

Cymdeithas Cymry NOTTINGHAM Welsh Society

Howell Price Secretary 01159 816 379

Haf 2018, Newsletter

Dear Members,

Welcome to the Nottingham Welsh Society's Newsletter; keeping the membership connected. From recent work undertaken by Gwynne relating to the membership it can be seen that we are a diverse and far reaching group. This was also reflected at the Welsh Dinner in April when 'calling the counties' identified members and guests from all corners of Wales, England and indeed across the globe. Our aim as we go forward as a Society is to increase the membership to secure a prosperous future for those who share a love of all things

Welsh be it by birth, language, culture or simply from the heart; holding Wales close in their heart and soul.



As you will read in our newsletter some members are at present unable to attend

meetings for a multitude of reasons and we would ask special thoughts go out to them and keep them close until they can be with us again. A phone call, an e-mail or a quick hello is always appreciated. We have completed a full and entertaining year of meetings and despite the 'beast from the east' and a conspiracy by the weather to deter us from our endeavours in true style we rose to the challenges and held our Christmas Carol Service in December and a slightly delayed St David's Day Dinner in April where a great time was had by all who attended. Thanks to all who responded in the hour of need.

Looking forward to the 2018 - 19 season a planned programme of meetings has been prepared as you can see from the Programme Card - enclosed/ attached. We look forward to greeting you all at the Cheese & Wine evening at 7.15pm on Wednesday 12 September. Bring a friend and share the hospitality that can always be found at Nottingham Welsh Society.

Kindest regards to you all

Margaret-Vice President

PARTING GIFT FROM IFOR HALLIDAY AS SECRETARY. We much appreciate his contribution in this area in the past few years in framing our programme of events and wish both him and Irene well. Ifor writes- If you have read 'How Green Was My Valley' (And who has not?) I am sure you will recall the name of Dai Bando and his talent for boxing. Here is a brief outline of the 'sport'. Ifor.

Boxing on the Mountains in the Rhondda at the Turn of the Century

These bare-knuckled fights were usually arranged in a Public House on a Saturday night, more or less secretly, since the law prohibited them. It was agreed to meet in a specified place on the mountain at daybreak the following day, lest the police catch them. Although the fight was to be kept secret, the word quietly got around, and early on Sunday morning there would be scores, if not hundreds sometimes, assembled to see the fight. On the edge of the crowd there would be a spy to keep look-out for the men in blue. If danger appeared on the horizon, the shout 'Police!' would be given and everyone fled swiftly over the fields to the valley below, so it was difficult to catch any of them. The most likely to be caught were the two fighters, naked to the waist, and too tired to flee like the rest. There was not much order in keeping rounds, in all probability. Sometimes there would be a pause when the two fighters would be tired out until they could hardly stand on their feet, but neither willing to yield to the other. Then, having revived a little, they would pitch in again in another bout until they were nearly exhausted, until one of them in the end

had to give in. There was no referee except the shout of the rough crowd which was half demented by the excitement. It was for a golden sovereign, no more and no less, that they usually fought. As far as I heard there was not much betting among the crowds on these contests. That strange character the bookie had not reached the civilization of the south at that time.

Written by D J Williams in 'Yn Chwech ar Hugain Oed' 1959. There are several copies knocking around with NWS members. Translated in 'Customs and Traditions of Wales' by Trefor M Owen. Cardiff University of Wales Press 1991. ISBN 0-7083-1118-0.

'A nation that forgets it's past has no future'. Winston Churchill.

Local News

AGM. The minutes of the Meeting are available on request to the Secretary. Apart from Ifor who has resigned, all the other octogenarian Committee Members have agreed to continue. Stephan Green volunteered himself - as he is now less busy and was duly voted on to the Committee in response to the appeal for younger blood. The Committee proposed that the NWS should continue in its present form for the next three seasons (inc the present one), during which the viability for the future would be re-assessed. This was accepted.

As the Society has no President for the New season the Cttee had proposed that the responsibility for **Acting President** would be carried out by the Cttee Members led by the Vice President on a two monthly basis, which has been agreed:- Jul/Aug, Alan, 01159 206 505
Sep/Oct, Howell. 01159 816 379
Nov/Dec, Teddy 01159 233 988

DATA PROTECTION. Of the 72 letters posted out to those on the existing list of NWS Members and Friends on 23rd May, so far 38 replies have been received, including re one who is now

deceased. Many are still to be returned. Please complete and return the form to be re-instated on the Directory. We are particularly **grateful to fellow member Lisa Cheung for the generous secretarial assistance she gave to producing the documentation.**

'Gardening in London'!

On 31st May Margaret Pitt accompanied by her husband Barry were commanded by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to attend her Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Margaret was representing Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS



Foundation Trust for whom she works.

'It was a wonderful event and the gardens were beautiful. Everyone dressed in their finery, uniform dress or traditional costume. The army and air force



bands played throughout the afternoon and the Queen and royal party processed stopping occasionally to speak to nearby guests. Afternoon tea was served and gave opportunity for guests to mingle before leaving through the main entrance to the palace '. It was a memorable day and such a privilege to be there. Sadly, the Prince of Wales was not present at the event but maybe next time?? Yes, Dame Mgt!

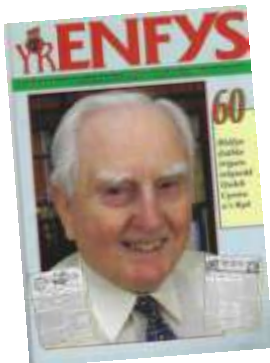
THE PASSING OF MAIR DAVIES

Mair passed away quite unexpectedly on Monday 19th June. It is understood that interment will take place at Conwy in mid-August, but cremation has

occurred on 2nd July with close family attending. Merfyn and Mair who were both very active in NWS for many years have suffered ill health during the last decade, Merfyn had been President on three occasions, and Mair a natural teacher had also led very successful Welsh learning classes in Nottingham referred to by Teddy Thomas in the last Newsletter. A tribute to Mair will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

COFIO am T. ELWYN GRIFFITHS - 100 oed

Cafodd Elwyn ei eni yn Llandybie, Sir Gaerfyrddin ym mis Mawrth 1918. Aeth i Ysgol Ramadeg Llandeilo ac yna i'r Brifysgol yn Aberystwyth cyn ymuno a'r Awyrlu ar ddechrau'r Ail Rhyfel byd. Cafodd gomisiwn fel swyddog dehongli gwybodaeth a mynd yn syth i Cairo lle y bu am



rhan fwyaf y Rhyfel. Tra bu Elwyn yn Cairo, dechreuodd y papur newydd, "Seren y Dwyrain", fel bod aelodau'r Lluoedd Arfog o Gymru yn gallu cysylltu a'i gilydd. Ar ol y Rhyfel, sefydlwyd y mudiad "Undeb y Cymry ar

Wasgar" ac hefyd y cylchgrawn "Yr Enfys". Am

flynyddoedd mawr, ar brynawn Ddydd Gwener, bu creoso cynnes I Gymry alltud ym mhafiliwn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Cofiw'n am flynyddoedd lawer am y dyn dawnus hwn a'i waith dros Gymru a'r Gymraeg am ganrif. Delyth Neill.



Ymunais a Undeb y Cymry ar Wasgar yn Eisteddfod Hwlfordd 1972, cyn mynd i Hong Kong am flwyddyn - ac ymuno a Cymdeithas Dewi Sant yno - ac wedi bod yn aelod byth oddiar hynny! Bydd nifer ohonom yn cofio cwrdd ac Elwyn a'i fythgofiadwy gyfweiliad gyda Glyn Evans ym Mhlas Tan y Bwlch. GD.

LOOK OUT for the two free copies of *Enfys* circulating amongst the NWS membership.

Prof Teddy Thomas writes - Many millions have been locked up for reasons ranging from serious crime to no offence at all. Some of the most famous are Stalin, Hitler, Nelson Mandela, Oscar Wilde and so on. Many have written about how they survived the experience of being locked up, and my book is a distillation of these writings which reflect a quite remarkable similarity of suffering and survival. The book does just that: I do not seek to explain or excuse any of the behaviour which led to lock up. Only the horror of it. My most recent book is called 'Voices from Captivity: incarceration from Siberia to Guantanamo Bay' It appeared in July, published by Jessica Kingsley.

Prof Stan Clough who was a *blue sky* professor of Physics during his working life has had to limit his pleasure in hill walking recently and is now concentrating on reassessing the bases of the Science he taught previously. You'll find his new thinking in the blog <https://sciencetimedistance.blog/>

Robert Pascall (born in Denbigh, 1944) has recently died. He studied music at Oxford, where he was organ scholar at Keble College. From 1968-1998 he taught at the University of Nottingham, for the last ten of those years as Professor and Head of Music. The primary strands of his university teaching were analysis, 19th-century history, and editorial techniques; several of his former postgraduate students have gone on to teach at universities in Britain, Canada and America. He was instrumental in raising funds to build the new departmental building, including the Djanogly Recital Hall, and he superintended the design and completion of the project, which opened in 1994. In 1998 he took up the post of Professor and Head of Music at Bangor University, retiring in 2005. After this, he re-joined the staff at Nottingham as a part-time professor, finally retiring in 2011. He was Emeritus Professor at both Nottingham and Bangor. (University

Nottingham excerpts). Some of you remember him as a fellow member of the Local Bach Society, and others for his joint talk to NWS with a colleague. GD

Welsh hymns event

A very informative and enjoyable event took place on the afternoon of the 5th of May (Saturday) on Welsh hymns at Chilwell Road Methodist church. The event was organised under the auspices of the Nottingham Organ Society. After 3 short talks on the history of Welsh hymns, members of local male voice choirs joined together to sing the hymns Gwahoddiad and Morte Christe and after this these choirs combined with the Chilwell Singers and a sizeable congregation in singing 10 further Welsh hymns including such favourites as Cwm Rhondda, Calon Lân and Aberystwyth, (*introduced by our own Society Secretary Howell Price, Ed*). It was good to see several members of Cymdeithas Cymry Nottingham present as well as other people from the region who were Welsh or had an interest in Welsh hymns. The event brought back memories to several of us of the Cymanfaoedd Ganu which used to be an important event in the calendar of the East Midland Welsh Societies. H.P.

*Many of you read the printed version of Alan and Anne's journey on The Camino in the last issue of the NWS Newsletter, following Alans excellent NWS lecture. We did however issue a challenge, and Stephen has responded with an account of **their walk from Ratcliffe on Trent all the way to Santiago de Compostela**. Here we follow their initial steps in England before crossing the Straits of Dover!*

A LONG WALK & RIDE.

It was wonderful listening to Alan's talk giving their impressions of the Camino. It brought back such clear memories for Di and myself of our own walk. Di and I started our Journey in August 2009. I mentioned to Di that I once thought of walking the whole way, and Di thought it a great idea so that was it! While there are several recognised routes starting in France or Spain but we wanted to start from our Home in Radcliffe on Trent, after all that's what the medieval pilgrims would have done and join up later for mutual safety of numbers. Because we were both still working we would have to use our own holiday periods and these did not always

coincide, so it became a long term project to cover the 1,330 miles or 2130 kilos!

The plan was to walk from early morning to nightfall viz 7am to 8,30pm (approx). We carried a tent with us for the nights no-one could take us in, We obtained our credentials - Pilgrim's Record forms issued by the Confraternity of St. James, an organisation existing in Europe to facilitate the journey. We got these stamped in various places on the way e.g. Churches or Mayoral Offices to prove the genuineness of our claim at the far end. The Route. Our first objective was to reach Dover. We planned this using Ordnance Survey Maps and the Internet.

Following the Vicar's Blessing at RADCLIFFE we set out to cross the VALE OF BELVOIR followed by a long hike down the VIKING WAY, reaching RUTLAND WATER in 3 days, then on past BEDFORD and through ST ALBANS where we received the Blessing at the Cathedral and finishing the course for that holiday at ELSTREE - just outside London.

When confined to the UK, we could use Bank Holiday weekends. For the August Bank Holiday we walked on from ELSTREE to SWISS COTTAGE in LONDON. During the Christmas break we crossed London as far as OTFORD right by the Pilgrims Way to CANTERBURY. By 2010 I was retired but Di not, so during that year we only managed on to DOVER, and then we faced the STRAITS to CALAIS, but didn't walk on!

To be continued.

Stephen Matthews

Should you wish you can follow their approximate track using your computer map and loading in the place names and clicking the pedestrian button. GD -Ed.

Thanks *To all who have sent in snippets of information to make this Newsletter possible. GD*



STOP PRESS. *Cyfarfu 'Popeth yn Gymraeg; ddydd Gwener a Grwp U3A Cymraeg Peterborough yng ngartref Joan Thomas yn*

*East Bridgford. Hyfryd oedd cwrdd a ffrindiau
newydd. Canu Mawr! Diolch Joan am drefni.*