



Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant – Valley Press Mis Hydref 2010 – October 2010

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DIGWYDDIADAU - EVENTS FOR 2010

- Last Night of the Proms Sunday Oct 17
- Noson Lawen/Faggots and Peas Saturday Oct 23
- Parti Nadolig/Christmas Party Friday Dec 10
- OWS Christmas Carol Service Sunday Dec 12

17 October/Hydref

"The Last Night of the Proms"

(This year honouring Wales, Canadian Navy and Battle of Britain).

St Matthias Anglican Church, 555 Parkdale Ave., Ottawa.

Pub dinner 18:00; Concert 19:00. See more details on page 4.

Ticket and other information: 613-728-3996.

Please note: This Event is not organised by OWS.

FAGGOTS AND PEAS EVENING

& NOSON LAWEN

Saturday, October 23rd.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
470 Roosevelt Ave

Doors open at 5.30 p.m.

Dinner at 6.30 p.m.

Adults \$15

Children \$5

Please phone or email your ticket orders to Myfanwy Davies:

613-526-3019 ; myfanwy57@sympatico.ca.

Remember that there will be NO TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR.

The deadline for ordering tickets is THURSDAY, October 21st. This is very important as it allows us to cook the right amount of sausages, faggots, peas and potatoes.

This is a very popular event so order your tickets now!

We need people to take part in the Noson Lawen. If singing or playing a musical instrument isn't your cup of tea, why not recite a favourite poem, tell us a story about Wales, dance or tell some jokes. If you feel inspired to participate in any way, just let Myfanwy Davies know ahead of time (contact information above).

We're delighted to announce that Mari Lwyd will be making a guest appearance again this year.

10 December/Rhagfyr

Parti Nadolig/Christmas Party

Parliament Pub

101 Sparks Street, Ottawa. 613-563-0636.

18:00.

12 December/Rhagfyr

OWS Christmas Carol Service

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 470 Roosevelt Ave., Ottawa.

613-722-1144.

19:00.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from the President: This Year's Events

This year the committee has decided to add a few extra events to the usual and familiar roster as well as invite our membership to other Welsh-themed events. The first of these was a barbecue held at the home of Gareth Gwyn Jones and his family in Gatineau (Aylmer) during the end of September. We had a very enjoyable time. On October 1, many of us congregated to celebrate the fact that the Ryder Cup was being held in Wales. This celebration was held at the British High Commission. We were made very welcome by the High Commissioner Mr Anthony Cary. The occasion attended by some 100 people brought together members of the Welsh Society, the British Canadian Chamber of Trade and Commerce as well as staff from the High Commission. The next event which has a strong Welsh component is the 'Last Night of the Proms', an annual event held at St Matthias Anglican Church, 555 Parkdale Avenue. This year the evening will honour Wales (as well as the Battle of Britain, and the Canadian Navy). The evening will start off with a pub dinner in the church basement during which some Welsh songs will be sung by some of us. Later during the concert at 7pm, there will be further performances of Welsh songs and arias. Although this is not organised by the OWS as such, we will be there, and hope other members of the OWS will come too for what sounds like a superb fun night.

More information can be found on the following website:

<http://www.stmatthias.ca/parish-life/news/77-the-last-night-of-the-proms.html>

The ever popular Faggots and Peas / Noson Lawen will follow on October 23rd and be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church. See elsewhere in this Bwletin for more information about this. Amongst the many performances this year, we shall also be welcoming a guest performance by the Ottawa Celtic Choir under the baton of Ellen MacIsaac. This choir specializes

in songs in the various Celtic languages, and will be singing two Welsh songs for us on the evening.

Another new event as we move towards the festive season will be a Parti Nadolig/Christmas Party on December 10th to be held at the Parliament Pub, 101 Sparks Street. This will be an opportunity for OWS members and their friends (potential new members?) to congregate, sing and celebrate the upcoming Christmas season. Ottawa's very own Mari Lwyd will possibly make an appearance during the evening.

The last event of 2010 will be two days after the Parti Nadolig and will be our traditional OWS Christmas Carol Service at Westminster Presbyterian Church on December 12th.

Some of you will have noticed that we used Constant Contact, an email and event marketing site, as an experimental way of communicating with our membership. We have used it once and would really like to hear your opinion about this method of communication so that we can decide whether or not to continue using this web-based method of sending you information about OWS events. I would add that there are no plans to change our traditional way of sending out newsletters and email messages at the moment.

Alan Thomas brings out a new CD!

Alan Thomas, a well-known and much appreciated member of the OWS, has recently brought out a new CD entitled 'Melodies'. It was recorded on the new Steinway piano in the Unitarian church in Ottawa in August of this year. The music is mostly light classical piano music, including Beethoven and Schubert, plus some improvisations by Alan himself on songs from the UK and Canada. Variety is provided by a soprano, a tenor, a saxophonist (playing Handel!) and a double bass player. These other performers are all recent high school graduates. The CD sells for \$15. The first 100 copies sold out immediately, so a new batch is being prepared at the moment. Proceeds will go to Westminster Presbyterian Church and other charities such as the Shepherds of Good Hope. Members of the OWS who wish to purchase one of these CDs will be glad to know that they will be on sale at the Noson Lawen/Faggots and Peas evening on the 23 October at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

November month dedicated the Celtic Nations

Mayor Larry Brien's Office at Ottawa City Hall has confirmed that the City of Ottawa will proclaim November 2010 'Comunn Gaidhlig Ottawa Month', a month dedicated to activities of the six Celtic nations in all Celtic languages. Pawl Birt will be present at the official event on the 20th November to say a few words in Welsh. The initiative for this whole event came from Randolph Waugh, president of the Scottish Gaelic society in Ottawa, known as Comunn Gaidhlig Ottawa, and a great friend of the OWS!

Y Golofn Gymraeg

Weithiau mae dyn yn cael yr argraff nad ydy Canada yn ddigon ymwybodol o gyfraniad y Cymry i'r wlad hon, yn enwedig os na ddywedwn ni ddim byd am y cyfraniad hwnnw! Tybed faint o bobl sy'n gwybod am wreiddiau Cymreig cyn-Weinidog Tramor Canada Lloyd Axworthy? Mae hanes ei deulu yn un rhamantaidd ac arwrol oherwydd enw ei daid oedd John Coslett Thomas, a aned ac a fagwyd yn Nhrelaw yn Ne Cymru. Bu'r teulu'r yn rhan o'r fenter arwrol honno sy'n wybyddus i bawb, sef y Wladfa Gymreig ym Mhatagonia. Aeth y teulu allan i'r Wladfa yn rhan o'r ail don o ymfudiaeth ac ymsefydlu ar lannau Camwy fel amaethwyr. Roedd y John Coslett Thomas ifanc yn dioddef o'r wanderlust a methai aros yn y Dyffryn gyda'i deulu. Ar ôl priodi, aeth i fyw i ogledd y wlad ger Buenos Aires a ffermio yno gyda chriw o Gymry eraill. Aeth yn ôl wedyn i'r Gamwy, a chael gwaith fel athro yn Ysgol Gymraeg Hendre yn

Nhrelaw. (Oedd, roedd addysg Gymraeg wedi cyrraedd Patagonia ymhell cyn iddi gyrraedd Cymru!) Ond oherwydd llifogydd penderfynodd fynd gyda chriw mawr o deuluoedd eraill i Ganada yn 1902. Aethant mor bell â Lerpwl, ac wedyn ar y llong i Ganada a chroes'i'r wlad nes dod i Saskatchewan. Sefydlodd y criw o Gymru mewn pentrefi Cymreig gydag enwau fel Bangor, Glyndwr a Llewelyn. Dywedir mai yno y ganwyd mam Lloyd Axworthy. Aeth John C. Thomas i Los Angeles yn y diwedd a byw yno gyda'i wraig. Pan fu farw, claddwyd ym Mangor, yn Saskatchewan. Mae'r teulu erbyn hyn yn byw yng Nghymru, yr Ariannin, Canada, ac Awstralia. Ond bu cyfraniad y teulu i Ganada yn fawr.

President

Calling all opera buffs.

Welsh bass-baritone Bryn Terfel is performing in two Wagner productions for the Metropolitan Opera this season, and these shows are being broadcast at local movie theatres. The first one, Das Rheingold is being shown live on October 9th, while repeat telecasts are scheduled for November 20 and 29.

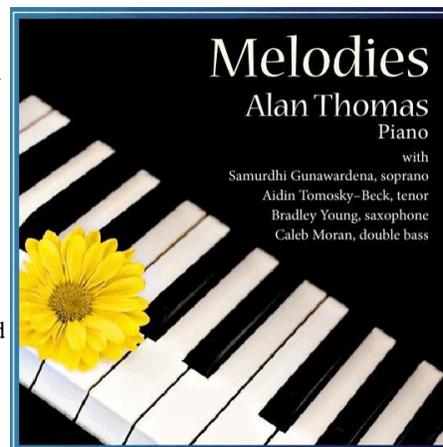
The second show, Die Walkure will be broadcast live on May 14th, with encore telecasts on June 18 and July 11. Please check the newspaper or theatres for exact times and details.

For the history lovers among us.

Welsh author Ken Follett has released his latest novel, Fall of Giants. It is the first instalment in The Century Trilogy. This historical epic follows the fates of five interrelated families - American, German, Russian, English and Welsh - as they move through the world-shaking dramas of the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the struggle for women's suffrage.

For something a little different....

Only Men Aloud! the most popular male voice chorus in Wales today have released their second CD, and this one features a number of Welsh items. This choir won the BBC's Last Choir Standing contest several years ago and perform for sold-out crowds all over the world. On this latest recording you can hear modern renditions of Blaenwern (sung in English), Men of Harlech (sung in Welsh), Ar Lan Y Mor (sung in Welsh), Gwahoddiad (in Welsh of course) and Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau with a seldom heard second verse (all in Welsh). They also perform a rendition of Total Eclipse of the Heart with Bonnie Tyler another Welsh treasure.



Available September.

**Order your copy soon.
Makes an ideal gift for
friends and family.**

\$15.00

Alan Thomas will have copies of his latest CD available for sale at the Noson Lawen

Book Review by Jean Howard

The winner of The Daniel Owen Memorial Novel at the 2010 National Eisteddfod held in Ebbw Vale this August was Grace Roberts, (nee Hughes), a close friend since our High School days together in Amlwch, Anglesey. While on our recent visit to Wales we enjoyed lunch with Grace and her husband, Dennis and I was delighted to receive a signed copy of her winning novel, 'Adenydd Gloyn Byw', (Butterfly Wings).

In this contemporary (and surprisingly racy) novel set in a small town near Bangor, North Wales, we follow a year in the lives of three generations of women living together under the same roof. The matriarch of this family is Megan, a widow who is approaching her seventieth birthday but not without some misgiving. She frets that time has passed her by without her having achieved much, or of having enjoyed real fulfilment in her life. She was constrained by the strict conventions of Church and Society of the 40s and 50s and now reflects on the open sexual mores of modern society in Wales today and wonders at the changes that have happened since her youth before the sexual revolution of the 60s came about. Megan's, soon to turn forty, unmarried daughter, Rhiannon, has problems of her own. She is a busy single mother juggling her time between establishing her computer business career and parenting her lively, free-spirited "party animal" dynamo of a teenage daughter named Eira Mai, aka May Snow.

As Eira Mai begins her final year in the Sixth Form at the local High School, there develops a mutual attraction between her and the new Drama teacher, Llion Oliver. Eira Mai, however, will not turn eighteen until the following May, so the two lovers must tread softly to avoid revealing their illicit affair. The coming - of - age of Eira Mai might not run that smoothly. The author keeps her reader to wonder if the lovers can, against all odds, successfully negotiate their way, without incident, to the completion of the school year or will they fail to avoid the seemingly benign touch of butterfly wings, thus possibly being the catalysis leading to a hurricane as exemplified in the 'Chaos Theory', raising the spectre of promising lives left in ruins. Megan and Rhiannon are ever watchful.

Butterfly Wings is written in the local vernacular of three generations, together with that of Llion's South Wales accent; no mean feat for a North Walian! The language is rich and colourful and the fluidity of the dialogue, laced with earthy humour and idioms, races seamlessly helter-skelter from one incident to the next, - much in the style of a Shakespearian comedy, sometimes bordering on the farcical! Grace obviously had fun writing this novel.

Originally, a professional librarian, working in Liverpool for ten years, Grace has since focussed on her writing and has enjoyed literary success. She has published two other novels and translated several more. Grace won the Short Story competition at the National Eisteddfod three times. She has also written, with a team of writers, many episodes of the popular series, 'Pobl Y Cwm', on BBC Wales for ten years before retiring. Formerly from Pen y Sarn, near Amlwch, Grace and her husband, Dennis, live in Felinheli, near Caernarfon, where they enjoy a stunning view of the Menai Straits. Their two sons, Endaf and Gronw are both very much involved in the performing arts in Wales. Presently, Grace is focussed on researching her family roots while tracing her family tree. There is, fortunately, a kernel of an idea forming in her head for her next novel. I enjoyed reading 'Adenydd Gloyn Byw' and I fully endorse this delightful romantic comedy. It will appeal to all who are young at heart!

Is YOUR News Here

Please send notices of births, marriages and other special occasions to the Editor.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL NIAGARA FALLS April 29-May 1, 2011

The Ontario Welsh Festival (originally called the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu) is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2011 and we invite all members of the Welsh community in Ottawa to join us to celebrate this very special event.

It will be held in Niagara Falls, Ontario, where the very first Gymanfa took place in 1961. We have a fantastic hotel rate at the spectacular Sheraton Fallsview Hotel- just \$115 for a cityview room and \$135 for a fallsview room. Why don't you call to reserve your room right now at 1-905-374-1077 or toll free at 1-877-353-2557.

The committee is busy organizing some very special celebrations for the weekend, including a possible winery tour on Thursday afternoon, a welcoming tea with harp entertainment on Friday afternoon and a noson lawen with a special anniversary flavour on Friday evening.

On Saturday morning, there will be children's activities including a pageant by the children portraying famous Welsh people. Why don't you bring your children or grandchildren along. Hefina Phillips is organizing this and there is sure to be some character that your child/grandchild would have fun dressing up as.

There will be a seminar on Saturday afternoon and a poetry reading session.

Our grand banquet on Saturday will include a very special ceremony this year with the inaugural presentation of the annual GOLD AWARD to be given to a person who has contributed greatly to the Welsh community in Ontario.

To end a very exciting day, we will be honoured on Saturday evening by a concert by the renowned CF1 choir from Cardiff, South Wales. They were the guest choir at the North American Welsh Festival in Chicago a couple of years ago and their performance there thrilled us all-they really are the best! They have won at the National Eisteddfod of Wales many times and are finalists in this year's ongoing U.K. Choir of the Year contest. On Sunday there will be two wonderful sessions of hymn singing led by Eilir Griffith, director of CF1 choir, with Alan Thomas of Ottawa accompanying on the organ.

PLEASE COME! IT IS GOING TO BE A REALLY ENJOYABLE WEEKEND.

For more information, please see www.ontariowelshfestival.ca or e-mail us at info@ontariowelshfestival.ca or phone Alison Lawson at 613-725-2704.

WHO DESERVES TO WIN THE GOLD AWARD?

The Ontario Welsh Festival has established an annual award, the GOLD AWARD, to be given to a person who has contributed greatly to the Welsh Community in Ontario, see above. An awards committee has been set up to decide on the recipient each year. The committee comprises a representative from the Ottawa Welsh Society, the Toronto St David's Society, Dewi Sant Church and is chaired by the President of the Festival.

You are all invited to make suggestions to the committee for persons to be considered for this award.

Please send your ideas to Lezlie Wood, our Ottawa representative, at ldwood7@sympatico.ca or phone at 613-225-8845 (evenings only).

"Last Night of the Proms"

The Ottawa Welsh Society has received the following invitation to support the "Last Night of the Proms" which is featuring Wales.

You're invited to "The Last Night of the Proms" honouring Wales.

This ever popular, and fun-filled event features The Maple Leaf Brass Band, the Harmonia choir, organ, soloists, Garth Hampson as MC, and the usual audience participation with singing and flag waving! Costumes and flags are welcomed!

It takes place on Sunday October 17th this year, preceded by "The Axeman's Pub", an English style pub meal with live entertainment. The venue is **St. Matthias Church, Parkdale** at the Queensway in Ottawa, (easy to get to with lots of free parking). The meal will include English style pub food with trifle for dessert. Tea and coffee is included. There will be a cash bar for wine or beer.

Each year it is our custom to honour some aspect of British or Canadian heritage. This year we will be honouring Wales. Consequently **we extend a special invitation to the members of the Ottawa Welsh Community.**

The **Pub meal starts at 6 pm** (18:00 hr), followed by the **Proms at 8pm** (20:00 hr).

If you are coming as a group, let us know how many will be attending each of these events, we will arrange for reserved group seating, both for the Proms and the Pub.

For further information, please contact:

Doug Mackay, Proms Producer
St. Matthias Church, 555 Parkdale Ave, 613-226-6219

Pub dinner-price: \$17 (no group discounts)

Availability: (Advance sales only), at Collected Works Bookstore

Concert price: General Admission:- Advance Sales - \$22
At the Door - \$25

Group Rate Discounts (advance sales only) - Phone: 613-728-8572

TICKET OUTLETS

Church Office (information only)

555 Parkdale Ave. Tel: 613-728-3996

Collected Works Bookstore

1242 Wellington St W Tel: 613-722-1265

Leading Note

370 Elgin St. Tel: 613-569-7888

Book Bazaar

417 Bank St. Tel: 613-233-4380

CD Warehouse (East)

1717 St. Laurent Blvd. Tel: 613-523-0110

CD Warehouse (Nepean)

1383 Clyde Ave. Tel: 613-225-9027

Gorffwysfa - 24 Sussex Drive

Joseph Merrill Currier (1820 – April 22, 1884) was a Canadian member of parliament and businessman.

He was born in North Troy, Vermont in 1820 and moved to Canada in 1837, where he began work in the timber trade. Around 1850, he set up a sawmill and gristmill operation at Manotick, Ontario with Moss Kent Dickinson. He also operated his own lumber business in New Edinburgh from 1853 to the late 1860s and was a partner in the Wright, Batson and Currier Company

with Alonzo Wright which operated a saw mill at Hull, Quebec. In 1868, Currier built a house at 24 Sussex Drive, for his third wife Hannah, which is now used as the official residence for the Prime Minister of Canada. Currier named the house Gorffwysfa, Welsh for place of rest.

See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Merrill_Currier

Order of Canada awarded to member of OWS.

It is with immense pleasure that the committee and president of the Ottawa Welsh Society announce that **Dr Stanley Hughes**, an active member of the OWS, has been awarded the prestigious Order of Canada for his life-long contribution to science. This is an occasion of great pride not only for Dr Hughes, Lyndell his wife, and their family, as well as his co-researchers, but also for the Ottawa Welsh Society to which he has belonged for many years. I am sure you will all wish to join with us in congratulating Stan for this outstanding, and well-deserved honour.

The Order of Canada, created in 1967, recognizes the achievements of outstanding merit or distinguished service by Canadians. It is the highest order administered by the Governor General-in-Council in the Canadian system of honours, on behalf of the Queen of Canada.

Dr Hughes was born in Llanelli, South Wales and is a graduate of the University of Wales (B.Sc; M.Sc; D.Sc). His area of specialization is mycology (the scientific study of fungi). After working as an assistant to the Plant Pathologist at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and later Cardiff, he was appointed as assistant mycologist at the International Mycology Institute at Kew in Surrey, England. Having relocated to Canada in the early fifties, he worked as mycologist at the ECORD (Easter Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre) at Agriculture Canada until 1983 when he became an Honorary Research Associate, a position he still holds today.

Dr Hughes has travelled widely to pursue his researches in microfungi and has been the recipient of many awards in recognition of his pioneering work in this field, including the Jacob Eriksson Gold Medal, Royal Academy of Science (1969), the George Lawson Medal from the Canadian Botanical Association (1981), and the Distinguished Mycologist Award from the Mycological Society of America. In addition Dr Hughes has held high positions in a number of academic and learned societies, including that of President of the Mycological Society of America, Vice-President of the International Mycological Association. He is also Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Dr Hughes has never forgotten his Welsh roots. He is a familiar face at Ottawa Welsh Society events, and has continued his abiding interest in Welsh life and literature.

Llongyfarchiadau mawr, Stan!

Pawl W. Birt,

Llywydd/President OWS.

Why Welsh uses "f" to sound as "v" and "c" to sound as "k".

I heard the other day that the early printing presses used preformed type which was assembled to form words and sentences. The quantity of each letter produced assumed the frequency of letters found in the English language. There were very few "v"s and "k"s available so the early printers of the Welsh language used an "f" where the "v" sound was wanted and a "c" where all hard "c" or "k" sounds were needed.