

Chiltern District Welsh Society

Spring Newsletter 2010.



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

Chairman's Report.

Grateful thanks to Jean and Gwyn Owen for hosting our traditional end of year Christmas drinks which was well attended as usual. It was the first of our 10th anniversary occasions.

We saw the start of the 2010 programmes with a repeat of the, 'Who wants to be a Millionaire?' quiz with presenter Jeff Eales. After last year I felt I was getting the hang of it, too well as it turned out as my table won. How embarrassing, - there was only one thing to do, a quick slight of hand and hey presto Jess's and my prizes suddenly appeared on the runners up table.

The big 10th anniversary event was the St David's Day dinner. We returned to Gerrards Cross Golf Club and they served us well. There were the Anniversary cake(s) organised by Ann Thomas with the cutting ceremony performed by President Ann Evans. No matter how hard one tries there is often some issue or other, this time cancellation by the tenor the day before. However, our talented young harpist Elen Hydref Thomas stepped into the breach and extended her repertoire; a seamless solution.

Once again we thank John "you hum it – I'll play it" Breeze for his excellent accompaniment of the Welsh Songs which rounded off an excellent evening.

I look forward to welcoming a large gathering at the AGM on Friday 7th May (7 for 7:30). I realise it's the day after the general election, so there may be some hangovers but we have a remedy - a 'Welsh Fayre' after the proceedings. There will be a cheese tasting with quiz (five

types) together with a sampling of some further cheeses, Welsh wines and cakes.

A big thank you for members' contributions to this newsletter; also to the committee and members for their help with our activities.

Hugh Griffith

Christmas Drinks at the Wyke House, Gerrards Cross 6th December 2009.



The year 2009 was rounded off with the traditional drinks party which was hosted, on this occasion by Jean and Gwyn Owen at Wyke House Gerrards Cross.

Fifty six members attended. It was the usual relaxed social occasion, in very pleasant surroundings, that gave members, old and new, the chance to meet others in the Society. As in 2009 Ann Tennant had been brought in as caterer and provided a selection of tasty bits to suit everyone's taste.



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 Jean and Gwyn Owen for being the perfect host and hostess.

Maldwyn Pugh

Quiz Evening 22nd. January 2010.

Nine teams battled out another quiz based on the 'Who wants to be a Millionaire?' theme, on a cold winters evening in Coleshill Village Hall. Quiz Master Jeff Eales, and his team, put those present through another enjoyable evening of head scratching.



After a very close competition throughout the evening, the team led by Hugh Griffith, our Chairman came out winners, but decided to pass the prizes to those who came a very close second. A secretarial hiccup delayed delivery of the fish and chip supper by an hour, meant that the added boost of brain power half way through the quiz didn't materialise in time to affect the eventual outcome.

Despite this, the evening was enjoyed by those present.



Maldwyn Pugh

St. David's Day Dinner 27th February 2010.

A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by 77 members and their friends who had gathered at Gerrards Cross Golf Club to celebrate St.David's Day and the 10th. Anniversary of our Society.

Everyone was welcomed by the Society's Chairman, Hugh Griffith, who paid tribute to the founder members, whose venture 10 years ago has given us so much pleasure over the years since. The Society now has 103 members and offers several well attended social events each year. The founder members present were President Ann Evans. Margaret & Ralph Broomby, Jean & Gwyn Owen, and Gill & Colin Wills. Eryl Morris was unable to attend. Tragically his wife Ann, who was also one of the founder members, died a few years ago. All founder members present were invited to stand to an appreciative round of applause.



Entertainment was provided by a talented young harpist Elen Hydref Thomas, whose list of achievements include a distinction in her ABRSM diploma, Blue Riband for under16 instrumentalist at the 2002 National Eisteddfodd, Walter Todd Prize in the B.B.C. Young Musician of the year in 2004, principle harpist for the National Youth Orchestra of Wales from 2006 to 2009. She is now on a scholarship to study with Catherine White at the Royal Academy of Music. She has also played in masterclasses with top performers, including Osian Ellis.

It was a delight to listen to Elen play on her beautiful harp, so much a part of Welsh culture. Her programme included Welsh folk music and some classical pieces. The disappointment felt at the non appearance of the tenor Elfed Morgan Morris, was amply compensated by Elen and her extended programme.



To mark the 10th Anniversary Dinner we were offered a slice of the anniversary cakes, one a sponge the other a fruit cake, decorated with the Society's emblem, which had been organised by Anne Thomas.

Before the customary sing-song to complete the evening, ably accompanied on the piano by John Breese, Hugh thanked everyone who had worked hard to make the evening such a success.



Verlie Heale.

Forthcoming events

AGM at Coleshill Village Hall

Friday 7th. May 2010

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 Welsh Fayre, a tasting of Welsh wines and cheese, followed by a quiz on the items tasted

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 cheese & drink quantities 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.

Mid Wales Walking Holiday, 17th. to 21st. May. 2010.

This holiday, based on the Trefeddiian Hotel in Aberdovey, has been organised by Anne Thomas and John Breese. 23 members have taken up all the rooms allocated for the Society. It is hoped the weather will be fine for some to walk up Cader Idris on one of the days.



Summer Lunch Sunday 11th. July 2010

There has been a change of venue.
Beth & Peter Sykes-Johnston have very kindly agreed to host The Summer Lunch in their garden at:
Silvana, 86 Camp Road, Gerrards Cross
Bucks. SL9 7PB



**A late Summer Mystery Event is being considered.
Date to be advised.**

Annual Golf Day Friday 17th. September 2010.



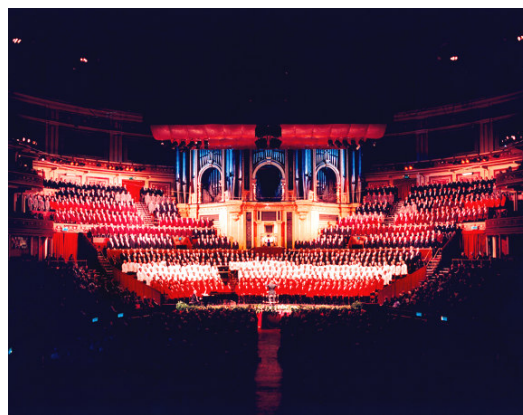
This year's event is once again being held at:

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.

Massed Male Voice Choir Concert at the Royal Albert Hall Saturday 23rd. October 2010.



We have requested a block booking of 50 tickets for this event, but are still waiting to hear whether in fact we shall get them. If the tickets are allocated to us, the intention is to organise a coach with pick up points in Amersham, Gerrards Cross and Denham as in previous years.

Christmas Drinks Party Sunday 5th. December 2010.

Sue & Bill Jones have very kindly agreed to host this year's event at their home:
White House, Camp Road, Gerrards Cross.
Bucks. SL9 7PD