



Draig Werdd

The Welsh Society in Ireland



Newsletter – Summer 2005

Cylchlythyr – Haf 2005

If you've been following political events in Wales in the wake of the UK general election, you'll probably be aware of the response of the Labour administrations in Westminster and Cardiff to the Richard Commission's recommendations on increased powers for the Welsh Assembly – a disappointment to those who are seeking the provision in the short term of a Parliament for Wales with the power to make a difference.

It looks as if those aspirations will have to wait for another day, with possibly a change in the balance of power in Cardiff and Westminster being the driving force. It seems that those Welsh Labour MPs who've resisted increased devolution to Cardiff Bay will be able to hang on to their local power bases for a little while longer. In the meantime, time will tell how the Labour party in Cardiff copes with minority government, after the departure from the party of rebel AM & MP Peter Law.

And if you've no idea what we're talking about, then follow some of the links below to catch up with the news!

The period since our last newsletter has also witnessed the passing of Gwynfor Evans, arguably one of the leading figures in Welsh politics of the 20th century, who despite (or perhaps because of) the fact that he never held office, managed to wield great influence during his lifetime. One of his lasting legacies must surely be the Welsh TV channel S4C, which would probably never have come into existence were it not for his actions, so it was appropriate that his funeral service was broadcast live from Aberystwyth by the TV channel that he did so much to establish. One of those extremely rare occasions – a Welsh state funeral.

You will also find several news items below which are of joint Irish and Welsh interest, including news of a Welsh-Irish dictionary, developed in part by one of our own members, Dr. Dewi Evans of the Department of Welsh in University College Dublin. Email us on info@draigwerdd.org if you're interested in obtaining a copy, and we'll be sure to pass the request on to Dewi!

As far as the society is concerned, we will be taking a break from activities over the summer, but we are planning to increase the number of organised events for the coming autumn, including an evening in early October to give us a chance to celebrate together the glorious achievements of the Welsh rugby team over the last season in appropriate fashion. Don't miss it – you may have to wait another 27 years for the next chance!

Os ydych chi wedi bod yn dilyn digwyddiadau yn sgil yr etholiad cyffredinol ym Mhrydain, mae'n debyg eich bod chi'n ymwybodol o ymateb y llywodraethau Llafur yn San Steffan a Chaerdydd i argymelliadau'r Comisiwn Richard ar nerthau'r Cynulliad – tipyn o siom i'r rhai sy'n ymdrechu dros Senedd go iawn i Gymru, gyda'r pwerau i wneud gwahaniaethau sylweddol yn y wlad.

Mae'n debyg bydd y dyheadau yna yn gorfod aros am gyfnod arall, ar ôl newidiadau mewn cydbwysedd pwerau yng Nghaerdydd a San Steffan, efallai. A mae'n debyg hefyd bydd yr ASau Llafur sydd wedi bod yn gwrthsefyll mwy o ddatganioli o San Steffan i Fae Caerdydd yn gallu cadw eu grym lleol, sydd mor werthfawr iddyn nhw yn ôl y sôn, am gyfnod arall o leiaf. Yn y cyfamser, mi gawn ni weld pa mor lwyddianus fydd y blaid Lafur yn ymdopi gyda llywodraeth leiafrifol yng Nghaerdydd, ar ôl ymadawiad yr AC ac AS gwrthryfelgar Peter Law.

Ac os nad oes unrhyw syniad gennych am y pethau yr ydym yn sôn amdano, dilynwch rhai o'r dolennau isod i ddysgu'r newyddion!

Mae'r cyfnod ers cyhoeddiad ein cylchlythyr diwethaf hefyd wedi gweld marwolaeth Dr. Gwynfor Evans, un o gewri gwleidyddiaeth Gymreig yn ystod yr ugeinfed ganrif, ac un a gafodd ddylanwad enfawr yn ystod ei fywyd, er gwaethaf (neu o achos) y ffaith ni chafodd byth y cyfle i ddal swydd mewn unrhyw lywodraeth. Un o ffrwythau parhaol ei fywyd, yn sicr, yw'r sianel teledu S4C, a fyddai wedi methu bodoli, mae'n debyg, heb ei ymdrechion ef, a roedd hi'n addas iawn taw'r sianel yna oedd yn gyfrifol am ddarlledu'r gwasanaeth angladdol yn fyw o Aberystwyth. Achlysur anghyffredin iawn yng Nghymru – angladd gwladol Cymreig.

Yn isod hefyd mae nifer o eitemau newyddion sydd o ddiddordeb Cymreig a Gwyddelig ar y cyd, gan gynnwys newyddion am eiriadur Cymraeg-Gwyddeleg, sydd wedi ei ddatblygu yn rhanol gan un o'n haelodau, Dr. Dewi Evans o Adran y Gymraeg yng Ngholeg y Brifysgol, Dulyn. Anfonwch neges atom ar info@draigwerdd.org os ydych chi am gael copi, a byddwn yn siwr i anfon y cais ymlaen i Dewi!

Yn ôl yn Iwerddon, mi fydd y gymdeithas yn cymryd seibiant dros yr haf, ond rydym yn trefnu cynnydd mewn nifer ein gweithgareddau yn yr hydref, gan gynnwys noson yn gynnar ym mis Hydref i roi'r cyfle i ni gyd i ddathlu campau gogoneddus tim rygbi Cymru yn ystod y tymor diwethaf, mewn modd sy'n addas i'r achlysur. Peidiwch â cholli'r cyfle – mae'n bosib bydd rhaid i chi aros 27 mlynedd arall am y cyfle nesaf!

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:

- **'Dim prifwyl i Lerpwl'**
04/04/2005 Mae cymdeithasau Cymraeg wedi dweud wrth yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol nad ydyn nhw am wahodd y Brifwyl i Lannau Mersi.
- **Law throws Rhodri's grip on Assembly into limbo**
05/04/2005 Peter Law's withdrawal in distressing circumstances as a general election candidate leaves the future of Rhodri Morgan's Assembly Government in limbo.
- **US academics to get Welsh insight**
07/04/2005 Some of the leading thinkers in America are to be given a talk on Wales and the Welsh language. It is hoped the lectures, to be given at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington in June, will attract more people to come over from the US to explore and learn about Wales' history, language and culture.
- **Trafod gohirio'r Eisteddfod yn 2007**
11/04/2005 Fydd Cyngor Sir y Fflint ddim yn gallu ariannu Eisteddfod 2007 ac mae'n bosib na fydd gŵyl yn cael ei chynnal o gwbl.
- **Hanes 'prifysgol chwyldro'**
18/04/2005 Yng nŵyl Llen y Lli yng Nghaerdydd mae awdur, dau fardd a dramodydd yn sôn am hanes gwersyll i garcharorion Gwyddelig yng nghefn gwlad. Ar nos Lun mewn noson aml-gyfrwng ym Mae Caerdydd mae Lyn Ebenezer, Myrddin ap Dafydd, Ifor ap Glyn ac Ian Rowlands yn cyflwyno "Gwyddelod y Bala: Gwersyll Frongoch".
- **Plaid pioneer Gwynfor Evans dies**
21/04/2005 Gwynfor Evans, Plaid Cymru's first MP, and one of Wales' leading political figures of the 20th Century, dies at 92.
- **Dwy blaid am uchelgyhuddo Blair**
26/04/2005 Mae Plaid Cymru a'r SNP yn galw am uchelgyhuddo'r prif weinidog Tony Blair oherwydd rhyfel Irac.
- **Funeral service for Plaid pioneer**
27/04/2005 More than 2,000 people attended the funeral of Plaid Cymru's first MP, Gwynfor Evans, who died on April 21st at the age of 92. The town of Aberystwyth came to a standstill as a lone piper led the funeral cortege to Seion Chapel.
- **First national poet named**
29/04/2005 Gwyneth Lewis, who wrote the inscription at the front of the Wales Millennium Centre, has been named the country's first national poet. Ms Lewis will be inaugurated in her role at the Hay Literature Festival.
- **Not enough time to do two jobs?**
09/05/2005 Peter Hain last night went on the offensive against opposition parties who claim he will not be able to do the two jobs of Northern Ireland Secretary and Welsh Secretary.
- **Wigley urges Plaid to consider a coalition**
09/05/2005 Former Plaid Cymru president Dafydd Wigley has urged opposition parties in Wales to be prepared to form an alternative government after the next National Assembly elections in 2007.
- **Why a 'super university' is a must for Wales**
11/05/2005 A super university should be created in Wales by merging three institutions, claims a new report published today.
- **Why smokers in Wales could soon be pariahs**
11/05/2005 Wales could become a smoke-free nation within three years after a quest to ban smoking in public places took a major step forward yesterday.
- **Assembly reforms announced**
17/05/2005 The Queen has announced plans for reforming the Welsh assembly at the State Opening of Parliament. Details of the reforms were not laid out during the ceremony but a White Paper due for publication in July is expected to make those clear.
- **'Made in Wales' brand must be saved**
20/05/2005 The "Made in Wales" brand has sunk to its lowest ebb and the massive decline in manufacturing jobs must be stemmed, the Prime Minister was warned yesterday.
- **'Name university block after Gwynfor'**
20/05/2005 Support is growing for an appeal to name a new university politics building after the late Gwynfor Evans.
- **Top-up fees defeat weakens Rhodri**
25/05/2005 First Minister Rhodri Morgan was confronted with the reality of minority government yesterday as he was instructed by AMs not to introduce student top-up fees.
- **Bilingual Monopoly for Swansea**
25/05/2005 The Swansea version of the board game Monopoly is to be bilingual after a poll of people living in the city. The manufacturers said place names will be in both English and Welsh when it goes on sale later this year.
- **Llythyr Pearse: £500,000**
27/05/2005 Mae llythyr a arwyddwyd gan yr arweinydd o Iwerddon, Padraig Pearse, ar ddiwedd Gwrthryfel 1916 wedi ei werthu am bron i £500,000 mewn ocsiwn yn Nulyn. Ysgrifennodd Pearse y llythyr yn ei gell yn y carchar ar Ebrill 30 1916,ychydig o ddyddiau cyn iddo gael ei ddienyddio.
- **Bright start for city Urdd**
31/05/2005 The Urdd Eisteddfod took up residence at its new home in Cardiff Bay yesterday with more than 20,000 visitors.
- **Move brings brighter future for London Welsh School**
02/06/2005 After living a hand-to-mouth existence for several years, the only Welsh-medium school outside Wales is facing a brighter future.
- **Iaith: 'Bygwith statws Gaeltacht'**
02/06/2005 Mae gweinidog Senedd Iwerddon wedi rhybuddio y gallai tref golli ei statws Gaeltacht os nad yw pobol yn fodlon ar benderfyniad i ddefnyddio ei enw Gwyddeleg yn unig. Mae pobol ardal Dingle yn Swydd Kerry wedi dweud eu bod yn poeni am newid enw'r dref i An Daingean wedi deddf sy'n hybu'r Wyddeleg yn rhannau gorllewinol y weriniaeth.
- **Datblygu cyswllt Celtaidd**
07/06/05 Mae swyddog datblygu prosiect Cymru ac Iwerddon yr Urdd wedi dechrau ar ei gwaith ddydd Mawrth. Nia Meleri Roberts, 25 oed o Aberystwyth, sy'n datblygu'r prosiect ar y cyd ag Orgas, mudiad ieuenctid yn Iwerddon
- **Ymadroddion Celtaidd arlein**
09/06/05 Bydd geiriadur Cymraeg-Gwyddeleg yn cael ei arddangos yr wythnos hon yn ystod cynhadledd o athrawon ieithoedd Celtaidd o'r America. Mae'r llyfr, Lexicelt, wedi'i greu yn rhannol gan y Brifysgol ym Mangor, mewn cydweithrediad â phartneriaid yng Ngholeg Prifysgol Dulyn.
- **New coalition warning for Rhodri**
10/06/2005 Under-siege Rhodri Morgan faces internal party plotting and growing opposition demands which threaten to topple the First Minister before the next election and hand power to his rivals.
- **Statws i'r iaith yn Ewrop**
14/06/2005 Mae'r iaith Wyddeleg yn iaith swyddogol yn yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Hon yw'r unfed iaith ar hugain i gael statws swyddogol yn yr undeb
- **Wales' future mapped out by Hain**
16/06/2005 The National Assembly is to be given more power to shape new laws, but voters will have to wait years before their voice will be heard on further autonomy for Wales.
- **They're the right changes at the right time, Morgan insists**
16/06/2005 Rhodri Morgan welcomed the Government's plans to extend devolution yesterday, even though his preferred choice was kicked into the long grass.
- **Morgan faces EU cash crisis**
20/06/2005 First Minister Rhodri Morgan will this week face one of the greatest challenges of his career as Wales confronts the possibility of losing European funding for its most deprived communities..