringer (who dazzled us in Ottawa in 2000).

The eisteddfod will have a wide range of categories. There
is bound to be a category for you!

What about entering the recitation competition? Categories for under 12 years (in English), under 18 (either in Welsh or English) and for adults (again either in Welsh or in English).

Too nervous to recite alone? What about forming a group with a few friends or family members to compete in the choral recitation? There will be a solo voice competition for amateurs (under 12, under 18 and adults). There is also a solo competition for semi-professional singers and the prize for this category is an all-expenses paid trip to Wales to compete in the National Eisteddfod. There is a competition for vocal ensembles (6 or less people), and for choirs. For the over 60s there will be a Senior Hymn singing competition, both solo and quartet. There will also be an instrumental solo and instrumental ensemble competition.

Are you a budding (or established) writer in either English or Welsh? There is an opportunity for all ages to show their skills in prose or poetry. Perhaps you love to tell stories. There is a category just for you. Details and application forms are available on <http://www.nafow.org/eisteddfod.htm> or from Alison Lawson at 725-2704.

Eisteddfod Entries must be received by June 15th.

Ontario Festival of Wales

The 2004 Ontario Festival of Wales was held at the Holiday Inn in Peterborough April 23-25 with a large crowd from Ottawa in attendance.

The event opened with Registration and a Welcome Tea on Friday. We were entertained that evening by the Noson Lawen, including several from Ottawa, followed by another social. There were lots of Welsh Cakes at all the events over the weekend.

The Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association took place on Saturday morning. Ottawa's Myfanwy Davies completed her term as Past President. The new President is David Pugh with Myfanwy Bajai becoming the Past President. Barbara Colton (Ottawa) and Gwen Dodson (formerly from Ottawa) have another year to serve as Trustees and Glenson Jones (Ottawa) was elected to serve as a Trustee.

After a break for lunch we were entertained by the under-18 year olds (including a modern dance routine by Ottawa's Dylan Morris) at "Amser y Plant". This was followed by a "Poetry Reading" session where everyone was invited to read a poem of their own or one of their choosing.

The banquet Saturday evening started with cream of leek and potato soup followed by a choice of roast top sirloin of beef with peppercorn sauce or oven roasted salmon with sweet chili sauce.

The excellent Concert, which followed, featured the Burlington Welsh Male Chorus lead by Music Director Lyn Harry, with Trevor Bowes, baritone, as guest.

Unfortunately, Jill and I were unable to stay for the Sunday Gymanfa Ganu conducted by Dr. Haydn James with Alan Thomas as the Organist.

Be sure to reserve the dates of **April 29 to May 1, 2005** for the next Ontario Festival of Wales in **Stratford!**

Welsh Connections

Bert Hanmer brought to my attention that another Welshman, Leonard Brockington, had been the first Chairman of the CBC.

A little research came up with the following from the Queen's University website.

Leonard Brockington - (1888-1966)

Leonard Brockington was a very unique man, and it is fitting that, although many admirable people have held the position of Rector at Queen's, he used the position in a way no one else ever had, and completely redefined the way the position was perceived. Having first come to Queen's in 1947 to give a lecture sponsored by the AMS, he made such an impression on the students that within the year they appealed to him to become the Rector. At that time, the Rectorship was primarily a ceremonial post, and involved little more than giving one or two speeches throughout the three-year term. That all changed with Leonard Brockington.

Leonard Brockington was born in Cardiff, Wales, and was the son of an English schoolmaster. He graduated with honours in Greek and Latin before immigrating to Canada in 1912, when he became the editor of a newspaper in Edmonton. He moved to Calgary in 1915 and, for several years, worked as a clerk during the day while studying law at night. He became a lawyer in 1919, scoring record marks on all of his law exams. He joined the Calgary law firm of James Loughheed and R. B. Bennett, and soon became city solicitor. He developed a reputation as an orator, and in 1935 left for Winnipeg, where he became general counsel for the North West Grain Dealers Association.

In 1936, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation appointed Leonard Brockington the first Chairman of their Board of Governors because of his reputation for an interest in the arts. As chair of the CBC, he oversaw the establishment of a network of transmitters to bring the CBC to everyone in Canada. He was also a strong believer in the concept of a non-sponsored, non-partisan national station. He held this position for three years, but left it in 1939 to become a special advisor to Mackenzie King's war cabinet. Two years later he returned to England and served as advisor to the British Ministry of Information. During WWII Canadians came to know his voice well, through his radio reports on the progress of the war.

A truly multi-talented man, Leonard Brockington proved his ability as a labour negotiator after the war. He also became president of Odeon Theatres. His time as Rector, which began in 1947, was marked by his devotion to Queen's. He took an active role never before assumed by a Rector, attending convocations and other events, and becoming actively involved in the issues of the day such as the proposed development of the lower campus, which the students protested. Leonard Brockington also used his considerable influence on his illustrious friends - people like Nicholas Monserrat, Yousuf Karsh, and Lord Tweedsmuir, the Governor-General of Canada from 1935-1940 - to encourage donations of money and artifacts to Queen's, and to attract exceptional speakers for guest lectures.

Recent Events

St David's Day Banquet & Dance

One hundred and six people sat down to a lovely meal of leek and potato soup and roast leg of lamb on February 28 in honour of St David. This was more than last year and we thought that was terrific! Much thanks must go to Barbara Colton and her crew.

We were pleased to have the multi-talented Alan Thomas as our Master of Ceremonies. For several years, Alan has been the organist for our Christmas Carol and our Gymanfa Ganu Services, and was a feature performer at last Fall's Nosen Lawen. He is organist and Choir Director of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Ottawa. His career has included posts as Director of Music in England and Canada, most recently at Ashbury College, Ottawa.

Alan did a great job filling the quiet places in our program and read several of the many letters of greeting received from sister Societies and friends of our Society.

Our guest speaker was Julian Evans, the Deputy High Commissioner for Great Britain. Mr. Evans has lived and worked for the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in many places, Moscow, Zurich, New York, and for, what must have been an intense month, he headed the FCO Emergency Unit for Afghanistan! He also served as Deputy High Commissioner to Pakistan, evacuating during the crisis in February 2003.

Mr. Evans was born in Gorseinon, West Glamorgan, and educated in Llanelli, in Fareham, and the University of London, obtaining an honours degree in Geography. He has held a number of scientific positions for the FCO.

He gave us an interesting overview of the current status of Wales in the world.

Following the talk the disks were spun by our DJ for a couple of hours and the dance floor was well used.

Ottawa Gymanfa Ganu

The Ottawa Welsh Society Gymanfa Ganu was held on Sunday February 29 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church and was also well attended. It was directed this year by Roy Morris, who is always able to coax the best from us all. Thanks to Wendy Wynne-Jones and her crew for organizing the event.

Our organist was Alan Thomas who was in his usual fine form despite all his work as our Master of Ceremonies the night before. It was especially nice to have the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society performing for us. Their anthem this year was "A Gwnaeth y Ser" by Rabat Arwyn. The soloist was John Griffiths who sang "Yr Hen Gerddor" (The Old Minstral).

Special thanks must also go to the Reverend Clifford Evans for leading the service. After the service, all retired to the basement hall for refreshments.

Welsh Steam Train Movie

Our film night on Sunday March 28 was very popular. We actually had to disappoint one or two people because of limited seating. The film was about Welsh Steam Trains - Ffestiniog, Welsh Highland, Bala, Llanberis Lake, Corris & Talyllyn ending in Aberswyth with the Electric Cliff RR and the Vale of Rheidol.

After the film we were refreshed with Welsh cakes made by Mary Williams and an Irish Guinness cheese, which fascinated many.

Joint Concert

We had an unexpected pleasure this year when we received an email, shortly after the last Bwletin had been mailed, saying that the Tonna Male Voice Choir would be coming to Ottawa from April 6 to 10 and asking if we could help to arrange a concert for them.

Needless to say this generated a lot of communication with Wales and around Ottawa. We immediately contacted the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society to see if they would be interested in doing a joint concert with the Tonna Choir.

Suffice to say that the choirs agreed to the arrangement and our Society and the Choral Society set up joint committees to arrange for promotion, ticket sales and entertainment.

The concert was held at the City View United Church on Friday April 9 (it was Good Friday, but we had no choice). Thanks to our advertising expert, Alison Lawson, and her team consisting of Barbara Colton and members of the OW Choral Society, notices were put in all the regional papers, the Citizen and on the radio. We sent emails to our members but couldn't justify a special mailing for the concert. Thanks also to Geraint Lewis, Jennifer Davis and Jill Jones for helping with tickets and directing at the door; also to all who came and those who brought food. Alison Lawson & Barbara Colton also organized the refreshments.

The result was extremely successful and the church was almost packed. Both choirs were thrilled with the result and the social hour after the concert was filled with the chatter of old and new friendships.

E-Steddfod 2004

You may remember that David G. Jones of Ottawa won two second place prizes at the E-Steddfod last year. Well... he's won some more this year and Craig Hughes also won a prize. What about the rest of you!

Poem: The Craftsman

*2nd Craig Parry Hughes, Ottawa, Canada
3rd David G. Jones, Nepean, Ont., Canada*

A Collection of Eight Modern Proverbs

3rd David G. Jones, Nepean, Ont., Canada

Short Poem: A Mother's Advice to a Bride

*Joint 3rd David G. Jones, Nepean, Ont., Canada
Martin Locock, Ammanford*

A Sentence with each word beginning with the letter A

*Joint 3rd David G. Jones, Nepean, Ont., Canada
Idris Rees Hughes, Vancouver Island, Canada*

Yn Wir? – Really?

An American decided to write a book about famous churches around the world.

For his first chapter he decided to write about famous English and Welsh cathedrals. So he bought a plane ticket and made the trip to London, thinking that he would work his way across the country.

On his first day he was inside a church taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read "£10,000 per call". The American, intrigued, asked a priest who was strolling by, what the telephone was used for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for £10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went along his way.

Next stop was in Manchester. There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he had seen in London and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for £10,000 he could talk to God. "O.K., thank you", said the American.

He then traveled to Nottingham, Coventry and Bath and in every church he saw the same golden telephone with the same "£10,000 per call" sign under it.

With his first chapter going well, he left England and traveled to Wales, and, again, there was the same golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read "10p per call." The American was surprised so he asked the priest about the sign: "Father, I've traveled all over England, and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to heaven, but in all the cities in England the price was £10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?"

The priest smiled and answered, "You're in Wales now my son, it's a Local call".

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Cybydd a wna geiniog yn swllt,
Hael a'i gwna'n ganswllt.

A miser will turn a penny into a shilling,
The generous will turn it into a hundred.

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Local News

• Condolences to **Philip Ostiguy** on the death of his father. See Obituary below

• Condolences to the family and friends of **Gordon**

Allmark. See Obituary below

• Best wishes for a speedy recovery to **John Harrison** who was in hospital but is now recovering at home.

Obituaries

OSTIGUY, Lt. Col. Jacques Wilson D.S.O. CStJ, Knight Grand Cross Order of Malta GCLJ, CMLJ, KCN, BSci (Mil) Grad. of RMC (Kingston, Cadet #2542)

Passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 14, 2004, in his 86th year.

Son of the late Paul E. Ostiguy and Marguerite Wilson of Montreal. Beloved husband of Madeleine (nee Sutherland-Hill). Loving father of Jacques and Philip. Predeceased by son Paul. Loving grandfather of Dominique and Jean-Francois, and loving great-grandfather of Daphne. Survived by brother Jean and sister Andree and predeceased by brothers Pierre and Claude.

A distinguished officer, Jacques was presented with the D.S.O. personally by Field Marshall Montgomery in 1944 during the Battle of Normandy. Sent to Indochina in 1954 with the International Control Commission, he was promoted to the rank of First Class Honorary Legionnaire in the First REC (Premier Regiment Etranger Cavalerie) for Conspicuous Services rendered to the French Foreign Legion in South-East Asia. After his military career, Jacques served with the National Research Council and the Science Committee on Research Policy. In June, 2003 he was honoured by the Municipal Council of St-Andre-Sur-Orne with the naming of Boulevard Jacques Wilson Ostiguy in gratitude for his liberation of the town in 1944. Jacques was generous, caring and magnanimous in spirit.

ALLMARK, M. Gordon Passed away peacefully at the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, January 6, 2004 at the age of 94. Beloved husband of the late Margaret (nee Thomas). Loving father of John (Sandra) of Oakville and Barry (Darlene) of Kelowna, B.C. Proud grandfather of David (Christina) and Brad of Oakville and of Brendan and Kelsey of Kelowna, B.C. and great grandfather of Meghan and Benjamin of Oakville. His brother Ben predeceased him by 36 hours.

Gordon graduated from Queens University with an MBA in Pharmacology. He resided in Ottawa for most of his adult life and devoted his career to the Federal Government in the Department of National Health and Welfare, Food and Drug Directorate. At the time of his retirement he was the Assistant Director General, Drugs. Gordon also spent two years on loan from the Canadian Government to the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

All his life Gordon had a love of travel, spectator sports (particularly hockey) and was an avid news reader. His family will miss his generous spirit and guidance. As a dedicated member of Dominion Chalmers United Church, he was involved with many committees and served as Elder.