

# CHILTERN DISTRICT WELSH SOCIETY

## Newsletter Autumn 2002

### Life President

For those who did not attend the AGM in May, it was proposed that Ann Evans, who founded the Chiltern District Welsh Society, should be made a Life President and this motion was carried. Ann had been thinking about the idea of forming a local Welsh Society for some time, and in January 2000 was inspired to make the contacts and get it off the ground. She has since worked very hard in gathering ideas, arranging and hosting events, and is always enthusiastic to new ideas and new recruits.

### Chairman

Although Denys Jones was elected Chairman at the AGM, he expressed a wish for someone to take over from him at the time. Sadly he has since felt the need to resign from the chairmanship, though he will still be a valuable member of the committee. Denys has been equally enthusiastic since the birth of the Welsh Society and has put lots of energy into carrying out his role most successfully. Good luck to Ralph Broomby, the Vice-Chairman, who will carry us through the remainder of the year.

### Recent Events

A brief report on the most recent events of the Society are given below. Hopefully they will whet your appetite for the proposed events in 2003.

### Walking Weekend in Wales

At the end of May, Ann Lawrence organised a superb few days in North Wales. 12 of us stayed in Bettws-y-Coed, and for anyone not familiar with this little centre, it is an interesting place, set amidst beautiful scenery, and there are lots of little shops to browse around, cafes, and hotels too. Needless to say, as it nestles in the river valley, there are some fabulous walks very close by.

We walked around lakes, down by the river and on the Monday, the best day of all weather-wise, we did a mountain walk which became a climb! Led by a mountain guide, a friend of Ann's, we ascended Moel Shabod. Some of us made it to the top, the last section of which was a difficult scramble up a rock face. The way down was much more gradual and we were able to walk down, but in lots of ways it was more treacherous and harder on the knees.

We had some lovely evenings, with dinner at some real character hotels. All in all it was a really good weekend, and considering that some of us had not met before, we all gelled very well as a group.

### **Mapledurham Mill**

On Sunday 16 June, 12 members met at Caversham where we boarded a boat at 2.00 pm and travelled slowly up the Thames enjoying the scenery and riverside homes.

Thirty minutes later we were met at a small jetty by a friendly, informative guide who took us first to Mapledurham Mill, the last working water mill n the Thames. We were fortunate as that afternoon flour was being ground by a lady miller, one of the few left with the required knowledge. We were told that she travels extensively including abroad demonstrating and lecturing. We all found it fascinating but moved on as there was more to see. Mapledurham house is an Elizabethan Manor House with strong Catholic associations. The house is still a family home and we were able to progress at our own speed through many rooms before enjoying afternoon tea in the garden.

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On our way back to the boat we looked in the church which was unusual in as much as it was half Catholic and half Church of England.

Our boat was waiting to return us to Caversham, the boat being lower in the water as many ladies had bought bags of flour!

### **Summer Lunch**

Our Chairman could not decide whether the 'sun was shining on the righteous' or 'the devil was looking after his own' for our third summer lunch, but once more we had a fine warm afternoon.

During drinks and a superb meal, music was played by Elaine Brown on her keyboard, which added to the pleasure whilst Denys's quiz caused smugness in some and infuriation in others.

A big thank you from all of us to those who provided such delicious food and drink, and an even bigger thank you to Ann for letting us use her home and beautiful well tended garden.

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### **And now for forthcoming events .....**

#### **Saturday 2 November 2002**

As most of you will know, a number of us are visiting the Mill at Sonning for supper and a play at the theatre there.

**Sunday 8 December 2002**

Ann Evans extends a warm welcome to Society members for **Christmas drinks** at her home, The Tuft, Chiltern Road, Chesham Bois between 12.30 and 3 pm. Please call her by 1 December to indicate whether you will be able to attend on 01494 433717.

**St David's Day concert at the City Temple on 22 February 2003**

If you would like further details, please contact Anne Evans on 01494 433717.

**St David's Day – 1 March 2003**

Dinner at Gerrards Cross Golf Club. Entertainment by Glenys Groves, accompanied by Gay de Marco. This should be a special evening, so please invite friends to this essentially Welsh evening, and make a special note in your diaries. The cost will be £25 per head and a booking slip will be sent out early in January

**AGM – 16 May 2003**

Buffet supper and entertainment at Coleshill Village Hall to follow on from the formalities of the AGM. John Clarke will entertain us with music from Ivor Novello.

**Summer lunch – 20 July 2003**

Venue to be advised

**Visit to Botanical Gardens, Carmarthen**

This visit will take place in September and may include some coastal walks.

**Magic Circle – 4 November 2003**

This should be a thoroughly entertaining evening with a difference! We propose running a coach to Euston Square for the show.

Further details of these proposed events will be sent out in the new year, together with the opportunity to book your places.

If at any time you have any comments or suggestions to make, please contact a committee member.