

Chiltern District Welsh Society

Winter Newsletter 2022



Summer Lunch 3rd July 2022

Venue: Di & Colin Thomas' home in Gerrards Cross.



Yet again the weather made its usual contribution to a most convivial get together. The gazebos were all in place and looked their sturdy best- thanks to Alan Longshaw and his team. Some 45 guests were quickly catching up on the major issues of the day – especially how Wales were robbed by an over zealous Georgian, – yes Georgian, referee, in their opening Test Match in South Africa. Covid continues as a subject of note, & indeed there were a few casualties on the day, – including our President- Ann Evans; get well soon Ann.

Colin Picton welcomed everyone, including a few new members. Good to see new faces and that they were all such help in the removal of tables and chairs- thank you & well done. As



usual the meal was excellent and provided with a smile from the Company of "To Dine For" ; in your absence Stephanie- they all did you proud. Colin & Di were enthusiastically thanked for hosting the event and looked most pleased with



gifts of bouquet of flowers (for Colin) and a bottle of Barolo (for Di) – only joking !

The rustic garden with mulberry tree, – plus apples and pears gradually ripening from their infancy added an appropriate background to a relaxing afternoon. The camaraderie was wonderfully evident and was most suitable for the 22nd Summer Lunch of the Society. The day was a real success as it was efficiently managed, in both preparation and delivery, by Kay Day.

The Committee is to be congratulated. Da iawn.

Gwyn Owen

Golf Day 19th August 2022



Friday 19th August was a fine day for playing golf. It is fair to say that the golf played on that day at Oaklands Park Golf Club by the members of the Chiltern Welsh was rather less than fine, but it was enjoyable nevertheless.

Nine players arrived in good time to enjoy coffee and a bacon roll, and to be allocated into three teams of three for a competition over the 18 holes. As the last team holed out on the 9th green before moving on to the 10th tee, we were joined by Gwyneth Herrington who completed the last nine holes at Oaklands for the first time. Gwyneth managed to outscore two of our team over the back nine, but we were unable to count those points unfortunately. Not that it would have made a difference to the overall team results.

The first team home, of Jane Morris, Brian Evans and Rob Britton, were the clear winners recording 93 points. The other teams, of Pam Britton, Eryl Morris and Alan Longshaw, and of Alun McCarthy, Rob Brett and Gwyndaf John, scored much the same with 80 and 82 points respectively.

Individual honours fell to Rob Britton for the longest drive, and to Alan Longshaw for nearest the pin.

Alun recorded the day's highest individual points score, with Eryl also recording an above par individual score of 37 points.

This was Alun's first round of 18 holes on a full-size course. He only started playing the game upon his retirement last year, and had only played on a short "par 3" course previously. But his high score ensures that he will not enjoy such a generous handicap at our next Golf Day!

After the playing exertions, 18 gathered for the lunch afterwards and tucked into a main course of salmon followed by dessert of lemon tart. It was a particular pleasure to see Helen Hall there, on a trip out from the Care Home she has recently moved into at Chorleywood. She was brought along by Ann Lawrence, who was herself looking remarkably well after her recent operation.

The winning team were congratulated on their triumph and presented with a prize of three bottles of wine. Rob thanked Gwyndaf for organising the event, though Gwyndaf pointed out that Rob himself had been the key contact with the Golf Club.

Gwyndaf John

Film/ Theatre – Jack Absolute Flies Again



On Thursday 6th October, over 15 members of CDWS had a cultural evening – we went to see the an 'as live' showing of 'Jack Absolute Flies Again' from the National Theatre at the Everyman in Gerrards Cross.

It is based (very loosely) on Sheridan's play 'The Rivals', but set in the 1940's Battle of Britain. The play features the famous Mrs Malaprop – played brilliantly by Caroline Quentin, whose use of the wrong words was particularly risqué in this rendition.

There were some negative comments though – "The acting and staging were excellent, but some people's enjoyment was spoilt by others in the audience eating throughout the entire play!! Burgers & smelly sides followed by large ice creams in glass mugs eaten with metal spoons clashing on the sides."

A London Walk 26th October 2022

We had our delayed London Walk on Wednesday 26th October. It was originally scheduled for September, but was postponed as so many people were unwell.

We met our guide, Caroline James outside St Paul's Cathedral at 11am. I'm afraid that our



numbers were down – there were only 5 of us in total, but luckily the weather held mostly fine – a drizzle threatened a couple of times, but never came to anything.

Caroline was a fantastic guide with incredible knowledge of the Welsh population in the late 18th century, when the early Welsh Societies were first formed. She showed us the sites of the first meeting places (mostly in pubs and coffee houses).

The Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion was founded in 1751 by the two Morris brothers from Anglesey, to promote the language, literature and arts of Wales. This was a bit too high minded and serious for some, who, led by Owen Jones (Owain Myfyr), formed the Gwyneddigion Society in 1771. Many Welshmen were members of both societies and meetings were held on different evenings so not to clash with each other.

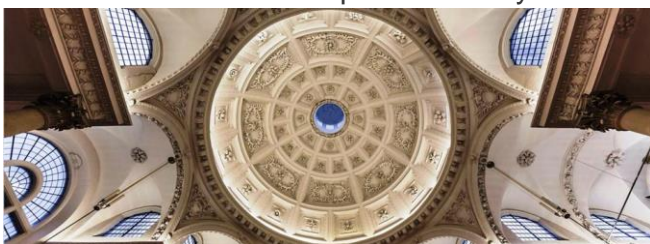


We were taken on a walk through some of the older parts of the City of London, down tiny little alleys and narrow roads with names



like Old Fish Street Hill, Bread Street, Seething Lane and Crutched Friars. As we went Caroline pointed out where the pubs and coffee houses stood or still stand, with stories about the Welsh people that were involved in them.

We passed the London Mithraeum with its remains of a Roman temple and briefly entered



St Stephen Walbrook, a church designed by Christopher Wren with a beautiful circular ceiling. It is also the place where the Samaritans was founded. We were very lucky in that when we entered the choir was

practicing and the overall effect was enchanting.

Walbrook was also the site of the Bull's Head Tavern, where the Gwyneddigion Society used to meet, the source of the following rhyme:

*In Walbrook stands a famous Inn
Near ancient Watling Street
Well stored with brandy, beer and gin,
Where Cambrians nightly meet.*



Another of the pubs that used to be used by the societies was the George and Vulture, which still exists and was later used by the Pickwick Club and now houses Dickensian memorabilia.



Iolo Morganwg was one of the main founders

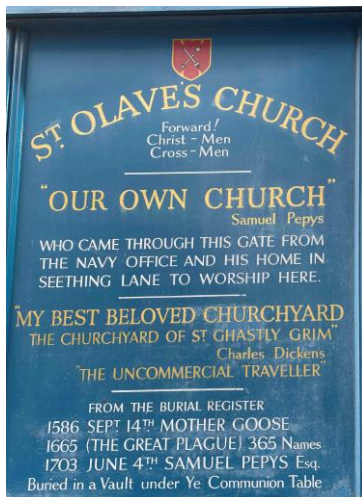


of the Gwyneddigion Society, but he was also a member of the Cymmrodorion and he organised an assembly of bards on Primrose Hill in 1792. We also heard about prominent Welsh leaders who campaigned against slavery, and saw a recent art installation

commemorating the abolition of slavery.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries many of the prime movers behind the creation of the University College of Wales, the National Library of Wales and the National Museum of Wales were London Welsh. The National Eisteddfod was twice held in Westminster, at the Albert Hall in 1887 and in 1909.

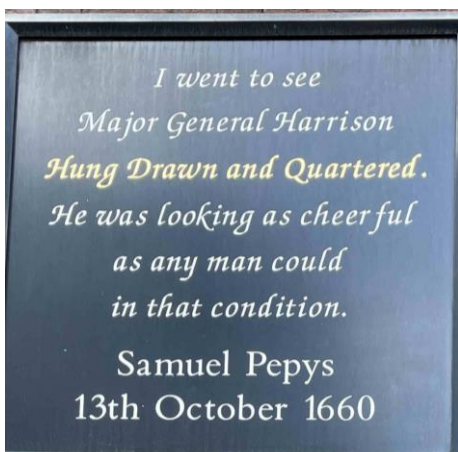
We were wandering in Samuel Pepys territory



now, with St Olave's Church, where he worshipped and was buried opposite the Navy Office where he used to work. (Richard Morris, one of the main founders of the Cymmrodorion Society, worked as a clerk in the Navy Office in Seething

Lane).

We ended our tour at a pub called 'The Hung Drawn and Quartered' which is not that old, but



was named after a quote from Pepys.

We enjoyed mini pies and mash, but had to follow in the old Societies' habits with glasses of beer and wine!

Thanks to Caroline for an exceptionally enjoyable walk.

It is with great regret that I must report the passing of Colin Mitchell and Maldwyn Pugh.

Colin's wife Eileen was our Treasurer for many years and Maldwyn our secretary, organising many of our events over the years.

Both will be greatly missed.

2023 Provisional Programme

Friday 20th January 2023 – Quiz Night

At Coleshill Village Hall 7 for 7:30. This year we will have a fish and chip supper and Ruth Huckle will be our Quizmaster.

Friday 3rd March 2023 – St David's Day Dinner

At Gerrards Cross Golf Club – Maggie Knight will give a talk on Welsh Art.

Thursday 27th April 2023 – Spring Walk

Gwyndaf and Janet John will lead us on a country walk around Winchmore Hill in the Chilterns with lunch at a local pub.

Friday 12th May 2023 – AGM and entertainment

This year we will be trying a new venue – The Jubilee Hall in Amersham.

Sunday 2nd July 2023 – Summer Lunch

Ernest Morris has generously offered to host the event in his garden in Chesham Bois.

Friday 26th August – Golf Day.

At Oaklands Park Golf Club, Seer Green, if you don't play come and join us for lunch! Details to be confirmed.

Sunday 3rd December 2023 – Christmas Drinks

Kindly hosted by our President, Ann Evans, in Chesham Bois starting at 12:30.