



Draig Werdd

The Welsh Society in Ireland



Newsletter – December 2004

Among the news items from Wales that we've collected for you in this newsletter, you may like to review those concerning the opening of the new Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff at the end of November. This new multi-purpose arts centre joins the Millennium Stadium and St. David's Hall as world-class facilities which must surely be the envy of many other capital cities around the world.

Following on from the establishment of the National Assembly for Wales, these developments are indications of a growing national confidence in Wales, which merits a wider awareness from the rest of the world in general, and from our neighbouring countries in particular. So take the opportunity when it arises of telling people all about it, wherever you live!

If you happen to live in Dublin, make a note that Draig Werdd – the Welsh Society in Ireland meets on the first Thursday of every month from 7pm onwards, in the lounge of the Montclare Hotel, Merrion Street, Dublin 2. Just drop in when you can, for as short or long a time as you want, and over time we hope that this will develop into the place for Welsh people in Dublin to get together and to get to know each other. We'll be sending out posters at the beginning of the new year, advertising ourselves and our monthly meetings, so use these to help publicise the meetings. More information can be obtained from our website at www.draigwerdd.org.

And looking further forward, we are planning to hold a dinner to celebrate St. David's Day on Tuesday, March 1st, with a hugely entertaining guest speaker from Wales lined up for the occasion. More details about this closer to the event.

Finally, we'd like to give you the season's greetings at the end of 2004, and look forward to seeing everyone in 2005. In its traditional Welsh form – Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

Cylchlythyr – Rhagfyr 2004

Ymhlith yr eitemau newyddion i ni eu casglu ar eich cyfer yn y cylchlythyr hwn, efallai yr hoffech fwrw golwg ar y rhai hynny sy'n ymwneud ag agor Canolfan y Mileniwm yng Nghaerdydd ddiwedd Tachwedd. Ynghyd â Stadiwm y Mileniwm a Neuadd Dewi Sant, bydd y ganolfan amlbwrpas yma yn rhoi i Gaerdydd adnoddau gyda'r gorau yn y byd y byddai llawer prifddinas arall yn hynod falch ohonynt.

Yn dilyn sefydlu'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol mae'r datblygiadau hyn yn arwydd o gynnydd mewn hyder cenedlaethol yng Nghymru – rhywbeth y dylai gweddill y byd, a'n cymdogion agosaf yn arbennig, wybod mwy amdano. Felly, pan ddaw'r cyfle cofiwch grybwyll hynny, pa le bynnag y boch!

Os ydych yn byw yn Nulyn, sylwch fod Draig Werdd – the Welsh Society in Ireland yn cyfarfod ar nos Iau gyntaf pob mis yn lolfi Gwesty'r Montclare, Merrion Street, Dulyn 2. Galwch heibio pan fedrwch chi, am ba hyd bynnag yr hoffwch, ac yn raddol gobeithiwn y gwelwn hyn yn datblygu'n ganolfan i Gymru Dulyn ddod at ei gilydd ac i adnabod ei gilydd. Byddwn yn anfon posteri ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn newydd, er mwyn i eraill gael gwybod amdanom ac am ein cyfarfodyd misol. Gobeithio y medrwch eu defnyddio i hysbysebu'r cyfarfodydd. Cewch ychwaneg o fanylion ar ein safle gwe: www.draigwerdd.org

Ac i edrych ymlaen yn bellach, yr ydym yn bwriadu cynnal cinio i ddathlu dydd Gwyl Dewi ar nos Fawrth, 1 Mawrth, gyda siaradwr gwadd o Gymru i'r achlysur sy'n hynod o ddiddorol. Manylion pellach yn agosach i'r digwyddiad.

I gloi, hoffem yrru cyfarchion y tymor atoch ar ddiwedd 2004, gan obeithio eich gweld i gyd yn 2005. Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!



You may be interested in the following items of news from Wales and Ireland:

Mae'n bosib bydd yr eitemau dilynol o newyddion o Gymru ac Iwerddon o ddiddordeb i chi:

- **[Agor ysgol uwchradd Aeleg](#)**
02/07/2004 Bydd ysgol uwchradd newydd drwy gyfrwng Yr Aeleg yn cael ei hagor am y tro cyntaf yn Yr Alban yn 2005.
- **[Pasports newydd Cymraeg](#)**
27/09/2004 Am y tro cyntaf, o'r flwyddyn nesaf ymlaen, bydd y Gymraeg ar basport y Deyrnas Unedig. Cyhoeddodd Alun Pugh, Gweinidog â chyfrifoldeb am yr iaith Gymraeg, hyn ddydd Mawrth a bydd y Gymraeg ar y pasport o ddiwedd 2005 ymlaen.
- **['Super-uni' plans to be unveiled](#)**
05/10/2004 Wales' first 'super-university' could be developed on a giant campus near Newport city centre.
- **[Cryfhau'r cwlwm Celtaidd](#)**
05/10/2004 Castiau alwminiwm o wynebau Cymry a Gwyddelod ifanc yw cam cynta prosiect celfyddydau rhwng y ddwy wlad. Y nod yw codi dau gerflun enfawr fydd yn wynebu ei gilydd ar draws Môr Iwerddon.
- **[Wales vanishes from EU yearbook map](#)**
05/10/2004 Wales has been missed off a map used by European Union statisticians to illustrate the front cover of their official annual yearbook.
- **[Morgan's aides in plot to oust him](#)**
07/10/2004 First Minister Rhodri Morgan is facing a secret plot to oust him by Labour Party figures including at least one close aide.
- **[Llywydd o Lydaw yn y Cynulliad](#)**
13/10/2004 Fe fydd llywydd Cyngor Rhanbarthol Llydaw yn ymweld â'r Cynulliad ddydd Mercher. Yn ystod ei ymweliad bydd Jean-Yves Le Drian, sydd hefyd yn Aelod o Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Ffrainc, yn annerch Aelodau'r Cynulliad.
- **[Festival faces changes](#)**
18/10/2004 The National Eisteddfod ruling council has agreed to change the way it is run after financial difficulties. In a meeting held to discuss the festival's future, the council agreed organisational changes were needed. Eisteddfod officials have denied changes would be made to the festival field's language policy.
- **[Welsh Bac 'leads way' on reform](#)**
19/10/2004 As England looks at major exam reform, Wales is ahead of the game in improving education for 14-19-year-olds, according to the Welsh Assembly Government. The publication of the Tomlinson report for England recommends moving to a diploma, something already being tried out in Wales with the Welsh Baccalaureate.
- **[O'r Cynulliad i'r Wladfa](#)**
21/10/2004 Bydd Gweinidog Diwylliant Cymru yn ymweld â Phatagonia er mwyn cryfhau cysylltiadau. Tra yno, mi fydd yn annerch Eisteddfod y Wladfa sy'n cael ei chynnal yn Nhrelew. Mae disgwyl i tua 200 o bobol o bob rhan o Gymru deithio gydag o.
- **[Eisteddfod gets £160,000 boost](#)**
29/10/2004 Culture Minister Alun Pugh unveils a cash lifeline to help the National Eisteddfod out of a financial crisis.
- **[Does multilingual equal Welsh bliss?](#)**
02/11/2004 Welsh people who speak more than one language are more likely to be richer, happier and sexier according to a new study.
- **['Ban smoking in Wales' call](#)**
02/11/2004 The British Heart Foundation is calling for a ban on smoking in public places in Wales. In a submission to the Welsh assembly, the body says a ban would save lives and could help reduce the number of smokers in the country.
- **[Millennium Centre mania](#)**
10/11/2004 More than 8,000 people have applied for tickets to the opening night of the Wales Millennium Centre as culture fever grips the nation.
- **[Patagonian in visa row leaves](#)**
10/11/2004 A Patagonian man at the centre of a row over his visa has chosen to return home from Wales despite being told he could stay another week. Luis Austin, who speaks only Welsh and Spanish, had been told to leave the UK at short notice for failing to say he was staying with his girlfriend.
- **['Value of marriage disappearing' as most Welsh babies now born out of wedlock](#)**
12/11/2004 For the first time since records began, the majority of Welsh babies are now being born outside wedlock.
- **[Y Cymro'n cael ei ail lansio](#)**
15/11/2004 Fe fydd un o bapurau Cymraeg mwyaf adnabyddus Cymru yn cael ei ail lansio yr wythnos hon. Bydd y Cymro yn cael ei ail lansio yng ngwesty Portmeirion ddydd Mercher gan ei berchennog newydd, Y Cambrian News.
- **[Welsh language debut in EU](#)**
18/11/2004 The Welsh language has been spoken legally for the first time in the European Parliament. Plaid Cymru MEP Jill Evans, who leads the campaign for Welsh to be officially recognised by the European Union, spoke in a debate on Wednesday.
- **[Iwerddon yw'r 'wlad orau'](#)**
19/11/2004 Iwerddon yw'r wlad orau i fyw ynddi yn y byd, medd arolwg cylchgrawn sy wedi edrych ar ansawdd bywyd.
- **[How Wales inspires the world](#)**
20/11/2004 Wales is not just a land of song but an inspiration for millions around the world. It is admired for clinging on to a unique identity while thriving at the heart of a globalised Europe. [more](#)
- **[Art attack on anti-Welsh 'snobs'](#)**
23/11/2004 The Australian head of the new home of Welsh arts has expressed dismay at the depth of prejudice against Wales. Wales Millennium Centre chief executive Judith Isherwood said some attitudes were reminiscent of the way Australians were treated 20 or 30 years ago.
- **[Curtain up for theatre of dreams](#)**
26/11/2004 The beginning of a new era in Welsh culture dawns today with the opening of the Wales Millennium Centre. During tonight's gala concert to mark the launch of the national icon, which is already being compared with the Sydney Opera House, five Welsh stars will be honoured for their contribution to the arts.
- **[Meddalwedd: Hwb i'r iaith](#)**
02/11/2004 Mae cwmnïau yng Nghymru wedi croesawu'r meddalwedd cyfrifiadurol gafodd ei lansio ddydd Mercher a hwnnw yn y Gymraeg. Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg a Microsoft UK sy wedi bod yn cydweithio ers peth amser i gynhyrchu fersiwn Cymraeg o Windows XP ac Office 2003.
- **[Llywelyn rally creates rivals](#)**
07/11/2004 A member of a Welsh heritage pressure group has hit back at claims that "extremists" have tried to capture an annual event marking the death of the nation's "last true leader".

Disclaimer: Draig Werdd cannot guarantee the accuracy of any information or news item contained in this newsletter.