

Chiltern District Welsh Society

Summer Newsletter 2023



Christmas Drinks 2022



We had a lovely time at Alan & Di Longshaw's home in Austenwood, Chalfont St Peter. They are wonderful hosts and have held our Christmas Drinks and the Summer Lunch at their home many times before.

Colin Picton thanked Alan and Di for their hospitality, and we all thought that Kay and Ann Tennant had done a splendid job in planning and delivering the food.

Our thanks go to all those who contributed to making this such a success.

Friday 20th January 2023 – Quiz Night

Kay Day had made the arrangements and asked Ann Tennant to do the catering. Ann



worked on her own and was like a dervish – she was preparing the canapes and serving them and seemed to be everywhere at the same time offering a wide selection of different goodies, and

even remembering people's food requirements.

As Ann was working on her own, we were able



to reduce the price of the event from £18 in 2021 to £14 this year. Guests started arriving at around 12:30 and we had a very good turnout this year with 50 members in total,

including many new faces, which is really nice, although illness prevented one or two from attending at the last moment.

The World Cup was a frequent topic of conversation, with most deciding that Wales had played bravely and that this was the best result for decades, but as they were no longer in the competition, then, under the circumstances, many felt that it was now permissible to support England.

Towards the end of the afternoon, Kay, Barrie Reece, Colin Thomas and Jean Owen formed the core of our cerddoriaeth and soon got everyone joining in in a succession of carol songs and Welsh favourites, culminating, of course, with the National Anthem.

Our 2023 quiz evening was held on Friday 20th January at Coleshill Village Hall. It was a cold night and people were pleased that the hall's heating was turned up.

This year Ruth Huckle set the quiz and was our quizmaster, ably assisted by her friend Lesley, who acted as scorekeeper.



We divided ourselves up into 5 teams, and decided on our team names. Most tables were well provisioned with nibbles and

drinks to act as brain food.

The occasion was more of a get-together and a chance to meet other members after the Christmas break, but teams still wanted to perform well!

There were rounds on General Knowledge, Wales (of course), Geography, a chocolate based round and one where some knowledge of cockney rhyming slang was an advantage.

Embarrassingly, the round that everyone found hardest was the Welsh round (many of us had forgotten that the Welshman Michael Barratt was better known as Shakin' Stevens).

Halfway through the evening the fish and chips delivery arrived. It had been supplied by the 'chippie' in Three Households was really very good especially as they had managed to deliver them still hot and crisp.

We finished the quiz at 10pm and Ruth announced the scores.

Out of a possible total of 75: Yma o Hyd came in first with 68 points.

As we pushed the tables and chairs to one side, people were saying how much they had enjoyed the evening and what an varied and interesting quiz it had been.

Our thanks to Ruth and Lesley for giving us a splendid evening.

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

On Friday 3rd March the society held its annual St David's Day Dinner at Gerrards Cross Golf Club. Kay Day had organised the event with the help of the golf club's catering manager, Martin Hillary and Gwyndaf John.

We all gathered for a welcome drink at 6:30 and met up with new members and old friends. The club house at Gerrards Cross looks very smart after being redecorated last year, and the décor was made even better by the addition of several Welsh Flags around the room.

We were very pleased to have Geraint and Glenys Lewis from the Slough Welsh Society join us, and several new members and guests. In total there must have been about 65 of us present arranged across eight tables.



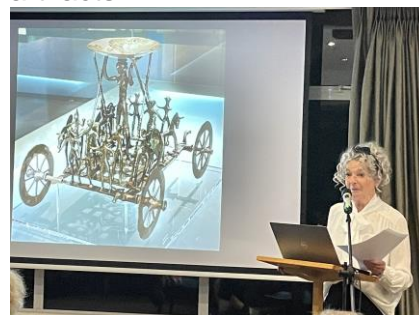
At around 7:15 President, Ann Evans said grace in both English and Welsh, and we sat

down to eat. The food was of a very high standard and we must thank the staff of the golf club for the quality of both the food and the service.

After our meal, Colin Picton introduced our speaker, Margaret Knight. Maggie is an art and

cultural historian and has designed courses at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Maggie entertained us with a talk on The Keltoi – a history of the Celtic peoples through their artifacts.



There was a lot to learn, starting with the earliest known examples of Celts in Hallstatt in modern Austria

around 1200BC. These people were originally salt miners and many artifacts have been found preserved by the salt including leather backpacks and textiles. From there, these early Celts came to mine and refine metal ores into first bronze then iron, which were highly prized by other cultures.

Maggie showed us examples of beautiful ornate torcs worn by high-ranking individuals.

Their language and culture were common and even today there are great similarities between



the languages of Wales, Brittany and Galicia. One of the strengths of the Celtic culture was its decentralised nature, tribes ruled locally with no central government structure.

Maggie then answered many questions from the

floor, before Colin Picton thanked her for a fascinating talk.

John Breese then took to the piano and, after the National Anthem, many favourite songs finished off the evening.



A big thank you to all those who made the evening such a success.

Thursday 27th April 2023 – Spring Walk

We had a good turnout for the Spring Walk this year – 20 of us in all, and it was a good thing that we set off in the morning, as it poured with rain all afternoon.

We all met at 10am at The Potter's Arms in Winchcombe Hill, a lovely pub selling real ale and with a good choice of lunchtime food. We ordered our food for lunch before setting off across the Common, down a footpath to a small pond called Gawde Water beside Horsemoor Lane.



Gwyndaf and Janet John had selected an easy and a more difficult route and at this point those who

wanted to avoid a steep slope (and to get to the pub earlier) took the quicker route with Janet. The rest of us followed Gwyndaf down a slope through trees where in days gone by bodgers used to work, and then joined an old wagon track leading back up the hill on the other side of Penn House.



On the way Gwyndaf found several plants of interest, including the Coralroot, a tall pink flower which is quite rare.

We then proceeded around the back of the ground of Penn House, an area known as Little Readings, looking into the grounds to see a gardener hard at work.

Further on, we re-crossed Horsemoor Lane, past a farm and some woodworking buildings, across a field with views across to Penn Street and its church, then turned right into a path edging Priestlands Wood, back towards the common and The Potter's Arms. On the way we were told of the hundreds of different types of dandelions, and were informed about sedges – all being asked to recite 'Sedges have Edges'.

We returned to the pub right on time to enjoy our food and some real ales and before the rain started after lunch.

Thank you to Gwyndaf and Janet for planning and leading the walk.

Friday 12th May 2023 – AGM



This year we chose a new venue for the AGM – the Jubilee Hall in Amersham. This is a new building on Rectory Hill, near the railway bridge, and just down the hill from Dr Challoner's and is the home of the 2nd Amersham-on-the-Hill Scout Group.

The building has several meeting rooms, and we had booked the Ernest Shackleton room. When we arrived to put out the tables and chairs, the first thing we noticed was the faint smell of fresh paint. Soon afterwards we also noticed that the fire alarm had gone off! Thankfully one of the leaders from the Beavers managed to turn it off.



There were about 33 members in attendance, and chairman, Colin Picton,

kicked off the meeting at 7:30. Colin went through the formal part of the evening with approval of last year's minutes and a run through of all the events we had enjoyed over



the past year. Membership remains at about 110, and Colin welcomed several new members to the Society.

Ann Lawrence asked a question about older members. Some

members are no longer able to attend any of our meetings but still wish to keep in touch with the society. Ann asked whether it would be possible to let these members become 'honorary members' with no fee, but still included in emails and sent copies of the newsletter. David Powell said that, as treasurer he should point out that newsletters and postage would cost £4 per annum. The chairman proposed a vote on the issue and it was carried unanimously. The society will now offer an honorary membership to those who can no longer attend meetings.

David Powell then gave the Treasurer's report, showing that the Society's funds were in good order.

Next was the election of the Committee members. Colin thanked the committee for their work, without which the Society would not be able to function. Barrie Reece is unable to take up the role of our next chairman, but Gwyndaf John has volunteered to take over, as Colin will be stepping down from the position after 2 years in the role. Merle Davies is stepping down from the committee and her role as Minutes Secretary, Colin offered to take over this role. David Powell has been acting as Treasurer for the last year, and Lloyd Jones has volunteered to join the committee to take up this position.

After the committee had been elected, Gwyndaf addressed the room as the new Chairman. Of course, many will remember that Gwyndaf has held this post before, in 2010. The new chairman thanked Colin for his work over the past two years, and our President, Ann Evans presented Colin with a present of Welsh whiskey.

Committee Position	Name
President	Ann Evans
Chairman	Gwyndaf John
Minutes Secretary	Colin Picton
Treasurer	Lloyd Jones
Membership Secretary	Ann Lawrence
Events	Kay Day
Committee Member	David Powell

Gwyndaf again thanked the committee and asked for members to consider volunteering for committee membership.

Ann Tennant then served us all with dinner with three choices of main and several alternate desserts. We are all very thankful to have Ann, and are constantly surprised at how she prepares such good food on her own at such reasonable prices.

After the meal, Gwyndaf gave us a very interesting talk on the subject of 'The Search for the Snowdon Lily'.



This flower can only be found in two locations in the UK, both in Snowdonia. The flower is the only Alpine bulb in the UK and is probably a remnant from the ice-age.

Gwyndaf described the history of the original discovery of the flower by Edward Lhwyd (Lloyd) around 1690 and the flower was named after him (Lloydia serotina). Gwyndaf described his search (with Janet) which involved climbing Snowdon.

Gwyndaf then answered questions and the evening finished just before 10:00 pm.

It is with great sadness that report the passing of Anne Payne, who, with her husband, David, have been members for very many years.

2023 Provisional Programme

Friday 25th 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.

Wednesday 6th September Oxford Trip

Visit to Jesus College and Christ Church. Numbers are limited.

Sunday 3rd December 2023 – Christmas Drinks

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