

Chiltern District Welsh Society

Summer Newsletter 2016



Chairman's Message

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter highlighting the many Events enjoyed this year, expertly captured in words and pictures by our very own editor-in-chief David Powell.

I hope you have enjoyed our 2016 programme so far; I certainly have been delighted to meet many of you. Each year the committee consider what might be appealing and popular to our sophisticated membership. So, please let us know! Good or bad, we would love to receive your comments, and email is so quick and easy!

My best wishes to everyone.

Mwynhewch yr haf. Enjoy the summer.

Kay Day

Christmas Drinks 2015

This year Bill & Dilys Dover kindly allowed their lovely house in Gerrards Cross, to be taken over for our Christmas gathering.

The Committee had been worried – would enough people turn up? Then the committee were worried – there were too many people accepting invitations, how could they explain the mass invasion to the Dovers? - In the end it worked out fine as about 60 arrived – not too many, not too few.

The caterers, 'To Dine For' arrived promptly and took over the kitchen, working expertly to create a variety of wonderful canapés.

Guests started appearing at 12:30 and were greeted by our hosts.

The Dover's house is ideal for such a gathering, and most people congregated in their large conservatory with the lovely views of the garden, to catch up and discuss important society gossip-matters.



Pam Britton and Graham Beavan

Treasurer, Graham Beavan, descended gleefully on newcomers to welcome them and collect a token fee for the proceedings.

The canapés came round and were delicious and were appreciated by all. Just when you thought you were quite full, another really interesting plate came around, which would be a shame to miss.

Chairman, Kay Day, rounded up our hosts to thank them for their generous hospitality and present them with gifts.

Around 4pm, as the light began to fade, people drifted towards the living room where Jonathan Pegler was ready at the keyboard to orchestrate the carols and singing of Welsh favourites.



Kay Day thanks hosts Dilys & Bill Dover

January 22nd 2016 - Quiz Night

On 22nd January at 7pm, Coleshill Village Hall provided the venue for the 2016 Chiltern District Welsh Society annual quiz evening.

Kay Day welcomed everyone and asked us to arrange ourselves into tables of 6 or 7.

I looked around for the table with the best looking array of drinks and nibbles. Then quizmaster, Jonathan Pegler introduced our first task – to think of a name for our 6 newly formed teams.

The names selected were the Travellers, Ospreys, Double Crossers, Newbies, Exiles and Dwygyfylchi (it's Kay Day's home village near Conwy – I looked it up).



Quizmaster Jonathan Pegler

Jonathan explained that there would be 5 rounds of questions plus 2 table rounds, comprising sheets of 20 questions placed on each table, to be answered over the course of the evening. The first was a series of 20

photographs of people with a Welsh connection, and the second set of questions involved guessing 20 different European languages translating the phrase "I'm sorry I don't speak Welsh" including Latvian, Azerbaijani and Bulgarian.

Jonathan, aided by his lovely assistant and score keeper, Gwyndaf John, then started the quiz proper, with 2 rounds of 10 questions, the first on general knowledge and a second round on the subject of Chad or Chard.

Whilst the scores from these first rounds were being collected, an evening supper was provided – either chili con carne or fish pie, followed by a wide choice of puddings and tea or coffee.

After supper we had a little time to continue with identifying the people in the photographs, and wildly guessing some of the languages (was that Spanish or Esperanto, Russian or Bulgarian?). Gwyndaf revealed the half-time scores, and it was really quite close, with all teams still in the running – i.e. we were all failing equally in answering Jonathan's cryptic questions.

Three more rounds followed, with subjects including events that occurred on 22nd January in recent or distant history, a tricky round involving estimating distances (in Wales, around the earth, and a mathematical puzzle based on Jonathan's swimming regime), and lastly another general knowledge round, with more than a few questions based on the society's trips to Wales.

By this time my brain was hurting, as Gwyndaf revealed one of the closest scores yet, with only 4 points separating the top 5 teams, but Dwygyfylchi emerged as clear winners of the 2016 Quiz.

Congratulations to the team, and many thanks to Jonathan (and Gwyndaf) for the quiz.

Tuesday 1st March - St David's Day Dinner

On 1st March we held our annual St David's Day dinner at the Gerrards Cross Golf Club.

We met at 6:30 to provide the opportunity for members to catch up with friends both old and new and chat over a glass of bubbly or orange juice.

At 7:15 we went into the dining room and Chairman



Ernest Morris, Ann Evans and Ralph Broomby

Kay Day greeted a record turnout of 84 people and welcomed 5 new members.

The food was excellent featuring Welsh Lamb Rump (of course) or Haddock as an alternative.



Di Thomas and table

Kay then introduced our soprano, Alys Roberts, accompanied by Iain Ledingham at the piano.

Iain, who lives locally, is a professor in the piano, vocal and opera faculties at the Royal Academy of Music. Alys is one of his most promising young students.



Alys studied music at Durham University and is now at the Royal Academy. She has been a solo soprano at Durham Cathedral and has sung at many other locations.

Alys started with some Welsh folk songs, and then moved on to a selection of operatic arias including pieces from La Boheme, Romeo and Juliette.

I particularly liked her version of Summertime in Welsh. Alys finished with some more



Welsh folk songs, this time as arranged by Benjamin Britten.

Kay thanked our musicians and presented them with tokens of our appreciation.

Alys and Iain stayed on for a while to chat to people before they left.

Meanwhile, our stalwart singers prepared themselves.



Peter Sykes & Colin Thomas ready to sing

My party needed to leave at this point, so I am unable to report back on the quality or quantity of

the singing, but based on previous years, I'm sure that a great time was had by one and all.

Friday 6th May 2016 - AGM

So, the AGM took 20 minutes, but it also took the whole evening.

People started gathering from about 6:30, allowing people to meet and catch up before the start of the meeting at 7:30.

Kay Day welcomed 67 members of the Chiltern District Welsh Society, including 2 new members.



Jean Owen, Kay Day & Graham Beavan

Kay then described our activities over the last year, the Summer Lunch, Golf Day,

the Tring walk, Christmas drinks, the days in the Brecons, the trip to the BBC studios and Fullers brewery, Quiz evening and St David's Day dinner. Kay thanked all our organisers and our kind hosts.

This year we are looking forward to the spring walk at Cliveden, going to Ralf & Margaret Broomby's for the summer lunch, a trip to Cambridge in September, bird watching at the London Wetlands in October, and Christmas drinks at Colin & Di Thomas's.

Treasurer, Graham Beavan, reported on our healthy finances. He is managing to subsidise many events in line with our constitution.

Membership is expected to be about 130 this year – we continue to grow in numbers.

The committee all agreed to stand again and were all re-elected. Kay thanked all the committee members for their hard work over the year.

So that took 20 minutes – what took the rest of the time?

Well, Anne Tennant's wonderful team fed us with salmon or chicken, plus a variety of desserts. Then we had coffee and a lot of meeting and chatting – catching up with friends, old and new. Afterwards Mary Medlicott entertained us with stories from Wales.



Mary Medlicott

Mary last visited us in 2003, and we were very pleased that she could return with more stories including one about '2 dreadful women' and the burial of a dead cat, followed by a series of tall tales about Shemi Wad (James Wade) from Fishguard.

We concluded after 10pm and made our way home celebrating another successful year.

May & June Trips

The Cliveden walk in May and the June excursion to Caernarfon and other sites in North Wales will be covered in the Winter edition of the newsletter.

2016 Programme

26th June Summer Lunch 2016

At the Broomby's home in Chesham Bois.

26th August Golf Day at Oakland Park

Non players are welcome to join us for lunch.

8th September Cambridge Colleges

A guided tour around Trinity and St John's colleges in Cambridge and optional punting.

13th October London Wetlands

A visit to see the wildlife at the London Wetlands in Barnes.

October/November Theatre Trip

Details to be confirmed.

11th December Christmas Drinks

Colin and Di Thomas have offered to host this event at their home in Gerrards Cross.

Our Website has even more pictures and descriptions: www.chilternwelsh.org

David Powell - editor