



Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant – Valley Press Mis Hydref 2005 – October 2005

Llywydd - President

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Digwyddiadau - Events for 2005-06

Faggots & Peas Noson Lawen	Saturday Nov 19
Ottawa Welsh Choral Society Concert	Saturday Nov 26
OWS Children's Christmas Party	Saturday Dec 17
OWS Christmas Carol Service	Sunday Dec 18
OWS Banquet and Dance	Saturday Feb 25

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 Nosen Lawen on
November 19th
(don't worry, it is a Saturday!).

Call Kim at 592-5795, or email at
jkrd.power@sympatico.ca

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

Faggots & Peas Noson Lawen, Saturday November 19th

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 Alison at 725-2704, or email at
alisonlawson@sympatico.ca

Ottawa Welsh Choral Society Christmas Concert

November 26, 2005 7:30 pm
Bromley Rd Baptist Church, Ottawa
1900 Lauder Drive

\$15 adults Children under 16 free
(Tickets available at the door)

Children's Christmas Party

Saturday December 17
2:30 to 4:00 pm
Glen Cairn United Church
140 Abbeyhill Dr. Kanata
Registration Deadline - Friday December 9
Phone Kim 592-5795

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday December 18
7 pm
Westminster Presbyterian Church
470 Roosevelt Avenue
(Everyone is invited to bring something to
share with their tea or coffee after the service.)

Advance Notice for Annual Banquet and Dance

Please put the date of Saturday February 25 in your
calendar for the Annual Banquet and Dance in honour of our
Patron Saint, David, or Dewi Sant, as he is known in Welsh.
There will be further information and forms for ordering
tickets in the January Bwletin.

President's Message

Dear Friends:

As we embark upon another year of events and fellowship
for the Ottawa Welsh Society, may I extend to you warm
greetings on behalf of the members of the Executive
Committee. Plans are already well underway for our yearly
activities (see detailed information about the dates and
venues for the various events). Our annual picnic was held
in Kanata on August 7th this year, at Walter Baker Park.
Thirty-six members attended, taking advantage of the
fabulous weather to gather with friends, to dine together and
to enjoy the refreshing water-park and the large play-
structure. Many thanks to John Griffiths for his expert help in
arranging for all of the food and also for his master
barbequing techniques! It was wonderful to see so many
members in attendance and we look forward to returning to
this agreeable location again next year.

As I officially assume the role of President, I would like to
begin by thanking the following members who completed
their terms of office over the past year: Wendy Wynne-
Jones (Vice-President), Barbara Colton (Membership),

Rhian Evans, Harry Corrin, and Gail Phillips (Members at Large). Thank you all for your years of service and your contribution to the organization of the Ottawa Welsh Society. I would also like to thank Glenson Jones for his leadership as President, a role that he has carried out for past four years now. Though he has stepped down from the President's position, Glenson has agreed to stay on the Committee as publisher of the newsletter and I know that we will all benefit from his years of experience, well organized notes and superb long term memory.

This year's Committee, though experienced, is rather small in number compared to previous years and will need to rely on the help of members to run events successfully. We would welcome anyone who is interested in serving on the Committee, which meets approximately once per month (sometimes less frequently) on Tuesdays at Bromley Road Baptist Church. Please call me at 592-5795 if you are interested in being involved in this way. If you are unable to make a year-long commitment, please consider offering your help for one of the activities. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Be sure to take note of the information about the popular Faggots and Peas Dinner and Nosen Lawen, coming up on November 19th. Be sure to place your order early so you won't be disappointed. I look forward to seeing you there.

Kim Power, President

Shadow over Plaid's 80th birthday
BBC News 5 August 2005, By Mark Hannaby

Plaid Cymru is 80 years old today, but as members celebrate at the National Eisteddfod they find the party at something of a crossroads.

The death of Gwynfor Evans in April deprived it of its most totemic figure. It also had a disappointing general election, losing the Ceredigion seat and failing to make any gains.

Gwynfor Evans won its first parliamentary seat in Carmarthen in 1966, but until the 50s Plaid was more pressure group than political party.

'Tension'

Early leaders like Saunders Lewis pursued direct action campaigns against the erosion of Welsh language and culture. Lewis went to prison for setting fire to the RAF bombing school at Penyberth in 1936.

Former Plaid candidate and party expert Professor Laura McAllister said:

"The party was formed by a small group of individuals who felt that there needed to be a much greater Welsh dimension to politics and a separate Welsh party.

"They talked about campaigning for Welsh freedom in those days so we didn't have any of the language of independence or self-government and they were very much tied in with an idea of a Welsh civilisation and the Welsh language.

"They were campaigning electorally and trying to put up candidates for some elections with very little success in the early days but they were also trying to fight direct action campaigns on specific issues.

"And therein lies the history of Plaid Cymru, really: this tension between being a political party and being a campaigning or pressure group."

But Prof McAllister said today's Plaid had failed to adjust well to devolution and argued that it had to think seriously about coalition with other parties.

"The stark electoral facts are that Plaid Cymru is very, very unlikely to form a government in Cardiff Bay on its own," she said.

"I don't see there's any way the party can avoid this issue because if it's really serious about shedding its pressure group past and moving to becoming a serious political party and a party of government it has to think about its relationship with the other parties."

Plaid reached a pinnacle in 1999, when in the first Welsh assembly elections it won traditional Labour strongholds like Islwyn, Rhondda and Llanelli, as well as Rhondda Cynon Taf and Caerphilly councils.

But in 2003 Plaid lost those assembly seats and the following year both the valley councils.

In this year's general election not only did it lose Ceredigion, but failed to regain its main target seat of Ynys Mon.

What happened? Critics might argue the party is still too much in thrall to particular campaigns - the fate of the Welsh language, the vexed question of "independence," or the need for affordable rural housing, for example.

But that was denied by South Wales West AM Helen Mary Jones. "I think that's absolutely not the case," she said. "Plaid Cymru speaks to and for all the people of Wales."

Affordable housing isn't an issue for rural communities any more it's an issue for all of us and it's an issue the British political parties are singularly failing to address."

She did, however, concede that the party needed to rebuild its electoral organisation from the ground up.

'Less organised'

Rhondda Cynon Taf Plaid councillor Syd Morgan described it as "the only party in Wales that hasn't adjusted to devolution.

"Labour, Conservatives and Lib Dems have all re-branded themselves as Welsh parties with distinctive Welsh policies," said Mr Morgan.

"Plaid Cymru has not presented a modern corporate image: the party as a whole does not resonate with the people of Wales. Plaid Cymru nowadays tends to be less organised than things were and the party needs to get itself into gear at all kinds of levels.

"I don't think there's much wrong with Plaid Cymru's message, but (the party has) difficulty in getting that message over."

Pennill o'r Gwrs Gymraeg – Ohio 2005

Dysgwr ydw i a dwi'n iawn
Yn cysgu yn y bore a gweithio drwy'r pnawn
Dwi'n torri sill, dwi'n bwyta berf
Dwi'n mynd i'r ty bach
Dydd Mercher dwi'n mynd i odli
A chael bara brith gyda te!!!

Dwi'n torri sill, yn bwyta berf
Ac yn gwisgo blodau hardd
Dwi'n gwisgo dillad merched
A hongian o gympas pob bardd.

Dwi'n torri sill, yn bwyta berf
Yn gwisgo sodlau uchel
Syspendars a bra
Hoffwn i fod yn lodes
Just fel fy papa.

["Coedwigwr ydw i" gan M. ap Python]
Addaswyd gan Glyn ap Sirol

Welsh Rugby in Ottawa

Blackwood Rugby Football Club, a Welsh Boys junior team (all under 17) came to Ottawa on July 24, 2005 and crushed the Barrhaven Scottish junior boys in a "friendly match" by a score of 127 to 0. To be fair, the Blackwood team have been in existence for 100 years and the Barrhaven team are in their first year. The Welsh team have also been playing together since they were 9 years old.

LLUDD AND LLEVELYS

(Translation by Lady Charlotte Guest)

BELI the Great, the son of Manogan, had three sons, Lludd, and Caswallawn, and Nynyaw; and according to the story he had a fourth son called Llevelys and after the death of Beli, the kingdom of the Island of Britain fell into the hands of Lludd his eldest son; and Lludd ruled prosperously, and rebuilt the walls of London, and encompassed it about with numberless towers. And after that he bade the citizens build houses therein, such as no houses in the kingdoms could equal. And moreover he was a mighty warrior, and generous and liberal in giving meat and drink to all that sought them. And though he had many castles and cities this one loved he more than any. And he dwelt therein most part of the year, and therefore was it called Caer Lludd, and at last Caer London. And after the stranger-race came there, it was called London, or Lwndrys.

Lludd loved Llevelys best of all his brothers, because he was a wise and discreet man. Having heard that the king of France had died, leaving no heir except a daughter, and that he had left all his possessions in her hands, he came to Lludd his brother, to beseech his counsel and aid. And that not so much for his own welfare, as to seek to add to the glory and honour and dignity of his kindred, if he might go to France to woo the maiden for his wife. And forthwith his brother conferred with him, and this counsel was pleasing unto him.

So he prepared ships and filled them with armed knights, and set forth towards France. And as soon as they had landed, they sent messengers to show the nobles of France

the cause of the embassy. And by the joint counsel of the nobles of France and of the princes, the maiden was given to Llevelys, and the crown of the kingdom with her. And thenceforth he ruled the land discreetly, and wisely and happily, as long as his life lasted.

After a space of time had passed, three plagues fell on the Island of Britain, such as none in the islands had ever seen the like of. The first was a certain race that came, and was called the Coranians; and so great was their knowledge, that there was no discourse upon the face of the Island, however low it might be spoken, but what, if the wind met it, it was known to them. And through this they could not be injured.

The second plague was a shriek which came on every May-eve, over every hearth in the Island of Britain. And this went through people's hearts, and so seared them, that the men lost their hue and their strength, and the women their children, and the young men and the maidens lost their senses, and all the animals and trees and the earth and the waters, were left barren.

The third plague was, that however much of provisions and food might be prepared in the king's courts, were there even so much as a year's provision of meat and drink, none of it could ever be found, except what was consumed in the first night. And two of these plagues, no one ever knew their cause, therefore was there better hope of being freed from the first than from the second and third.

And thereupon King Lludd felt great sorrow and care, because that he knew not how he might be freed from these plagues. And he called to him all the nobles of his kingdom, and asked counsel of them what they should do against these afflictions. And by the common counsel of the nobles, Lludd the son of Beli, went to Llevelys his brother, king of France, for he was a man great of counsel and wisdom, to seek his advice.

And they made ready a fleet, and that in secret and in silence, lest that race should know the cause of their errand, or any besides the king and his counsellors. And when they were made ready, they went into their ships, Lludd and those whom he chose with him. And they began to cleave the seas towards France.

And when these tidings came to Llevelys, seeing that he knew not the cause of his brother's ships, he came on the other side to meet him, and with him was a fleet vast of size. And when Lludd saw this, he left all the ships out upon the sea except one only; and in that one he came to meet his brother, and he likewise with a single ship came to meet him. And when they were come together, each put his arms about the other's neck, and they welcomed each other with brotherly love.

After that Lludd had shown his brother the cause of his errand, Llevelys said that he himself knew the cause of the coming to those lands. And they took counsel together to discourse on the matter otherwise than thus, in order that the wind might not catch their words, nor the Coranians know what they might say. Then Llevelys caused a long horn to be made of brass, and through this horn they discoursed. But whatsoever words they spoke through this horn, one to the other, neither of them could hear any other

but harsh and hostile words. And when Llevelys saw this, and that there was a demon thwarting them and disturbing through this horn, he caused wine to be put therein to wash it. And through the virtue of the wine the demon was driven out of the horn. And when their discourse was unobstructed, Llevelys told his brother that he would give him some insects whereof he should keep some to breed, lest by chance the like affliction might come a second time. And other of these insects he should take and braise in water. And he assured him that it would have power to destroy the race of the Coranians. That is to say, that when he came home to his kingdom he should call together all the people both of his own race and of the race of the Coranians for a conference, as though with the intent of making peace between them; and that when they were all together, he should take this charmed water, and cast it over all alike. And he assured him that the water would poison the race of the Coranians, but that it would not slay or harm those of his own race.

And the second plague," said he, "that is in thy dominion, behold it is a dragon. And another dragon of a foreign race is fighting with it, and striving to overcome it. And therefore does your dragon make a fearful outcry. And on this wise mayest thou come to know this. After thou hast returned home, cause the Island to be measured in its length and breadth, and in the place where thou dost find the exact central point, there cause a pit to be dug, and cause a cauldron full of the best mead that can be made to be put in the pit, with a covering of satin over the face of the cauldron. And then, in thine own person do thou remain there watching, and thou wilt see the dragons fighting in the form of terrific animals. And at length they will take the form of dragons in the air. And last of all, after wearying themselves with fierce and furious fighting, they will fall in the form of two pigs upon the covering, and they will sink in, and the covering with them, and they will draw it down to the very bottom of the cauldron. And they will drink up the whole of the mead; and after that they will sleep. Thereupon do thou immediately fold the covering around them, and bury them in a kistvaen, in the strongest place thou hast in thy dominions, and hide them in the earth. And as long as they shall bide in that strong place no plague shall come to the Island of Britain from elsewhere."

"The cause of the third plague," said he, "is a mighty man of magic, who takes thy meat and thy drink and thy store. And he through illusions and charms causes every one to sleep. Therefore it is needful for thee in thy own person to watch thy food and thy provisions. And lest he should overcome thee with sleep, be there a cauldron of cold water by thy side, and when thou art oppressed with sleep, plunge into the cauldron."

Then Lludd returned back unto his land. And immediately he summoned to him the whole of his own race and of the Coranians. And as Llevelys had taught him, he bruised the insects in water, the which he cast over them all together, and forthwith it destroyed the whole tribe of the Coranians, without hurt to any of the Britons.

And some time after this, Lludd caused the Island to be measured in its length and in its breadth. And in Oxford he

found the central point, and in that place he caused the earth to be dug, and in that pit a cauldron to be set, full of the best mead that could be made, and a covering of satin over the face of it. And he himself watched that night. And while he was there, he beheld the dragons fighting. And when they were weary they fell, and came down upon the top of the satin, and drew it with them to the bottom of the cauldron. And when they had drunk the mead they slept. And in their sleep, Lludd folded the covering around them, and in the securest place he had in Snowdon, he hid them in a kistraen. Now after that this spot was called Dinas Emreis, but before that, Dinas Ffaraon. And thus the fierce outcry ceased in his dominions.

And when this was ended, King Lludd caused an exceeding great banquet to be prepared. And when it was ready, he placed a vessel of cold water by his side, and he in his own proper person watched it. And as he abode thus clad with arms, about the third watch of the night, lo, he heard many surpassing fascinations and various songs. And drowsiness urged him to sleep. Upon this, lest he should be hindered from his purpose and be overcome by sleep, he went often into the water. And at last, behold, a man of vast size, clad in strong, heavy armour, came in, bearing a hamper. And, as he was wont, he put all the food and provisions of meat and drink into the hamper, and proceeded to go with it forth. And nothing was ever more wonderful to Lludd, than that the hamper should hold so much.

And thereupon King Lludd went after him and spoke unto him thus. "Stop, stop," said he, "though thou hast done many insults and much spoil erewhile, thou shalt not do so any more, unless thy skill in arms and thy prowess be greater than mine."

Then he instantly put down the hamper on the floor, and awaited him. And a fierce encounter was between them, so that the glittering fire flew out from their arms. And at the last Lludd grappled with him, and fate bestowed the victory on Lludd. And he threw the plague to the earth. And after he had overcome him by strength and might, he besought his mercy. "How can I grant thee mercy," said the king, "after all the many injuries and wrongs that thou hast done me?"

All the losses that ever I have caused thee," said he, "I will make thee atonement for, equal to what I have taken. And I will never do the like from this time forth. But thy faithful vassal will I be." And the king accepted this from him.

And thus Lludd freed the Island of Britain from the three plagues. And from thenceforth until the end of his life, in prosperous peace did Lludd the son of Beli rule the Island of Britain.

And this Tale is called the Story of Lludd and Llevelys.

And thus it ends.