



Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant – Valley Press Mis Ebrill 2008 – April 2008

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- Cymdeithas Madog Welsh Course..... July 13-20
- NA Festival of Wales, Chicago..... August 28-31

President's Message

The Ontario Welsh Festival will be held in Stratford May 2-4 (see www.ontariowelshfestival.ca).

The North American Festival of Wales is in Chicago, on Labour Day Weekend (see www.wngga.org).

Our Pot Luck Supper and Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 22, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 470 Roosevelt Ave, Ottawa. Supper at 5:30 PM for 6:00 p.m. and meeting at 7:30 p.m.

We need volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee for 2008-2009. The more people we have on the Committee, the less work there will be for each person. Please call me for information or to volunteer.

I hope you have had an opportunity to check out our reorganized website. We are looking for someone to act as webmaster. Please let us know if you are interested.

Please see below for further information.
Lezlie Wood, President

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL STRATFORD, MAY 2 - 4, 2008

by Hefina Phillips

Here are 9 good reasons why you should attend

1. The annual event is the best way of celebrating your Welsh identity here in Ontario. There is something to

please everyone: a noson lawen, seminars, a banquet, a concert, an afterglow and, of course, a Gymanfa Ganu.

2. A wonderful opportunity to hear the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir on Saturday evening and on Sunday, directed by William Woloschuk - Ukrainian by birth but definitely becoming an honorary Welshman!

3. Catrin Davies of Washington will be the guest soloist on Saturday evening and during the two Gymanfa sessions. Catrin was the winner of the David Morris Award three years ago and as a result, competed in the National Eisteddfod in Swansea in 2006.

4. Mari Morgan will conduct the two Gymanfa sessions on Sunday. Mari, originally from Llanelli but now residing in New Jersey, has a great musical reputation in the North American Welsh community.

5. If you are planning on going to Patagonia with the North American Choir in October, the weekend will give us an opportunity for a special practice with Mari - our conductor on that tour. Not to be missed!

6. Stratford is one of the best cities in Ontario and is the home of the Shakespeare Company. The season will have just begun so you can take advantage by attending a play or musical prior to or after the weekend. Check their website.

7. If shopping is one of your delights, then Stratford is the place for you. It is full of stores, galleries and boutiques, with plenty of cafes and restaurants to help replenish your energy level.

8. Strolling along the banks of the river Avon, watching and feeding the swans, is a tranquil pastime.

9. This is the weekend to meet up with old friends and to make new ones, and you will receive a Croeso

(Welcome) second to none.

Therefore mark the following dates in your calendar - May 2-4. The venue is the Arden Park Hotel, 522 Ontario Street, Stratford. Tel: 519-275-2936
Reservations: 877-788-8818. And don't forget to keep checking the website at www.ontariowelshfestival.ca

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.

Potluck Dinner & AGM Thursday, May 22, 2008

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

Westminster Presbyterian Church
470 Roosevelt Ave, Ottawa.

Bring an appetizer, main course, salad or dessert

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

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

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 Lezlie know how you could help.

Want to Learn Welsh?

Cymdeithas Madog will be heading back to Iowa for the 32nd annual Cwrs Cymraeg Welsh language week. Cwrs y Rhosyn Gwyllt, The Wild Rose Course, will be held **July 13-20, 2008**, on the campus of Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa.

Cwrs Cymraeg (which simply means "Welsh Course") emphasizes the spoken language, with classroom instruction at various levels ranging from absolute beginners to quite advanced. The teaching staff of experienced Welsh-speaking instructors is brought from Wales and North America. There are approximately 5 hours of language class each day, supplemented by further language and culture-related activities in the

afternoon. Evening events such as singing, folk dancing, Welsh-language films, and a Noson Lawen (talent night) provide additional opportunities to relax while enjoying a Welsh-language atmosphere.

For more information see the website <http://www.madog.org/> or check with Glen Jones who has attended several times.

North American Festival of Wales by Myfanwy Davies

This year the North American Festival of Wales is blowing into the Windy City. The four day festival of Welsh art and culture will be held from August 28th to 31st at the Doubletree Chicago-Oakbrook hotel. Although this facility is located on the western outskirts of the city, it is close to O'Hare Airport, and getting downtown is very easy. I would strongly recommend going a few days early to take in the Field Museum, the Shedd Aquarium, the Adler Planetarium, the view from the Sears Tower, an architectural boat tour, and some of the wonderful area shopping.

Once the Festival starts on Thursday, you will want to be in the Doubletree for all the activities. The opening concert will feature Fflur Dafydd, a prominent Welsh singer-songwriter. At the Banquet on Friday we will be entertained by Aled Wyn Davies, a well-known Welsh tenor and farmer, and a recent winner of the Blue Riband at the National Eisteddfod. On Saturday night we will be entertained by the Cor Aelwyd CF1, a mixed youth choir from Cardiff. They have also won many accolades including Choir of the Festival in 2005's National Eisteddfod.

Throughout the weekend there will also be a number of seminars given by experts in a variety of Welsh subjects from choirs and rugby, to art and architecture, to literature and poetry. There will also be an opportunity to view Welsh films, learn to sing and dance in Welsh and to enjoy the Eisteddfod competition, as well as shop in the Marketplace and enjoy a Welsh cake and cuppa in the Tea Room.

The culmination of the weekend will be the 77th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, and this year the director will be Mari Morgan. Mari is a native of Llanelli and the director of the North American Welsh Choir. The organist will be our own Alan Thomas.

For further information see the website: http://www.wngga.org/NAFOW/nafov_hm.html or talk to Roy Morris who is the President (phone 613-592-1222)

HISTORY of the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society by Myfanwy Davies

The Ottawa Welsh Choral Society was formed in the fall of 1968, by members of the Ottawa Welsh

Society. The first meeting was held in the home of Albert and Vronwen Davies, and since there weren't enough men to form a male voice choir, it was decided that we would start a mixed choir.

Roy Morris was invited to be the first director of the group and Grace Davies to be the accompanist. Both remained with the choir for many years.

Throughout its history, the choir has always performed Welsh music as part of its repertoire, but has also sung Canadian, sacred, and secular music of all kinds. Membership has never been restricted to Welsh people only, so we have had many nationalities represented over the years. Choir size has varied, but members are often very dedicated. We currently have four members who have each been with us for over 30 years, and our Director, Marilyn Jenkins, has been leading us for over 20 years.

Highlights of the choir's history include three trips to Wales. The first was in 1973 where we competed at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. Concert tours were also undertaken in 1978 and 1990, when we were recorded for broadcast on BBC Wales. The choir has also performed throughout Ontario, in Quebec, and visited Green Mountain College in Vermont in 2002.

The choir was honoured to sing for HRH The Prince of Wales, and appeared in the Opera of the National Arts Centre with the RCMP Band. The choir joins the Ottawa Welsh Society for services at Christmas and St. David's Day each year, has participated in the Ontario Welsh Festival several times, and the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu twice. For many years the choir participated in Multicultural Festivals in the Ottawa area and enjoyed sharing our Welsh music with that of many other ethnic groups.

We are grateful for the support of our many friends in the Ottawa area, and look forward to the next 40 years.

Welsh Family History Workshop

by Hugh Reekie

The snowy weather delayed the arrival of some, but Alison Lawson was able to introduce the two speakers by the planned 9.30 am start on Saturday 1st March, St David's Day. Various wires, tables and electronic equipment had to be rushed into service; but Alison then mentioned that some publicity material announced a 10 am start; so the coffee break started early, with casual discussion.

The morning workshop was attended by about 30 people; it was run by Ridge Williams and Hugh Reekie, both of whom have been researching their Welsh forebears in some detail. A display table was set up with books, pamphlets and charts.

For the first presentation, Ridgeley Williams gave an

illustrated lecture on the basics, including Census access using Ancestry.com, access to birth & marriage records - and some of the problems specific to researching Welsh forebears (e.g. local place names, surnames, and variations). He also covered other aspects of research (e.g. Welsh drovers) and mentioned some resources available at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

During the refreshment break, there were opportunities for questions; many were asked around the display table, where an illustrated book of Old Ceredigion was of particular interest.

After the break, Hugh Reekie described his recent research into his mid-Wales forebears, emphasizing the Merchant Marine activities of his Jones family from Aberaeron. Using a mixture of specialist databases on the web and requests for documentation from Museums and libraries, Hugh was able to create a detailed picture of the lives of his Master-Mariner forebears from Ceredigion around 1850. He also mentioned the fully-indexed Cambrian Newspaper on the Internet – a real goldmine for those with forebears in the Swansea area.

As the laptop was connected to the internet via special arrangement with Westminster Presbyterian church, there was access afterwards to computer databases for the planned one-on-one sessions. John and Gwyneth Watkin, in particular, were delighted with the information obtained.

The British Isles Family History Society of Ottawa - BIFHSGO - meets monthly on Saturday mornings at the Canadian Library & Archives. See their website for further information <http://www.bifhsgo.ca/>

Welsh joy over Grand Slam victory

BBC News - Saturday March 15, 2008

Thousands of rugby fans are celebrating Wales' Grand Slam 29-12 victory against France in Cardiff. It is the second time in four seasons the team has clinched the accolade and around 75,000 people were in the Millennium Stadium to witness it and many more watched the game on a free big screen in the city's civic centre.

First Minister Rhodri Morgan led tributes to the team saying the Grand Slam would "do so much for Wales as a small country".

"This team is playing with a ruthless defensive efficiency, combined with traditional Welsh attacking flair," he said.

Team captain Ryan Jones was presented with the RBS 6 Nations championship trophy by Prince William, who was on his fourth visit to the Millennium Stadium since becoming Vice Royal Patron of the

Welsh Rugby Union in February 2007.

The Welsh team were led out by Manon and Gwenan Gravell, the young daughters of late rugby legend and broadcaster Ray.

Describing the performance as "unbelievable", Welsh rugby legend Jonathan Davies paid tribute to Shane Williams who claimed the Welsh try-scoring record with his sixth of the tournament during the game.

"What Warren Gatland and Shaun Edwards have done is to turn the men in red into men of steel, just like the Welsh teams of the golden years thirty years ago."

"We can now all say proudly that we are the champions of Europe and champions of the Northern Hemisphere. Bring on the Southern Hemisphere."

The Minister for Sport Rhodri Glyn Thomas described the triumph as a "tremendous result for Wales" and said it would be a "real boost to our national self-confidence".

"I warmly congratulate everyone involved with the Welsh team on a marvellous victory to cap a wonderful Grand Slam," said Mr Thomas.

"Warren Gatland and his coaching team must take special credit, but without the efforts of Ryan Jones and the players, such as Ian Gough on winning his 50th cap, that would have counted for little.

"Each one of them can be immensely proud of what they have achieved during this championship campaign and they very much deserve this success."

Thousands turned out for a similar event when Wales beat Ireland in the Grand Slam decider of 2005.

LOCAL NEWS

Dawn Bard was an alto in the Ottawa Welsh Choir & President of the Welsh Society for several years, but had to retire due to ill health & when she became legally blind. She has been in & out of the Civic Hospital for the last six months, & early April was moved to the second floor of St. Vincent's Hospital for several weeks.

Coincidentally, Dawn had to have her long time canine companion put to sleep the day she moved to St. Vincent's. Her two siblings live out west, so she would be very grateful for some company, or contact from Welsh Society members who knew her.

Her phone number is 613-233-4041 extension 8295. Information contact: Marie Andrews at 613-728-3016

We regret to inform you of the death of one of our members, **Joyce Jeanes**. Her husband, Bill Jeanes, is a former President of the OWS.

This is the Citizen obituary:

JOYCE JEANES, S.R.N. Suddenly on 21st February

2008, accidentally at home in Ottawa.

Joyce Jeanes (nee Johnson). Born in England in 1923 and lived since 1957 in Ottawa.

Beloved, loving and devoted wife for 60 years of Dr. Bill Jeanes, mother of David (Helga), Rosemary (Paul Antze), Brian (Denise), grandmother of Andrew, Jennifer, Emily, Bridget, Alison, Hayley, Melissa, and great-grandmother of Orla.

John Raymond Stroud passed away in Toronto on April 9, 2008. He was 86. Many in Ottawa will remember him as his wife Betty was the Treasurer of the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association for several years. John was a prisoner of war, held in Hong Kong during the Second World War, and was President of the Hong Kong Veterans Association of Ontario, as well as Vice-Chairman of the Canadian Council of Veterans Affairs. He is survived by Betty, three sons and five grandchildren. A memorial service is scheduled for Dewi Sant Welsh United Church on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at 12:30 pm. Condolences can be sent through www.humphreymiles.com, the funeral home.

Welsh Proverb

Nid yw chwedl yn colli wrth ei hadrodd
A tale does not lose through the telling.

WEB MASTER NEEDED

We have a new website & we need a web master to update information on the site several times a year.

You wouldn't have to be a computer expert, just have some knowledge of computers and some time to update the information on the website.

The main jobs are (1) posting the newsletters (about 5 times a year) and (2) updating the list of Executive members (infrequently).

Our web designer is willing to provide lessons to anyone who volunteers to take on the task.

If you would like to help out the Society in this way, contact the president, Lezlie Wood: telephone (613) 225-8845 or email ldwood@sympatico.ca

>> Creative Opportunity <<

Remuneration: Satisfaction and new friends

Experience: Optional

Tasks such as: - Become a member of the executive,
- Assisting at a function,
or with occasional phone blitzes.

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 or by mail to 205 - 1465 Baseline Road Ottawa ON K2C 3L9