

Draig Werdd



Newsletter – February 2003

Greetings once again from Draig Werdd, with our first newsletter of 2003. As usual, we've included a number of stories of interest which have come from Wales and Ireland since our last newsletter.

Of particular interest to us is the recent visit of President McAleese to Wales – the first overseas head of state to visit the Welsh Assembly since its establishment. As well as visiting the Assembly, President McAleese also gave a speech to an audience in University College, Aberystwyth. You can read a report of her visit and the text of her speech in Aberystwyth by visiting our website at www.draigwerdd.org.

Also of interest are recent news items regarding the state of the Irish language in its Gaeltacht heartland. The language here is under the same pressures as Welsh is in its own heartland, so activities to preserve its status will be closely monitored in Wales, in particular with regard to ownership of property being linked to ability to speak the language. Is this an example that Wales can or should follow? Let us know if you have any opinions by e-mailing post@draigwerdd.org.

We will also be keeping a close eye on the build-up to the next Assembly elections in May, and will bring you comment on that in our next newsletter.

In the meantime, Draig Werdd is celebrating St. David's Day once again, this time in the Goat Inn, Goatstown, Dublin 14 – see the details below. We'd love to see as many of you there as possible on March 1st, so that we can help foster a strong Welsh community in Dublin and in Ireland. Dewch a mwynhewch!

**Join us to celebrate
St. David's Day 2003
Saturday, March 1st @ 8pm
upstairs in the Goat Inn,
Goatstown, Dublin 14**

**Tickets: 15 Euro. Includes
hot buffet meal, assortment of Welsh
desserts, plus after-dinner "noson lawen"**

**To book tickets call:
Geraint Waters on 01-2822386 or
Chris Davies on 01-4902919**

Cylchlythyr – Chwefror 2003

Cyfarchion unwaith yn rhagor oddi wrth Draig Werdd. Dyma gylchlythyr cyntaf 2003. Yn ôl yr arfer rydym wedi cynnwys nifer o straeon diddorol o Gymru ac Iwerddon y daethom ar eu traws ers ein cylchlythyr blaenorol.

O ddiddordeb arbennig i ni mae ymweliad diweddar yr Arlywydd McAleese â Chymru - y pennaeth gwladwriaeth tramor cyntaf i ymweld â'r Cynulliad ers ei sefydlu. Yn ogystal â mynd i'r Cynulliad, traddododd araith hefyd i gynulleidfya yng Ngholeg Prifysgol Aberystwyth. Gellwch ddarllen adroddiad am ei hymweliad a thestun ei sgwrs yn Aberystwyth ar ein safle we, www.draigwerdd.org.

Hefyd o ddiddordeb mae'r newyddion diweddar am gyflwr yr iaith Wyddeleg yn y Gaeltacht. Mae'r iaith o dan yr un pwysau â'r Gymraeg yn ei chadarnleoedd hithau, ac felly bydd rhai yng Nghymru yn cadw golwg agos ar yr hyn sy'n digwydd, yn arbennig o safbwynt cysylltu yr hawl i feddu tai â'r gallu i siarad yr iaith. A ddylai Cymru fod yn dilyn yr esiampl? Os oes gennych farn ar y mater, gyrrwch e-bost atom ar post@draigwerdd.org.

Byddwn hefyd yn bwrw trem ar y digwyddiadau a fydd yn arwain at etholiadau'r Cynulliad ym mis Mai, a bydd gennym sylwadau ar y pwnc yn ein cylchlythyr nesaf.

Cyn hynny, bydd Draig Werdd yn dathlu Dydd Gŵyl Dewi unwaith eto, a hynny y tro hwn yn y Goat Inn, Goatstown, Dulyn 14 - cewch y manylion isod. Braf iawn fyddai gweld tyrfa dda ohonoch yno ar Fawrth y cyntaf, er mwyn helpu i ni fagu ymdeimlad cryf o berthyn o fewn y gymdeithas Gymreig yn Nulyn ac yn Iwerddon. Dewch a mwynhewch!

**Ymunwch â ni i ddathlu
Dydd Gŵyl Dewi 2003
ar nos Sadwrn, Mawrth 1^{af} am 8 o'r gloch
i fyny'r grisiau yn y Goat Inn,
Goatstown, Dulyn 14.**

**Tocynnau: 15 Ewro. Bydd hynny'n cynnwys
pryd bwffe poeth, dewis o bwdinau
Cymreig, a noson lawen i goroni'r cwbl.**

**Am docynnau ffoniwch:
Geraint Waters ar 01-2822386 neu
Chris Davies ar 01-4902919.**

using tax-raising powers if they were granted to the Welsh Assembly Government.

Arlywydd Iwerddon i ymweld â'r Cynulliad 03/12/2002
Mae Arlywydd Iwerddon, Mary McAleese, yn ymweld â'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ddydd Mawrth.

Cwrw yn y Steddfod? Ond dim sigarets 03/12/2002
Mi fydd yr Eisteddfod yn trafod cael bar ar y Maes, ond mae sigarets wedi'u gwahardd.

Irish call for stronger ties 04/12/2002
Irish President Mary McAleese has called for greater economic co-operation between Wales and the Republic of Ireland.

Robinson's 'Welsh jibe' repeats cleared 05/12/2002
BBC Director General Greg Dyke is not to face police charges following complaints about anti-Welsh comments made by television presenter Anne Robinson.

Canolfan newydd i ieithoedd lleiafrifol 06/12/2002
Caiff canolfan wybodaeth newydd i ieithoedd lleiafrifol ei hagor yn swyddogol yn Nulyn ddydd Gwener.

'Whitehall obstructs Assembly' - Hart 06/12/2002
Assembly Finance Minister Edwina Hart yesterday attacked "arrogant" English civil servants who she claims treat the National Assembly like an annoying local council.

Tories told to like the Assembly 10/12/2002
The Conservatives must end their "grudging acceptance" of devolution and become genuinely committed to a stronger Welsh Assembly, a leading Tory AM said yesterday.

Welsh-Irish £1m optronics link-up 14/12/2002
Wales and Ireland are joining forces in a new project geared to improve the competitiveness of our manufacturers through the greater use of laser and light technologies.

Surge in Welsh patriotism revealed 18/12/2002
Just like Cerys Matthews, more than two thirds of people in Wales wake up and thank the Lord they are Welsh.

Plaid leader attacks protesters 18/12/2002
The singer and campaigner Dafydd Iwan has accused Welsh-language protest groups of attempting to plunge the nation into self-pity and pessimism.

Scrap Royal oath says Elis-Thomas 31/12/2002
The Welsh Assembly's Presiding Officer today sparked a constitutional row by calling for the oath of allegiance to the Queen sworn by Assembly members to be scrapped.

Language lobby sees role in global context 06/01/2003
As the Welsh Language Society celebrates its 40th birthday, it may be about to reinvent itself as part of the anti-globalisation movement.

Proper parliament in four years – Plaid 13/01/2003
Plaid Cymru president Ieuan Wyn Jones today reveals how a Government led by his party would immediately start drawing up plans for a proper Welsh parliament to be established in 2007.

Student researches links between Welsh and Tolkien's Elf language 13/01/2003
Links between Middle Earth and the language and mythology of Wales are now the subject of academic study at Cardiff University.

'Yr Wyddeleg yn colli tir yn ei chadarnle' 15/01/2003
Mae yna lai nag 20,000 o bobol yn siarad yr Wyddeleg fel eu hiaith gyntaf yn y Gaeltacht, yr ardal Wyddeleg.

Axe Welsh Office bid slammed 16/01/2003
Leading politicians were last night lining up to defend the right of Wales to have a seat at the Cabinet table after its future was cast into doubt.

Let's join up, Plaid MP tells Labour 16/01/2003
Plaid Cymru MP Adam Price has set the cat among the pigeons by suggesting that if no party gets an overall majority in the Assembly elections, there should be a Red/ Green coalition between Labour and Plaid.

Cyngor yn cydweithio ag Iwerddon 16/01/2003
Mae Cyngor Sir Ddinbych yn datblygu cysylltiadau ag Iwerddon wrth i dref Y Rhyl gydweithio â thref Athy yn Kildare, Iwerddon.

Objective 1 'a total fiasco' for North Wales 19/01/2003
A North Wales assembly member has expressed anger and disappointment that there had been no new jobs created in the north to date.

'Rhaid siarad yr Wyddeleg i godi tŷ' 20/01/2003
Yn Iwerddon mae ffrae am ddeddf allai sicrhau mai'r rhai sy'n gallu siarad yr Wyddeleg sy â'r hawl i adeiladu tai.

Dosbarthu cardiau Dwywnwen 21/01/2003
Mae cwmni Tesco a Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yn bwriadu dosbarthu cardiau santes Dwywnwen am ddim eleni.

Assembly gets power over student fees 22/01/2003
The Welsh Assembly Government gets the power to scrap proposed university top-up fees as it takes over the running of student finances.

Welsh lovers get an early start 24/01/2003
She was one of the 24 daughters of a 5th Century king, had an unhappy love life, and devoted her life to the service of God - but campaigners are hoping St Dwywnwen can bring together lovers and at the same time promote Welsh culture.

Four franchises for the future 24/01/2003
The WRU's board recommends four franchised regional sides as the way forward for Welsh rugby.

Plans unveiled for Dylan Thomas festival 27/01/2003
Dozens of events are planned for this year's Dylan Thomas festival, which will mark 50 years since his death.

New chief to put WMC on global stage 28/01/2003
The Wales Millennium Centre can become as great an icon for Cardiff as the Opera House is for Sydney, according to its new chief executive.

Two Plaid Euro-MPs on Iraq visit 03/02/2003
Two Welsh politicians are in a controversial delegation of Euro MPs who are visiting Iraq with an anti-war message.

Lansio arwydd newydd gan Cymuned 03/02/2003
Fe fydd aelodau o fudiad Cymuned, y mudiad sy'n ymgyrchu dros y Gymraeg, yn gosod arwyddion 'Nid yw Cymru ar Werth' o flaen eu cartrefi.

'Rhaid addasu'r Eisteddfod ar gyfer cefn gwlad' 06/02/2003
Mae'r Eisteddfod yn dal heb gael safle ar gyfer 2005 ac yn ôl un cyn archdderwydd dylen nhw addasu'r wyl ar gyfer ardaloedd gwledig.

Devolution still to make a difference 07/02/2003
The high hopes that surrounded devolution have yet to be realised. This is the key message that will emerge from a major conference, taking place in Cardiff today (Friday 7 February 2003).