



# Y Bwletin

## Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press Mis Ionawr 2007 – January 2007

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### Digwyddiadau - Events for 2007

<b>St. David's Day Banquet &amp; Dance</b>	<b>Saturday, February 24</b>
Ottawa Gymanfa Ganu	Sunday, February 25
Ontario Welsh Festival - Kingston	April 27 to 29
Pot-Luck & AGM	Thursday, May 24

Join us for the

### St David's Day Dinner and Dance

(traditional Welsh food: leek soup, roast lamb)

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>**

**Social 6 pm – Dinner 7 pm**

**PANORAMA ROOM  
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL  
101 LYON STREET**

**Speaker: Rev. Deian Evans**

Tickets: \$54 per person if ordered before **February 11<sup>th</sup>**,  
\$59 per person for orders received February 11-17<sup>th</sup>  
To reserve your tickets, please call Alison Lawson  
at 725-2704, or email at [alisonlawson@sympatico.ca](mailto:alisonlawson@sympatico.ca)

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We are very honoured to have the Rev. **Deian Evans** of Dewi Sant Church in Toronto as our guest speaker this year. He will be accompanied by his wife Annette. Deian and Annette have recently moved to Toronto from **Criccieth, North Wales**. They will be with us at the St. David's Dinner and Dance and also at the Gymanfa Ganu on the following day. We would encourage you all to join us at these popular events and to welcome Rev Evans to our community.

### ST DAVID'S DAY GYMANFA GANU

(Hymn Singing Festival)

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

**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.

### President's Message

**Croeso, welcome and greetings to all.**

We have three events planned for February and March.

Our St. David's Day Dinner/Dance will take place on February 24, 2007. The MC will be Alan Thomas and the guest speaker will be Rev. Deian Evans of Dewi Sant (St David's) United Church in Toronto. Deian preached the sermon at the service on Sunday morning in Cincinnati last September (at NAFOW). He is an excellent speaker & I am looking forward to hearing him again. His wife, Annette is a teacher. She has taught at the Cymdeithas Madog Cwrs Cymraeg.

We are holding our annual Gymanfa Ganu on February 25, 2007 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. We are looking forward to special music by John Griffiths and the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society. Marilyn Jenkins (of the OWCS) will conduct the Gymanfa.

Our Annual General Meeting (and pot-luck supper) is scheduled for Thursday, May 24/07. There will also be a Silent Auction.

Please share the information about these events with your friends and neighbours.

More upcoming events worth noting

The Ontario Gymanfa Ganu will be held in Kingston, Ontario the last weekend in April, 2007.

The 76th National Gymanfa Ganu will be held in Washington D.C. over Labour Day weekend, 2007.

Lezlie Wood, President

## **The Canadian Opera Company in Partnership with the Welsh National Opera.**

Extract from the National Post of Wed. Jan 17, 2007.

The Canadian Opera Company will showcase the first fruit of a new multi-year co-production partnership with the Welsh National Opera as part of its 2007-08 season. It will be the COC's second season in its new opera house, the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, in downtown Toronto.

Details of that first co-production -- a presentation of Verdi's Don Carlos in its original five-act version, sung in French -- were revealed yesterday by Richard Bradshaw, the company's general director. Although Verdi's later four-act Italian version, Don Carlo, is performed more often, the French original is considered the composer's most ambitious grand operatic masterpiece, and a work of Wagnerian length.

The production, which has already been seen in Wales, will be directed by Tony Award-winning Broadway director John Caird. The cast, with five major roles, includes soprano Adrienne Pieczonka as Elisabeth de Valois. Bradshaw indicated that some later COC-WNO co-productions would debut in Toronto.

- Further information on the COC's new season may be obtained by visiting [www.coc.ca](http://www.coc.ca)

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### **Welsh Language Course**

Every year, the Cymdeithas Madog holds a week-long Welsh language course in a different location in Canada or the USA. (We hosted it in Ottawa in 2005.) This year it will be at the Sage College in Albany, New York within easy driving distance from Ottawa.

If you've wondered what Welsh is like, or want to brush up your grasp of the language, reserve the week of July 22-29 and join a number of us for the course.

The teachers are from North America and from Wales and are trained in teaching Welsh as a second language to adults. There will be seven levels of courses from absolute beginners to those who are relatively fluent with written Welsh but want to practice their spoken Welsh skills. Some scholarships are available but applications must be post-marked by April 21 to be applicable for this year.

We always have a lot of fun. In addition to classes during the day, there will be a Welsh language film, a Quiz night, Welsh Folk Dancing and a Noson Lawen.

If you are interested, NOW is the time consider registering for the course.

Please see <http://www.madog.org/index.html> or call Glenson Jones at 613 592-8957 .

### **Did You Know?**

1. The capstone of the neolithic burial chamber at Tinkinswood, near Cardiff, is estimated to weigh approximately 40 tonnes, and is the largest in Britain.

### **Christmas Carol Service**

Our Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols in December was very well attended. Many thanks go out to Rev. Clifford Evans for his loyal leadership. We also thank Alan Thomas our organist, John Griffiths our soloist, the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society and their director, Marilyn Jenkins.

The Choral Society sang "Winter's Night" by Peter Teaque and "Ring the Bells in Jubilee" by James Wright. We are always pleased to have the opportunity to hear them perform.

### **News News News**

Is your news here?

Have you had any successes of which other members might be interested?

Have you had any new grandchildren?

Do you want to contribute any information, rumour or joke to Y Bwletin?

If so, PLEASE send it to the Editor, Glenson Jones.

### **1 March - St David's Day**

This day in 589 AD is known as the traditional date of the death of St David, the patron saint of Wales. He was a Celtic monk, who became the archbishop of Wales. He was one of many early saints who helped to spread Christianity among the pagan Celtic tribes of western Britain.

Dewi was born near Capel Non (Non's chapel) on the south-west Wales coast near the city of St Davids. We know a little about his early life. He was educated in a monastery called Hen Fynyw, his teacher being Paulinus, a blind monk. Dewi travelled on religious missions and established several churches.

A well-known story of Dewi's life is when he stood up to speak at a congregation. One of the crowd shouted, 'We won't be able to see or hear him'. Then, the ground he stood on rose so he could be seen by everyone

### **Web Addresses in Wales**

(Thanks to Eirlys Horvath for the information)  
<http://www.academi.org/> **The Academi** is the Welsh National Literature Promotion Agency and Society for Authors. (In English and Welsh)

<http://www.newwelshreview.com/> **New Welsh Review** is Wales's most prestigious literary magazine, with a reputation for academic and creative excellence.

<http://www.tynewydd.org/> **Ty Newydd** is the National Writers' Centre for Wales and since 1990 has attracted writers from all over the world both as tutors and course participants.

<http://www.welshlitabroad.org> **Welsh Literature Abroad** works to facilitate the translation of Wales' literature.

<http://www.gwales.com> Gwales is the website of the **Welsh Books Council**. Through it you can see and buy the books, videos and audio CDs which are currently available in Wales (in either English or Welsh).

## **The Real Welsh Christmas Cake Recipe**

Contributed to the Welsh Learners list by Sian Thomas.

You'll need the following:

- 1 cup of water
- 1 cup of sugar
- 4 large brown eggs
- 2 cups of dried fruit
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 cup of brown sugar
- Lemon juice
- Nuts
- 1 bottle of Penderyn Single Malt.

Sample the Single Malt to check for quality. Take a large bowl. Check the Single Malt again. To be sure it's the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of sugar and beat again. Make sure the Single Malt is still OK.

Cry another tup. Tune up the mixer. Beat two leggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the turner. If the fired druit gets stuck in the beaterers, pry it goose with a drewsdriver.

Sample the Mingle Salt to check for tonsistency. Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Who cares?

Check the Salty Mingle. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table. Spoon the sugar or something. Whatever you can find. Grease the oven. Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window.

Check the Salgle Mint again and go to bed.

### **Julie Andrews' Favourite Things**

To commemorate her 69th birthday on October 1, 2006, actress/vocalist, Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the American Association of Retired People.

One of the musical numbers she performed was "My Favourite Things" from the legendary movie "Sound Of Music." Here are the lyrics she used:

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,  
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,  
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,  
These are a few of my favourite things.

Cadillacs, cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,  
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,  
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,  
These are a few of my favourite things.

When the pipes leak,  
When the bones creak,  
When the knees go bad,  
I simply remember my favourite things,  
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,  
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,

Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,  
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pains, confused brains, and no fear of sinnin',  
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',  
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,  
When we remember our favourite things.

When the joints ache,  
When the hips break,  
When the eyes grow dim,  
Then I remember the great life I've had,  
And then I don't feel so bad.

(Ms. Andrews received a standing ovation that lasted over four minutes and repeated encores.)

### **Final Message**

In a tiny village on the Welsh coast lived an old lady, a virgin and very proud of it. Sensing that her final days were rapidly approaching, and desiring to make sure everything was in proper order when she dies, she went to the town's undertaker (who also happened to be the local postal clerk) to make proper "final" arrangements.

As a last wish, she informed the undertaker that she wanted the following inscription engraved on her tombstone:

"BORN A VIRGIN, LIVED AS A VIRGIN, DIED A VIRGIN"

Not long after, the old maid died peacefully. A few days after the funeral, as the undertaker--postal clerk went to prepare the tombstone that the lady had requested, it became quite apparent that the tombstone that she had selected was much too small for the wording that she had chosen. He thought long and hard about how he could fulfill the old maid's final request, considering the very limited space available on the small piece of stone.

For days, he agonized over the dilemma. But finally his experience as a postal worker allowed him to come up with what he thought was the appropriate solution to the problem.

The virgin's tombstone was finally completed and duly engraved, and it reads as follows:

"RETURNED UNOPENED"

### **Happy old New Year!**

From Children's BBC News

"Most of us celebrated New Year on January 1st but one community in Wales celebrates it on 13 January every year.

In their report, pupils from the Gwaun Valley explain why they do this & what they do to celebrate their special New Year.

"In Cwm Gwaun (the Gwaun Valley) in Wales, we don't celebrate New Year on 1 January. We celebrate Hen Galan (the old New Year) on 13 January. This is because we keep to the traditional, old Julian calendar for New Year.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII decided to change the calendar - 10 days had to be erased. Many people did not like this so they rioted. In the end, the people had to give in, but some

places kept some of their traditional dates for celebrations - like us!

In Cwm Gwaun nowadays, we go round the houses & farms to sing and collect Calennig (a gift of money, sweets or food). We sing traditional Calennig songs - these songs welcome in the New Year & wish people a happy New Year.

Everybody looks forward to seeing us, and prepares for the day by getting up early to make food and treats. And because there are so many places to go to, we start out very early - sometimes around 8.30am.

In the evening we all get together with family and friends to celebrate with lots of singing and eating.

We think everyone here would be very disappointed if this tradition died out."

### **BUCHEDD GARMON gan Saunders Lewis**

Gwinllan a blannodd dyn mewn bryn tra ffrwythlon  
Cloddiodd a phlannodd ynddi'r winwydden orau  
Caeodd o'i chylch a chododd dŵr yn ei chanol  
A rhoes hi i'w fab yn dreftadaeth  
I gadw ei enw o genhedlaeth i genhedlaeth  
Ond cenfaint o foch a ruthrodd ar y winllan  
Gan dorri ei magwyr i'w mathru a'i phori hi  
Onid iawn yw i'r mab sefyll yn awr yn yr adwy  
A galw ei gyfeillion ato  
Fel y caer y bwlch ac arbed ei etifeddiaeth?

Garmon, Garmon  
Gwinllan a roddwyd i'm gofal yw fy ngwlad  
I'w thraddodi i'm plant  
Ac i blant fy mhiant  
Yn dreftadaeth dragwyddol,  
Ac wele'r moch yn rhuthro arni i'w maeddu.  
Minnau yn awr galwaf ar fy nghyfeillion  
Cyffredin ac ysgolhaig.  
Deuaf ataf i'r  
Sefwch gyda mi yn y bwlch  
Fel y cadwer i'r oesoedd a ddel y glendid a fu!

### **A VINEYARD PLACED IN MY CARE**

Translation of Buchedd Garmon

A vineyard was set by a man on a fertile hill.  
He hedged her and planted within her the noblest vines,  
He enclosed her strongly, and built a tower in her midst  
And to his son he gave her, (a goodly heritage)  
That his name might be known among men from age to age.  
But a herd of swine broke into the vineyard  
And trampled the fence, rooted and devoured the vines;  
Is it not right for the son to stand in the breach  
And to call his friends to his aid  
That the breach may be closed and the heritage made  
secure?  
Garmon, Garmon  
A vineyard placed in my care is Wales my country  
To deliver unto my children  
And my children's children  
Intact, an eternal heritage:  
But look! The swine rush on her and rend her.  
Now will I call on my friends

Scholars and ordinary folk.

Take your place by my side in the breach

That the age-old splendour be kept for the ages to come!

### **Ontario Welsh Festival**

Friday April 27 to Sunday April 29, 2007

On Friday April 27, a number of members of the Ottawa Welsh Society will be driving to Kingston, a mere 2 hours away, to celebrate our Welsh heritage.

The Festival will commence on Friday with a Noson Lawen. Saturday will consist of the AGM, a Childrens' Hour, a seminar, an hour of poetry reading topped off by the annual banquet followed by entertainment by the guest choir, Côr Meibion Prysor from Wales. On Sunday is the annual Gymanfa Ganu or singing festival in two sessions.

See <http://www.ontariowelshfestival.ca/> for further information. The location will be the Holiday Inn, at the waterfront, Kingston, ON. Reserve your rooms now at 1-800-HOLIDAY or 613-549-8400. Don't forget to mention that you are with the Welsh Festival.

### **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 **Thursday May 24**

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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### **>> Creative Opportunity <<**

Remuneration: Satisfaction and new friends

Experience: Optional

Tasks such as:

- Become a member of the executive, or
- Chair or assist at a function, or
- Stuff envelopes, or
- Serve food at a function.

If you can assist, even in a small way, please contact our President, Lezlie Wood, at (613) 225-8845 or by email to [ldwood7@sympatico.ca](mailto:ldwood7@sympatico.ca) or by mail to 205 - 1465 Baseline Road Ottawa ON K2C 3L9