



Draig Werdd

The Welsh Society in Ireland



Newsletter – Spring 2005

Cylchlythyr – Gwanwyn 2005

It's been a very busy period for the society during the early part of this year – the central event being the St. David's Day dinner, which was held on March 1st at Old Belvedere Rugby Club in Dublin. This was the first dinner held in Dublin to celebrate our national day for some 15 years, and hopefully this will become a regular feature of the society's calendar in the years to come. Nearly 60 guests were present to hear guest speaker Dr. John Davies present an entertaining personal view of relationships between Wales and Ireland over the years. He presented his thoughts in his usual forthright manner, which will remain in the memory of those present for some time to come, I'm sure. Visit our website at www.draigwerdd.org to view a selection of photos of the guests.

We have also been attracting quite a bit of attention from the media in Wales recently. On the Saturday prior to the dinner, a film team from BBC Wales met with some 15-20 members who had gathered to view the Wales-France rugby match, to conduct interviews and film the proceedings for a programme in the series "Jamie's Wales", presented by the BBC Wales newsreader Jamie Owen. The programme is being broadcast later this year – we'll distribute details when available. S4C television also broadcast live from our St. David's Day dinner, during their magazine programme "Wedi Saith", and recorded interviews with a number of members for broadcast during the programme and on the following day.

In addition to our regular monthly meetings, we have also arranged a number of theatre visits, and of course have arranged meetings to watch Wales' increasingly exciting and successful 6 Nations rugby campaign.

All in all, a busy and successful period for the society. We now have well over 100 members on our membership list, and intend to publicise the society with the ferry companies and colleges in Dublin over the coming period, in order to attract more of the many Welsh people now living in Ireland to join us. In the meantime, look out for other activities being organised, and don't forget our regular monthly meetings, on the first Thursday of every month in the Montclare Hotel, Merrion Square, Dublin. Next meeting is on 7th April. See you then!

Mae hi wedi bod yn gyfnod hynod o brysur i'r gymdeithas ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn – y prif achlysur oedd ein cinio Gwyl Dewi, a gynhelwyd ar 1 Mawrth yng nghlwb Rygbi Old Belvedere yn Nulyn. Hwn oedd y cinio cyntaf a gynhelwyd yn Nulyn i ddatllyd dydd ein nawdd sant ers rhyw 15 mlynedd, a rydyn ni'n gobeithio bydd hi'n nodwedd reolaidd o galendr y gymdeithas dros y blyneddoddi i ddod. Yr oedd bron 60 o westeion yn bresennol i glywed y siaradwr gwadd Dr. John Davies yn cyflwyno ei farn bersonol o gysylltiadau rhwng Cymru ac Iwerddon dros y blyneddoddi. Fel arfer, yr oedd yn cyflwyno ei farn yn blwmp ac yn blaen, a bydd ei annerch yn dal yn ein côf am gyfnod hir, rwy'n siwr. Ewch i'n wefan ar www.draigwerdd.org i wyllo detholiad o luniau'r gwesteion.

Yr ydym ni wedi bod yn denu tipyn o sylw o'r cyfryngau yng Nghymru yn ddiweddar, hefyd. Ar ddydd Sadwrn cyn y cinio, dechreuwyd ffilm o BBC Wales i gwrdd â rhyw 15-20 o aelodau a oedd wedi cwrdd i wyllo'r gêm rygbi rhwng Cymru a Ffrainc, er mwyn cynnal cyfweiliadau a ffilmio'r achlysur ar gyfer rhaglen mewn cyfres "Jamie's Wales", gyda'r newyddiadurwr Jamie Owen. Fe ddarlledir y rhaglen yn ddiweddarach eleni – byddwn yn dosbarthu'r manylion nes ymlaen. Fe ddarlledwyd S4C yn fyw o'n cinio Gwyl Dewi hefyd, fel rhan o'u rhaglen cylchgronol "Wedi Saith", a recordiwyd nifer o gyfweiliadau gydag aelodau'r gymdeithas i'w darlledu y dydd canlynol.

On ogystal â'n cyfarfodydd misol, yr ydym ni hefyd wedi bod yn trefnu nifer o ymweliadau i'r theatr, ac wrth gwrs wedi trefnu cyfarfodydd i wyllo gemau tîm Cymru yn eu ymgyrch llwyddiannus 6 gwlad eleni.

Felly mae hi wedi bod yn gyfnod hynod o brysur a llwyddiannus i'r gymdeithas. Ar hyn o bryd mae dros 100 o aelodau gennym, ac yr ydym yn bwriadu hysbysebu'r gymdeithas gyda'r cwmnïau fferri a'r colegau yn Nulyn dros y misoedd nesaf, er mwyn denu mwy o'r lluo o Gymry sydd yn byw yn Iwerddon i ymuno â ni. Yn y cyfamser, cadwch llygad barcud allan am ddigwyddiadau eraill a fydd yn cael eu trefnu, a chofiwch am ein cyfarfodydd misol, ar nos Iau gyntaf y mis yng Ngwesty'r Montclare, Merrion Square, Dulyn. Fe gynhelir y cyfarfod nesaf ar 7 Ebrill. Gwelwn ni chi yna!

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 chi:

• **Back to the future for Eisteddfod?**

15/12/2004 It would make as much sense as holding the London Marathon in Kidwelly, moving the Cannes Film Festival to Barry and the Oscars to a small theatre in Rhyl. Yet there are calls to host the largest and oldest celebration of Welsh culture in England. City leaders in Liverpool have offered to stage the National Eisteddfod in 2007 to celebrate the city's 800th birthday

• **Tunnel 'vision' under Irish Sea**

24/12/2004 A futuristic vision of a rail tunnel under the Irish Sea, linking west Wales and Ireland, has been unveiled by a group of engineers. The Irish Academy of Engineers envisages a 50 mile link under the sea, with a journey time from Dublin to Pembrokeshire of one hour 10 minutes.

• **Hutt is sacked as health minister**

10/01/2005 Jane Hutt has been removed as the Welsh Assembly Government's health minister. Ms Hutt, 56, has come under strong criticism from Labour MPs as well as the opposition, particularly over long waiting lists.

• **Did Blair have hand in Hutt sacking?**

11/01/2005 Speculation was rife last night that Welsh Health Minister Jane Hutt was sacked after the intervention of Tony Blair to ease criticism of Labour as the General Election looms.

• **The next Welsh speaker to arrive at the rail call centre is a Geordie**

11/01/2005 Welsh-speakers are needed to help out at a Welsh language call centre because inquiries are directed . . . to Newcastle.

• **Annoq pobol i ddod i'r Alban**

16/01/2005 Mae'r cam nesaf yn y cynllun i ddenu pobol ifanc i'r Alban i weithio wedi ei wneud gan brif weinidog y wlad.

• **Place-name mangling sheer laziness, says Humphrys**

17/01/2005 With another election looming the nation is bracing itself for the traditional influx of English journalists and politicians - mangling place names the length and breadth of Wales

• **Poll reveals attitudes towards Welsh accents**

17/01/2005 We are proud of our Welsh accents and we believe they give us prestige. But the rest of the UK would rather hear an Australian or even a French person speaking English than listen to someone from Wales.

• **Anger as 'red tape' blocks locals-only housing for Snowdon**

20/01/2005 Housing campaigners reacted angrily yesterday after Wales' biggest national park authority sent a homes-for-locals policy back to the drawing board.

• **Wiggin backs scrapping assembly**

21/01/2005 Shadow Welsh Secretary Bill Wiggin says he would support the scrapping of the Welsh assembly in a referendum.

• **Much of Wales 'below Malta and Slovenia'**

26/01/2005 Figures released yesterday by the European Union suggest that the large part of Wales receiving a £2bn aid package, is actually poorer than a part of the former Yugoslavia now in the EU.

• **English sponsor rejects Welsh football club because it is "foreign"**

26/01/2005 A Welsh football club which answered an advert by an English businessman offering free shirts was turned down because Wales "is a foreign country".

• **Mapio Môr Iwerddon**

27/01/2005 Mae gwyddonwyr morwrol yn cyfarfod i geisio datrys dirgelion môr Iwerddon. Y gobaith yw y bydd mapio gwely'r môr yn datgelu trysorau bywyd gwyllt ac yn rhoi gwybodaeth ddefnyddiol i'r rhai sy'n ceisio ei reoli

• **Scots and Welsh call for own news**

28/01/2005 Trevor McDonald could vanish from our television screens if calls for Scotland and Wales to have their own international nightly news broadcasts are successful.

• **Y Gymraeg ar basport Prydain**

28/01/2005 Cyn diwedd 2005 mae disgwyl i'r iaith Gymraeg fod ar bob pasport Prydeinig. Mae Llywodraeth y Cynulliad wedi cael sicrwydd oddi wrth y Swyddfa Gartref y bydd y Gymraeg ar bob tudalen sy'n cynnwys ieithoedd gwledydd eraill yr Undeb Ewropeaidd

• **Euro grants reach £1bn in Wales**

03/02/2005 Money spent in west Wales and the valleys from the Objective One European funding scheme reaches £1bn.

• **1,000 yn aros mewn gweryll**

07/02/2005 Erbyn diwedd wythnos nesaf fe fydd dros 1,000 o blant wedi bod yn aros yng Ngweryll yr Urdd Caerdydd. Cafodd y gweryll ei agor ym mis Tachwedd fel rhan o Ganolfan Mileniwm Cymru ym Mae Caerdydd.

• **Gwedd newydd i Steddfod yr Urdd**

22/02/2005 Bydd gwedd newydd i Eisteddfod yr Urdd eleni wrth iddi gael ei chynnal ym Mae Caerdydd.

• **Donny goes back to his roots**

23/02/2005 Seventies heart-throb Donny Osmond broke down in tears when he visited the grave of one of his Welsh ancestors. The international singing star returned to Merthyr to discover his Welsh roots, and succeeded in tracing his family tree back nearly 500 years.

• **Morgan 'should insist' on St David's day public holiday**

23/02/2005 The First Minister should insist the UK government grants Wales a public holiday to celebrate St David's Day, an AM said today.

• **Welsh speakers 'have been conned'**

24/02/2005 Generations of Welsh speakers have been conned by the idea that Welsh is the language of heaven, Plaid Cymru's president said last night.

• **Rally targets St David's Day bank holiday**

28/02/2005 Campaigners for a bank holiday on St David's Day are holding a rally in Cardiff tomorrow to show support for the idea.

• **Wales to get own 'poet laureate'**

28/02/2005 Wales is to have its own national poet after the Arts Council of Wales gave a £5,000 lottery grant for the role. The poet will act as a cultural ambassador for the nation, creating works which promote the image of Wales.

• **Bush sends St David's Day greetings**

01/03/2005 US President George Bush sent a special message to the people of Wales for St David's Day. The president offered his "greetings" on behalf of the American people, to the country, which celebrates its patron saint today.

• **Give assembly greater say - poll**

01/03/2005 A BBC poll suggests 50% of people want the Welsh assembly to have the most influence over Wales. Some 35% said the assembly government currently had the greatest impact on Wales, compared with 30% who said it was the UK government.

• **Blair: Dim gwyliau ar Fawrth 1**

03/03/2005 Mae galwad i wneud Dydd Gŵyl Dewi yn ddiwrnod o wyliau cyhoeddus wedi ei wrthod gan Brif Weinidog Prydain ddydd Mercher. Rhybuddiodd Tony Blair y gallai gwyliau ar Fawrth 1af gael effaith "andwyl" ar economi Cymru.

• **Wales suffers under legacy of coal**

04/03/2005 Tens of thousands of jobs lost through the closure of coal pits have still not been replaced, according to research to mark the 20th anniversary of the miners' strike.

• **Tories defend coalition Assembly plan**

09/03/2005 Conservative Assembly leader Nick Bourne said tonight he had a "duty" to promote his controversial plan for a multi-party coalition to take over the running of the Welsh Assembly.

• **Winnie the Pooh show uses Welsh**

10/03/2005 Welsh is to be included for the first time in a Disney children's show to be staged at the Wales Millennium Centre.

• **Assembly proposals to be known in June**

16/03/2005 A White Paper proposing greater powers for the National Assembly is on course to be published in June, we can reveal. [more](#)

• **'Everyone should learn Welsh anthem in school'**

16/03/2005 Teachers and politicians have called for all children to be taught Wales' national anthem amid concerns about how few people know the words.

• **Drama'r Gwyddelod yng Nghymru**

21/03/2005 Bydd hanes Cymru ac Iwerddon yn cael ei adrodd ar ddau lwyfan dros y Sul ac ni fydd yr un bêl rygbi i'w gweld ar un ohonynt. Gwledigaeth cwmni theatr yw Frongoch, cynhyrchiad sy'n adrodd hanes carcharu Gwyddelod yng Nghymru ar ddechrau'r ganrif ddiwethaf.

• **Economy soars after Grand Slam win**

22/03/2005 Winning the Grand Slam has provided the single biggest one-day boost to the Welsh economy of all time, early figures from the weekend reveal.

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