

Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press
Haf 2013 - Summer 2013



www.ottawawelsh.com

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Y Gymdeithas ar y We / The Society on the Net:
www.ottawawelsh.com



Facebook:

Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa

OTTAWA WELSH SOCIETY SUMMER PICNIC

Saturday, August 10th 4p.m.-8p.m.
The home of Laurie Jenkins and Rob
Woods:
16 Pretty Street, Stittsville K2S 1N3*

We invite you to join us for this fun filled event. There will be games and other activities; and a prize will be awarded for the best Welsh-themed dish, so be prepared for some delicious food!

Please bring the following:

- something to barbecue for yourselves
- beverage
- savoury dish/salad/dessert to share
- garden chairs

If you can make a Welsh-themed dish, all the better.

Feel free to bring alcoholic drinks, if you wish, but **please consume responsibly**. Plates, plastic cutlery and condiments will be provided.

RSVP essential by Aug 5th to Patricia Pepper at

patricia1@primus.ca or 613-829-9821

** If you have a spare folding table you could bring, please let us know**

Tickets for the Pontarddulais Choir concert will be available.

*Take Hwy 417 to Carp Rd
Head **southeast** on **Carp Rd** toward **Westbrook Rd**
Turn right onto **Stittsville Main St**
Turn left onto **Orville St**
Take the 1st right onto **Pretty St**

Pontarddulais Choir Visits Ottawa!!

The Pontarddulais Male Choir will appear in Ottawa for one night only on Friday, September 6, 2013. Their concert will take place at City View United Church, 6 Epworth Avenue, Nepean starting at 7:30 p.m.

This award-winning choir was started in 1960 and has taken first place at the National Eisteddfod of Wales a record 15 times, and has also won the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod top prize twice. Their last visit to Ottawa was in 1977 and it will be lovely to hear them again. They sing a wide repertoire of songs and styles ranging from Welsh folk and sacred songs, to operatic choruses to modern show tunes.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available from:

Myfanwy Davies at 613-526-3019
myfanwy57@sympatico.ca

John Price 613-724-3946
john.price@sympatico.ca

CD Warehouse Granata Music
Leading Note

Reception for choir

The choir will be arriving on Thursday afternoon and a reception is being planned that evening at the British High Commission. Attendance priority is being given to choir members, and the volunteers arranging their visit, but there are a few spaces open for other Ottawa Welsh Society members. If you are interested, please email Myfanwy Davies at myfanwy57@sympatico.ca. Light snacks and a cash bar will be available.

THIS IS SOMETHING WE DON'T WANT TO MISS!!

The Story of Wales - TVO, Monday August 12th at 10 p.m. - a six-part series.

The blurb on the TVO website reads as follows:

“Beginning with the earliest known human burial in Western Europe, the 'Red Lady of Paviland', and ending with a modern nation, this is an authoritative popular history of Wales. We see the huge wealth of the country in the Bronze Age, the massive scale of the Roman presence, the rich culture of medieval Wales and the capture of the English Crown by a family with strong Welsh roots, the Tudors.)”

If you want to see the - very short- preview, go to www.tvo.org and enter The Story of Wales into the search box at the top right.

Pawl Birt had the following to say on the OWS Facebook page:

“This is wonderful news that The Story of Wales is going to be broadcast by TVO. This series first aired on British television a couple of years ago, and is now available in DVD form. We used it for part of the Welsh class at the university last term. It is introduced by Huw Edwards who frequently is the anchor man for the main BBC television news in the evening, and a Welsh speaker. It is an excellent series and I would recommend all members of the OWS and those interested in Wales (and who can get TV Ontario) to invest their time and watch this very watchable series. It's the cutting edge.”

Hope you can all have a look!

- Wendy Wynne-Jones

INTRODUCING...

Wendy Wynne-Jones, member-at-large:

Wendy's father was Welsh, from the north, and her mother was a Scot. She herself was born on the Wirral. Her family came to Canada in the early fifties. (“We watched the coronation film on the boat!”)

Wendy's passions are Ancient and Mediaeval History, reading, and her three granddaughters... And being retired...

Wendy's history with the OWS goes back to the 1980s. A long time member of the Gwalia Singers, she also served as OWS Secretary and then President for two terms back in the day. She served as President of the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies for ten years and is a Director on the National Board. In addition to her work on the Ottawa Welsh Society executive, she is currently Vice President of the Friends of Iceland - so, a varied background!

- Wendy Wynne-Jones,
with Marilyn Jenkins

Digwyddiadau/Events:

August 10	Family Picnic
September 5-6	Pontarddulais Choir Visit
October	Pub Night
November	Noson lawen Dinner
December	Lessons and Carols

Awr Sgwrsio

Monday, September 30th
Nos Lun, Medi 30fed

Mae'r haf yn mynd heibio ac bydd yn amser i 'sgwrsio' 'n fuan. Dewch i'n cynorthwyo i dafarn Y Clock Tower, Bank St., Nos Lun, Medi 30fed am saith o'r gloch.

We will be having 'Awr Sgwrsio' at the Clock Tower Pub, 575 Bank Street, Monday, September 30th at seven o'clock. Please join us.

Please contact Alison Lawson for more information-613-725-2704 or e-mail at alisonlawson@rogers.com

Mary Muckle Presents History of the Harp In Scotland

"A House and a Half of Scotland" - a talk with slides and harp performance on the history of the harp in Scotland by Mary Muckle and friends. The event takes place on Saturday, Oct. 19, 3pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 470 Roosevelt Avenue, Ottawa. Admission is by donation. For further information call 613-825-1379 or contact mucklerice@rogers.com

Editor's note:

This is a follow-up presentation to the History of the Harp in Wales.

THE MONKEY PUZZLE TREE

Sonia (Boyle) Tilson was born in Swansea and educated at Monmouth School for Girls and the University of Wales, Swansea. She married Alistair Tilson, who was already teaching at Carleton University, in 1964 and immigrated to Canada, settling in Ottawa where their two sons, Edward and David, were born. She has been an English teacher all her working life, at Carleton and Ottawa universities, at Algonquin College, and at Elmwood School for Girls; a long apprenticeship for writing her first novel in retirement.

The Monkey Puzzle Tree alternates between Wales and Canada, beginning at the outbreak of WW2, when six-year-old Gillian Davies is evacuated from Swansea to the Welsh countryside, and ending fifty years later when she returns to Wales from her adult life in Canada in order to deal with some disturbing unfinished business.

The book was published by Biblioasis in June, 2013. It has been described as "a well-written, clear-eyed look at the evacuation of small children from British cities during the Second World War" (The Ottawa Citizen, June 8th), an emotional thriller" (Mary Borsky), and "beautifully designed" (Cynthia Flood)

The Monkey Puzzle Tree is available from **Books** on Beechwood or can be ordered from any book store or Amazon.

**NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF
WALES
TORONTO ONTARIO
August 28 – September 1, 2013**

First the bad news: if you haven't reserved your room at the Royal York Hotel yet, then sorry, they're all gone!

Now the good news: both the local committee and the National Board are working flat out to make this Festival an enormous success. Under the leadership of Betty Cullingworth, the local committee's "list of things to do" is indeed slowly but surely getting accomplished. Lynette Jenkins along with Leah Darke, are our overworked PR.

Lynette is also your go-to person for tickets for the "big events" - i.e. The Three Tenors (Thursday evening) and Pontarddulais Male Choir (Saturday evening). Her number is 416-281-8758.

Trish Stevenson is making sure that the Market Place will be a hive of activity and the last I heard there were 30 tables with a myriad of "goodies". And more are expected.

Donna Morris is offering her services as a tour guide as she takes visitors around places of Welsh interest in the city, terminating with lunch and entertainment at Dewi Sant. The Opening Ceremony on Thursday, 3 PM, will feature members of Dewi Sant and the children of the SundaySchool. Please come and support them.

What else is the local committee up to? On our long, long list there are 10,000 Welsh cakes to be made - under Myfanwy Bajaj's direction. Pianos and the organ have to be ordered and installed – thanks to Brian and Joan Hughes. The AV system has to be organized. Ian Morris of Ottawa is our man on the spot there.

Thanks to Betty's leadership, we all pitch in as much as we are able, because festivals like this don't 'just happen'.

Please make sure that you register as soon as possible. Bring your friends and neighbours to the concerts. Let them know about all the seminars, including Sian Thomas' two seminars, **Y Fari Lwyd** and **Traditional Welsh Music**. Why not invite them to the Sunday morning service to hear the Rev Dr Cerwyn Davies preach? The two Cymanfa sessions (Sunday afternoon and evening) will be inspirational.

An enormous amount of preparation? You bet! But there is so much to see, to do, to experience.

We won't have this opportunity in Toronto for another 30 years, I'm sure, so take advantage of all that is being offered.

- Hefina Phillips

WNAA Sponsorship

The Welsh community in Ontario is delighted that Toronto was chosen as the host city for the 2013 North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) sponsored by the Welsh North American Association (WNAA). This is an opportunity for us to showcase Toronto and to demonstrate with pride our support of our Welsh heritage.

The Festival is a wonderful celebration of Welsh culture and is an opportunity for bringing together those who are Welsh by birth or inclination from across North America. The WNAA has over 2800 members and 115 Affiliated Welsh Organizations. The Festival attendance in recent years has ranged from 550 to 850 and this year in Toronto, we hope to scale new heights in attendance.

Putting on such a Festival entails careful planning and requires considerable resources. The volunteer support to date has been generous and we look forward to the participation of many volunteers at our event. Financial resources are also necessary to ensure a quality event.

As a non-profit organization, the WNAA relies heavily on sponsorships and donations from our members and friends. In 2012, over 1/3 of all Festival income came from these sources. Without this money, the event would not be possible. Sponsorships are available for all elements of the Festival.

We take every opportunity to thank our sponsors for their support. Your name will appear on signage in the hotel, in the program book, on our website and in our quarterly newsletter, *Hwyl*. If you are an organization, we can provide a free table in our marketplace for your use.

If you have a particular event in the program that you would like to sponsor financially, you can specify that particular area. We also need funds for publicity and advertisements. By using these tools effectively, we will greatly enhance our ability to draw people to our Festival and help guarantee its success.

Can you help? For further information on how to become a sponsor or for specific sponsorship opportunities, please contact Betty Cullingworth.

Email: cullingwho@rogers.com or
Phone: 416-486-0432.

The website, www.nafow.org, will give you a feel for the fun and bustle that makes the Festival so special to all who attend. Be sure to check it out!!

- Betty Cullingworth
(Toronto Venue Chair)

Thank You, OWS!

The following letter was received by the Ottawa Welsh Society upon receipt of our gift.

*Dear Ottawa Welsh Society,
On behalf of the Board of Trustees of The Welsh North American Association, I sincerely thank you for your gift of \$1000, received on July 1st 2013.*

Without the continuing financial support of our friends, it would be difficult to plan our annual North American Festival of Wales, print hymn books, and carry out our other activities.

The 2012 North American Festival of Wales held in Scranton, PA was a huge success with record attendance for recent years. Contributions from supporters played a large role in making this event possible and we are very grateful for all donations we receive throughout the year.

This gift will be used as a sponsorship of Pub Night, featuring the Three Welsh Tenors and will be noted in the festival program book. We look forward to seeing many of your members in Toronto and appreciate the growing relationship between your society and ours.

Diolch yn fawr,

*Megan Williams
Executive Secretary*

INTRODUCING...

Sian Jones, membership coordinator:

Sian Jones is new membership coordinator for the OWS. Sian is the youngest of 4 children of Dr. John D. Jones & Margaret (Jeremy), both former OWS members. She was born in England but has close ties to family back in the Carmarthen area. She tries to visit annually and is a keen genealogist, having traced her maternal family back 13 generations in Carmarthenshire. She looks forward to meeting more Society Members over the next year and hopes to help us increase the membership and continue to strengthen the OWS

Sian Jones with Marilyn Jenkins

REMINDER

All Ottawa Welsh Society 2013 memberships were due for renewal on March 1, 2013.

The fees are

Single \$10

Family \$20

If you have not yet renewed, please complete the attached form to ensure our information is up-to-date, and send it with your cheque to
Alison Lawson
449 Mansfield Avenue
Ottawa, ON
K2A 2S6

In Memoriam

Kathleen Elisabeth Morris

Born April 9th 1933 in Nottingham England
Passed away May 19th 2013 in Ottawa

As a young girl Kay was no stranger to battling health issues. Born with knock knees she had leg irons on both legs for several years until surgery was performed to fix the problem. After that she became an athletic young lady who enjoyed tennis and hiking.

She moved to Swansea, when her father was transferred there for work. There she attended Carmarthen Rd Congregational Church, where she met her future husband, Roy Morris. They began dating and became quite a strong mixed doubles tennis team. After their wedding and honeymoon in Paris, mom was diagnosed with pericarditis. Her doctor at the time told them that the best way to treat this was to get pregnant, so 11 months after the wedding Ian was born; then 18 months later Nigel and in another 18, Stephen.

In 1966 they decided to accept a transfer to Canada, after seeing little chance for advancement in Wales. After their arrival in Canada, while staying at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto (Roy was doing his training), Kay contracted the mumps. You can imagine how difficult it was being that sick with 3 young boys to care for and entertain. Of course, with her usual pluck and style, she carried on and got through it all.

As soon as Roy's training was completed, in September 1966, the family moved to Ottawa. Kay was a stay-at-home mom until Stephen reached school age. She then started her stint in the Canadian workforce. Her first job was as a teller for the TD Bank on Carling Ave. The family will always remember the horrible florescent green mini skirt uniforms that they had at that time and how she did not think they were very proper business attire.

Her next job, which lasted for many years, was with Campeau Corporation. She worked her way up to the executive floor and one of her main jobs was as Robert Campeau's personal bookkeeper. Her bookkeeping was known for its exceptional accuracy and neatness. Kay was unique at Campeau Corp; her skills were so valued by Mr. Campeau that she was the only Anglophone on the executive floor.

After Campeau Corp moved its offices she went to work for Sampson and McNaughton Real Estate and finished up her career at Mitel Corp. For many, many years during these times she also served as the treasurer of the Ottawa Welsh Society. It has been said that hers were the neatest and most accurate books in the history of the society.

The boys could not have asked for a better mother. She rarely got angry and was dedicated to all of her children. She had an unerring sense of fairness and always made sure that each of her sons got exactly the same treatment in all ways. At Christmas and birthdays she kept every receipt so that she could spend the same amount on each of them.

At the age of 70 Kay was diagnosed with COPD. This disease is a very difficult one to live with but she did not let it slow her down until the very end. While she did not like having to use oxygen she did it with her usual style and grace and tried to get around as best she could. In conclusion, Kay was the definition of a lady; always well-dressed, carrying herself with grace and class. But when necessary, she could be as tough as nails. A better mother you could not ask for.

- Ian Morris, with Marilyn Jenkins

St. David's Day Celebrations 2013

Beginning with a reception hosted by the OWS at the British High Commission on Elgin Street and ending with a rousing Gymanfa session at Westminster Presbyterian Church, St. David's Day was celebrated in style in 2013!

The Reception, co-ordinated by Wendy Wynne-Jones and held on March 1, was well-attended by members of the OWS, the general public and students from the University of Ottawa's Celtic Studies program, under the leadership of Professor Pawl Birt, the Celtic Chair at U of O. The assembly was treated to a poem, read by acting-president John Price and an enthusiastic report on her journeys – geographical and personal by Melanie Courtemanche, who was assisted by the Society in her journey to Wales in the summer of 2012. Our thanks to the BHC for once again giving us the space to celebrate. The food was purchased and laid out by Gaye Brittle and Alison Lawson.

On March 2, we were treated to a delicious lunch, an engaging speech delivered by Corin Robertson and an entertaining, albeit short, recital performed by Chris Olivieri a local tenor, accompanied by Alan Thomas, in the old-world comfort of the Royal Ottawa Golf Club.

The grand finale of the weekend was the Sunday afternoon Gymanfa Ganu, ably led by veteran conductor Roy Morris and accompanied by organist extraordinaire Alan Thomas. There was a good turnout and the usual good-natured heckling of the conductor, but good singing and enthusiasm were the main events, followed by a delicious Te bach, organized by Gaye Brittle, Lezlie Wood and Alison Lawson. Of particular note were the soloists – John Griffiths, tenor and Jolani Domitrovits, violist. John is well-known to the Society, while Jolani grew up attending the Children's Christmas party, Noson lawens and other events. She is now studying for her Master's in Music at the University of Ottawa.

- Marilyn Jenkins

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was once again held in the Whispers Pub on Richmond Road in Westboro. It seems to be a popular location, as there was a good turnout for the meal and the meeting. The meeting began with a moment of silence to honour members who had passed on during the past year. The usual rituals of meetings followed, with reports from the President, Treasurer, Auditor and Membership Secretary. The acting president, John Price, enumerated the events of the past year and thanked the executive, and particularly Gareth Jones for his contribution to reinvigorating the Society.

The treasurer, Alison Lawson reported on the financial success over the year – every event was profitable – and noted that Pawl Birt has made unofficial donations by not claiming expenses for purchases relating to the reception in March.

The membership report was used to remind the group that fees are due on March 1 of each year. There was no report yet available on the actual number of members, partly due to unpaid fees. The membership secretary will be following up.

The new executive includes the existing group of John Price, Alison Lawson, Marilyn Jenkins and Gaye Brittle, plus Wendy Wynne-Jones and Sian Jones (see "Introducing...").

Under "Other business", it was suggested that the annual Service of Lessons and Carols be held in the afternoon rather than the evening and that the summer picnic be held again in 2013.

The meeting was adjourned before 8:30!

- Marilyn Jenkins

OTTAWA WELSH SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2013 CONFIRMATION

Please complete all areas to ensure our information is up-to-date.

Name _____

Spouse/Partner

Children/other family members

Address

Street _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (____) _____

Email address _____

Would you like to receive Y BWLETIN by email? Yes _____ No _____

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FOR 2013

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP _____ @ \$20.00.....\$ _____

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP _____ @ \$10.00 EA.....\$ _____

Please send your form and cheque to the treasurer:

Alison Lawson
449 Mansfield Avenue
Ottawa, ON
K2A 2S6

Thank you.