

Y Bwletin

Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press
Haf 2015 - Summer 2015



www.ottawawelsh.com

Editor / Golygydd: Marilyn E. Jenkins

Sywddogion Y Gymdeithas/ Officers of the Society

President/Llywydd: John Price
john.price@sympatico.ca

Vice-President/Is-Lywydd: vacant

Secretary/Ysgrifennydd:
Marilyn Jenkins
marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca

Treasurer/Trysorydd:
John Williams
john.williams2@gmail.com

Membership/Aelodaeth:
Sian Jones
sianwynn@hotmail.com

Members at Large:
Gaye Brittle
rgbrittle@hotmail.com

Wendy Wynne-Jones
w.wynne-jones@sympatico.ca

Alison Lawson
alisonlawson@rogers.com

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Editor's comment: Many thanks to contributors to this edition of *Y Bwletin*. If you have news or contributions to make, please contact:

marilyn.e.jenkins@sympatico.ca

Y Gymdeithas ar y We / The Society on the Net:

www.ottawawelsh.com



Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa

GAIR Y LLYWYDD/ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



AGM 2015

A very business-like OWS AGM was held at the Barley Mow on Richmond Road on 20 May. The number of people attending was down from the figures for recent years, which may have been because the event was held on a Wednesday (choir night for some), because of the lack of parking on Richmond Road (however, side streets, including Roosevelt Ave. up to familiar Westminster Presbyterian, offer spaces) or because the meeting was held in the basement of the Barley Mow, which required people to negotiate stairs (the stairs in question are sturdy, the staircase fairly wide and people seemed reasonably comfortable with the separate room, which was not disturbed by noise from the pub upstairs). A further stroke of chance meant that our very capable waitress will be studying at Cardiff University for a year starting in September. I'm not sure that many other venues in Ottawa could have offered that. If these or other factors prevented you from attending, please let us know so that we can try to schedule future AGMs at times and in places that will make it easier for people to come and exercise their democratic control over the Society's doings.

A number of new members had joined the Society during the year and contact will soon be made with those members who have not yet sent in their membership dues for the current year. It was felt that the Society should continue to encourage students and other young people to attend our events and to participate in the Society and, to this end, membership of the Society will be extended free of charge, for one year, to students attending Carleton University and the University of Ottawa. The Society had been represented at the Celtic Festival in Montreal in early

May and would strive to "wave the flag" at similar events in the future.

Financially, the year's activities had resulted in a modest shortfall. Explanations were offered and suggestions were made as to how that could be avoided in future. All members of last year's committee agreed to continue to help guide the Society's fortunes for another year and they have now been joined by John Williams, who will be a valuable addition to the team.

The Executive has not yet decided precisely what events will be held in the coming year but a suggestion was made that the OWS acknowledge and pay tribute to what will be the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of the Welsh colony in Patagonia, Argentina. Our fellow member Professor Pawl Birt is a leading authority on the history of the colony and it is possible that the OWS celebration would take a form similar to that in which we celebrated the centenary of Dylan Thomas's birth early in 2015. Stay tuned. If you are not familiar with the story of Y Wladfa (the colony), a very pleasant place to start the journey of discovery might be an article published in the *Daily Telegraph* on 25 May and available at <http://www.dailytelegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/southamerica/argentina/11628506/Welsh-Patagonia-MandS-cherries-and-red-dragons.html> (Note: This is not a hot link, due to the length of the URL.)

Although the Festival is not really an OWS event, much of the Society's focus in the coming year will be on the Gŵyl Gymreig Ontario/Ontario Welsh Festival to be held in Ottawa from April 22 to 24, 2016. The Three Welsh Tenors and Côrdydd, a choir from Cardiff, will be featured. Further information may be obtained at www.ontariowelshfestival.ca. Please tell all your friends and acquaintances about this.

- John Price

As a Society, we would like to thank the Committee members for their steadfast work and loyal commitment during the past year. We especially wish to acknowledge their readiness to continue on the committee for another year.

Diolch yn fawr!

- Gwyneth Watkin

**Ontario Welsh Festival in Ottawa
April 22-24, 2016**

Let's all celebrate! The Ontario Welsh Festival is going to be in Ottawa April 22-24, 2016 and the Ottawa Welsh community is going to enjoy a feast of music.

Côrddydd, a really excellent mixed choir from Cardiff (www.cordydd.com) will be giving a concert on Saturday, April 23 together with special guests, the **Three Welsh Tenors!** This will make for a spectacular concert which should attract a wide audience and really put the Welsh of Ottawa in the limelight. In addition, we will have all your favourite events including a noson lawen on Friday, children's activities, seminars, a banquet and gold award presentation on Saturday and two glorious hymn singing sessions on Sunday. Why don't you make a reservation to stay at the Lord Elgin for the weekend so you can be at the centre of all the action? The nightly rate is \$147 per night for two people. Just call the hotel at 613-235-3333 and mention the Ontario Welsh Festival.

I'm still looking for donations to cover the expense of bringing over the Three Tenors and would be extremely grateful if you would be willing to help out – any amount would be very welcome. All donors will be publicly acknowledged and thanked in the Festival brochure, and will be invited to meet the Three Tenors at a special reception.

If you feel you can help out, please contact me at 613-725-2704, or e-mail at alisonlawson@rogers.com.

You could also send your contribution directly to our new Festival Treasurer: Nia Davies, 591 Durie St, Toronto M6S 3H2. Please make the cheque payable to the OGGA and indicate it is for the Three Tenors fund.

We are looking for volunteers to help out at the Festival. If you are interested, please let me know – there are plenty of jobs to go round!

Alison Lawson
(on behalf of the Ontario Welsh Festival committee)



The Three Welsh Tenors:

Rhys Meirion, Aled Hall and Alun Rhys-Jenkins.



Côrddydd

Patagonia 150

Digwyddiadau/Events:

September 22	Pub Night
November 7	Noson lawen
December 13	Lessons & Carols
TBA	Patagonia 150th
March 5, 2016	St. David's Luncheon
March 6, 2016	Gymanfa Ganu
April 22-24, 2016	Ontario Welsh Festival

Our Pub Night and Quiz will be on 22 September at the Heart and Crown in the Byward Market, Peter Devine Room, 73 Clarence Street, starting with dinner at 6:00 and moving on to a quiz later. Persons attending are responsible for their own food and drink.

The Noson Lawen/F&P will be held on 7 November. Persons wishing to perform should contact Alan Thomas.

The Carol Service has been confirmed for 13 December at 3:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The following are extracts from an email sent by Jeremy Wood in Patagonia to Tim Mark, a member of the Ottawa Welsh Society

There is a new book about Patagonia written by Jon Gower. Please see www.gomer.co.uk, where it is their book of the month.. He promised to give all the royalties for the book to our school in Trevelin! I made a little video to thank him and we have now had all sorts of people looking at the web site of the school (www.ysgolycwm.com) and signing up to make standing orders in favour of the school. The video is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I41U7OQPikw&feature=youtu.be>

The Welsh Government has just renewed the funding programme for the school, but only for a year and with no increase. This means that we have had 4 years at the same level of funding (with 35%+ inflation per annum here in Argentina). The grant's not worth much now. Pretty galling, especially when you see how much the Welsh Government is spending on celebrating the 150th - throwing the money around to fund projects and jollies, yet cutting the funding of the very thing they're celebrating. Here is their website:

www.patagonia150.org/en

We have Gwyl y Glaniad in Madryn in July and the President will be there. The First Minister of Wales too.

*All the best.
Jeremy*

Calling all Swansea University Alumni Residing in North America



Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe

The Grand North American Reunion of Alumni from the Swansea University will take place in Toronto, Ontario, Canada during the weekend of Friday September 18 to Sunday September 20, 2015.

The event, the first for North America, will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn Toronto Airport, 3311 Caroga Drive, Mississauga, Ontario L4V 1A3 Canada Tel. No. +1-905-678-0041 Fax : +1-905-678-0042

Notable speakers and alumni include Dr. Ronald Bordessa (Geography class of 1966), the current President Emeritus of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and Asoka Weerasinghe (Geology class of 1967), a notable Ottawa poet and a fan and follower of the great Welsh poet, Dylan Thomas. We are also hoping that Terry Mathew's the Welsh-Canadian business magnate who founded Mitel & Newbridge Networks will attend and grace the event.

The event kicks off on Friday, September 18 with registration , ice-breaker and informal get together and dinner followed by the Gala Event and dinner on Saturday, September 19.

About 80-100 alumni and their spouses from Canada, USA, United Kingdom, Europe, East Africa and Indian sub-continent are expected.

Former Swansea University graduates and family members are welcome and invited. Full details of the gathering and the programme can be obtained from:

- 1) Chandrakant J. Shah (also called Cijay): email: ccranju@gmail.com;
Cell Phone: (647) 407-2791
- 2) Nirmal Choubey: nirmal_choubey@yahoo.com; Cell Phone: (609) 792-5927
- 3) **Sally Thurlow Alumni Officer / Swyddog Cyn-fyfyrywyr**
Marketing Department Adran Farchnata
Swansea University Prifysgol Abertawe
Singleton Park Parc Singleton
Swansea Abertawe
SA2 8PP SA2 8PP

Telephone/ Ffon: + 44 (0)1792 513463
Fax/ Ffacs: +44 (0)1792 513015
Email/ Ebost: s.a.thurlow@swansea.ac.uk
www.swansea.ac.uk/alumni

Happy 90th Birthday, Shirley Griffiths

Originally born a Canadian (she was born in Windsor ... Ontario) on June 26th, 1925 to a Welsh father and English mother, Shirley was raised in Llanberis in North Wales by her paternal grandmother after her mother passed away suddenly when she was 5 years old [she was in the UK visiting with her mother when this happened. She found herself an English speaker in a Welsh language only village - and quickly adapted. She went to the local Welsh-language schools Dolbadrn Council primary and Brynrefail County before going to St Mary's College, a teacher's training school in Bangor, during the war.

Shirley remembers bombs whistling past while she was visiting her Welsh aunty in Manchester.

She met her husband, Tal, on a train in Cardiff in the early 50s. She was early, he was late. He was on a visit home from Morocco where he worked. They married in Morocco in December 1953. Shirley and daughter Julie joined Tal, who had been working in the Canadian Arctic, in Montreal in 1957. They became active in the St David's Society of Montreal. They moved to Ottawa in 1967 where dad took up a post as a high school teacher. Now there were two daughters including Sian born in Montreal.

They became active in the Ottawa Welsh Society. He was also very active in the choir. Tal was president 3 times including co-chair of the North American Gymanfa held in Ottawa in 1977. Shirley stood in as Membership Secretary.

She recalls that they gave a lift home to John Diefenbaker and his wife, Olive (think this would be post time as PM ...) a lift in their trusty but second hand Ford Meteor after a St David's Day banquet at the Chateau Laurier - he was guest of honour. Doubt that would happen in these post 911, ISIS-wary days! Both were active teaching in the Welsh school which ran during the late 70s (??) when it was taught on Saturdays.

Shirley fondly remembers the family hosting rugby players, choirs, visiting teachers and academics from Wales. She also remembers (mostly) hosting Welsh Society parties and singing in the Welsh-themed basement pub which she and dad built together. She was on the Ottawa University Celtic Chair founding committee...

They moved back to Carmarthen, Wales for fresh adventures in 1995 like ... visiting Hitler's hideaway in Bergtesgarten or the Chateau in the Loire Valley where the Marquis de Sade was reputed to have spent his summer holidays as a youth, or nearly being driven off the cliffs in Monaco or sleeping in the car overnight in Switzerland!!

Shirley loyally nursed Tal until he passed away in January 2011. She remains very involved in the Carmarthen Twinning Association. Carmarthen is twinned with Lesneven in Brittany in France - she's made several happy trips there. She is also involved with the Civic Society, the Carmarthen Museum, U3A, and enjoyed a stint as a local tour guide. She often thinks of her friends in the Welsh community in Ottawa. Certainly, her friends in Carmarthen hear all the tales!

- Sian Griffiths

In Memoriam

Memories of Kay Harrison

Kay was well known for speaking her mind and for her love of her motherland and music.

Aside from her family, one of Kay's first loves was music. Kay (and John) were passionate and proud members of the Welsh Choir for many years. Kay's voice remained strong and never diminished, even as her health failed. She loved to sing and hear her favorite Welsh hymns such as: Mae D'Eisiau, Cwm Rhondda and Morte Christe.

Our condolences to Kay's family and friends.

- Joan Milne

KAY

There once was a Lady named Kay

who always had something to say.

She'd stick out her chin and say with a grin,

I'm glad you can see things my way.

- Lexi Milne



DOROTHY MAY JONES (née Caldwell)
November 4, 1931 - May 13, 2015

Surrounded by her family, Dorothy passed away peacefully at Elizabeth Bruyère Residence, Ottawa on May 13th, 2015, in her 83rd year. Predeceased by her loving husband John (J.A.B.), daughter Sara Foy, and sister Sylvia Kyffin (David) of Llandudno. Survived by sister Brenda Morris and brother Bill Caldwell (Mel) in Wales. Cherished mother of Genevieve (John), John (Kim), James, Charles (Beth), and David. Most loved Granny to Jeff, Katie, Michael, Cailey, Tim, Taylor, Stephen, Joshua, Henry, Jonathan, Phoebe, Thomas, and Hannah. Great Granny to Florence and Freddie. She will be missed by her many nieces and nephews.

Her dynamic life was full of adventure starting as Head Girl at Ysgol John Bright in Llandudno, the Wrens, Jamaica, and finally setting up a fantastic home on Bayview Avenue with summers in Honey Harbour.

She showed her love of all things Welsh by her support for Dewi Sant, Merced Dewi, the Mayor of Cardiff Pavilion at Caravan, the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association, Toronto Welsh Rugby, and the Ontario Rugby Union. Hosting many Welsh Choirs and Rugby teams, she was a tireless volunteer and supporter around the world, including the inaugural Rugby World Cup in Australia/New Zealand in 1987.

Donations may be made to the Elizabeth Bruyère Residence, Ottawa, Ontario.