

Y Bwletin



Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press

Gwanwyn 2022 - Spring 2022

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If you would like to have an item included in Y Bwletin, please contact the editor at

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You can read articles from previous editions of Y Bwletin on our web site:

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

www.ottawawelsh.org



Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa

Check out our web site and our Facebook page!

Neges Llwydd/President's Message 2022



Annwyl Gyfeillion,

We are saddened to report that our fearless president has informed us that he must step down from this responsibility for health reasons.

Geraint has been a great influence on the Executive and the Society. His relaxed manner and good humour have seen us through one of the most difficult times the Society has faced in modern times.

Geraint had also taken on the presidency of the Ontario Welsh Festival and has had to bow out of that responsibility as well. It has come as a shock to all of us and we sincerely hope he will fully recover his health very soon.

In the meantime, the Executive has elected to move on to the AGM with no acting president. The AGM will be chaired by the former Past President, John Price, another man of good humour and a positive attitude.

We hope to see many of you at our Zoom AGM on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Hwyl,
The Executive Committee
Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa

An Invitation

It's that time of year again...Snow is melting, birds are singing, and the Ottawa Welsh Society AGM is just around the corner. Now is a prime time to get involved with the OWS.

We are actively recruiting new board members. Think being on the board is too big a time commitment? The board meets about once a month, virtually. Mostly, we want your good ideas. And, the more people join, the better we can share the load.

Not only are we seeking board members, but this is also an open call for volunteers who would like to help out with various initiatives. Let's talk about what you can do!

- Anastasia Llewellyn, member-at-large

Note:

To talk to someone about your interest in joining the executive, please contact anyone on the committee. All email addresses are on the front of this newsletter.

Upcoming Events 2022 (on Zoom)

Mererid Hopwood, poet
April 10, 2022 3 p.m. EST

AGM
May 17, 2022 7 p.m. EST

In the future: a mix of in-person and online events as restrictions and comfort-levels permit.

Colofn y Dysgwyr

The *dosbarth Cymraeg* is continuing its monthly get-togethers online. Here we will continue our study of the tenses with the negative form of the present tense

BOD: *to be*

Presennol (present)

To form the negative¹

Dw i ddim	<i>I</i>	<i>am not</i>
Wyt ti ddim	<i>you</i>	<i>are not</i>
Ydy hi ddim	<i>she</i>	<i>is not</i>
Ydy o/e ddim	<i>He</i>	<i>is not</i>
Ydyn ni ddim	<i>we</i>	<i>are not</i>
Ydych chi ddim	<i>you</i>	<i>are not</i>
Ydyn nhw ddim	<i>they</i>	<i>are not</i>

Examples:

Dw i ddim yn cerdded.	<i>I am not walking.</i>
Wyt ti ddim yn canu.	<i>You are not singing.</i>
Ydy hi ddim yn cysgu.	<i>She is not sleeping.</i>
Ydy o ddim yn bwyta.	<i>He is not eating.</i>
Ydyn ni ddim yn yfed.	<i>We are not drinking.</i>
Ydych chi ddim yn rhedeg.	<i>You are not running.</i>
Ydyn nhw ddim yn dawnsio.	<i>They are not dancing.</i>

Mwy o eirfa /Additional vocabulary

Dawnsio	<i>to dance/dancing</i>
Mynd	<i>to go</i>
Dod	<i>to come</i>
Gwranddo	<i>to listen</i>
Siarad	<i>to speak</i>
Gweld	<i>to see</i>
Ennill	<i>to win</i>
Colli	<i>to lose</i>

Exercise 1:

Translate the following into English.

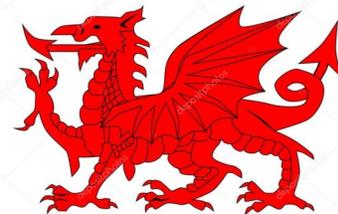
- Dw i ddim yn dawnsio.
- Wyt ti ddim yn mynd.
- Ydy hi ddim yn dod.
- Ydy o ddim yn rhedeg.
- Ydyn ni ddim yn gwranddo.
- Ydych chi ddim yn siarad.
- Ydyn nhw ddim yn gweld.

Exercise 2:

Translate the following into Welsh:

- I am not losing.
- You are not winning.
- She is not listening.
- He is not speaking.
- We are not going
- You are not coming.
- They are not dancing.

Answers are on page 4./Atebion ar dduddlan 4



¹Note: Those studying with Duolingo will note a different formation of the negative. See page 4.

Y Gorffennol/the Past

Time marches on and the OWS marches with it., pandemic or no. We had two enjoyable events available to us to celebrate St. David's Day and a number of members "showed up" to celebrate.

On March 1, around the supper hour, we were entertained by rugby legend Rob Howley, who is currently in Canada coaching our men's senior rugby team as well as acting as consultant with the Toronto Arrows. He shared openly his philosophy of coaching and the different styles that he has experienced in his career, naming names and giving examples. It was followed by a Question and Answer session, to the delight of rugby fans. Everyone who attended found it to be enlightening and enjoyable.

At the end of the week, on March 4 at 3:00 EST, we were treated to a unique concert created by Sioned Webb, harpist and Arfon Gwilym, singer. The program was pre-recorded at various outdoor locations and presented "live" by the husband and wife team. There was plenty of hiraeth and hwyl to go around. The music was inspiring and the performances were greatly enjoyed by those who were able to join us. We were but a small part of a group connected to Wales International. You can find out more about this organization at:

<https://walesinternational.cymru/en/>

Colofn y Dysgwyr Atebion

Exercise 1:

I am not dancing.
You are not going.
She is not coming.
He is not running.
We are not listening.
You are not speaking.
They are not seeing.

Exercise 2:

Dw i ddim yn colli.
Wyt ti ddim yn ennill.
Ydy hi ddim yn gwrando.
Ydy o ddim yn siarad.
Ydyn ni ddim yn mynd.
Ydych chi ddim yn dod.
Ydyn nhw ddim yn dawnsio.

Y presennol/the Present

In April, we will be enjoying the talents of Mererid Hopwood, a celebrated contemporary Welsh poet. We invite you all to listen in on the presentation "Imagining Language" (see page 4 for a summary).

A short bio was sent out in March and now here is some more up-to-date information from our good friend Hefina Phillips in Toronto:

"[Mererid]...is (as far as I know) the only person to win all THREE of the major prizes- the Crown, the Literary Medal and the Chair. She is beyond brilliant - and the nicest person. Last year she was appointed Chair of the Welsh and Celtic Studies department at Aber University.... She has written the libretto for several musical works. For the Eisteddfod in Cardiff (3 years ago, or was it 4?) she collaborated with Robat Arwyn and between them they produced a truly magnificent work called "*Hwn Yw Fy Mrawd*" [this is my brother] - the story of Paul Robeson. I cried all the way through. [Mererid] is also very involved in the Peace Movement."



As always, information on all activities will be available on our website at

ottawawelsh.org

From Duolingo

Forming the negative in the present tense.

Dw i ddim	<i>I am not</i>
Dwyt ti ddim	<i>You are not</i>
Dydy/dyw e/o ddim	<i>He is not</i>
Dydy/dyw hi ddim	<i>She is not</i>
Dyn ni ddim	<i>We are not</i>
Dych chi ddim	<i>You are not</i>
Dyn nhw ddim	<i>They are not</i>

Mererid Hopwood: Imagining Language

A group of about 25 people, from near and far joined on Zoom to hear the presentation "Imagining Language" by poet Mererid Hopwood on April 10. There follows a very brief report on Ms. Hopwood's presentation.

Hefina Phillips of Toronto introduced our guest, listing some of the many honours accrued by Ms. Hopwood, specifically mentioning the collaboration between composer Robat Arwyn and Mererid Hopwood on a musical, and saying, "I cried all the way through!"

Ms. Hopwood started with the question "How do we imagine language?" and followed it with "Beth yw Ilaeth?/What is language?" Her answer is that language is physical activity, music, dialogue and performance. The traditional skills of language are listening, reading, speaking and writing, and Ms. Hopwood proposes a fifth skill: bridging/mediating.

Welsh influences stretch across Europe, through Spain and Italy and beyond. Using a chart of the languages of Europe and Asia and Ms. Hopwood demonstrated that many languages are connected to the Celtic languages, including Urdu and Sanskrit!

Grammar differs between languages, but it serves the same purpose: to explain. At the foundation of understanding is the question "Who is doing what to whom?"

The word Cymru does not translate as "Wales". "Wales" is of Germanic origin, and the word "Welsh" means "the others". But "Cymru" best translates as "together land".

Ms. Hopwood treated us to a reading of her poem, "What's Wales in Welsh", in which she points out how the Welsh language differs from English. You can read the poem at:

<https://www.hayfestival.com/international-writers-blog/blog.aspx?post=1424>

In her presentation, Ms. Hopwood referred to two Welsh poets, Waldo Williams and Raymond Williams. The second made this statement: "To be truly radical is to make hope possible rather than despair convincing." And Irish writer, nationalist, feminist and vegetarian Sheehy Skeffington, who said, when people called him a bit of a crank: "[a crank] is a small tool that can cause revolution." Think about it.

The presentation was followed by a Question and Answer session, started by the Rev. Cerwyn Davies, known to many of us, who, it turns out, is related to Ms. Hopwood. The presentation ended with Alison Lawson thanking our guest.

Y dofodol/Future Events

At the moment, the committee is not thinking much past the AGM. A meeting of the new executive will be called in early June and we will move on.

The AGM is called for May 17, 2022, well within the timeline mandated by the Constitution. John Price, the Past President will be serving as chair for the meeting.

In addition to the usual reports, we will be asking for the addition to our Constitution of a By-Law (#1) that will allow us to continue having AGMs online, should we wish to, or be required to by restrictions such as we have had in the past two years. The provincial government has mandated that the practice of online meetings must be included in the Constitution. The law allows only for in-person meetings.

The following members of the executive have indicated a willingness to continue on the committee: Anastasia Llewellyn, Alison Lawson, John Williams, David Jeanes (current treasurer), Sian Jones (current membership secretary), Marilyn Jenkins (current secretary), and John Price (current past president). Geraint has also indicated an interest in continuing to serve once his health improves, likely as a member-at-large.

The following members will be remembered in a moment of silence at the meeting:

Maureen Carpenter
Miriam Jones



More from Mererid Hopwood's presentation:

"an adoptive child belongs in a family because of a shared story, not blood, not a piece of paper."

"Nabod â'n gilydd"/know each other"

There are several YouTube videos available with Mererid at the Hay Festival in 2020, where she presented "Imagining Language".

In Memoriam

Miriam Thomas Jones



1935 - 2022

Miriam was born on a farm in Fishguard, West Wales, on the 1st of November 1934. In her early 20's she moved to Cardiff to start her career with the Natwest Bank. This is where she met Alun, her future husband.

Miriam had a long and successful career in banking while also raising her two children, Geraint and Delyth. She moved to Canada once she retired and lovingly helped raise her grandchildren in both Canada and Wales. She said that doing that brought her the greatest joy in her life. She was also called Nana by many.

Miriam was welcomed to Canada and has many friends from Manotick and from Knox United Church and the choir. Son Gareth has been a member of the OWS. Miriam attended various events in the Welsh Society as long as she was able to get out. She is remembered as a smiling, welcoming presence.

The funeral service was held at Knox Presbyterian Church in Manotick on Friday, March 11th.

Our condolences go out to the family.

Note: most of the information in this item comes from Tubman's Funeral Home obituary.

Myfanwy (Betty) Roff



1928 - 2021

Born in Wales, Betty spent her childhood and early adulthood in England. Betty and Philip emigrated from England with their two children in 1957. She enjoyed a successful and very rewarding career with Immigration Canada, Policy, in Ottawa. Phil joined the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society as a bass.

Betty/Myfanwy, was a gifted poet, a relentless debater and happy soul who appreciated music and laughter. She was often seen at the Welsh lunches¹, even driving from Kingston with daughter Ann after their relocation there to be closer to Ann's brother, David. Always a positive and lively force to be reckoned with, this remarkable woman will be sorely missed by her family and all those who knew her.

In keeping with Myfanwy's wishes, cremation has taken place. There will be no visitation or service.

Note: most of the information for this item comes from Simpler Times website.

¹The Welsh luncheon group started as a pot-luck monthly event for the ladies of the Welsh Society and friends. Over the years it evolved into a social outing group, organized by Myfanwy Davies and Gemma Price and meeting in local restaurants, stopped only by the pandemic.