

# CHITERN DISTRICT WELSH SOCIETY

Newsletter—Autumn 2003



## Charitable Status

The Society has now applied for charitable status. Colin Wills has given up many valuable hours, filling in forms and finding different ways of saying who we are, what we stand for, what we do and of course the purpose of our existence. Hopefully we should know the outcome towards the end of the year.

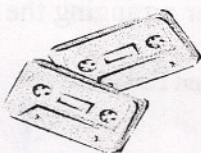
## Membership

Our membership figure has remained about the same, 74. We have lost a few members but also gained some new ones, to whom we extend a very warm welcome. It is always good to have new blood in the society, with hopefully some new ideas. Membership forms are always available from any committee member if someone expresses interest in joining.

## AGM

The Society's AGM was held in Coleshill Village Hall on 16 May 2003 and was attended by 38 members, with apologies for absence from 13 members. The business of the meeting was dealt with speedily - is 20 minutes a record? - and members then enjoyed a hot supper followed by desserts which had all been provided by the committee.

We then settled down to an hour's entertainment by John Clarke, who talked to us about Ivor Novello and



his career, the talk being enhanced by recordings of Novello's songs and music.

Next year's AGM which will be on 7 May 2004. We try to keep the business side of the evening to a minimum and make it a pleasant evening for members to share a meal and entertainment in a relaxed atmosphere and we promise that you will not be press-ganged onto the committee unwillingly! It is encouraging and helpful for the committee to have some new ideas from members for future events and this is an ideal forum.

Thelma Lusher

## Welsh-American Celebration

A small group of our members spent a very enjoyable evening at a joint concert of the Welsh

Choir of Southern California and the South Wales Male Choir on 5 July 2003 at the Southwark RC Cathedral.



The combined choir and other very talented artistes proved to us that music and singing of the highest quality not only helped to build our nation's reputation in the past, but is certainly a very important part of its future.

Ann Evans



## Summer Lunch 2003

With the same recipe as in previous years - good food, good friends and good weather, this year's summer lunch in July was bound to be a success, and it was.

Dennis's answer to University Challenge once more found the Welsh education system of the last century to be inadequate, but a good conversation starter, or stopper!



Lynn Edwards, a member of the Oslo Welsh Society was a welcome guest and told us something of his society. He offered to help in our proposed visit to Norway next year.



*John and Rose Allkins being presented with a basket of flowers by Margaret Broomby*

Another key ingredient for summer lunch is of course the location and Rose and John Allkins worked tirelessly to make us all feel welcome in their lovely home and garden.

Ralph Broomby

## Walking in Wales

13 Members and 2 guests met at THE MILL at GLYNHIR on 21st September. Ann Evans, had discovered this gem of a small hotel on an earlier visit and we occupied 9 of its 11 bedrooms.

We spent 2 days walking in the Carmarthenshire countryside and visiting the nearby gardens of Aberglasney and The National Botanical Gardens of Wales.



*Aberglasney from the walled garden*

Chris and Hazel Thomas had volunteered to lead the walks and they had visited the area 3 times before they were satisfied with the programme of visiting gardens in the morning and walking in the afternoon.

The gardens were well worth visiting and the walks were a good choice for all members. An encounter with a herd of cows and calves blocking the narrow path up a hillside brought the bravest member, Farmer John (Breese), to our rescue. With some firm words to them in Welsh he persuaded them to scatter down into the fern covered hillside, a case of them rather than us!

We were a happy group of Society members and thanks are due to Chris and Hazel for arranging the visit.

Ann Lawrence



## Dates for your Diary

4 Nov 2003 - Magic Circle (fully booked)

7 Dec 2003 - Christmas drinks

28 Feb 2004 - St David's Day dinner

7 May 2004 - AGM + entertainment

18-21 Jun 2004 - Visit to Norway

8 Aug 2004 - Summer Lunch

2 Oct 2004 - Albert Hall - male voice  
choirs



### Christmas Drinks

Once again your President has kindly invited members to share a festive drink at her home on Sunday 7 December 2003 between 12.30 and 3.00pm. Please let her know if you wish to accept her invitation, as it would be useful to have an idea of numbers. Her telephone number is 01494 433717.



### Christmas Concert

Did you know that Bryn Terfel will be at the Albert Hall on 9 December 2003? He will be performing together with the massed voices of the London Welsh Male Voice Choir and the Sinfonia Cymru conducted by Gareth Jones - a truly Welsh celebration of Christmas.

Tickets for the concert range from £20-£65, and the booking hall number is 020 7838 3116.

### St David's Day Dinner

The venue will be the Gerrards Cross Golf Club. A well known after-dinner speaker, Emrys Jones, and musical entertainment are planned. The cost is £25 per person, and members are welcome to bring their friends. Tables will seat 8/10 people.



Please see booking form enclosed, and ensure that we have received your bookings by the end of January 2004, together with cheques.

### AGM

The venue will be Coleshill Village Hall. It will be followed by an informal supper and then we shall be entertained by Mary Medlicot with "Tales of Wales, past and present

### Visit to Oslo

The Oslo Welsh Society is looking forward to meeting us in June.

Arrangements are being made for sight-seeing in Oslo. There is plenty to see - Tracing Oslo's seafaring past through the Viking Ships Museum and Kon-Tiki, the Munch Museum, the Vigeland Sculpture Park, mini cruise around the inner islands and much more.

Accommodation will be in central Oslo at a 4\* hotel which includes breakfast. The flight will leave Heathrow on the Friday morning and return the following Monday. The cost of flight and accommodation is approx. £350

Please send a deposit of £30 per person (cheques made out to Chiltern District Welsh Society) as soon as possible so that bookings can be made.



## Summer Lunch

Next year it will be held at the home of Sue and Bill Jones in Gerrards Cross. Booking form in the New Year.

## Albert Hall

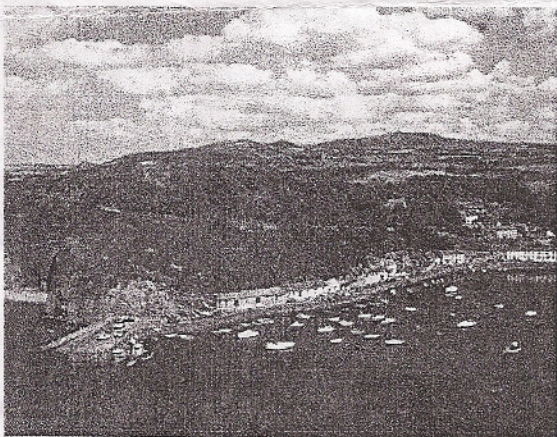
The concert includes male voice choirs from North and South Wales plus other artistes. Transportation will be arranged. Booking form in the New Year.

## Theatre Visit

A theatre visit will be arranged in the autumn with a Welsh theme.

## Walking Break

Over the past two years we have had two really successful breaks in Wales, including various walks. Quite a lot of research in terms of hotels, and the actual walks themselves is required, and we are looking for some members of the Society to volunteer to show us other parts of Wales some time in the future.



Maybe you are particularly familiar with an area of Wales, and it would not take too much trouble to organise.

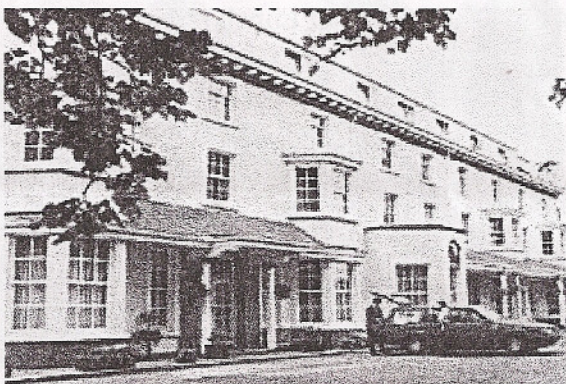
A suggestion is walking the coastline in Pembrokeshire, which would undoubtedly be very popular and for which we have lots of literature. Please let a committee member know if you feel able to plan such a trip.

## National Botanical Gardens

It is so sad to hear of the financial difficulties of the National Botanical Gardens. They have done a fantastic job, as you can see from the enclosed leaflets. Please do support them if you have the opportunity.

## Lloyd George Society

This group meets annually at the Abernant Lake hotel in Llanwrtyd Wells for a weekend in the early part of February. They take over the hotel.



Although the roots of the society were in the Liberal Party, the conference is essentially non party political. The sessions are all on current topics of interest to Wales, and they are lead by very knowledgeable people. Most of the attendees are from Wales, and it is a great and interesting escape for the weekend at quite a modest cost. You do not have to be a member of the Society to attend, newcomers are most welcome.

If you would like further information, please call Pam Britton on 01494 678466.