

CHILTERN DISTRICT WELSH SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2004



AGM 2004

The 4th AGM was held at Coleshill Village Hall on 7 May 2004. Ralph Broomby who has chaired the society for the past 2 years reported another successful year and outlined events for the coming year.

Following a hot supper, provided by the committee, we were entertained by "Tales from Wales—Past and Present" by Mary Medlicott, who is a most accomplished storyteller and authoress. Mary comes from Pembrokeshire and started her talk by evoking the sound of the country to set the scene for the stories that she told.

Gwyn Own succeeds as Chairman for the next two years and Bob Ford as Vice-Chairman.

Thelma Lusher

OSLO

On 18 June 2004 12 members of the society travelled to Oslo to meet members of the Oslo Welsh Society. Bob Ford had kindly arranged the visit as his brother-in-law is a member of the Oslo Welsh Society.

We were entertained by Pamela Hiley on Friday evening and after supper with several of the members of the Oslo society, Mr Aneurin Hughes addressed us and regaled us with amusing anecdotes from his career. He was, until recently, the EU Ambassador to Norway, had held various other diplomatic appointments and had been PPS to Lord Ammanford. The evening finished with a little Welsh singing. Saturday started at 6 am for "Norway in a Nutshell". This involved a train journey through scenic countryside to Myrdal, a 4,000 ft descent into the Flam valley and a cruise on the Sognefiord



The return to Oslo was by coach with a stop at a Stave Church en route. We were extremely fortunate to have as our guide Iori Griffiths who was a member of the Oslo society and an official Oslo guide.

On Sunday we had a visit to the National Museum and art gallery, the Vigeland Park, the ski jump at 'Holmenkollen' and a guided tour of the Viking Ships museum. Our visit was rounded off with a delightful



buffet supper at the home of Lynn Edwards and a talk from Mrs Jean Davies, who originally came from Pontardulais but who has lived in Oslo for over 50 years. She talked about her father's mill in Wales and about the history of love spoons as well as providing delicious Welsh cakes.

Gwyn Owen

GOLF DAY

Friday 20th August 2004 saw the first of what may well be many golf outings for the Society. Fourteen players immensely enjoyed a mixed couples outing at Harewood Downs Golf Club in very good weather and the course was in excellent condition. Participants ranged from relatively newcomers to the well established. Partners were arranged so that they were not related and so that one of each four knew the course, as for many of the players it was a first visit.

We met up at 8.30 for an early breakfast, coffee and much chin-wagging.

Just after 9 o'clock we ventured onto the course. It was very evident, some 4 ½ hrs



later, that everyone had had an extremely enjoyable time. After a splendid lunch came the prize ceremony. The "pairing" procedure had worked well, all scores being very respectable and everyone had contributed to the results.

The couple with the highest score was Sue Jones and Chris Thomas. Runners-up, after a 'count-back' were Irene Glyn-Jones and Bob Ford, and Anne Blackshaw and Colin Wills.

In a demanding challenge of accuracy for 'nearest the pin' at the 8th hole, Peter Caithness displayed his skills as the best man and so did Sue Jones for the ladies. However, as it is with golf, it's not the winning that's important but the participation and the enjoyment of others company and we had masses of that for which we were all hugely grateful to Ralph for organising such a delightful day.

Colin Wills

WALKING BREAK—

September 2004

The 11 intrepid walkers who stood on the summit of Cnicht (the Welsh Matterhorn) were very pleased with themselves as they admired the stunning panorama. We had climbed 500 metres fairly directly and were to descend, more circuitously, to eventually cover eleven kilometres on the map and a significantly greater distance due to our zig-zags.

Mike Stythe, our leader, by judicious planning, managed to finish the walk with everyone tired but happy and undamaged. This was the high point of our week.

The day before we had warmed up with another 11 kilometre walk rising up 250 metres from Rhyd Ddu over a windy col and down to the beautiful Beddgelert Valley. Fortunately the wind was behind us and, apart from nearly losing one of our number when a poncho became a parachute, the elements helped us!

On the third day, low cloud prevented an assault on Tryfan, so we contented ourselves with a lower level hike which finished in a pub—surprise, surprise! I think they call this habit "warming down"!



Mike—a briefing with OHP

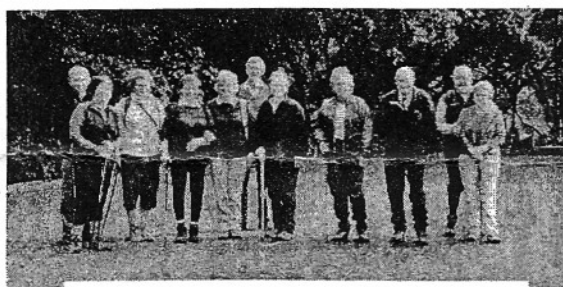
Mike and Cecily Stythe arranged accommodation for us in the Royal Goat Hotel, Beddgelert, very comfortable with excellent meals, and planned and led the walks.

Mike had also made good use of his family and local contacts for our after dinner entertainment and education.

On Tuesday evening, his brother and sister-in-law drove from Llandudno to accompany, by piano and voice, our own choristers at the bar piano. As a finale, and to put our efforts into perspective, on Thursday evening our 'leader' brought in friends of his who were expert climbers. This young couple showed us slides of some of their conquests, including a three day climb of a vertical face in America. Their sleeping and bathroom arrangements on this climb were of particular fascination.

We were very grateful to Mike and Cecily for all their hard work and planning. What a lovely part of the world, I can't wait to return!

Chris Thomas



The 11 intrepid walkers

Massed voices at the Albert Hall

What a fantastic concert! We heard the wonderful and versatile voices of 25 Male voice choirs combined, conducted magnificently by John Samuel, interspersed with the talented and enthusiastic youth of a violinist, a trumpeter, a jazz band and a mixed choir. This was a truly entertaining and emotional evening. It was a complete sell out, and to hear Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau sung by a completely full Albert Hall was quite spine tingling.

Pam Britton

CDWS Website

At last our own website is up and running! Many thanks to Miles Griffith. Do take time out to visit it on www.chilternwelsh.com Your comments or suggestions are always appreciated.



12 December 2004

Your President invites you to Christmas drinks at The Tuft, Chiltern Road, Chesham Bois
12 noon—3 pm
Please call Ann if can make it, before 12 Dec
01494 433717

Programme 2005

- 22 January—Quiz evening at Seer Green Parish Church Hall with fish & chip supper (see booking form)
- 2 March—St David's Day dinner at Gerrards Cross Golf Club (see booking form)
- 8 May—AGM at Coleshill Village Hall
!!!FREE!!!
Supper followed by Graham Penn on "Princes of Wales"
- 16-19 June—Walking in Pembrokeshire
- 17 July—Summer lunch at the home of Hugh and Jess Griffith in Beaconsfield
- 26 August—Golf day at Harewood Downs Golf Club
- 15 October—Cymanfa Ganu at The White House in Gerrards Cross
- 11 December—Christmas Drinks

Another Useful Website:

London Welsh Association -
cymryllundain.org