



Draig Werdd

The Welsh Society in Ireland



Newsletter – Summer 2007

Although nearly two months have elapsed since the elections to the Welsh Assembly, the final form of the new Assembly government has yet to be determined. This despite the fact that Rhodri Morgan has already been formally elected as First Minister in charge of a minority Labour administration. Discussions are currently ongoing between Labour and Plaid Cymru regarding the formation of a coalition government, with a rainbow coalition of Plaid-Liberal-Conservative a possibility should Plaid and Labour fail to come to an agreement, an arrangement which would see the historical appointment of Plaid Cymru leader Ieuan Wyn Jones as First Minister in Wales.

All this is likely to be news to those of you who have not been directly following political events in Wales, as it has received little or no coverage in the British or Irish media, unlike similar political events in Scotland – in which case you may find some of the news links below of interest. This just shows how far we have yet to go in Wales in the process of nation building, although progress has certainly been made since the establishment of the Assembly, as identified by historian John Davies (guest speaker at our St. David's dinner a couple of years ago) in the recently updated edition of his Penguin History of Wales.

One of the building blocks of nationhood is a strong independent media, as is already the case in Scotland and Ireland. The geographical proximity of many large English conurbations along the eastern border of Wales has long worked against this – perhaps the full implementation of digital television in Wales over the next couple of years may cause the English-speaking majority in the south-east and north-east of the country to receive their news from Welsh broadcasters, rather than English regional ones, and lead to a stronger Welsh press in its wake. This is however something that is already happening for Welsh speakers, who can look forward to the launch of a new daily Welsh-language newspaper – “Y Byd” (“the World”) – from next March (see news links below).

All of this justifies one of the aims of Draig Werdd – the Welsh Society in Ireland, to raise the profile of Wales and Welsh affairs amongst the media and general population in Ireland, and you can help in this aim by forwarding this newsletter to as many people as possible.

Moving away from politics, we recently organised a very enjoyable walk in the Wicklow mountains – visit www.draigwerdd.org for some photos from the walk. For those who were unable to make it, we may organise a similar walk in the autumn, before holding our AGM in October. In the meantime, have an enjoyable summer!

Cylchlythyr – Haf 2007

Mae bron dau fis wedi mynd heibio ers yr etholiad i'r Cynulliad, ond mae'r ffurf derfynol y lywodraeth yno eto i'w therfynu. Hwn er gwaetha'r ffaith fod Rhodri Morgan wedi cael ei ethol yn ffurfiol yn barod fel Prif Weinidog yn rhedeg llywodraeth leiafrifol plaid Lafur. Mae trafodaethau o dan ffordd o hyd rhwng Plaid Cymru a'r blaid Lafur ynghylch ffurfio llywodraeth glymblaid, gyda'r posibilrwydd o glymblaid enfys Plaid-Rhyddfrydwyr-Ceidwadwyr pe basai Plaid a Llafur yn methu dod at gytundeb, trefniad a fyddai'n gweld penodiad hanesyddol Ieuan Wyn Jones, arweinydd Plaid Cymru yn y Cynulliad, fel Prif Weinidog Cymru.

Mae'r cyfan yn debyg o fod yn newyddion anghyfarwydd i'r rhai ohonoch sydd ddim wedi bod yn dilyn gweithgareddau gwleidyddol yng Nghymru yn agos, achos bod y digwyddiadau wedi cael dim sylw bron ymhlith y cyfryngau ym Mhrydain ac Iwerddon, yn wahanol i'r sefyllfa yn yr Alban - ac o'r herwydd efallai bydd rhai o'r dolennau isod o ddidordeb iddoch. Mae hwn yn dangos pa mor bell sydd gennym eto yng Nghymru i fynd ar y broses o adeiladu cenedl, heblaw fod pethau wedi gwella rhywsut ers sefydliad y Cynulliad, yn ôl honiad yr hanesydd John Davies (siaradwr gwadd yn ein cinio Gwyl Dewi ychydig o flynyddau yn ôl) mewn argraffiad newydd o'i lyfr Hanes Cymru.

Un o flociau adeiladu cenedligrwydd yw i greu cyfryngau annibynol nerthol, rhywbeth sydd yn bodoli yn barod yn yr Alban ac yn Iwerddon. Mae'r agosrwydd o nifer o gytrefi mawr Seisnig tuag at ffiniau dwyreinol Cymru wedi gweithio yn erbyn hwn ers cyfnod – ond efallai bydd gweithrediad llawn teledu digidol yng Nghymru dros y ddwy flynedd nesaf yn mynd i achosi'r mwyafrif uniaith Saesneg yng ngogledd-ddwyrain a de-ddwyrain y wlad i dderbyn eu newyddion o ddarledwyr Cymreig, yn lle o ddarledwyr rhanbarthol Lloegr, ac i arwain at wasg Gymreig fwy nerthol yn ei blith. Mae hwn wedi digwydd yn barod ar gyfer siaradwyr Cymraeg y wlad, sydd yn gallu edrych ymlaen at lansiad papur newydd dyddiol Cymraeg - “Y Byd” – o fis Mawrth nesaf (gweler y dolennau isod).

Mae hyn i gyd yn cyfiawnhau un o amcanion Draig Werdd, i godi proffeil Cymru a materion Cymreig ymhlith y cyfryngau a'r boblogaeth gyffredinol yn Iwerddon, a gallwch ein helpu i gyflawni'r amcan hwn trwy anfon y cylchlythyr hwn ymlaen i gymaint o bobl â phosibl.

Yn symud i ffwrdd o'r byd gwleidyddiaeth, trefnasom taith gerdded bleserus dros ben ym mynyddau Wicklow yn ddiweddar – ewch i www.draigwerdd.org i wyllo nifer o luniau o'r daith. I'r nifer ohonoch oedd yn methu dod, mae'n bosib y byddwn yn trefnu taith debyg yn yr hydref, cyn cynnal ein cyfarfod blynyddol ym mis Hydref. Yn y cyfams, mwynhewch yr haf!

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 ddi-ddordeb i chwi:

- [Smoking ban comes into force](#)
02/04/2007 Offices, pubs and public buildings adjust to the start of the ban on smoking in public places in Wales.
- [City's Welsh medium schools full](#)
27/04/2007 Parents in Cardiff who have been told there is no room for their children in Welsh medium primary schools are to be offered places at "starter classes".
- ['WTB downplayed Welsh use over English fear'](#)
28/04/2007 The Welsh Tourist Board was afraid of highlighting the language and culture of Wales for much of its life because it was afraid of alienating English tourists.
- ['Let's tackle real Welsh issues, not safe ones'](#)
01/05/2007 Wales needs a more grown-up debate on the threat English in-migration poses to the Welsh language in its heartland areas, the chair of the Welsh Language Board said yesterday.
- [Mewnfudo: 'Her fwya i'r iaith'](#)
01/05/2007 Cadeirydd Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yn dadlau mai mewnfudo i'r brÿydd Cymraeg yw'r her fwyaf sy'n wynebu'r Gymraeg.
- [Back to the days of Lloyd-George as support for Labour slides](#)
05/05/2007 Labour has suffered its worst share of the Welsh vote since 1918, political experts analysing the Assembly election results concluded yesterday.
- [S4C digidol yn gweddarlledu](#)
05/05/2007 Mae S4C wedi dechrau gweddarlledu ei gwasanaeth S4C digidol dyddiol yn fyw ar fand llydan.
- [Wales' first ethnic minority AM](#)
06/05/2007 Wales will finally have an ethnic minority Assembly Member after Plaid Cymru's Mohammad Ashgar was elected in South Wales East.
- [Labour press for Plaid pact](#)
08/05/2007 Senior Labour figures in Wales are calling behind the scenes for a "stability pact" which would mean siding with Plaid Cymru rather than the Liberal Democrats in the Welsh Assembly.
- [Yr iaith yn ffynnu dros y môr](#)
08/05/2007 Prifysgolion yng Nghanaada yn gweld cynydd yn nifer y myfyrwyr sydd am ddysgu'r Gymraeg
- [Third term for Elis-Thomas](#)
09/05/2007 Welsh assembly members have met for the first time since the election and chosen a presiding officer and deputy presiding officer to oversee debates.
- [Con Passionate yn cipio prif wobwr](#)
10/05/2007 Un o gyfresi drama mwyaf poblogaidd S4C yn curo Eastenders i gipio un o brif wobrau yn y maes darlledu.
- [Blair once shafted me, says Rhodri](#)
11/05/2007 Rhodri Morgan last night described Tony Blair as the man who "shafted" him, while other Labour stalwarts sang the Prime Minister's praise.
- [Prize-winning series 'to put Wales on global TV map'](#)
11/05/2007 The bar has been raised for Welsh-language drama after series Con Passionate won a prestigious European Rose D'Or award this week, according to S4C.
- [Gravell yn diolch am gefnogaeth](#)
14/05/2007 Am y tro cynta ar ôl colli rhan o'i goes dde mae'r darlledwr Ray Gravell wedi sôn am "gefnogaeth anhygoel". Cafodd y llawdriniaeth yn Ysbyty Gorllewin Cymru, Caerfyrddin, ym mis Ebrill ar ôl diodde o glefyd y siwgr.
- [S4C starts talks on children's channel](#)
15/05/2007 S4C has taken the first steps to launching a Welsh-language channel for children by putting out its plans for public consultation.
- [Agor cartre Brenhines ein Llen](#)
16/05/2007 Cartref Dr Kate Roberts, Cae'r Gors, yn agor yn swyddogol ar ei newydd wedd fel canolfan hanes a threftadaeth.
- [Rhodri faces losing power battle](#)
18/05/2007 Labour stood on the verge of losing power in Wales last night after the Liberal Democrats dramatically voted to suspend negotiations with the party.
- [Plaid rainbow coalition edges closer](#)
21/05/2007 Most grassroots members of Plaid Cymru yesterday appeared to be swinging behind a possible coalition deal that would put Ieuan Wyn Jones into the First Minister's office – so long as the terms are right.
- [Wales' seismic shift fails to raise a ripple in England](#)
22/05/2007 Wales seems on the verge of being led by a nationalist First Minister – yet few in England will be aware of that.
- [Bilingual good for the mind](#)
24/05/2007 A study has produced good news for a bilingual nation like Wales – being fluent in two languages can help the brain stay healthy for longer.
- [Rhodri heads for power](#)
25/05/2007 Rhodri Morgan is today preparing to form a minority Labour administration after the acrimonious collapse of talks that would have kept him out in the cold.
- [Rainbow coalition 'back on agenda'](#)
28/05/2007 Wales' opposition parties yesterday insisted the dream of a rainbow coalition was alive and vowed their unity could survive Labour attacks.
- [Thomas Cook: 'Busnes yn Saesneg'](#)
11/06/2007 Cwmni teithio Thomas Cook o dan y lach am wahardd eu staff rhag trafod eu gwaith yn y Gymraeg.
- [Storm over language ban](#)
11/06/2007 Travel giant Thomas Cook could face a race probe after banning its staff from speaking Welsh.
- [Eastern Bloc transforming Wales](#)
13/06/2007 A map of migration patterns into Wales from former Eastern Bloc countries shows the exact picture of our changing population for the first time.
- [Gwobrwyo brand newydd S4C](#)
13/06/2007 Mae delwedd brand newydd S4C, a fu'n destun cryn ddadlau, wedi cipio'r categori brand Cymreig yng Ngwobrau Dylunio Dwyieithog 2007.
- [Plaid now set to talk to Labour about a coalition government](#)
13/06/2007 Plaid Cymru said last night it would begin new talks with Labour about forming a coalition government.
- [Rainbow coalition could oust Labour for years](#)
14/06/2007 Rhodri Morgan's apparent desperation to strike a deal with Plaid Cymru may stem from a realisation that if Labour goes into opposition it could stay there for a generation.
- [Agor canolfan werin i Gymru](#)
14/05/2007 Mae canolfan newydd wedi cael ei hagar yn Nolgellau ddydd Iau. Tŷ Siamas yw'r ganolfan genedlaethol ar gyfer cerddoriaeth draddodiadol Cymru.
- [Wales to ban plastic bags](#)
20/06/2007 A ban on plastic bags was placed firmly on the table by the Welsh Assembly Government yesterday.
- [Y Byd yn closio at y diwrnod mawr](#)
20/06/2007 Y papur dyddiol Cymraeg cyntaf yn mynd ar werth ar Fawrth 3 2008 yn ôl y cyhoeddwyr.
- [Council staff holiday extra](#)
23/06/2007 Council staff in Swansea may get an extra day's holiday to celebrate St David's Day. Councillors have taken the first step towards giving the 14,000 employees a day's paid leave.
- [Plaid-Lab deal on the way](#)
25/06/2007 A Labour and Plaid Cymru coalition running Wales now seems all but certain, with the majority of Plaid's 15-strong National Assembly group expected to back this deal tomorrow.
- ['Rainbow coalition' poll backing](#)
25/06/2007 Research for BBC Wales shows most would prefer a coalition of opposition parties to govern in Cardiff Bay.

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