



# Y Bwletin

## Gwasg y Nant – Valley Press Mis Ebrill 2006 – April 2006

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## Cynnwys - Contents

- Page 1 – Upcoming Events, Notices, President  
Page 2 – President, Persons, Fairy Tales, Shannon Mercer  
Page 3 – Wales Millennium Centre, autonomy for Catalonia  
Page 4 – Welsh Website, Llwyngwrl Gallery

## Digwyddiadau - Events for 2006

OWS Potluck Supper & AGM Tuesday May 16  
OWS Picnic Sunday June 25

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## Donations for Silent Auction

The Ottawa Welsh Society is looking for donations of items of Welsh interest for the Silent Auction to be held in conjunction with the Pot Luck Dinner and AGM.

If you have any books, tapes, CDs, videos about Wales or in Welsh or any collectables from Wales and would be interested in donating them to the Society, please call Glen Jones at 592-8967 or email [g.t.jones@rogers.com](mailto:g.t.jones@rogers.com).

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## Potluck Dinner & AGM

Potluck Dinner 5:30 pm for 6 pm Tuesday May 16  
Annual General Meeting 7:30 pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
470 Roosevelt Ave.

Bring an appetizer, main course, salad or dessert

There will be a **silent auction** of items of Welsh interest.

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

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## Annual General Meeting

The function of the AGM is to receive the annual reports of the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer, to vote on any issues and to elect the Directors for the coming year.

This is not usually a long meeting but it IS IMPORTANT.

Every year we have people who have to retire from the Executive, so it is critical that we have some volunteers every year who are willing to help during the coming year.

Please let Kim know how you would be willing to help.

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## Annual Picnic

Sunday June 25, 2006 – from 3:00 pm

Activities for all ages.

Races and Games for all ages

(Water park on site: bring towels and bathing suit or change of clothes)

Steaks \$ 8.00, Hamburgers \$ 3.00 or Hot Dogs \$ 1.00 .  
Potato salad and coleslaw will be provided.

Bring your own drinks & special food.  
Some soft drinks will be available.

Pot Luck Dessert – your specialty

**Walter Baker Park, Kanata**

About ¼ mile south of Queensway on Terry Fox Drive  
(2<sup>nd</sup> traffic light north of Hazeldean Rd on Terry Fox)  
(Esso Station across the street)

**Please contact Kim Power by June 18 at 592-5795** to confirm your attendance and your choice of food. All food has to be pre-ordered to ensure that we have enough.

BBQ will start about 5:00 pm.

## NA Festival of Wales

The 75<sup>th</sup> annual WNGGA or Festival of Wales will be held in Cincinnati Ohio this year from August 31 to Sept 3. Our own Roy Morris will be conducting the Gymanfa Ganu and Alan Thomas will be the Organist. The Penryn Male Voice Choir based in Bathesda North West Wales will be in attendance. For information see <http://www.nafow.org> . A number of people will be attending from the Ottawa area.

## President's Message

Dear Friends, Greetings to you all! The welcome return of the sunshine and warm weather brings new energy and your Committee is busy making plans for our annual spring and summer events. Let me first bring you up to date on our winter happenings and then tell you about the upcoming activities.

### **St. David's Day Dinner and Dance**

Our banquet was held on February 25th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Seventy-seven guests attended, enjoying a lamb dinner, dancing and entertainment by Dai Bassett, the Singing Farmer, whose humorous songs were well-received. We look forward to seeing Dai and his wife, Sandy, at future Welsh Society events. Many thanks to our Master of Ceremonies, Alan Thomas, for ably guiding us through the evening's festivities. Those of us who tried the Dragon Cocktail, complete with dragon stir stick, found them to be innovative as well as refreshing and thank Myfanwy Davies for providing the recipe to the Crowne Plaza staff. Thank you to Alison Lawson for coordinating all of the many details involved in organizing this event.

### **Gymanfa Ganu**

This year's Gymanfa Ganu, on February 26th, was directed by Roy Morris and accompanied by Alan Thomas. The Reverend Mr. Clifford Evans led the devotions. We enjoyed solos by the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society and by John Griffiths. About 100 people enjoyed the singing of favourite Welsh hymns and then a time of fellowship and refreshment in the church hall. It was a great time to see familiar friends, new faces and to greet visitors from abroad. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the leadership of the event.

### **Potluck Dinner and Annual General Meeting**

Please, make plans to attend our potluck dinner at Westminster Presbyterian church on Roosevelt Avenue, on Tuesday May 16th. The doors open at 5:30 and dinner will be served at 6:00. You are invited to bring a favourite dish to share. Main courses, salads, appetizers and desserts are all welcome. Following dinner, Glen Jones will be running a silent auction involving items of Welsh interest and you are welcome both to bid and to bring similar items to auction. The AGM will begin at 7:30 and you are encouraged to attend even if you can't make it to dinner. This year, a number of Committee members have completed their terms of office and will be stepping down, so there is a great opportunity for you to join in and share in the leadership of the Society. In recent years, different members have each coordinated one of the annual events, a system that allows for greater sharing of interests, abilities and responsibilities. Be sure to take a look at the nomination form attached to this letter and consider how you might be involved in the coming year.

### **Summer Picnic**

Get out your flags and lawn chairs! The annual Welsh Picnic has been booked for Sunday, June 25th at Walter Baker Park in Kanata. This site, on Terry Fox Drive, features a covered shelter, shade trees, a large playground, paved walking paths and, best of all, a water park with any number of ways to soak your children..... and other willing companions. We have the site from 2:00 until 6:00 and will probably serve dinner between 4:30 and 5:00. Your barbeque options are as follows: hotdog \$1.00, hamburger \$3.00, steak \$8.00, including coleslaw and potato salad. Desserts are potluck and you should bring your own drinks. Place your barbeque order with Kim Power (592-5795) between June 1st and June 18th.

I look forward to seeing you at the Potluck Dinner and AGM on May 16th.

Regards, Kimberly Power, President, OWS

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## **Personals**

**Bert Hanmer** (age 91) suffered a fall in Jan 5 but is now recuperating at home. He suffered a setback a short time ago because of an allergic reaction to some food. He wishes to have his best wishes passed to all his friends in our Society.

**Clifford and Christine Evans** are happy to announce that their first grandchild (Meredith Raine Evans) was born on 27 Oct in Los Angeles California.

The Welsh Society of Philadelphia founded in 1722 has awarded its prestigious Robert Morris Award for 2006 to **Dr Paul W. Birt**, Chair of Celtic Studies at the University of Ottawa. The society seeks annually to award recognition of a Welsh-North American who has brought pride and acknowledgement of the contributions of Welsh people in the Americas. Dr Birt was invited to attend the annual St David's dinner held in Philadelphia on March 4th 2006 where he received the award. The award this year was given in recognition of the recipient's contribution to Welsh scholarship, and promotion of the Welsh language.

The Robert Morris Award was instigated in 1954 in memory of a noted Welsh-American of the early 18th century who was credited with financing the War for American Independence. Amongst other recipients of the award are John Llewellyn Lewis (1958), the labour leader, Dr Islwyn Thomas O.B.E (1981), writer on Welsh heritage, Dr Gwynfor Evans (1984), author, historian and former president of Plaid Cymru, Eirlys Evans Lewis (1998), Welsh soloist, and Sir Howard Stringer (2003) CEO Sony America.

**Lynda Griffiths DAVIES**, niece of John Griffiths died in Wales on January 17. John and his daughter Lynn attended the funeral on Jan. 23.

**Maestro Lyn Harry** died on January 21, 2006, aged 80 years. Lyn was born in Llanelli. He was gifted as a singer and as a pianist, gaining degrees at the Royal College of Music in London England. He was also a fluent Welsh speaker.

Lyn was well known for his work with the Morriston Male Voice and the London Welsh Voice choirs before coming to Hamilton Ontario about 1975. He went on to found the Canadian Orpheous Male Voice Choir and later, the Burlington Male Voice Choir.

He had been an integral part of the choral music scene in North America for many years.

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## **Welsh stars narrate fairy tales**

Welsh celebrities have swapped acting parts for fairy tales for a CD produced by a group of teenagers to help raise funds for the Noah's Ark Appeal.

Actors Matthew Rhys, Brian Hibbard and presenter Sarra Elgan are among the stars who are reading the stories.

Pupils at Blackwood Comprehensive School came up with the idea as part of a business project.

A quarter of the profits made from the CD will go to the fundraising efforts for the Children's Hospital for Wales.

Called Tiny Tales with Big Names, the double CD features stories narrated by the stars in Welsh and English and is aimed at children aged between four and five.

You can see an article praising the effort at ["http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/wales/south\\_east/4521805.stm"](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/south_east/4521805.stm)

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### Shannon Mercer Sang in Falstaff

Jill and I attended the Opera Lyra production of the Verdi opera **Falstaff** Monday April 10 at the National Arts Centre. We were thrilled at the performance and were especially pleased to see Shannon Mercer singing the role of Nannetta.

She did a great job (and got her man – on stage at any rate). Falstaff is a very funny comic opera. It was sung four times between April 8 and April 15.

Glenson Jones

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**Wales Millennium Centre** is the pre-eminent showcase for the performing arts in Wales. It houses the magnificent 1900-seat Donald Gordon Theatre, a 250-seat Studio Theatre as well as administration and producing facilities for seven key arts organisations in Wales, including the Welsh National Opera. Both Adopt a Slate and Take Your Seat give you the opportunity to become a part of this iconic building and support a natural home for the arts.

If you require any further information about Wales Millennium Centre or the schemes we have available please feel free to contact me by email at [andrew.healy@wmc.org.uk](mailto:andrew.healy@wmc.org.uk) or visit our website at [www.wmc.org.uk](http://www.wmc.org.uk)

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### Spain MPs back Catalonia autonomy

Rights won by Catalonia could be available to other regions.

Spain's parliament has approved a definitive version of a plan for greater independence for the north-eastern region of Catalonia.

The statute was passed by 189-154 votes with opposition from the conservative Popular Party and Catalan separatists.

The PP said it threatened Spain, while the Catalan republican left (ERC) said it did not go far enough.

The charter will now pass to the Senate before going to the Catalan parliament and a public vote in the region.

### Independence

Correspondents say the progress of this autonomy plan is thought to have influenced the ceasefire announced by the armed Basque separatists Eta.

Supporters see it as evidence of how the constitution can satisfy separatist demands through political negotiation.

Now that the plan been approved, the measures - including more local Catalan control over finances and the judiciary - are technically available to every other Spanish region.

The dialogue with the national government that has allowed the plan to prosper stands in contrast to the long history of violent struggle in the Basque region, says the BBC's Danny Wood.

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### What about Wales????

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#### New Welsh Website

[www.welshicons.org.uk](http://www.welshicons.org.uk)

This not-for-profit, volunteer run website was set up recently in response to the launch of the UK Department for Culture, Media and Sports site listing only English Icons. The DfCMS have said that they may do a Welsh version if 'funding becomes available' so we thought we would pre-empt them and save the country some money.

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#### Sign Is Right Confusing

sent to Y Bwletin by David Jones

A SIGN on a busy road told pedestrians to Look Right in English but Look Left in Welsh.

Traffic chiefs yesterday apologised for the blunder and removed it from Cardiff city centre.

Shopper Ceri Williams, 23, said: "It was very funny."

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### Christmas Greetings from Friends of Llwyngwrl Gallery

We wish all of our loyal supporters a very Merry Christmas and thank you for your support during this year. We are constantly working on projects aimed at putting something into the community, and making access to the Arts both local and affordable.

Projects we are working on at present:

A series of workshops will be run throughout the year, which will be led by professional artists and charged at affordable prices for local people. We have just succeeded in getting a grant from the Arts Council Wales towards this project, and we are waiting with baited breath to hear about the match funding from another source, before we can embark on setting the programme and publicising it. We will keep members informed as plans take shape.

A project for the young people in the area, which will be led by Emma Macey, the artist responsible for the 'Pink Snowball Awards' at Machynlleth Film Festival, which is part of Mach Fringe. Mach Fringe is a regular annual festival. This project will be completely free to the participants, should the funding be granted, and will run over a period of approximately 6 months. We are obviously excited about

this project, as are some of the potential participants. We are hoping that the funding for this project will be granted, as this project is a perfect example of the kind of project, which this fund prefers to support. Films made will be about how the individual feels about living in this area of Wales, giving them a means of expressing themselves. We will be aiming to have the films played in the cinema locally, alongside the main features. They will be entered into the Festival, which takes place in October 2006. (You may have seen the big white letters spelling Machynlleth on the hillside above Mach- imitating the Hollywood letters in USA (the letters came down after the festival, but will go up in 2006)

Gwynedd arts Week, is at the end of October each year. It has run for 2 years now, and was a great success. Friends of Llwyngwriol Gallery have provided a series of workshops, competitions, concerts, poetry reading, and a puppet show throughout the week. All workshops and competitions and the puppet show were available for the nominal cost of £1 each. The workshops are provided is to enable local people to try different skills. We are looking toward the Arts Week in 2006, already, and will be planning another full programme.

All of these projects require funding, and so donations and new members of the Friends are always welcome.

Friends of Llwyngwriol Gallery Registration Form

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Phone Number .....

E-mail .....

Age Group 18-30/ 30-50/ 50-65/ over 65 (for stats)

Membership requested: Individual -£5/ Couple -£7.50/ Or Family- £10.

Date of joining.....

\*\*I enclose cash/cheque for membership / I enclose cash/cheque for membership plus a donation of ....

\*\*please delete where applicable.

**Welsh Lovespoons**

hand carved by David Western

David was born in Cardiff Wales and now lives in Victoria BC. He has both British and Canadian qualifications as a cabinet maker and joiner and loves to custom make Welsh Love Spoons. Fr more information contact him at lovespoons@shaw.ca or see his website at <http://www.davidwesternlovespoons.com>

**Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway Society** is looking for donations to enable them to extend their railway. They are trying to raise £ 100,000 for this project. For more information, see <http://www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk>

**Celtic-1** is a small family business in the mountains of Wales producing beautiful greeting cards in the Welsh language with water-colour prints. See <http://www.celtic-1.co.uk/>

**Call the Others "Jones"**

Following is a 19th century comic verse written about a judge sorting out the Welsh surnames as part of the

"anglicization" process. The poem was taken from the Glamorgan rootsweb list from a submission supplied by John Gareth and given to him by John Ottery.

Then strove the judge with main and might  
The surrounding consonants to write  
But when the day was almost gone  
He found his work not nearly done.

His ears assailed most woefully  
With names like Rhys ap Griffith Ddu,  
Aneirin, Iorweth, Ieuan Goch,  
And Llwyarch Hen o Abersoch,  
Taleiesin ap Llewelyn Fawr  
And Llun ap Arthur bach y Cawr.

Until at length, in sheer despair,  
He doffed his wig and tore his hair  
And said he would no longer stand  
The surnames of our native land.

Take ten, he said, and call them Rice,  
Take another ten and call them Price,  
Take fifty others call them Pughs,  
A hundred more I'll dub them Hughes,  
Now Roberts name some hundred score,  
And Williams name a legion more.

And call, he moaned in languid tone,  
Call all the other thousands - Jones.

-Anonymous

Contributed to Y Bwletin by David Jones.

Approved by Glen Jones

Proof-read by Jill Jones

**The Mayor of Islington (North London) celebrates Wales**

Contributed by Sian Griffiths

As part of the Mayoral theme 'International In Islington', Wales was celebrated in March, 2006.

Mayor Jonathan Dearth is himself Welsh, born and bred in Newport. He is a keen fan of the Wales football team and has watched them play abroad over 20 times.

As part of the celebration on St David's Day, Wednesday 1 March, two events were organised.

**Wales In Islington Walk**

The first event was a "Wales In Islington" walk in the afternoon. The south of Islington in particular has many links with Wales and this informative walk explained them.

**An Evening with Dylan Thomas**

The second event was hosted by The Mayor of Islington and Peter Powell, the well-known and respected local actor.

Peter has previously performed in Under Milk Wood in the West End, and also hosts walks in Islington.

"The older I get, the older older gets."  
Welsh North American Chamber of Commerce