

Chiltern District Welsh Society

Spring Newsletter 2009.



The society has continued to organise a range of activities. Reports on these are as follows:

Chairman's Report.

Thanks once again to our President, Ann for hosting the traditional Christmas drinks for the tenth time. Time for a well earned rest and the event will move to Jean and Gwyn's this year.

The first event of the New Year saw the, 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' quiz. By round five 'I thought I had got it', but by that time I had lost all the money; so we are having another go next year! Thanks to Bob Ford for the introduction to the organiser Jeff Eales who gave us an exciting evening.

Owing to a double booking by Gerrards Cross Golf Club, we had a new venue for the St David's Day Dinner at Hazlemere Golf Club. They did us proud - it was well organised and the food was excellent. We were entertained by Wyn Calvin, 'The Welsh Prince of Laughter' who had previously entertained us at the 2005 event. Welsh cakes and songs around the keyboard rounded off the evening.

During the year Ann Lawrence handed over the reins of Membership Secretary to new committee member, Ann Browne.

Our grateful thanks to Ann L (too many Ann's so abbreviations needed) for holding this office for us since 2002 - must be a record! Another point on Ann's cv was that she organised the first Welsh Society walk in Snowdonia in the same year. Since then Ann and Peter have been regulars on our many walks.

May I make a further plea for ideas for future events from you all. Thanks to Bill Jones for his 'tome' of ideas, but more are still needed. Please bring them along to the next event.

I look forward to welcoming a large gathering at the AGM on Friday 8th May (7 for 7:30). We have secured the services of Bonhams for the after supper entertainment. This will involve valuations on items brought in by the members (1 item per household). A Valuation Quiz will follow.

Many thanks for members' contributions to this newsletter; also to the committee and members for their help with our activities.

Hugh Griffith

Christmas Drinks at the Tuft, 7th December 2008.



As in previous years, the year 2008 was rounded off with the traditional drinks party hosted by our President at the 'Tuft'. On this occasion over fifty members attended. It was a relaxed social occasion that gave new members a chance to meet others in the Society. A caterer had been brought in to ease the burden on our host, an innovation from previous years.



The time flew by; the proceedings were brought to a close with the impromptu singing of carols. A fitting end to the year's programme of activities.

Many thanks to Ann Evans for again being the perfect hostess.

Maldwyn Pugh

Quiz Evening - 30th January 2009.

On a cold Friday evening in January, in deepest Coleshill, the Fivers, Twiners, Misfits, Dragons, Ospreys, Gilvins, Melfas, Conways and the Terfils are on the starting blocks, eager and excited, waiting for the action to start.

The complexities of four rounds, 50-50, and how to pass having been explained, Jeff Eales and his two lovely helpers are in control and we are off!

What was created on the Third Day (everyone knew that Muriel's team would have that one in the bag), the world's largest living bird, who was it cried "Eureka", name the US states west to east, what was the number of the Land Rover in the advert (OK so we were shown the advert but it still wasn't easy!), which chemical has the symbol K?

The questions flowed thick and fast, the answers came more hesitantly but good hwyl was had by all. Despite an interval feed of Fish'n'chips our brain power continued to decline as the evening progressed or was it that the questions got harder?

A special mention for the Twiners, who despite invitations to merge with other tables stuck together as a pair. A brave effort when tables of eight could not get the right answer every time.



It later transpired that Jeff had repeated the questions asked at the very first quiz he'd held at Chesham Prep school. It seems Bob Ford did no better the second time round!

And who won? The Misfits walked away with the prize but it was the charitable efforts of Jeff's theatre company that gained the most.

A good evening, and good fun.

Janet and Gwyn John

St. David's Day Dinner 28th February 2009.

The 2009 St. David's Day Dinner took place at a new venue, Hazlemere Golf Club. 70 members and guests met on high to celebrate. Those attending were treated to a welcoming drink to loosen the tonsils for the pre dinner conversations, which despite the rugby loss to France on the Friday, wasn't really stilted.



On being seated we were welcomed by our Chairman, Hugh Griffith, who took the opportunity to thank all those who had been involved in the organisation of the evening; one of the Society's key annual events. He also briefly outlined future events.

After grace, delivered in Welsh by Ann Evans, we were served a meal worthy of the occasion. In traditional style it was rounded off with coffee and welsh cakes provided by Jean Owen.

After dinner we were entertained by Wyn Calvin, with a succession of anecdotes. He fitted us into his tight schedule despite having to catch an early flight to Malta

next morning to entertain the Malta Welsh Society at their St David's Day celebrations. On his departure John Breese then proceeded to accompany members on an unfamiliar keyboard for the usual singing session, which contained all the old favourites, finishing off with a hearty rendering of Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau.



After the formal ending of the evening, it took those present quite a time to leave, seeming very reluctant to end a very enjoyable evening.

Maldwyn Pugh

Forthcoming events

AGM

Friday 8th May 2009

Coleshill Village Hall

This is our next annual event and we look forward to welcoming as many members as possible. The evening is a **free** event with the following format:

7.30pm Formal AGM

8.00pm Buffet Supper

9.00pm Bonhams Valuation of members' items and quiz.



Please try to make this date; it is an informal and light-hearted evening. It provides a good opportunity for new members to become better acquainted with the society.

In order to plan the catering numbers please let Maldwyn Pugh know if you will be attending. Contacts:

Email: pugh792@btinternet.com

Tel. 01494 763461

The village hall is in Manor Way at the centre of the village opposite the church. Parking is in the school playground nearby.

Summer Lunch

Sunday 12 July 2009

Keith Harris has very kindly agreed to host The Summer Lunch in his garden at Magnolia House, Burkes Crescent Beaconsfield.



We are hoping that there will not be a repeat of last year's weather, the worst in the history of the Society's lunches. To avoid any repeat aerobatics there will be a health and safety inspection of the ground fixings!

B&Q have been consulted on the possibility of guttering fixings which will eliminate the need for committee members' attempts to improvise with broom handles.

The Welsh Connection Themed Walk **Date to be advised –Probably September**

Our Guide Caroline James will take us on a tour of various buildings and ‘haunts’ around London with Welsh connections.



No doubt there will be both wet and dry hostelries visited on route.

Annual Golf Day **Wednesday 9th September**



This year's event is once again being held at:

Oakland Park Golf Club, Chalfont St. Giles.

This is a fun day for golfers with mixed fours of all abilities! It has grown in popularity over the past five years. We hope for a good turnout on the day and a repeat of last year's weather.

Non players are most welcome to join the golfers for drinks and lunch and the prize-giving.

Windsor Theatre & Dinner **October - date to be advised**

Details will follow when the programme becomes available.

It is planned to run a coach with the usual three pick up points. Tables will be booked at one of the restaurants near the theatre.

