



Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant – Valley Press

Mis Ionawr 2005 – January 2005

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Digwyddiadau - Events for 2005

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|---------------------------------|------------------|
| St. David's Day Banquet & Dance | Sat. Feb 26 |
| Gymanfa Ganu | Sun. Feb. 27 |
| English Film Night | Tuesday March 22 |
| Pot Luck & Annual meeting | April or May |

Film Night 7:30 pm Tuesday March 22 Arthur's Dyke – 1:48

In their University days, three men set out on the longest walk of their lives. They vowed to repeat the walk, but this time (some 20 years later) they are joined by a forty year old wife and mother who is in the midst of a mid-life crisis.

Nice lightweight late night BBC film with a lot of familiar UK television faces such as the ever reliable Robert Daws. Could have done with more of Brian Conley as Pauline Quirke's unfaithful husband. His insensitive oafs are always a laugh. Check him out as Doug Digby, the bullying PE teacher in The Grimleys, an overlooked UK comedy of a few years back.

The scenery is, of course marvellous. Could be a tourist ad for Wales. Arthur's (or Offa's) Dyke is spectacular. Two high-points, for the " lads " are the almost Carry On scenes with Ellie Beaven and Rebecca Lacey. Gratuitous but fun. Worth seeing.

Just for the record, Offa's Dyke was the Anglo-Saxon equivalent of the Berlin Wall, (or, to be more up to date, the Palestine Wall.) It is 180 miles long, and built by Offa, King of Mercia, in the latter half of the 8th century to separate the Welsh from the English. Today it winds through English and Welsh Counties, thus one gets a bit of both, which the film conveys.

Call Glen at 592-8957 to reserve a seat. Join us for the

ST DAVID'S DAY DINNER AND DANCE

(traditional Welsh food: leek soup, roast lamb)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26TH

Social 6 pm – Dinner 7 pm

PANORAMA ROOM
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
101 LYON STREET

Speaker: Mr David G. Jones

TICKETS -- \$46 per person

CONTACT: Alison Lawson, 725-2704
(Deadline for receiving payment – Feb 22)

ST DAVID'S DAY GYMANFA GANU

(Hymn Singing Festival)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

3 p.m.
(If you have a WNGGA Welsh Hymnbook, please bring it)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
470 Roosevelt Ave.

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

A Child's Christmas (in Wales & in the Prairies)

The ever popular Almonte-in-Concert series, sponsored by CBC Radio Two, presented "A Child's Christmas" on Dec 11 which was broadcast several times over the Christmas period. The first half involved readings from "A Northern Nativity: Christmas Dreams of a Prairie Boy" by William Kurelek and the second half was a selection of readings from "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas. The readers were Ian Ross and the Honourable John C. Crosbie. Appropriate music was played between readings with singing by the Toronto Children's Chorus A Cappella Choir.

Shannon Mercer Shines in Local Opera

by Alison Lawson

Several members of the society were delighted to see Shannon Mercer perform in the recent Opera Lyra 20th Anniversary Celebration at Centrepointe. Shannon sang in two amusing operas by Menotti, 'The Old Maid and the Thief' and 'The Telephone', and had the leading role in the latter. Her singing, acting and diction were all amazing - a really polished performance.

After completing her studies with the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto, Shannon has gone on to a busy singing career. She was recently awarded two prestigious scholarships by the Canada Council: the Emerging Artist grant and the Bernard Diamant prize awarded annually to help a promising singer. These were presented to Shannon during the Ottawa Chamber Festival last summer and I'm sure Society members would like to know that in her acceptance speech, Shannon thanked the Ottawa Welsh Society and the Welsh community in general for all their support.

Shannon is going to Vienna in early February to continue her studies. Our last chance to hear her for a while will be the evening of Saturday January 29 when she will be singing (as last year's winner) in the Brian Law Opera Scholarship competition. This will be held at 8pm at the 1st Unitarian Church, 30 Cleary Ave (off Richmond Road).

Cymdeithas Madog Welsh Course

Cymdeithas Madog announces that its annual Welsh language and culture course will this year be held at the University of Rio Grande, Ohio July 17-24. 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 (English subtitles), as well as invited speakers for the early afternoon sessions.

The course is very friendly and there are no exams! More information can be found from the course website at <http://www.madog.org> or from Glen Jones (592-8957).

The Welsh Great Escape Film

The film about the Welsh Great Escape was enjoyed by 10 people on January 11. An unfortunate problem with the planned location caused the presentation to be relocated from the central location out to Kanata which resulted in 5 other people having to cancel their plans to attend. Several others have expressed their regret at not being free to attend on that evening.

All of those who attended felt that it was well done and very interesting.

Please send news and notices to Glenson Jones

at 592-8957 or g.t.jones@rogers.com !

Mari Lwyd and Christmas Party of Y Clwb Cymraeg

The Club Cymraeg held its annual Mari Lwyd portrayal at its Christmas Party on December 12. It was attended by 25 members. The pot luck supper was absolutely splendid and the evening ended with readings by several of the attendees. One of the highlights was a reading by Charles Fisher, one of Dylan Thomas' former school chums, of part of "Under Milk Wood". For more about the Mari Lwyd tradition see <http://www.folkwales.org.uk/mari.html> .

For further information on Y Clwb Cymraeg, please contact Paul Birt on 562-5800 extension 3767

Peredur

A hero of one of the stories in the Mabinogion, appears to be the Celtic original of Perceval or Parzival. Wagner found the story Peredur Son of Evrawg in Comte de Villemarque's Contes populaires des anciens Bretons.

Peredur was an ancient traditional hero of the Old North, whose name is found in the Gododdin. With Owein and Geraint ab Erbin this tale is known as one of the Three Romances in the Mabinogion. The three tales are united in their similarity of style and subject-matter: the names of the protagonists in all three have close parallels in those of their counterparts in the corresponding poems of Chrétien de Troyes - Perceval li Gallois, Yvain, Erec et Enide. In the Welsh version, Peredur's story contains within it the germ of the Grail legend, which was developed more explicitly by Chrétien de Troyes. See Goetinck's Peredur: A Study of Welsh Tradition in the Grail Legends.

In-formals Cwmni Cymreig are kicking off the New Year with a SALE on their Welsh Dragon Nadolig Llawn Ties, Full and Half Dragon Ties.

The Welsh Dragon 'Nadolig Llawn' Tie is £10.00 each, Limited Edition Tie, only have a handful left in stock.

Full and Half Dragon Ties at £12.00 each.

Please don't forget to mention the SALE when ordering.

Group Orders will benefit from further discounts!

This offer is only available until January 31st 2005.

Phone: 714 761-9462

info@in-formals.co.uk

www.in-formals.co.uk

Magazines from Wales

There are several interesting magazines published in Wales. Three of these have quite different approaches.

Cambria is Culture & lifestyle | Fashion, Food & Drink | Current Affairs | Hard-hitting features...and much more.

Cambria Magazine, P.O.Box 22, Carmarthen, SA32 7YH Wales. See <http://www.cambriamagazine.com/>

Ein Gwlad is political quarterly magazine with in-depth articles on major Welsh issues from a nationalist perspective.

Ein Gwlad, Plas y Gwynfryn, Llancynfelyn, Machynlleth SY20 8PU Wales. Contact: basil.thomas@cambria.f9.co.uk

Welsh Country is a bi-monthly magazine devoted to the landscape, Welsh products and charismatic people that make up that diverse country.

See <http://www.welshcountry.co.uk/index.htm>

Welsh Country, Aberbanc, Llandysul, Ceredigion, Wales, SA44 5NP Wales. Contact: info@welshcountry.co.uk
Tel: 01559 372010 Fax: 01559 371995

Children's Christmas Party

The Children's Christmas Party, organised by Kim Power, was held in the afternoon of Sunday December 19 at the Glen Cairn United Church. It was attended by 10 children and as many parents and helpers. The children were involved in a variety of activities while the adults enjoyed some relaxed conversation. Santa Claus (G.T.J.) arrived in the "nick" of time with his bag of presents and then everyone had refreshments.

Carol Service

Our annual Service of Carols and Lessons, organised by Dianne Evans, was held the evening of Sunday December 19 with about 80 or 90 attendees. It was very successful but unfortunately Reverend Clifford Evans was unable to be present so two of our past Presidents, Roy and Ian Morris, stepped in to fill the void.

Alan Thomas, our organist and the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society with their director, Marilyn Jenkins did a splendid job of setting the atmosphere. The soloist was John Griffiths.

As usual, we all had a feast of tea, coffee, refreshments and lots of conversation after the service.

Saint Dwynwen

We celebrate Saint Dwynwen's Day on the 25th of January.

Dwynwen was the daughter of Brychan Brycheiniog. Brychan held a feast in his palace one evening and Dwynwen, her sister and brother had been invited.

Everyone wore their best clothes and they went to the grand hall to eat and dance. At the feast, there was a young prince called Maelon. He fell in love with Dwynwen. Dwynwen fell in love with him also.

Before long, Maelon asked Brychan for Dwynwen's hand in marriage. Unfortunately, Brychan did not like Maelon and he wasn't willing for him to marry her.

Maelon went back to Dwynwen to tell her. Both were very sad and Maelon went home.

Lonely and sad, Dwynwen went to the forest and fell asleep. In a dream, an angel appeared to her and gave her a drink and three wishes.

One wish was that she could become the patron saint of lovers, and she was granted that wish.

She went away in a boat one day and landed on Llanddwyn Island, near Anglesey, where she built a church. Lovers still go to Llanddwyn Island to make a wish in the well.

Apology

A Gremlin crept into the editor's computer in November and a couple of items were omitted from the report on our Noson Lawen.

Wendy Wynne-Jones also read "The Theology of Hair", by Menna Elfyn, translated by Elin ap Hywel.

As well, Pegi Domitrovitz sang "Somewhere over the Rainbow" and Joe Domitrovitz and Josh McDonald sang "Christmas Shoes".

Celtic Festival

We have just heard that there is an Evening of Celtic Music and Dance being planned for Friday March 4th.

One of the organizers is Welsh and would like to see some Welsh involvement with the event.

- Are any of you interested in helping with the planning of the event?
- Would anyone like to participate – in the choir or as a musician, or some other way?
- Is there anyone who knows Welsh dancing, or would like to learn?

If so please contact Jo Dufay at 526-9864 or dufay@sympatico.ca.

E-Steddfod 2005

It is my great pleasure to invite you to take part in the fourth Museum of Welsh Life E-Steddfod.

A list of wide-ranging competitions, in English and in Welsh, which should include something of interest for everybody is at <http://www.nmgw.ac.uk/mwl/2005/e-steddfod/>

The winners will be announced on the Museum's website (www.aocc.ac.uk) on March 1st, 2005.

2004 was a very exciting chapter in the E-Steddfod's development with more competitions and more entries than ever being received. Through the World Wide Web, the E-Steddfod has managed to reach a much wider audience than before and offers competitions for the Welsh at heart in every corner of the globe. A database of Welsh Societies has been created affording the opportunity to E-mail the List of Competitions to over 70 overseas Societies and groups, many of them based in the USA and Canada. Entries for competitions have been received from Ohio to Auckland and from Helsinki to Haverforwest.

(Editor's note: and Canada)

All entries to be sent by post or E-mail by **February 11th**

If interested, please contact: Meinwen Ruddock at Meinwen.Ruddock@nmgw.ac.uk

Our own David G. Jones and Craig Hughes won prizes in the E-Steddfod last year.

What about the rest of you?

Craig Hughes' daughter, Deryn, lives in Asheville, North Carolina. As a result of the last hurricane she is having to re-roof her cabin.

"Old House...Old House"

by Craig Hughes

Your roof is raped, trepanned and ripped apart,
Shingle by shingle, guttered and gaunt,
By iron men with prying steel.

Unseeing, they look into your attic mind,
Blind to your cob-webbed history,
Deaf to the voices we loved.

Craig also wrote:

I was visiting up the Ottawa river and I came home with some thoughts about the beauty of the day, the sadness of bi-lingual dispute, and my hopes for tomorrow .

Crown Point.....11.10.04

I am watching the wind finger-print the river,
leaving loops and whorls, and little spit curls,
forming an upside-down back-to-front message,
on the windows of the long room.

"Peace....be Thankful...it is the Gifting Time
When bannered hills beget in rut, tomorrow's fawns,
And rivers bear their diamond ice to grace a sea-queen's brow.

"We speak one tongue,
Bridging both shores.
"Let it always be so....

I am watching the vespering sun,
As it kneels,
On the velvet cassock of the hills.

We give thanks together.

This is also by Craig:

If I had to give these thoughts a title I would say, **Y Twrpeg**which wouldn't help you unless I translate itThe Turnpike But I only remember the places and the people in Welsh. I suppose they had turnpikes in England but they weren't in the foreground of our lives....somewhere over the hill beyond The Severn....they never touched our comings and goings. To tell you the truth, the day of the turnpike was over before my time but the legends of riot and resentment still hung around the kitchen stove before we went to bed. "Imagine...just think of it....jumping the cruel spikes that topped the toll-house gatesand bullets flying after you." Bloody Vaughans.

We didn't have to imagine it....there was a Twrpeg just below our house....placed there by some fiscal coney-catcher to net the carts and their cargo's as they groaned up Y Lawnt or tip-toed past Capel Salem on their way up Cader Road or on past Penmaen to Arthog. "Check-mate"....Everytime.

Oh, they knew their business....charging for everything....even coffins, I was told. Not that you can believe everything....even when you want to. Mind you, I knew Mr Evans at the Twrpeg by our house would never tell

me any fibs....even told me he was 182 years of age....and his dog had saved his life in the Wars against the Zulus....had won the Victoria Cross or Paddington Station or something like that. And Mr Evan's son was even older than Mr Evans.....he was bright yellow from getting pregnant when he was off shooting the Boers in Africa.....bitten by a Zambezi....always falling asleep after that.

Mind you, how they all slept in that twt little house with the two-way windows and all that traffic passing was a regular marvel. There was Mr Evans and his wife, smaller but still had to be counted, the son with the jaunds, two daughters, and a small boy who was never explained to me except he was a Butterfly.

And of course the dog, and the cat on Mrs Evans' shoulder. And on warm days there was the canary in a cage to share the bench with Mr Evans.....saved his life when he was working in the goldmine at Bontddu....no..no..no...it wasn't gas....that was for coal miners to worry about....but canaries could hear through their feet...just like elephants. And his canary started whistling there was a rock-fall going to happen so he got everybody out and down to The Halfway for a beer before closing time. And, if the Cruelty people weren't around he would show me his poor blind gold-finch, sweetest singer of the bird world.

And how would you know it had been a Twrpeg ? Duw, just look at it....two windows....only the Merediths had two windows....one with ladies fashions from Paris and the other window for looking out. There were houses which had lost their windows when the government started taxing them to pay for the American Revolution or the new prisons in Australia. The twrpeg at the top of the old bridge across the Wnion....the one before the railway came in 1865....yes, that one with the lady with the goitre who scolded us, quite impartially, as we went up the hill to the Council Schoolnow that one, that twrpeg, collected from people going to Llanelyd over the top or round to the Pil by Hengwrt along the river or turning right to Llanfachreth and Rhydymain and Bala. Going to Llanfachreth was to Nannau and the Vaughans who never paid. Bloody Vaughans. Here Mr Evans would spit.

The town was a mouse trap. The moment you left The Square and set off across Y Aran for Brithdir and Dinas Mawddwy or Talyllyn or Shrewsbury and London there was a toll house ready with the collection plate. And if you got to Rhydymain on the Bala Road, just past Y Hywel Dda on the start up Y Garneddwen, another twrpeg waited to collect whatever money you hadn't spent at Y Hywel Dda. That one was by Tyddyn Un Nos.....a house that was built in one night and had smoke in the chimney before the people in the big house got up.....that was on a Vaughan property....he had ordered the tenant farmer off for voting against his candidate. Ah...those wicked Welsh...got together and built the house which still stands there, strong as a pony....and entitled by law to squat forever. Bloody Vaughans....