

Chiltern District Welsh Society

Autumn Newsletter 2009.



The Society has continued to promote a number of activities during the last few months. Reports on these follow:

Chairman's Report.

The AGM was well attended with the anticipation by members that the objects brought for valuation may bring a lifestyle change!!! The feed back was, 'How do you follow that?' Well, back to good Welsh basics for the next AGM – Cheese, Wine and Food for sampling and a quiz.

The Summer Lunch was greeted with some nervousness about the weather. Would the food be served from inside Keith's house or outside as usual, but with large umbrellas as a precaution?

It all turned out well and we were able to enjoy Keith & Barbara's house and garden in good weather. This was topped off by excellent catering by Ann Tennant. Keith provided a bonus barrel of beer which went down well (no pun intended!). There were some members, no names, no pack drill who were still sitting at Keith's table partaking of liquid refreshment well into the evening. In fact a chauffeuring home service was provided by Keith's daughter! Grateful thanks to Keith and Barbara for hosting the lunch

A special thank you to Pam and Rob Britton for hosting the golf day and to Chris Thomas for his organising skills. How wonderful it was to see Rob back in circulation again looking fit and well; long may it continue. Fine weather with good food, good wine, and the bonhomie of good company made a most enjoyable day. Oops, and of course good golf.

A first this year was the London Walk led by Caroline James. Once again CDWS were blessed with good weather. Members were impressed and it is an event which will be considered again in the future.

The decision on the play for the Windsor Theatre trip had had to be left to the last minute owing to late publication and

subsequent changes of the programme. However, when an Agatha Christie play with Jennie Seagrave and Martin Shaw was announced we jumped at it. We managed to get good seats, but left arrangement options of eat and play or play only to members.

My thanks to the members who have contributed to this newsletter.

We now look forwards to our Christmas Drinks with hosts Jean and Gwyn Owen on 6th December

Communications:

There have been some problems with e mailing the event application sheets to members. This has affected the London Walk, Windsor Theatre, and Christmas Drinks events. At least four households have been inconvenienced - subsequent investigation has found some problems were due to recipients' computers others unknown. *(Technology is wonderful when it works!)*

Firstly, I apologise to members who have been inconvenienced, I know how irritating it must be.

Secondly, what are we doing about it? When Maldwyn sends the emails he watches for any which have come back as undelivered. He follows it up with either a phone call or another copy in the post. Sometimes of course an undelivered message does not come back. He now asks each recipient to acknowledge receipt by adding a postscript requesting a response. We will be debating the problem at the next committee meeting. This will define a new procedure which will be sent to all members.

Hugh Griffith

A.G.M. 8th May at Coleshill Village Hall.

66 members attended and there were 9 apologies for absence. The Chairman Hugh Griffith welcomed everyone and then gave a brief outline of the events that had taken place during the past year.

In the absence of Ann Browne, who had taken over the task of Membership Secretary from Ann Lawrence, Hugh Griffith, gave her report. It indicated the

total membership of the Society would be 106, provided all members rejoined. He also thanked Ann Lawrence for the hard work she had put in during the years she had undertaken the task.

Eileen Mitchell introduced the Treasurer's Report in Welsh; copies were circulated at the meeting and showed the continued healthy state of the Society's finances.

Hugh Griffith advised the meeting that the present committee had agreed to continue for another year.



Hugh Griffith then outlined the future events already planned, which included the Summer Lunch at Keith Harris's house in Beaconsfield in July, the Golf Day at Oaklands Park in September, a Welsh themed walk in the City of London in late September, the possibility of a visit to the Theatre in Windsor during October, and the Christmas Drinks in early December, at a new venue, Jean & Gwyn Owen's home in Gerrards Cross.

After the business side of the meeting ended, those present enjoyed a Buffet Supper, ably arranged by the ladies.

The highlight of the evening was the valuation by Guy Haskell of Bonhams of items brought along by members. This was followed by a quiz where members had to value items supplied by Guy. Prizes were presented to the winners - Gwyn Owen, individual (our society's new roadshow expert!) and members on his table, the team prize.

The evening was judged to have been a most enjoyable one

Maldwyn Pugh

Summer Lunch, Sunday 12th July

The Society's Summer Lunch this year was kindly hosted by Keith Harris & Barbara at their lovely home, Magnolia House, in Beaconsfield.

The day was thankfully sunny and warm and we all arrived to a stunning garden with gazebos and decorated tables looking so attractive and welcoming, a tribute to the wonderful work of the organising team.



The food was delicious with a fine array of salmon, cold meats and salads and a mouth-watering selection of desserts. Thank you to Ann Tennant and the members of her team for the excellent catering.

The Society's chairman, Hugh Griffith, thanked our hosts and all who had contributed to the success of the afternoon before launching us on the quiz, cleverly devised by Hugh, aided by Jess. Much discussion, laughter, eavesdropping and chat ensued as we struggled to complete each question sheet. John Breeze's team was the winner, sharing chocolates and small slate coasters.



It was a very enjoyable afternoon in lovely surroundings and our thanks to Keith and Barbara for hosting this popular Welsh Society annual event.

Muriel Knight.

Golf Day on 9th September.

This year's eagerly awaited golfing event took place on Wednesday 9th September, once more at Oakland Park Golf Club. The day began with coffee and delicious bacon rolls whilst golfers identified their playing partners and received details of the format for the day.

Six mixed groups of four teed off for the 18 hole Stableford Competition. Those who were familiar with the course were generous with their knowledge of watery and sandy hazards and with advice on how to avoid them. We were not always successful at doing so. Fortunately the weather was bright and dry, though the stiff breeze added to the natural difficulties.

After a thoroughly enjoyable round, golfers were joined by non-golfing partners for drinks on the terrace in the warm sunshine, a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and become better acquainted with new ones.



Once again Oakland Park provided a sumptuous lunch at which wine and convivial conversation flowed freely; so much so that we had almost forgotten the golf until Chris stood up and announced the winners. The competition had been hard fought and some excellent scores recorded. Several pairs were quietly confident of victory but were comfortably beaten by the incredible 50 points achieved by Margaret Broomby and Alan Longshaw. Congratulations, too, to Gwyndaf John who was nearest the pin for the men but, sad to say, not one lady managed to drive within measuring

distance of their pin. Come on, girls, we must do better next year!



Many thanks to Oakland Park for their warm hospitality and to Pam and Rob Britton and Chris Thomas who, once again, organised the day to perfection. We look forward with enthusiasm and increased determination to next year's golf day.

Pat Whitworth.

Welsh Themed London Walk 26th September

On a beautiful late September day, a group of members took part in a Welsh Themed Walk, through the City of London. We met at midday at St. Paul's Cathedral and fortified ourselves with lunch at The Paternoster. It was there that we met our guide for the afternoon, Caroline James, originally from Swansea.

We saw that the site of the first Welsh Congregation to meet in London was in Cock Lane, Smithfield in 1774, led by a former brandy merchant, known as "Gin-Shop Jones ". We walked through Smithfield Market, where Welsh drovers sold their cattle. After the long walk from Wales, the cows had to be fattened prior to sale on the pastures of Islington and Ealing.



We headed North to see the The New River. This is where Sir Hugh Myddleton, a Welshman from Denbighshire, had succeeded in bringing fresh water to London at the start of the 17th Century. Later we passed the London Welsh Centre in Gray's Inn Road, founded in memory of those lost in The First World War. We ended our tour at Gray's Inn Gardens, grateful to Caroline for a very interesting afternoon.

Dilys Dover

Visit to Windsor Theatre to see Agatha Christie's Murder on Air on 17th October.

24 members assembled at Windsor Theatre to see Jenny Seagrove and Martin Shaw in this production of a not very often presented play by the celebrated playwright. All present enjoyed the evening, the first to be organized at this venue, with the hope that future visits can be arranged.

Maldwyn Pugh



Forthcoming events.

Christmas Drinks 6th December 2009

This year's Christmas drinks will be at Wyke House, 50 Bulstrode Road, Gerrards Cross, home of Jean & Gwyn Owen.

Quiz Evening 21st January 2010 Coleshill Village Hall

By popular request a repeat of the: 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' format' as enjoyed last year.
A Fish & Chip supper will be provided

St. David's Day Dinner

27th February 2010

Gerrards Cross Golf Club

We will be entertained by Harpist Elen Hydref Thomas and Tenor Elfed Morgan Morris.

A.G.M.

7th May 2010

Coleshill Village Hall

With a Welsh Fayre – Cheese, Wine and Food tasting and quiz



Walk

Circa 17th May 2010

Mid Wales

Guide John Breese

Summer Lunch

11th July 2010

Venue: To be advised

Annual Golf Day

17th September 2010

Oakland Park Golf Club



Biennial Male Voice Choir Concert

October 2010 (day to be advised)

The Albert Hall

Event details not confirmed will be advised as they become available.

The 2010 programme card will be sent out to members in December