

Chiltern District Welsh Society

Newsletter Spring 2006



Chairman's Letter: February 2006

Firstly, a belated Happy New Year to all our members. I have been on the Committee since the Society's inauguration in 1998, and this is my last year in office. During this time we have seen the membership grow from initial numbers in the mid 50's to now a total membership of some 91. Hopefully the essence of the success has been the camaraderie at all the events and the commitment and dedication of all the Committee members.

We have developed a Programme that reflects the aspirations of the membership and is largely endorsed by your views in the questionnaires returned in 2005. The St. David's Day Dinner has always proven the most popular event. A big thank you goes to Ann Evans – our President, especially in hosting the Christmas Drinks & 'never-ending' food/goodies; what a super way to enter the festive season. I'm proud that events now range from Quiz evenings, Walking Holidays, Cymanfa Ganu, Welsh Choirs at the Albert Hall, and the Magic Circle evenings and not forgetting the Society's Summer lunches and more recently the Golf Day.

In May '06 we see Gill Wills, - our Treasurer, and Pam Britton, – our Secretary, also standing down; our thanks go to them for all their outstanding work. If you would like to help the continuing success of the Society please give some consideration to joining the Committee!

If you know any friends or relatives with the Welsh language and the Welsh heritage as an important agenda, please encourage them to join.

I'm sure that the new Committee will take the Society from strength to strength; thank you for your encouragement and support over the years.

My best wishes to you all.

Gwyn Owen

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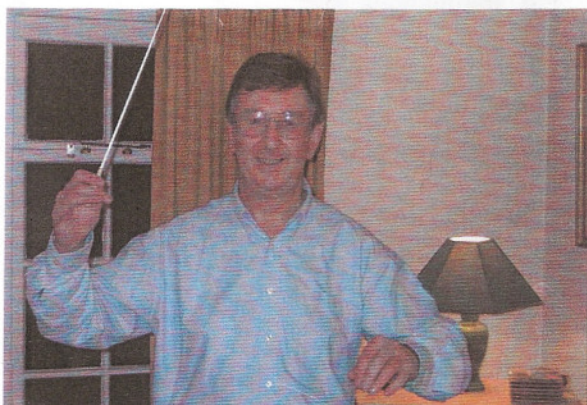
Cymanfa Ganu—15 Oct 2005



In October the Society celebrated a FIRST !! A Cymanfa Ganu (Welsh hymn Singing) event was held at the White House, Gerrards Cross – home of Bill & Sue Jones. The evening was an outstanding success. This has to be put down to the preparation by Bill and Jonathan Pegler at the organ (see above).

Some 30 participants enjoyed an evening with real 'hwyl'. Every hymn was firstly introduced by Bill, who had researched the

history of the Hymn writer and the authorship of the tune, all delivered with humour and appropriate pride associated with the Welsh talent of the 19th Century. Bill, - 'the conductor', and the congregation enjoyed the singing. Some 14 hymns/ songs made up each half of the evening, - with a mixture of Welsh and English. At half time there were excellent refreshments served up by Sue Jones and the Society's Secretary .



Hopefully this will be the forerunner of perhaps a bi annual event. Indeed the participants hope so, as this was an evening of nostalgia for those who have been away from the Welsh shores and where a Cymnfa Ganu was both an Easter and August Bank holiday ritual. Well done to Bill for orchestrating a wonderful and memorable evening.

Gwyn Owen

An evening at the Mill Theatre - Sonning.

On 25th November, the Society attended a production of "A Garden Fete" by Alan Ayckbourn, at The Mill at Sonning Theatre. Thirty of our members attended, and firstly enjoyed a wholesome (hearty ?) meal in the restaurant with some excellent wines. On reading the programme for the Play, perhaps we were a little disappointed to see only 2 actors; however there were five roles and the actors switched brilliantly from one role to the next.

A Garden Fete is one of a series of plays about a group of suburbanites written under the heading "Intimate Exchanges". This production made for a funny and enjoyable evening.

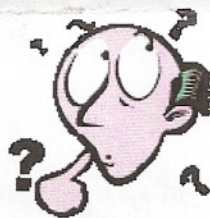
Given the intimacy of the theatre (it seats just 200, and those in the front rows sometimes feel they are part of the play), it is always a good reminder of 'live theatre'. In recent years it has become a feature of the Society's events for late November. To date it has never disappointed.

Gwyn Owen

Quiz Evening—21 Jan 2006

Nearly 50 members and guests met at Chalfont St Giles Gardeners Club for another 'De Marco Special' quiz. The questions were an excellent test of general knowledge, and the answers all obvious (when Gay read them out!).

Chris Thomas's team seemed to be leading comfortably at the supper break, but was pipped to the post by the combined brain power of the Morris, the Scourfields and the Stythes. Congratulations to them!



The fish and chips arrived on time and were greatly enjoyed by all.

New member Geraint Hughes and his team from the Ruislip area decided it would be improper to win on his first visit, and Hugh Griffiths was so excited to meet up with a school friend from 'more than a decade' past, that his team were deprived of his full concentration.

Thanks Gay and Neill for your most successful efforts to irritate and amuse us.

Ralph Broomby

Saint David's Day Dinner

Our 6th Saint David's Day Dinner, at Gerards Cross Golf Club, on the very day itself, was once again a delightful success.

The three course dinner followed by coffee and very dainty Welsh cakes was relished by all and the hand crafted table centres complete with miniature Welsh flags reminded us once again of the special day.

For our entertainment we were privileged to listen to the accomplished solo and orchestral harpist Angharad Wyn Jones. She entertained us so beautifully and her renderings of the two Welsh songs, Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn and Dafydd Y Garreg Wen took her to our hearts completely.



The evening ended with, of course, hymn singing and Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau. It was led by Bill Jones and he was able to give us interesting information about the hymn writers and composers. We were ably accompanied by Gay DeMarco. The whole evening was skillfully compered by our Chairman, Gwyn Owen, in his usual relaxed and welcoming style.

Eileen Mitchell

AGM—12 May 2006

Coleshill Village Hall

This is our next annual event and we like to draw in as many members as possible. The evening is **free** for members and their spouses. The format is:

7.30 pm Formal AGM

8.00 pm Buffet supper

9.00 pm PETER JONES will entertain us with *Patagonian Journey*, which was broadcast in July, 2005 on BBC Wales.

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

Please let Ann Lawrence know if you would like to attend as we need to know numbers for catering. Her email address is: tisael@tiscali.co.uk and her telephone number is 01494 433421

Coleshill is off the A355 road between Beaconsfield and Amersham. The village hall is in the centre of the village behind the church and parking is in the school playground nearby.

Weekend Break in Cardiff

9-11 June 2006

We have arranged a coach trip to Cardiff from Friday 9 June, returning on Sun 11 June. We shall stay at the 4 star Novotel. There will be guided tours of Tredegar House, (one of the architectural wonders of Wales and home to the Morgans for over 500 years), Cardiff Castle, St Fagans Folk Museum, the Millenium Centre or the Millenium Stadium and the Big Pit. There will also be opportunities to visit Llandaff Cathedral, the National Museum and Gallery, the new Assembly Building and shopping of course!

If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact Ann Evans on 01494 433717 asap.

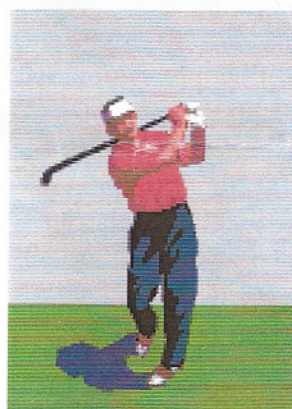
Summer Lunch—23 July 2006

Kerry and Frank Birbeck have very kindly agreed to open their home and garden to the Society for the summer lunch, and we are hoping for the usual good weather. They live at White Cottage, Chiltern Road in Chesham Bois.

This is always a most popular event, with delicious food, created by our members. Last year we had record numbers, so do not miss out, - see the booking form attached.



Annual Golf Day— **date change!**



Please note that due to circumstances beyond our control, the date has had to be moved to **Friday 29 September 2006**. We hope nobody has arranged their summer holiday around the original date (!) and that if that is the case, they can still

attend on 29th.

The cost of the day for golfers is £35-40, and the lunch only is £12-15. This again is a fun day with mixed fours of all abilities.

It has grown in popularity over the last two years, and we hope for a good turn out on the day. We start with bacon butties and coffee before the first four tee off. When everyone has completed the course, we have a pleasant lunch in the newly refurbished dining room, and non golfers are very welcome to join the party.

Please see booking form attached

Magic Circle—12 September 2006

This event has been reinstated in the programme by popular request. We only have 16 places, so be sure to book early if you want to secure the place. It is a superb evening. We provide a minibus to take us to Euston Square. The entertainment is excellent and the Magic Circle provide very pleasant refreshments at half time.



Again refer to the booking Form attached.

15-19 October 2006 - walking

A group stayed at **the Royal Goat Hotel** in September 2004 in Beddgelert and they have offered us a particularly good concessionary rate of **£52-£55-00** per person per night – depending on numbers for DB&B and with No Single Supplement. The walking in this area is particularly attractive and it should be possible for everyone, who wants to, to bag at least one summit over 2000 feet. There are also a wide variety of lower level walks of up to 8 miles or so and between 600 and 1000 feet of ascent. As with our previous Mountain Walking Meets there will **either** be a choice of separate walks each day **or** shorter or longer variants of the same walk. See booking form.

London Welsh Festival of Male Choirs - 21 October 2006 Royal Albert Hall

We have secured 50 tickets for this occasion and they will be sold on a first come first served basis. Transport will be provided. We have looked into providing a buffet meal for the whole party, but it is not viable. There are a number of restaurants within the Albert Hall and close by if people wish to eat before the concert. Our bus tends to allow for traffic delays which so far have not materialised and we therefore arrive quite early—but this is not guaranteed!