

# Chiltern District Welsh Society

## Winter Newsletter 2021



### Sunday Lunch on Saturday 4th July at 'Silvana'



With everyone having looked with fear and trepidation at the weather forecast for mid-day on the Sunday, what a great joy it was when Jupiter declined to agree and offered us a window of opportunity to have a most delightful and convivial get-together in the wonderful garden of Beth and Peter Sykes-Johnston at Gerrards Cross. On arrival at Silvana, and being welcomed by a Welsh Flag, a Welsh Dragon placed auspiciously on a small table offered the use of hand-gel to ward off the Covid terror.

Volunteers had been there earlier to put up 3 large excellent white Marquees sufficient to comfortably accommodate tables, each with up to 6 people, to keep us safe within the



Covid guidelines. Food was professionally provided by "...To Dine For...", most ably administered by Stephanie and Susan, and most excellently arranged by Kay Day. The mature garden, resplendent with trees, flowering shrubs, floral

beauties of all kinds interspaced with garden effects, was drowned by the engaging chatter of people enjoying a moment of real integration away from zoom meetings and distant exchanges. Each table was adorned with a white tablecloth and a floral tribute

placed centrally, carefully arranged place settings, and supported with comfortable chairs. The sun shone; the air was warm: a Greek Elysian Llwyn Afallon by any standards!



In orderly fashion, befitting the recognised culture of the CDWS, each table rose

when requested to collect their food and return to continue exchanges and reminiscences of visits to Wales, present and past events, news and family matters.

Photographs were taken of happy faces



amongst the Welsh gold as each one toasted the future of the Society. The photographer witnessed only one fall amongst the aging assembly and that was of a beautiful stainless



steel water-fall in the shrubbery! Those of us who managed to walk around were amazed at the variety of plants interspersed with vibrant sculptures and child-oriented Peter Rabbit type memorabilia.

At an appropriate point, retired Chairman David Powell was thanked warmly by Lifetime





President, Ann Evans, for the masterly way he had conducted the Society through a difficult Covid time and was presented with a bottle of the elixir of Welsh life – Penderyn



Whisky – intended to alleviate his pains and help him continue unabated his work as a Committee

Member.



As it was the President's Birthday that day, a rousing tribute was sung to Ann to commemorate the auspicious event! Thanks were expressed by the newly elected Chairman,

Colin Picton, for the wonderful part that Kay had played in arranging the cuisine, for the loan of the Marquees and the members who had erected them, and use of a beautiful garden for the event by Beth and Peter. Beth was then presented with a bouquet of flowers in grateful thanks, and Peter responded with Welsh candour and harmony.

Shortly afterwards, as if prompted by an unseen Zeus hiding in the trees, the heavens opened and blessings came down to ensure that we packed our bags and left for home!

Just another wonderful day in the history of the Society!!

Barrie Reece

## Golf Day 2021

The weather was fine and course conditions good for the CDWS Annual Golf Day on 27th August.

Ten members turned out for the event at our usual venue of Oaklands Park Golf Club.

For the team competition players were allocated to three teams of three, each with a similar aggregate handicap. They were led by a lady captain, namely Kate Picton, Margaret Broomby, and Pam Britton.

The team scoring was the tried and tested Chris Thomas system, though the man himself was unable to be with us on the day. The Stableford points of all three players counted on the par-3 holes, the two best scores counted on the par-4 holes, and only the one best score counted on the par-5s.

All players competed for the best individual score including the tenth player, Brian Evans, who accompanied the final team on their round. As he went around on his golf-buggy he also played a useful role as a ball spotter for his playing partners.

To their consternation, the visitors found their usual handicaps cut, as Oaklands is rated as an easier than average course under the new World Handicapping System.

Oaklands members played off their usual course handicap, with the exception of Colin Thomas. He claims that his official handicap is now 29, but we all remembered that he returned the top score last year playing off 24. Unsurprisingly there was unanimity that he should score off the same 24 handicap this year. He still managed to return the second highest score!

It has to be admitted that the players' performances did not match the excellence of the conditions.

With one notable exception. Pam Britton was in superb form and her 41 points was much the highest individual score on the day. With her in such good form her playing partners, Ralph Broomby and Gwyndaf John, only needed to make a modest contribution for their team's shared victory.

The strong hitting trio of Kate, Rob Britton and Alan Longshaw made up the first three to tee off, and they returned a team score of 65 points. They also claimed a record for the number of "Blobs" on the team scorecard

after much time spent searching for lost golf balls.

Oaklands is a tight course that rewards accuracy rather than length. As was found out by Ralph and Brian as well as Alan, all players more used to the long open fairways on the courses of Gerrards Cross and Harewood Downs.

Pam led the way in the second trio with low straight shots that ran on for a decent length down the fairways and avoided the trouble that lurked in wait for any loose shot. Her team scored 80 points.

Margaret Broomby's team of her, Colin Thomas and Rob Brett all played consistently. They put up a fight to finish a close second with 76 points.

As ever with a round of golf everybody experienced highs and lows during their round. But everyone was very pleased to be out on the course together once again, and enjoyed the event.

After our morning's exertions the players enjoyed a light lunch in the open air.

Rob Britton has won two veteran's competitions at Wexham Park in recent months. On this occasion however the honours were well and truly deserved by his wife.



Pam was presented with a bouquet of Agapanthus flowers for her team's victory and also scooped the bottle of wine for the best individual score.

*Gwyndaf John*

## A Summer Garden Joy

As I sit down to write this, it is Sunday September 12th. After a scenic ride from Amersham to home in Maidenhead, there's no time like the present to write a report of my splendid afternoon with the Chiltern Welsh Society. I think most of us ladies had an eye on the weather that morning. We had ferreted around in our wardrobes for a special summer dress to wear; after all, there have not been many opportunities over the last 12 months to dress up. This was only my second physical event with the Society, having joined a year ago. I did enjoy meeting people on Zoom. However, there is nothing like a real life experience!

I had given myself plenty of time to explore the streets of Amersham and locate a parking spot. I walked down to number 16, to find Kay Day waiting at the gate to greet me. She said, 'You must be Ruth, as you are the only person I don't recognise from the list.' As we chatted, Sue Jones and Rose Alkins arrived and kindly invited me to join their table; it's always important to feel wanted on your first or second event with a different group of people. There was lots of catching up to do before the formal part of the afternoon. We were a group of 30 on tables of five, all sheltered under gazebos. In fact, I was really impressed when I turned up and saw the garden laid out in front of me.



Bright blue matching chairs and, cheerful garden flowers adorned the crisp white

tablecloths. At this juncture, our thanks to the 'flower girls' as they were referred to. The guests had come laden with their own wine, fruit juice, beer and fizzy water and people on the tables introduced themselves. I maintain that Welsh is my first language and, was fortunate enough to be educated through the medium of Welsh from the age of 3 to 21. I was especially pleased to catch up with a few people who spoke Welsh and spent a while chatting to Bill Jones about the delights of Amlwch and Anglesey in particular!



Table by table, we were invited to the serving area, where the *To Dine For* ladies had set up a veritable spread. Our food had been pre-ordered, I had salmon, others had chicken and there was a vegetarian option, all adorned by a variety of salads, I have to say it was very tasty. We had olive and chilli bread, which you could wash down with the drink of your choice. Extra food was available if you wanted a top up. Chatter, covering a multiple of varied subjects, was constant. David Powell managed to pop round each group to photograph everybody deep in conversation. For dessert there was fruit salad, tiramisu, chocolate tart with lashings of cream, should you want it. To round off the



meal tea and coffee were served with some lovely chocolate mints. All in all, I

would say the afternoon was a massive success, everybody was pleased to catch up, after such a long time of being at home.

I would like to give a special mention to Ernest Morris, whose delightful garden we enjoyed and for the loan of the gazebos by Alan Longshaw. Thanks too to David, Gwyndaf, Alan, Peter Johnston and Colin Thomas for erecting these and, getting the furniture in situ; hopefully it was dismantled a bit quicker than it went up. Thank you very much to Kay for her organisational skills and



making the afternoon such a success, we all know that these events, don't 'just' happen. Along with several other people I talked

to, we are all looking forward to the next diarised activity, Christmas drinks. In the meantime, enjoy the autumn sunshine, while it lasts.

*Ruth Huckle*

### **Professor Bill Dover**

It is with great regret that we report the death of Professor Bill Dover, who passed away on Monday 25th October - a much loved husband, father and grandfather who is sadly missed.

Bill and Dilys have always been keen supporters of the CDWS, hosted the Christmas Drinks party in 2015 and attended many of our events until Bill's recent illness. Our thoughts are with Dilys and son James.

### **2022 Provisional Programme**

All dates are provisional, depending on any future social restrictions

#### **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January Quiz Night**

7 for 7:30pm Coleshill Village Hall with Fish & Chips.

#### **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March St David's Day Dinner**

6:30 for 7pm at Gerrards Cross Golf Club with mezzo-soprano, Angharad Rowlands

#### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April Spring Walk**

A walk in the Chilterns and a pub lunch

#### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May AGM**

At Coleshill Village Hall - followed by entertainment

#### **June Welsh Trip**

Based on Cardiff Covid permitting, this year Jonathan's Travels will be a 5-day coach trip centred on Cardiff

#### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Summer Lunch**

Details tbc

#### **August – Annual Golf Day**

The Society's Annual Golf Day

#### **September/October Event**

Either a London walk or Theatre Trip

#### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Drinks**

Details tba