



Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant – Valley Press

Mis Tachwedd 2009 – November 2009

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DIGWYDDIADAU - EVENTS FOR 2009 & 2010

- Carol Service Sunday Dec 13
- St David's Luncheon Saturday Feb 27
- Gymanfa Ganu Sunday Feb 28
- Ontario Welsh Festival April 30 - May 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Croeso a chyfarchion i bawb - welcome & greetings to all.

Our annual Carol Service is scheduled for Sunday, December 13 at 7:00 PM, at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

We have changed the format for our St David's Day celebrations in 2010. There will not be a formal banquet, but rather a luncheon - to be held at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, on the Aylmer Road, at the end of the Champlain Bridge.

We encourage anyone who has not celebrated St David's Day with us in the past few years to join us for the Luncheon. There will be a speaker and entertainment. More information later.

Please be sure to check out our website. We have a new co-ordinator & there have been changes & improvements to the site.

We now have a page on Facebook - organized by our Vice-President, Pawl Birt. Go to facebook & search for Pawl's name or "Welsh".

Lezlie Wood, President

WWW.OTTAWAWELSHSOCIETY.COM COMPETITION

Have you checked out our website recently? It has been re-vamped by our new web master, John Lawson, and it's looking good!

Why don't you log on and see whether you can identify where the five scenic photos contained on the various pages were taken (not including the photos of Aled's concert).

There will be a prize of a signed CD of Shannon Mercer's recent release (kindly donated by our president, Lezlie Wood) for the person who identifies the most photos correctly.

Please send your entries to alisonlawson@sympatico.ca or phone 613-725-2704 by December 25th.

The roundest knight at King Arthur's table was

--Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

OTTAWA WELSH SOCIETY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday, December 13th, 7 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 470 Roosevelt Ave.

This is a traditional service of nine lessons and nine carols. It is a wonderful time to meet your old and new friends in the Welsh community in Ottawa and to exchange Christmas greetings with them. Please come and support this event.

We always have a friendly reception afterwards and we would be very grateful if you could bring some goodies to share.

In case of inclement weather, please check the Ottawa Welsh Society website www.ottawawelshsociety.com or phone 613-725-2704.

St. DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATIONS - 2010 Saturday, February 27th

Luncheon followed by a guest speaker and special entertainment at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club, Aylmer Rd., Quebec (just over the Champlain Bridge). Details will be announced in early January.

Sunday, February 28th

Our annual Gymanfa Ganu will be held at: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 470 Roosevelt Ave., at 3 pm.
Conducted by Alan Thomas, with Deidre Piper at the organ

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL STRATFORD

April 30-May 2, 2010

The Festival will be held in the Arden Park Hotel, in the beautiful community of Stratford, located on the romantic Avon River and home of Canada's famous Shakespearian Theatre. It will feature all the favourite events that we have come to enjoy over the years including a traditional noson lawen on the Friday evening, children's activities on Saturday morning, poetry reading and a seminar on Saturday afternoon, the grand banquet on Saturday evening followed by one of the highlights of the weekend-a concert by the renowned Llangwm Welsh Male Voice Choir from North Wales, and to top it all, two glorious sessions of hymn singing on Sunday. How can you resist it!

Make sure to mark it in your brand new 2010 calendars now.

Info: www.ontariowelshfestival.ca or e-mail at inquiries@ontariowelshfestival.ca or phone 613-725-2704

If you always go where you've always gone,
If you always do what you've always done,
You will always be what you've always been.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

The Welsh Assembly has an office in New York and they provide fascinating information about Welsh activities in North America on their website www.wales.com/usa. It is well worth a visit. For those members who don't have access to the internet, here are some examples of the information provided recently.

Adirondack Park, NY, to host Welsh arts, culture and history

As part of its 2-year tour of the USA, 'Turner to Cézanne - Masterpieces from the Davies Collection, National Museum Wales' will be at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse, NY, from Oct 9, 2009 - Jan 3, 2010.

National Museum Wales counts among its treasures the Davies Collection, an extraordinary group of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century paintings that is remarkable for its breadth and quality. Assembled between 1908 and 1923 by sisters Gwendoline and Margaret Davies, the collection is exceptionally strong in Realist and Impressionist works and includes masterpieces by, among others, Cézanne, Daumier, Manet, Millet, Monet, Pissarro, Renoir, and Van Gogh. Further information <http://www.everson.org/home.php>

Just an hour's drive away in Oneida County, the exhibition entitled 'Welsh in America' will be at Remsen, New York, until November 2009. 'Welsh in America' is a 12-panel exhibition, researched and produced by the Welsh Assembly Government in New York, that tells the story of the Welsh contribution to life in America from colonial days to the present. It is housed in Remsen's historic Stone Church which is listed on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Welsh immigration to the Remsen/Steuben area began over two hundred years ago in 1795 with fifteen families and continued well into the twentieth century. During that time Remsen held a pre-eminent role in Welsh immigration to the United States.

Remsen continues to celebrate its Welsh heritage and is part of a unique project which is being carried out by the Remsen Development Corporation. 'Ty Gwaith Crefft' will be a community fashioned around a railroad-oriented, mixed-use, neighborhood in upstate New York in the early twentieth century and will include artisans and small-scale fabricators from both Wales and New York State. The project will interpret the history of Remsen and the legacy of Welsh immigration to the area and will build social, cultural, and economic links between Wales and the Welsh community in North America. For further info visit www.villageofremsen.org

November 2009 Screening of the movie *I Know you Know* directed by Justin Kerrigan in New York.

November 6

US release of *The Boat that Rocked* with Rhys Ifans (info only)

November 16

10.00 pm WCNY airing of the *Turner to Cezanne* program about the Davies Sisters and their collection.

November 19 - Jan 10, 2010

Welsh-Canadian actor Geraint Wyn Davies presents one-man play on Dylan Thomas *Do Not Go Gentle* at The Clurman Theatre, Theatre Row 9th and 42nd, New York. With publicity help from Welsh Assembly Government.

November 24 onwards

Welsh Oscar winner Catherine Zeta-Jones will star as Desiree Armfeldt in the first Broadway revival of Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler's *A Little Night Music*. The production also stars five-time Tony winner Angela Lansbury and Olivier Award nominee

Alexander Hansona and is directed by Trevor Nunn. It begins previews on November 24 and opens on December 13 at the Walter Kerr Theatre.

November 30

Welsh-Canadian organist David Enlow presents *The Organ Works of Cesar Franck* 7.00 pm Church of St Vincent Ferrer, 869 Lexington Avenue, New York (info only)

December 3

Scott Gibbs will be one of the 5 rugby legends at the HSBC Rugby Legends Diner NYC

PAST EVENTS

Sunday, October 4th, 2009

A recital by Aled Wyn Davies, multi-award-winning Welsh tenor, with Alan Thomas, piano & organ.

A packed audience gave a rapturous reception to Aled's magnificent renditions of traditional and modern Welsh, operatic, sacred and show songs, interspersed with Alan's organ solos. All who had the pleasure of attending the recital and meeting Aled during his all-too short visit to Ottawa were delighted by his natural charm and wit. Following the event, Aled and his wife Karina left with Alan for a recital in Toronto on Tuesday Oct 6.

Thanks to Alan for arranging this unique event for the Society and Ottawa music-lovers.

See more of Aled's accomplishments on his website: <http://www.aledwyndavies.com/>

Wednesday, October 21st

Public Lecture by Lord Roberts of Llandudno:

"WALES AT LARGE- AN EXAMINATION OF WALES' INFLUENCE OVERSEAS"

University of Ottawa, Arts Building, 70 Laurier Ave East

The Ottawa Welsh Society and the University of Ottawa Chair of Celtic Studies were pleased to welcome Lord Roberts of Llandudno on October 21st. As Rev. Roger Roberts, he was interim minister at Dewi Sant Welsh Church in Toronto prior to the arrival of Rev. Deian Evans, and was subsequently appointed to the House of Lords in 2004. In Ottawa for official meetings with counterparts from other Parliaments, Lord Roberts gave a stimulating and charming public lecture, before an audience of Welsh Society members and friends, and students of Celtic Studies at the University.

FAGGOTS & PEAS AND NOSON LAWEN

By John Price

The Society recorded another very successful Noson Lawen on 14 November. Over a hundred Society members and their friends sat down to a splendid meal of faggots, sausages or vegetarian products and mushy peas with mashed potatoes and gravy (doesn't it just bring back the aromas of your mother's kitchen?), followed by fresh apple pie and ice cream and accompanied by a beverage. The meal was followed by entertainment consisting of various forms of music ably performed by very young members, young members and less young members and a visit from the Mari Lwyd. An event of this scope and nature could not take place without the contributions of a whole host of people. Special thanks are owed to all those who made and prepared the food and those who served it, to those who set up the hall and those who laid the tables, to those who dismantled the tables, chairs and stage in the hall and those who washed up after the

meal, to those who performed and accompanied and those who made it all worth while by coming out and enjoying the meal and applauding the performers. Same time next year?

MARI LWYD COMES TO OWS NOSON LAWEN

By Paul W. Birt

For the first time in the history of the OWS, the Mari Lwyd (the Grey Mare) made an appearance at the annual Faggots and Peas/Noson Lawen. The Mari Lwyd is an ancient folk custom especially known in the south east of Wales until the twentieth century. Although it survived in two locations until the modern day, it has been revived in many places in Wales and even amongst ex-pat Welsh people over the world. Many people see the Mari Lwyd as a return to the folk culture of Wales and as an alternative way of expressing their Welshness. The Ottawa Mari Lwyd was originally created by Philip Ostiguy and Pawl Birt especially for the Clwb Cymraeg, and over the past eight years has made several appearances in celebrations of the New Year. This year the format was a little different, since rather than recreate the normally humorous performance in a domestic setting, the Mari Lwyd was guided around the audience to introduce them to a part of the older folk culture of the country. The Ottawa Mari Lwyd wore the traditional ribbons and bells around her skull, and the carrier wore a white sheet thus recreating as closely as possible the look of a Glamorganshire Mari Lwyd. The traditional entry song was sung, and finally a poem (see below) was read which brought the ten-minute performance to an end. The Mari Lwyd 'parti' was made up of Pawl Birt (Mari Lwyd), Glenson Jones, Gareth Gwyn Jones, Philip Ostiguy and Agatha Schwartz.

MARI LWYD REVISITED

By Paul W. Birt

15 Nov 2009 (revised version)

I was once a Mari Lwyd,
Bedecked in ribbons and daz-white*sheet.
My blanched skull grinning,
Biting at the bemused air about me.

I saw cold mists at the road's end
Made gloriously warm by the pub's open door.
Permission to enter, sir, with a song or poem
On my jagged teeth.

I brought luck and mirth to the crowded inn,
My staring eyes sparkling with broken lights.
Oh bring me straw again that I may prance
On the fields of Glamorgan.

I was once a Mari Lwyd,
Men came with ale and cakes
While we sang to the New year's night
Before I galloped again to the Otherworld sleep.

* originally daz-like

PASSINGS, MILESTONES AND GET WELL WISHES

On July 29th we were sad to hear of the death of Stan Kemp, who along with his wife, Kathleen, attended many Society functions over the years.

Beverley Cleland passed away on August 22nd after a long illness. Although Bev was born in South Mountain, and her Welsh blood was thinned by several generations, she was a stalwart member of the society and choir for many years, serving on the committees of both organizations.

October 20th we received news that former society President Jeannette Hudson had passed away in Wales. She had suffered with heart problems for years and collapsed at home in the afternoon

before being taken to hospital where she died peacefully. Jean Howard has written a lovely biography of this remarkable woman who made such a contribution to the Welsh community in Ottawa.

Get well wishes go out to Vronwen Davies, John Goronwy Davies and Ken Pepper who are all recovering after recent surgery.

On a happier note, congratulations go out to Alison and John Lawson who became double-barrelled grandparents on September 27th. Their daughter, Bethan, was delivered of twins (Liam James and Anna Isobel). From all reports the babies are gorgeous and their parents are recovering well.

From the Ottawa Citizen

A Welsh man on the run from police sent a picture of himself to his local paper because he disliked the mugshot they had printed of him as part of a public appeal to track him down.

South Wales Police had issued the media a photo of Matthew Maynard, wanted by officers investigating a house burglary, as part of a crackdown on crime in Swansea.

When the photo appeared in the South Wales Evening Post, the 23-year-old sent the newspaper a replacement photo of himself standing in front of a police van. They obligingly printed it on the front page.

The police thanked him for helping them in their appeal, saying: "Everyone in Swansea will know what he looks like now."

No word yet on whether Matthew the Photo has been apprehended.

Shannon Mercer

Shannon can currently be heard on CBC Radio 2's Saturday Afternoon at the Opera. She is singing an opera called Baby Kintyre which is being broadcast over five Saturdays beginning November 7th. After each show has aired, CBC will make it available on their website.

Shannon will also be appearing in Ottawa on February 13, 2010 performing Vivaldi's Gloria at Christ Church Cathedral, & again at the end of March in a production of St. Matthews's Passion.

Further details can be found at her website
www.shannonmercerc.com

AWR SGWRSIO

Dewch ac ymunwch gyda ni i sgwrsio yn Gymraeg. 'Rydym yn cwrrdd bob mis i ymarfer yr iaith wrth drafod bob math o bwnciau.

LLE? Tafarn Y Clock Tower, 575 Stryd Bank
PA DDIWRNOD? nos Lun olaf pob mis, 7-9 p.m.
Bydd croeso cynnes i bawb sydd yn siarad Cymraeg neu yn ei dysgu. **Bydd y cyfarfod nesaf am 7 o'r gloch, Nos Lun, Ionawr 28.** Bydd dim cyfarfod ym mis Rhagfyr.
Ffoniwch Alison Lawson 725-2704 am wybodaeth.

CALLING ALL WELSH SPEAKERS AND PEOPLE LEARNING TO SPEAK WELSH

Come and join us in practising speaking Welsh. We meet on the last Monday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the Clock Tower Pub, 575 Bank Street. This pub is easily accessible from the Queensway in both directions. Everyone is welcome-please come and support us. **Next meeting January 28.**

Phone Alison Lawson 725-2704 for more information.

THE WELSH CHILDHOOD OF AN ENGLISH GIRL

By Wendy Davies

I was barely six years old when my family moved to North Wales. I was born in a little English village near Sherwood Forest where we lived for three years followed by three years in Peterborough. One day my parents announced that we were moving to Wales, a place I had vaguely heard of where I believed everybody spoke Welsh! This terrified me as I was sure I would not understand a word. I need not have worried, everyone turned out to be bilingual!

Coming from the totally flat landscape of east England, the Welsh hills made a deep impression on me. I had never actually seen a hill before; to me this was an amazing sight. We moved to a tiny village called Loggerheads near Mold, close to the Clwydian range of hills of which the highest peak was "Moel Famau'r" [Mother Mountain]. I loved this mountain and hiked up it many times. There was a marvelous view from the top of both Denbighshire and Flintshire.

I soon settled in to a life of attending school in Gwernymynydd where I learned to sing the Welsh national anthem and joined in the Welsh assemblies held twice a week. I picked up the Welsh language very quickly even coming top in Welsh a few times. During these years, I fell in love with Wales, I have so many fond memories of that time in my childhood----- visits to Beddgelert in Snowdonia to see the grave of the faithful hound Gelert, to Conwy to see the castle, to Llandudno to visit the Great Orme, to Bettws-Y-Coed to see the waterfall and to St Asaph to see the cathedral, attending the sheepdog trials held by the Welsh hill farmers, listening to the powerful singing of the men's choirs, holidays in Anglesey, Halloween parties in the spooky old rectory in Cwm and a memorable visit to our village by Dylan Thomas recounted to me by my Dad who was the local schoolmaster.

Some years later when we moved to the North Wales coast, I have vivid memories of taking part in the National Eisteddfod when our school choir was one of many chosen to perform before the Queen in her Coronation year and we had to learn twenty Welsh songs! Then there was the experience of being a Gorsedd dancer at the Druid ceremony held that year.

Later still, I attended Rhyl Grammar School which my husband John [or John Gron as he was known] also attended but that is another story. I have lived in many different places but I had the good fortune to grow up in Wales and even though I live a world away now in distance and in years, I still feel a little bit of "hiraeth" when I look back on my Welsh childhood.

There is a post script to this, John and I used to take many strolls along the "prom" by the Foryd Harbour in Rhyl, where there was an old shipwreck that had been there for as long as we could remember. Four decades later, we read an article in "The Ottawa Citizen" featuring this old wreck, it was called "The Ottawa".

REMEMBERING JEANNETTE HUDSON (1935-2009)

by Jean Howard

Friends and members of the OWS were saddened to learn of the passing of Jeannette Hudson in Tywyn, Wales, on October 20th, 2009. Jeannette was born in Wales in January 1935. Following her graduation from Bangor Normal Teachers Training College she began her teaching career in Birmingham. While in Birmingham, she married Charles Hudson in 1956 and their first child, Anne, was born in 1958.

When Charles saw an opportunity to start a new business in Canada they emigrated in August, 1961 and settled down in Otterburn Park, Montreal. Jeannette noticed the lack of a Junior Kindergarten in her

area and subsequently worked hard in liaison with the local Education Authority to set one up. Having successfully established her Kindergarten she then taught the class until the birth of their second child, Mark, in 1963.

In 1972 the Hudson family moved to Ottawa. Jeannette soon joined the OWS as well as the OWCS and was soon elected to their respective committees. She became more active on each committee & shortly was elected President of the OWCS and later of the OWS. Friends of Jeannette will remember fondly how she loved to sing and she would seize any opportunity or excuse to start a sing-along whether it was on a choir tour bus or at a St. David's Day function or at a party. Jeannette sang solos at choir concerts, sang in the Octet, and often sang duets with John Griffiths. She was the soloist at her local church and was often guest conductor of the church choir. Jeannette also taught Welsh as a second language to the children's class run by the OWS likewise taught for Cymdeithas Madoc when its Welsh School was held at St. Michael's College in Toronto.

Her attendance and involvement in the annual OGGA led to her being voted to serve on its Committee and ultimately, she was elected President of the OGGA. In 1977 the WNGGA Committee chose Ottawa as its venue for the Gymanfa. Jeannette was always a keen supporter of the National and as President of the OWS she selected a dedicated group of OWS members to help Don Mills and Tal Griffiths organize the preparations necessary to run the National Gymanfa in Ottawa. The Gymanfa, held in the magnificent Opera House of the National Arts Centre, was a huge success.

In the early 80s Charles sold his business and then retired. He and Jeannette realized they had pressing family commitments in Wales and so, in 1983 they returned to Wales and settled down in Tywyn. Sadly Charles died suddenly in 1985 but Jeannette still had family obligations and remained in Tywyn. She immersed herself in local municipal politics, was elected a councillor, which, in time, led to her serving two terms as Mayor of Tywyn. To add to her busy life she sang solos, joined a choir, was a member of a Parti Penillion group and entered several competitions at local Eisteddfodau. She was Chairwoman of the WI and of Merched y Wawr, representing all of Merionethshire and beyond.

Jeannette maintained her membership in the OWS and always took a keen interest in our Society's social calendar. Jeannette's exemplary contributions to the OWS, to the OWCS and the Cymanfaoedd Canu were exceptional. We appreciate her contributions and for giving so unstintingly of her time during the years she lived in Ottawa. Her passing is a sad loss to all who knew her. We will miss her lively sense of humour, infectious laugh and joie de vivre. We extend our deepest sympathy to her daughter, Anne, her son-in-law Bob Paquin, & grandchildren, Bethan & Andrew Paquin in Mississauga, also to her son, Mark & daughter-in-law, Susan Hudson in Vancouver BC.

'Cwsg a gwyn dy fyd', Jeannette.

INFORMATION WANTED

The committee of the Ontario Welsh Festival is compiling a list of Welsh people who have made significant contributions to Canada in the past and up to the present. If you have any suggestions, please contact Alison Lawson: alisonlawson@sympatico.ca or phone 613-725-2704.