



Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant – Valley Press Mis Medi 2004 – September 2004

Llywydd - President

Glenson T. Jones Email: ottawawelshsociety@rogers.com
51 McIntosh Place Kanata ON K2L 2N7 (613) 592-8957 Fax: (613) 592-8635

Ysgrifennydd - Secretary

Kimberly Power Email: jkrd.power@sympatico.ca
17 Trotting Way Kanata ON K2M 1B3 Phone: (613) 592-5795

Website: <http://www.ottawawelshsociety.com/> - Out of service at the moment

Cynnwys - Contents

- Page 1 – Upcoming Events, Notices, Picnic
- Page 2 – Seven Wonders, Poetry
- Page 3 – Welsh Workers, Welsh Course, Local News
- Page 4 – North American Festival, Bog Snorkelling

Digwyddiadau - Events for 2004-2005

Welsh Film Night	Tues. Oct 19
Noson Lawen / Faggots & Peas	Sat. Nov. 13
Ottawa Welsh Choral Society	Sat. Nov 27
Children's Christmas Party – call Kim for information	Dec.
Christmas Carol Service	Sun. Dec 19
English Film Night	tentatively Jan or Mar
St. David's Day Banquet & Dance	Sat. Feb 26
Gymanfa Ganu	Sun. Feb. 27
Pot Luck & Annual meeting	April or May

Noson Ffilm Gymraeg (Welsh Language Film Night)

Cynhelir noson arbennig ar gyfer siaradwyr Cymraeg!

19ed o fis Hydref yn Ottawa

Dwy Ffilm yn Gymraeg

"Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2000" – 1:40 o hyd
Rhan o "Hwyl Noson Lawen 4" – 1:13 o hyd

Those wishing to attend, please call Glenson Jones
at 592-8957 to reserve a seat.

Shannon Mercer is appearing in a light opera on
October 27th at Lasalle Odyssee,
855 Blvd de la Gappe, Gatineau.

For further information, phone Alison at 725-2704

Ottawa Welsh Choral Society Christmas Concert

November 27, 2004 7:30 pm
Bromley Rd Baptist Church, Ottawa

\$15 adults Children under 14 free
(Tickets available at the door)

Faggots & Peas Noson Lawen, Saturday November 13th

Westminster Presbyterian Church 470 Roosevelt Avenue.

Doors open at 6:30pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. Cost is
\$12.00 per adult and \$5.00 for children. Cash bar available.

Reserve meal by calling Rhian at 828-4579 or e-mail
rhianevans@sympatico.ca

CALLING ALL TALENT!!

If you have an act yourself, or a talented child
(as I know many of you DO)

please volunteer to perform at the Noson Lawen on
November 13th
(don't worry, it is a Saturday!).

Call me at 733-6066, or email at

Wendywynnejones@pigeon.carleton.ca
or even call work at 520-2600, ext 3614.

Tell me what you can do, and let's build another great
evening of entertainment together!

Thanks!

Wendy Wynne-Jones

Annual Picnic

Those of you who missed the picnic also missed a
wondrous sight – our former treasurer displaying her hula
hoop skills! The hula hoop contest was only one of several
activities (included balloon toss and golf ball pitching) which
were enjoyed by all.

The Annual Picnic was held this year at the home of
Barbara & Jim Colton, a few minutes from the Chaudiere
Bridge in Aylmer and was attended by 40 people. Due to the
rain we moved to the announced rain date but only 2
families were adversely affected by that date change.

A lovely time was had around the pool and in the garden.
Our warmest thanks go to Barbara and Jim for sharing their
home and cooking the meat, to John Griffiths for bringing
the steaks and to Rhian Evans, Kim Power, Roy Morris and
all others who helped to make the event successful.

Seven Wonders of the World

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders of the World."

Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the 'Seven Wonders of the World' are:

1. to see
2. to hear
3. to touch
4. to taste
5. to feel
6. to laugh
7. and to love."

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous! A gentle reminder -- that the most precious things in life cannot be built by hand or bought by man.

Barddoniaeth - Poetry

The Craftsman

By Craig Parry Hughes
2nd Prize Winner – E-Steddod 2004

Throughout the spindrift years,
Across defiant lands,
By conqueror's command,
Quiet men have raised great keeps,
Shaping proud stone with maul and blade
To serve their jealous lords.

Thus was the mason's honest craft
Enslaved to shackle men
Along wide Severn's marching flanks
And round Snowdonia's heights,
To clip the eagle's dreaming wings
And seal its stooping eyes.

But still today, in gentler times,
On Cambria's smiling coast,
The genius of their blood still yearns
To school a scion's hand
And build a transient tower of sand,

..... within a tidal moat.

The Bridge

By Craig Hughes 16.09.04
Entered to the WNGGA Sept 2004

Recently at Buffalo there was an Eisteddfod in which the topic for a poem was The Bridge. There were some very superior entries. My ideas come slowly with a limping gait. The piece below was not an entry and reflects my time at sea and the Battle of Matapan where we caught and sank a substantial part of the Italian navy. With apologies to the early Greeks and their myths.

There were no bridges when the Gods made war
No bridge to span cruel Lethe's waves
No bridge to link the alien shore
When straining oar and whim of wind
Bore men to burn the topless towers of Troy
Paying no toll to span the gulfs that Homer knew

But we have stormed the marching waves:
Aiming our guns from eagle-nesting bridge:
Seeking to enflame our prey with dread St. Elmo's fire
And shake Olympus with their salvo'd death,
Below the peak of Matapan .

No headstones mark the heartless sea
Where navies warred and Fortune diced
While Scylla and Charybdis cheered
As splintered ships sank silently.

Here is a bridge, remembered.
A bridge too far.

For some, a bridge, too soon.

Rhosyn Cariad

From "My Love is like a Red, Red Rose" – by Robert Burns
Translation into Welsh by Olive Philips, 2004
For use by Cantorion Cerdd Dant of Ottawa
(Sung in 3 part harmony to the tune of "Amazing Grace")
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Mae 'nghariad i fel rhosyn byw
A rydd yr haf i ni.
Y gân felysaf glywn erioed
Yw 'nghariad dlos i mi.

Mor hardd wyt ti, fy ngeneth lân,
Mor ddwys fy serch yn wir;
A charaf di o hyd fel 'nawr,
Nes newidia'r môr yn dir.

A phan dry'r môr yn sych fel hyn,
A chreigiau'n toddi'n llwyr,
Fy serch a bara'n ddwfn o hyd;
Ei ddiwedd neb a wŷr.

Mae'n rhaid i mi ffarwelio 'nawr
Am ysbaid; dyna'r ffaith!
Ond deuaf unwaith eto'n ôl
I ti, er mor bell y daith.

Welsh workers happiest in the UK

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/3598599.stm>

Monday, 5 April, 2004

Welsh workers are "significantly happier" in their jobs than those elsewhere in the UK, says a new report.

Yet at the very same time a parallel study says Wales has a bigger 'brain drain' than the rest of the country, seeing much more outward migration.

Both were published at the annual Royal Economic Society meeting in Swansea.

Taken together, the two reports suggest that while many Welsh workers are happy with the nation's low wages, those that are not are quick to leave.

The first study found that while Wales has the lowest wages in Britain, the Welsh job satisfaction level was "significantly higher" than anywhere else in the country.

It suggested this could be because "lower earnings tend to be associated with higher levels of unemployment and inactivity, so that being in work may be regarded more favourably in more depressed regions".

Another suggestion the paper puts forward is that the climate of industrial relations is said to be better in Wales than the rest of the country.

It also suggests that that the Welsh may simply be less materialist, less concerned about money.

Or maybe the Welsh are just naturally more happy than their English, Scottish and Northern Irish brothers and sisters?

Quick to leave

The research also found that Welsh women were even more satisfied with their jobs than their male counterparts. However, another report said that more people born in Wales go on to leave for another part of the UK, compared with those born in England, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

It found that 22% of Welsh people leave Wales, compared to 16% of the Scots leaving Scotland, 14% of the Northern Irish moving from Ulster and just 2% of the English exiting England.

Wales also has the highest level of inter-UK immigration. Around a quarter of the Welsh population in 2001 was born outside of Wales, compared to 13% of the English and Scottish populations, and 9% of the residents of Northern Ireland. The paper said there had been a net out-migration of 16 to 30-year-olds from Wales, at the same time as a net immigration of people from all other age groups.

The explanation for the seemingly contradictory findings is that those with ambition leave early, while the rest are more reconciled to their fate.

References:

Richard Jones and Peter Sloane, 'Regional Differences in Job Satisfaction: Why are the Welsh so happy at Work';

Stephen Drinkwater and David Blackaby, 'Migration and Labour Market Differences: The Case of Wales'.

Papers presented at the Royal Economic Society Annual Conference at the University of Wales, Swansea.

Welsh Course 2004

By Stephan Charbonneau

For more than a quarter of a century, Cymdeithas Madog has held an annual Welsh language course, known as Cwrs Cymraeg, at various locations across North America. This year's edition, entitled "Y Ddeilen Goch," or The Red Leaf, took place in Ottawa at Carleton University in late July.

The week-long course attracted a sizeable delegation of intrepid Americans, a few Welsh guests, as well as the requisite Canadian contingent.

Approximately seventy people got involved in singing, dancing, and other cultural activities, injecting a Welsh flavour into every part of the experience.

In essence, Cwrs Cymraeg felt like a family reunion of sorts, but a lot more convivial. However, as with any family, it could only prosper with the care of a good circle of "ffrindiau" (friends), exemplified by the relationship between the course and the Ottawa Welsh Society.

On behalf of Cymdeithas Madog, I would like to thank the society for their generous financial support; their gift of three hundred dollars made our welcoming reception a great success. Even more impressive was the society's donation of five hundred dollars to a young Canadian Welsh learner, Francisca Lanthier of Ottawa, without which she could not have attended the course.

Finally, I want to thank Pawl W. Birt, our local organizer, and the society's very own Glenson T. Jones, as well as the rest of the local organizing committee.

A Joke from the WNGGA Banquet

One busy weekend, the BBC news mistakenly announced that the world would come to an end on Sunday.

They later apologized, but commented on the difference reactions of their regional audiences;

- in Wales, many people went to chapel
- in Ireland, many people got drunk, but
- in Scotland, there were a lot of garage sales

Local News

• **Greg & Lisa May** are pleased to announce the arrival of their second daughter, **Elin May** on 25th August 12.36pm, weighing 6lbs 11oz. Everything went well, very quickly (3.5hr), and everybody is doing well. You'll also be pleased to know they're settling into life in Paignton, their loft conversion is almost finished (just some painting left) and they're enjoying the extra space.

• Best wishes for a speedy recovery are offered to **Rev. Clifford Evans** who is recovering from a recent stroke.

• Condolences are offered to **Rolf and Doreen Latté** on the death of their son in a hiking accident.

Welsh Festival of North America

Buffalo Sept 2-5, 2004

Congratulations to Myfanwy Davis, Festival Chair, on having created such a wonderful festival. She was ably assisted, including (from Ottawa) Alison Lawson who coordinated the Eisteddfod and Sheila Pepper who was in charge of the tours.

Alan Thomas seemed to be everywhere! He was Organist, Accompanist and Eisteddfod Adjudicator (and rumour has it, also cooked the steaks!) Others who were involved were Roy Morris, Ian Morris & Barbara Colton.

It was an action packed 3 or 4 days, (depending on the number of tours you went on) for all ages. An unusual addition to this years festival was the Welsh Antiques and Collectables Road Show. A number of people brought Welsh heirlooms etc to the Festival and experts explained and valued these (in front of a TV camera) to be broadcast in Wales on S4C. A few items had been brought from Wales and were later auctioned off at the intermission in the evening Concert. The short opening ceremony was Thursday night and this was followed by an exciting concert of traditional Welsh folk music by Crasdant from Wales.

We had many hard choices to make for there were 20 seminars over Friday and Saturday. BUT, there was also the Eisteddfod running over the same period. AND, there was a film festival from Wales. Jill went to the Eisteddfod and I took in a number of Seminars. Neither of us was able to fit in any of the films from Wales!

On Friday evening was the Grand Banquet, which was followed by series of songs and arias by an exciting new tenor from Anglesey, Wales. Gwyn Hughes Jones was a winner of the Kathleen Ferrier Scholarship and has won an number of other awards. In 1995, he made his opera debut with the Welsh National Opera singing the role of Ismaele in Nabucco. He has since sung in London, Paris, Lyon, Brussels, Norway, Austria, Israel, Japan and the USA. He has two CDs on the Sain label.

In the Eisteddfod, Olive Phillips was the winner in the Senior Solo Singing category. She also competed in the Welsh language and in the English language poetry contests. Craig Hughes competed in the English language poetry category, see page two.

After the Grand Concert on Saturday, we heard the Toronto Male Voice Choir, who were in absolutely top form. We also heard Sandra Stringer, formerly from Ottawa, singing some of her lovely mezzo-soprano repertoire. As well, the very talented Robin Huw Bowen played his Welsh triple harp. Sandra Stringer and the Toronto Male Voice Choir also sang on Sunday during the two Gymanfa Ganu sessions.

Next year's Festival of Wales will be held in Orlando, Florida from Sept 1-4, 2005.

He started to sing
As he tackled the thing
Which couldn't be done
... And he did it!

Bog Snorkelling in Wales!

Extracted from The Telegraph, August 21 04

and The Western Mail, August 31 04

Gordon Green started it all 30 years ago. Now, mad pursuits like bog-snorkelling have put a tiny Welsh town firmly on the map - and given a big boost to local house prices.

Llanwrtyd Wells (population 604) isn't much more than a river bridge and a gas station but for anyone with a taste for the unusual it offers rather more.

Gordon's first idea was the Man versus Horse Marathon, a 22-mile race run over all sorts of terrain, now in its 25th year. It was instantly successful, and these days attracts about 35 horses and 350 runners. (This year, for the first time, two legs beat four, earning Huw Lobb, a 27-year-old IT consultant, £25,000 in prize money.)

Spurred on by this triumph, late-night discussions over the bar of the Neuadd produced a string of further initiatives, usually with an eccentric twist; the Real Ale Wobble, for example, is a cycle race with free beer served at checkpoints.

This year's World Bog Snorkelling Championships were the 18th; the winner is the fastest to swim two 60ft lengths of evil-smelling sludge in snorkel gear without using any recognisable swimming stroke.

The town has made a name for itself around the world with its collection of wacky races and peculiar festivals. In January it plays host to the Saturnalia Beer Festival, where more than 50 real ales and beverages are available for those brave enough, along with a bizarre selection of delicacies, including "Lumbuli Assi Ita Fiunt" otherwise known as Small Roast Testicles.

The area is also home to a number of walking events, including the Drovers Walks, and the Welsh International Four-Day Walks.

Today, these events produce every year a revenue of £1.5 million and attract 25,000 visitors - outnumbering the local population by 40 to 1.

A Joke from the WNGGA Banquet

A minister was to give his first sermon in chapel. He chose to take his lesson from the story of Adam and Eve and so he read the book of Genesis. Then he read commentaries on the story. Then he wrote his sermon, straining over every word and thought. He practiced his presentation. Then he changed some of the sermon and practiced again.

By Sunday morning he was very nervous. He took his sermon and walked to front of the chapel but on approaching the lectern he dropped the sermon.

He quickly picked up his papers and reorganized them in front of him. After pausing a few moments to gather his thoughts, he started reading. On reaching the bottom of the first page, he read "and Adam said to Eve,". He turned to the next page but paused. He looked at the other pages, and then looked up and said, "I've lost a leaf!"