



Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant – Valley Press Mis Rhagfyr 2010 – December 2010

Llywydd - President

Paul Birt Email: pwbirt@uottawa.ca

University of Ottawa Phone: (613) 562-5800 (3767)

Golygydd – Editor

Glenson T. Jones Email: glyn.ap.siol@rogers.com

51 McIntosh Place Kanata ON K2L 2N7 Phone: (613) 592-8957

Website: <http://www.ottawawelshsociety.com/>



CYNNWYS - CONTENTS

Page 1 – Upcoming Events, Notices, President

Page 2 – Ontario Welsh Festival, St David's Society

DIGWYDDIADAU - EVENTS

OWS Christmas Get-Together.....	Friday Dec 10
OWS Christmas Carol Service.....	Sunday Dec 12
OWS St David's Day Lunch.....	Saturday Feb 26
OWS Gymanfa Ganu.....	Sunday Feb 27
Ontario Welsh Festival.....	Saturday April 30

NADOLIG LLAWEN - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

OWS Christmas Get-Together

Friday 10 December - 6pm - Nos Wener 10fed

Rhagfyr

Parliament Pub

101 Sparks Street, Ottawa.

(613-563-0636)



Annual Christmas Carol Service

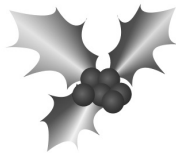
12 December / Rhagfyr, 7pm

OWS Christmas Carol Service

Westminster Presbyterian Church,

470 Roosevelt Ave., Ottawa.

(613-722-1144)



NEGES Y LLYWYDD / PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the OWS Committee, I would like to wish everyone in the society Nadolig Llawen and a Merry Christmas! With the weather in northern Europe looking far more like Canadian wintery conditions than our own weather (Troesgoed near Aberystwyth was the coldest spot in the Britain one night recently), we look forward to our own familiar snowy conditions and also two OWS events as part of the coming celebration of Christmas. The first of these events will be held at the Parliament Pub at 101, Sparks St., on Friday 10th December at 6pm. All members of the society are very warmly invited to attend this get-together for an enjoyable and relaxing evening out. Our traditional Christmas Carol Service, followed by a Te Bach, will be held two days later on Sunday 12th December at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Roosevelt Ave, starting at 7pm. A great opportunity to attend a traditional Christmas service with reading and carols in Welsh, English and French. The Committee and I look forward to seeing you all at both these events! Dewch yn llu!

The next edition of Y Bwletin will be coming out in January when we will provide full details about the St David's Day Lunch to be held on Saturday, 26 February at The Royal Ottawa Golf Club in Gatineau, Québec. The committee is busy organising a number of other events around that period as part of a celebration of Wales and St David, including a film-night.

Also, if you have any jokes, poems, anecdotes or an article for inclusion in the Bwletin, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please send your contributions to Pawl Birt (pwbirt@uottawa.ca) or Glenson Jones (g.t.jones@rogers.com) by 15th January 2011.

Please put into your diaries....

The OWS St David's Day Lunch

Saturday, 26 February

The Royal Ottawa Golf Club

Gatineau.

President

Faggots and Peas and Noson Lawen October 23rd.

by Alison Lawson

The Faggots and Peas night is a very popular event among the Ottawa Welsh community and this year was no exception. Over a hundred people gathered at Westminster Presbyterian Church to enjoy a delicious meal and to take part in the fun of a Noson Lawen. John Griffiths' faggots and peas were fantastic, the mushy peas and gravy prepared by Jean Howard were superb, and the potatoes, peeled and cooked by Myfanwy Davies and Gaye Brittle and mashed by Haleigh Johns fawera a big hit. The apple pie and ice cream provided by John Price was a perfect way to finish off the meal .

After the meal, we were all very proud to honour Stan Hughes, who was recently awarded the Order of Canada, with a special commemorative plaque presented by Dr. Pawl Birt.

We then enjoyed varied entertainment in the true spirit of a Noson Lawen. We were especially pleased to welcome the Ottawa Celtic Choir who sang two pieces in Welsh. We finished off with a sing song of popular Welsh songs, ably accompanied by Alan Thomas who also M.C.'ed the event.

The committee would like to give a huge round of applause to everyone who helped to make this event such a success It wouldn't be possible without the cooks and kitchen crew, the bar organiser and staff, the set up crew, the table layers, the hall decorators, the public address system techie, the servers, the raffle ticket sellers, the washer-uppers(these included the whole

Bello family), the M.C., the ticket order taker, the treasurer and the door staff - a big THANK YOU to you all!

**Cor CF1 Choir coming to the Ontario Welsh Festival
in April 2011**

We are all in for a wonderful treat next April at the Ontario Welsh Festival which will be held in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The guest choir, CF1, who will be giving a concert on Saturday, April 30th are really sensational - just ask anyone who heard them sing at the North American Festival of Wales in Chicago in 2008! And as an extra treat they will be participating in the Noson Lawen on Friday evening.

The choir, named after the postal code for the area where they rehearse in Cardiff, was formed in 2002 and in a remarkably short time, has become one of the foremost mixed choirs in Wales. It has about 60 choristers ranging in age from 20 to 36. They have won numerous first prizes in the Urdd National Eisteddfod and the National Eisteddfod of Wales. This year they were honoured to be one of the four finalists in the Best Adult Choir category of the British Choir of the Year competition.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to hear them sing in North America.

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

**Preswylfa, Tremadog and Laurence of Arabia's
Welsh Background
24 Sussex - Gorphwysfa
gan Aled ab Iorwerth**

Enw adnabyddus i Gymry Ottawa yw Gorphwysfa, enw gwreiddiol 24 Sussex, cartref y Prif Weinidog, tan i Louis St. Laurent benderfynu ei fod o'n rhy gymhleth i'w ynganu. Lle adnabyddus arall o'r un enw oedd Gorphwysfa, Tremadog lle y ganwyd T.E. Lawrence yn Awst, 1888, yr enwog Lawrence of Arabia. Er mai prin oedd gwaed Cymreig Lawrence yn ôl ei fywgraffiad gan Robert Graves, 'roedd y cefndir Cymreig yn mynd i roi sylfaen i'w fywyd diweddarach. Yn 1907, llwyddodd i gael ysgoloriaeth i Goleg yr Iesu Rhydychen, cartref traddodiadol y Cymry yno. Enillodd yr ysgoloriaeth o hanner canpunt y flwyddyn ar sail ei enedigaeth yng Nghymru.

Mae'n amlwg fod rhyw deimlad cryf gan Lawrence tuag at ddirgelion y Canol Oesoedd. Astudiodd yr holl hanesion Arthuriaidd. Wedi ei ysgogi o deithio o gwmpas cestyll, yn cynnwys beicio o amgylch y cestyll Edwardaidd yng Nghymru yng ngwanwyn 1907, fe aeth ymlaen i ysgrifennu ei draethawd ymchwil ar y cyswllt rhwng cestyll Gogledd Orllewin Ewrop a cestyll y croesgadwyr yn y Dwyrain Canol hyd at y 13eg ganrif. Gyda chymorth yr Athro Syr John Rhys-arbenigwr yn y byd celtaidd o Bonterwyd yn wreiddiol, a'r Athro cyntaf yn yr ieithoedd Celtaidd yn Rhydychen-fe gaeth yr hawl oddi wrth y llywodraeth Otoman i deithio o fewn ei hymerodraeth. Diolch i hynny, ac ar ôl dysgu ychydig o Arabeg, fe aeth i grwydro o gwmpas cestyll y Dwyrain Canol ym 1909 ar gyfer ei ymchwil, sbardun i'w ddiddordeb hwyrach yn y byd Arabaidd.

**The search for Ottawa's St David's Society
by Pawl W Birt**

As many members know, the present Ottawa Welsh Society was preceded by another Welsh society whose history is now only partly known. Sadly, the official records of the St David's Society of Ottawa went astray at some point, and it would be a great discovery if a boxful of those records were to see the light of day again since it would fill an important gap in our knowledge of the Welsh in Ottawa

for the first half of the twentieth century.

However, there is at least one useful source that helps to give us an insight into that darkened history, and that is the well-known (and now amalgamated) Welsh-American newspaper Y Drych. Whilst in the National Library in Aberystwyth earlier this year, I was reading through old copies of the Drych (1900-1930) searching for other information, when I came across some of the first references to the Ottawa St David's Society.

The newspaper received a report from Ottawa in Welsh about the St David's Day celebrations in 1929. This particular occasion is described by R.J.C. Fabry as one of the most successful St David's Days in the history of the society. As was usual the society held its dinner at the 'Palm Garden' (Hotel?) with a turn-out of some 100 people. The honorary president was D.R. Thomas, a well-known Welshman in the city it seems, and G. Millward the president. Also in attendance was the mayor of Ottawa Mr Plant, as well as John Evans M.P. together with the Reverend D.L. Griffiths (Peniel, Carmarthenshire) as well as the presidents of the English, Scottish and Irish societies.

The meal was followed by a full programme of song and speeches, including that of the Mayor who was pleased that the Welsh society would be once again holding an Eisteddfod that year, and that he was willing to obtain financial support from the City Council. He mentions how sad the people of Ottawa had been when the Eisteddfod had not been held the previous year which suggests that it was a very open occasion to those outside the society. On the following Sunday, a Welsh-language service was held for the very first time in Ottawa at the Knox Church with the Reverend Griffiths preaching. The male-voice choir performed with Miss Crocombe (Rhosllanerchrugog) as organist. Another important member of the Welsh Society mentioned was Mr Joe Davies, originally from Rhyl, who came to Ottawa in 1892 and worked in one of the city banks. He was in fact the founder of the Welsh St David's Society, and is described in several of the Drych articles as 'tad i Gymry Ottawa'.

The Welsh male-voice choir of Ottawa is also mentioned in Y Drych on 21 December 1933 with a photograph of 28 members of the choir with the red dragon emblazoned across their choir uniforms. The picture had most likely been taken during their visit to Utica for the December eisteddfod there. Also shown are the choir-master and the accompanist. The choir was founded by one Mr Clarke who in another Drych report is described as the guest speaker at another St David's Day celebration in Ottawa (also at the 'Palm Gardens'), when it was mentioned that the choir had only recently been formed.

Also in 1929, Y Drych gives a report about some of the early winter activities of the society, a dance at the beginning of December with a ukulele competition (!) followed by Welsh songs, and then a more conventional concert nearer to Christmas, featuring the three Thomas brothers from Billingsbridge, who were a well-known trio who sang at many Welsh events in Ottawa in the 1920s. Apparently the ukulele was very fashionable in Ottawa in 1929. These articles show that the Welsh Society of Ottawa was very active during the 'roaring' twenties, and as such give us a glimpse of Welsh people in Ottawa at that time. Heddwch i'w llwch!

Local Notices

Elfed Lewis and his wife Anna are now the proud parents of a baby girl, Rhiannon Martha Lewis. She was born Tuesday, 26th of October at 3.15 am. Mum and baby are both well. Birth weight was 5lb 15oz. *Congratulations from all of us.*