



Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting
14th May July 2021 7pm by Video-conference
Chaired by David Powell

Present: 40 members of the Society;

- 1 After apologies for absence, David declared the meeting open.
- 2 **Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting** were unanimously approved

3 Chairman's Report

Constrictions imposed by COVID lockdown have meant that most events have happened on Zoom.

Our usual Summer Lunch was cancelled, but the September Golf Day went ahead, thanks to the efforts of Gwyndaf John and Pam Britton. Christmas "virtual drinks", with breakout rooms, enabled the greeting of old friends.

The Annual January Quiz, arranged and judged by Jonathan Pegler, was a Zoom success.

Our hoped for St.David's Day dinner was another COVID casualty. However, Zoom technology allowed us to enjoy the talk on Welsh Saints and the Early Welsh Church, so ably delivered by Dr. Rowan Williams. Thanks are due to Janet John for hosting the event.

A socially distanced Spring Walk arranged by Gwyndaf and Janet was enjoyed by 24 Members.

It is hoped that we will be able to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the setting up of the Society by our President, Anne Evans.

Committee members were thanked for their continuing work. Peter Chapman, who is now leaving the Society after his move to Brecon with his wife Pat, was thanked for his Stirling work as Treasurer.

We hope to celebrate our Summer Lunch in July, courtesy of Peter and Beth Sykes-Johnstone, with the prospect of a Golf Day, Christmas Drinks at the Broomby's, Skittles, a quiz and a postponed trip to Wales to look forward to.

After the Chairman's report, we enjoyed meeting groups in various breakout rooms, thanks again to Jonathan, the Zoom host on this occasion.



Chiltern District Welsh Society

www.chilternwelsh.org

4 Membership Report

Membership now stands at 114.

5 Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Subscriptions £1040 plus £130 received last year. Total £1170.
Bank balance 31.3.21 £3,239.00. (Bank balance 31.3.20 £4,026.52).
Further details in the report sent out with the Agenda.
Report approved.

6 Committee

The election of officers was approved and Colin Picton was welcomed as the new chair. Anne Evans thanked David for all his hard work, including setting up and managing the website.

7. Post-AGM talk

Our Speaker for the evening was then introduced.

Neil Rees, local historian, presented a fascinating insight into the life of Aneurin Bevan, so well-loved for his Welsh roots and above all for his work in establishing the National Health Service - a topic so much in our minds in the current climate. His political career is legendary, but it is possible that his connection with our local area is not quite so well known.

We enjoyed hearing about his move to Asheridge Farm outside Chesham, where he and his wife Jenny Lee became enthusiastic farmers, relieving the stresses of political affairs with the charms of rural life.

The presentation was much enjoyed and appreciated by members.

The evening ended with further meetings in break out rooms.



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Members of the Committee were unanimously elected as follows:

Chairman for the next three years: David Powell (proposed by Graham Beavan, seconded by Ralph Broomby);

Vice Chairman: Rob Britton (proposed by Jayne Pegler, seconded by Bob Ford);

Continuing members: Graham Beavan, Kay Day, Gwyndaf John, Ann Lawrence and Jonathan Pegler (proposed by Hugh Jones, seconded by Pam Britton);

New member: Colin Picton (proposed by Bill Jones, seconded by David Payne).

7 Any Other Business

There being no other business proposed from the floor, Kay Day stood down as Chairman and invited David Powell, as new Chairman, to close the meeting by outlining the programme of events for the coming year.

Our President, Ann Evans, proposed a vote of thanks (passed unanimously) to Kay for her commitment, enthusiasm and organising skills over the past three very successful years; she had been an outstanding Chairman.

8 Forthcoming Events

David Powell outlined a programme including:

- a Spring Walk on 15 May
- a 5-day trip based in Aberystwyth
- a Summer lunch hosted by Peter and Pat Chapman
- an August day at Windsor Races
- the Society's Golf Day
- a day trip to Bristol in September
- Christmas Drinks hosted by Bill and Sue Jones
- a quiz evening in January
- St David's Day Dinner

David Powell closed the meeting and members then enjoyed a supper prepared by Ann Tennant's team, followed by a varied programme of readings from the works of Welsh authors including Dylan Thomas, presented by Jayne Pegler, Prof Tony Curtis and Margaret Curtis.