

# CHILTERN DISTRICT WELSH SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2004

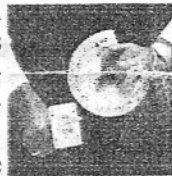


### Magic Circle

In Stephen Way, just off Euston Road lies a building with double blue doors, behind which lies "The House of 10,000 secrets".

We were not privy to all those secrets on Tuesday 4 November but, 16 of us spent three very pleasant hours being entertained by members of the Magic Circle.

After a welcome drink, we had four different magicians performing table top magic "before our very eyes" and still we could not see how it was done! Even members who participated in tricks were left baffled.



A half hour talk in the theatre followed, on the history of the Magic Circle, and some anecdotes about some of its more famous members (did you know that Prince Charles was a full member[?]) This was followed by coffee and sandwiches with an opportunity to look at artefacts in the museum (including some of Houdini's equipment) and more close-up magic at individual tables.

The evening climaxed with an hour's fun and laughter in the theatre where three super entertainers kept us enthralled and highly amused.

An excellent evening's entertainment!



### Christmas Drinks

Our President once again hosted a very festive drinks party at her home at the beginning of December. It was well attended, and as befitted the occasion, ended with carols round the piano. It was a really enjoyable occasion and a good start to the Christmas season.

### St David's Day

Saint David's Day was celebrated this year by ninety-two members and friends at Gerrards Cross Golf Club. It was a very enjoyable occasion, ably presided over by Ralph Broomby. The meal and service were excellent and the delicious Welsh cakes produced by Gill and Jean were an added bonus!



*Iona Jones, Emrys Jones and Ann Evans*

The guest speaker was the emeritus Professor Emrys Jones, who has held several eminent academic positions, is a Fellow of the British Academy and is President of the Hon. Society of Cymmrodorion. Prof Jones is the editor of "The Welsh in London 1500-2000" and he gave a very interesting and informative talk, touching on how the Welsh have been perceived in London by others over the centuries, and how the Welsh perceived their fellow countrymen who went to London!

The evening could not go by without some singing. An excellent small choir of members sang some numbers for us, under the direction of Gay de Marco. Then song sheets enabled us all to exercise our vocal chords, and the evening ended with a sing-song around the piano.

## Dylan Thomas

On Sunday 22 February a group of 17 from the Society attended "All the Sun Long" at Little Misenden Village Hall, part of the Festival of Comedy which ran from the 14 - 22 Feb. "All the Sun Long" was a celebration of the life and work of Dylan Thomas. The cast of 4 was Rosemary Leach, Michael Elwyn, John Griffiths and Christine Secombe (mostly at the piano, and niece of Harry Secombe). All the cast showed their total professionalism. The programme included *Fern Hill*, *A Child's Christmas in Wales* and the highly amusing short story, *The Outing*.

The tea and Welsh cakes after the event also provided the opportunity to meet the cast as well as the patron Alison Steadman. Perhaps the highlight was John Griffiths' rendition of *I'm coming home to Swansea Town* - an outstanding bass voice.

It was a wonderful afternoon with a reminder of the brilliance of Dylan Thomas's use of the English language. Comments like "Over-Milked Wood" were greeted with the scorn they deserved. Based on this performance, the Chiltern Welsh Society will be even better represented next year.

## AGM

This year the AGM will once again be held in Coleshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Friday 7 May 2004. Please attend if you possibly can. Enclosed are last year's minutes and paperwork in connection with the meeting. This is your opportunity to voice your opinion on the activities of the society, and to make any constructive suggestions. The committee always welcomes feedback from other members of the society.

The committee feels strongly that the society benefits by new people coming on the committee, thereby allowing some of those currently serving to stand down. Please consider carefully whether you would be prepared to play an active role in the running of the society now or in the future and let a current committee member know.

After the business we will have a supper and entertainment by Mary Medlicott. She is a very accomplished story teller, and will entertain us with stories from Wales.

The cost will be £10 per person, a booking form is enclosed.

## John Clarke

Those of you who attended last year's AGM will, I am sure, be saddened to learn of the death of John Clarke who entertained us with his talk about Ivor Novello. John was taken seriously ill last summer and died in January 2004.

## Oslo, here we come!

Those who have opted for the visit to Oslo are in for a treat. All the bookings are now made, and a full programme is lined up, including the Saturday night dinner with the Oslo Welsh Society. Look out for the full report in our next newsletter.

## Summer Lunch

This much enjoyed annual event will this year be held at The White House, 50 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross on Sunday 8 August 2004 in the lovely garden of Sue and Bill Jones. A booking form is enclosed, so be sure you do not miss the deadline for this event.

## Golf Day

A golf day will be held on 20 August at Harewood Downs Golf Club, starting with bacon roll and coffee at 8.30 am. and finishing with lunch. It is for

players of any standard and gender and is not to be taken too seriously!! The inclusive cost is likely to be in the region of £35. Non playing members are welcome to join us for lunch and the cost will be about £12.50 per person.

Please let Ralf Broomby know if you are interested in taking part by using the booking form attached. His telephone number is 01494 725442 if you have any queries.



## Walking Breaks in Wales

One of our members has volunteered to lead some walking breaks in North Wales either later on this year or in the spring of next year. Please see booking form to express your interest in either of these. Depending on the response, further plans will be made. The probable dates are early in September 2004 or May 2005.

For any new members who are not familiar with the format, and would like some further information, please phone Pam Britton on 01494 678466.

## Albert Hall

The Joint Festival of Welsh Massed Male Voices is to be staged on 2 October 2004. 50 tickets have been reserved and a coach booked to take us to and from the Albert Hall. The cost will be £41 including transport. Do book early for this fantastic evening to avoid disappointment.