



Draig Werdd

The Welsh Society in Ireland



Newsletter – Spring 2006

Cylchlythyr – Gwanwyn 2006

The first few months of 2006 have seen a number of developments in post-devolution Wales – some of these are included in our news links below. Of particular significance was the opening on St. David's Day of the new building in Cardiff to house the National Assembly of Wales. This building has been officially named the Senedd building – an interesting choice of name for those who have followed the devolution debate in Wales over the years, as "Senedd" is the Welsh word for "Parliament". It remains to be seen whether the legislative powers associated with that name will be devolved to the Assembly in the near future, as recommended in the report of the Richard Commission. It seems that the people of Wales are still coming to terms with the existence of the Assembly and the new order of government in Wales, so perhaps it may take a little longer before the proposed developments will come to pass. In any case, the new building itself has received many plaudits for its architecture and design - visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/southeast/sites/assembly/> for a tour of the new building, and judge for yourself.

St. David's Day in Wales also brought the now regular calls for March 1st to be declared a public holiday in Wales, a move supported by almost 90% of the population, if opinion polls are to be believed. However, as this is one of those decisions that have not been devolved to the Assembly, it requires the legislative assembly in Westminster (the British House of Commons, in other words) to make this decision, which presents problems when there are only 40 Welsh MPs out of a total of more than 630. However, this is not a new phenomenon to those who have studied Welsh politics over the years - the establishment of the Assembly was intended to counter these difficulties, but it seems that there is some way to go before that becomes reality. Time will tell.

In the meantime, we in Draig Werdd carried on regardless, and celebrated our national day with an informal dinner and entertainment in Old Belvedere Rugby Club in Dublin on the eve of the Ireland-Wales rugby match – visit www.draigwerdd.org for photos of some of those who were present. We also hope to organise a number of events over the coming months, so keep an eye on the website or our regular emails for further information. And if you know of any activity in Ireland that may be of interest to other Draig Werdd members, send an email to info@draigwerdd.org with the details, and we will pass the information on.

Yn ystod misoedd cyntaf 2006 gwlewyd nifer o ddatblygiadau yn y Gymru ôl-ddatganoledig - a chynhwysir rhai o'r rhain ymhlith ein dolennau isod. O arwyddocâd arbennig roedd agor yr adeilad newydd yng Nghaerdydd yn gartref i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru. Fe'i henwyd yn swyddogol yn Adeilad y Senedd - dewis diddorol i'r rhai ohonom sydd wedi dilyn y ddadl ynghylch datganoli yng Nghymru dros y blynyddoedd, gan fod iddo awgrym o 'senedd' go iawn. Bydd raid aros i weld a roddir i'r Cynulliad y pwerau deddfwriaethol hynny y byddai rhywun yn ei gysylltu â senedd-dy, fel ag a argymhellwyd yn adroddiad Comisiwn Richard. Mae'n ymddangos mai dim ond dod i arfer yn raddol bach â'r Cynulliad ac â'r drefn lywodraethol newydd y mae'r Cymry, ac efallai y bydd angen ychydig mwy o amser cyn y gwreiddir y datblygiadau hynny. Boed a fo am hynny, mae'r adeilad ei hun wedi derbyn llawer o glod am ei bensaernïaeth a'i gynllun. - gweler <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cymru/deddwyrain/safle/cynulliad/> i gael barnu drosoch eich hunain.

Eleni, fel sy'n rheolaidd bellach, gwelodd Dydd Gŵyl Dewi alwadau'n cael eu gwneud i'w wneud yn ddiwrnod gŵyl cyhoeddus, peth a gefnogir gan 90% o'r boblogaeth, os oes coel ar y polau piniwn. Ond am fod hwn yn un o'r penderfyniadau hynny na ddatganolwyd i'r Cynulliad, byddai angen cynulliad deddfu San Steffan (Tŷ Cyffredin Prydain, mewn geiriau eraill) i'w wireddu, a chan nad oes ond 40 aelod seneddol Cymreig, allan o fwy na 630, nid mater hawdd mo hynny. Nid yw hon yn ffenomen newydd i'r rhai sydd wedi astudio gwleidyddiaeth Cymru dros y blynyddoedd - roedd sefydlu'r Cynulliad i fod i ddatrys anawsterau o'r fath, ond mae cryn ffordd i fynd cyn y gwelwn hynny'n digwydd. Amser a ddengys.

Yn y cyfamser buom ni yn Draig Werdd yn dal ati yn ôl ein harfer, ac yn dathlu ein diwrnod cenedlaethol gyda swper anffurfiol ac adloniant yng Nghlwb Rygbi Old Belvedere, y noson cyn y gêm rygbi rhwng Cymru ac Iwerddon. Gellwch weld lluniau o rai a oedd yn bresennol ar www.draigwerdd.org. Bwriadwn drefnu nifer o ddigwyddiadau dros y misoedd nesaf, ac i gael yr wybodaeth ddiweddaraf cadwch olwg ar ein gwefan, neu gwnewch yn siŵr eich bod yn derbyn ein negeseuon e-bost rheolaidd. Ac os clywch am unrhyw ddigwyddiad yn Iwerddon a fydd o ddiddordeb i aelodau eraill Draig Werdd, gyrrwch y manylion drwy e-bost at info@draigwerdd.org, a rhannwn ninnau'r wybodaeth.

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:

- [Lottery revamp for author's home](#)
10/01/2006 The £656,000 restoration of the childhood home of a well-known Welsh language author is under way. Kate Roberts' listed cottage at Cae'r Gors near Caernarfon will feature a museum, seminar facilities and an interpretation room.
- [Tories ditch 'scrap devolution' offer](#)
10/01/2006 The Conservatives have ditched their policy of offering voters a chance to scrap devolution, the party's Assembly leader Nick Bourne confirmed today.
- ['Huge step forward' for Assembly](#)
10/01/2006 First Minister Rhodri Morgan said 2006 would be an exciting and important year for Wales as the process of beefing up the Assembly begins.
- [Pryder am addysg Gymraeg](#)
12/01/2006 Mae academydd wedi dweud nad yw rhai ysgolion cyfun Cymraeg y de yn llwyddo gystal ag yr oedden nhw bum mlynedd yn ôl. Roedd yr Athro David Reynolds, arbenigwr addysg ym Mhrifysgol Caerwysg a Plymouth, wedi astudio canlyniadau arholiadau TGAU ysgolion Cymraeg yn y de.
- [Let us sort St David's Day holiday, Brown told](#)
16/01/2006 We need a St David's Day Bank Holiday more than a British Day, a Welsh politician said yesterday. Plaid Cymru AM Janet Ryder attacked Gordon Brown's plans for a more open expression of patriotism, including a national British Day and a flag in every garden, accusing him of "pandering" to his ambition to lead the Labour party
- [Cystadlu â'r Jonesiaid?](#)
19/01/2006 Mae gwaith ymchwil newydd yn dangos mai Smith yw'r cyfenw mwy poblogaidd ym Mhrydain tra mai Jones yd'i'r ail gyfenw mwy poblogaidd. Ym Mlaenau Ffestiniog y mae'r nifer mwyaf o Jonesiaid ar gyfartaledd o'r boblogaeth.
- [Expedition set to blaze a trail to Patagonia](#)
31/01/2006 A ship owner hopes to shed new light on Patagonia's colonisation by recreating voyages which carried settlers across the Atlantic. Robin James, who owns two schooners, plans to sail one of his ships to Argentina to learn more about the difficulties faced by settlers at sea.
- [Prize-winning Welsh whisky chief toasts New York award](#)
02/02/2006 New York's St David's Society is to honour one of the founders of Penderyn Whisky as his company prepares to accelerate production.
- [All-Wales force plan is confirmed](#)
06/02/2006 Controversial plans to merge Wales' four police forces have been confirmed by Home Secretary Charles Clarke. He met Wales' police chiefs in London to outline how a merger of South Wales, Dyfed-Powys, North Wales and Gwent, was the "only one acceptable option".
- ['No hiding place' in Senedd](#)
07/02/2006 Assembly Members will not be able to hide from their constituents when they occupy their new debating chamber today, the Assembly's presiding officer says.
- [Ymgartrefu yn adeilad y Cynulliad](#)
07/02/2006 Am y tro cyntaf mae ACau yn cael defnyddio eu hadeilad newydd £60m ym Mae Caerdydd.
- [American man's web lessons lead to Welsh degree](#)
08/20/2006 An American has won a place to study Welsh at Cardiff University after learning the language on a BBC website. Chris Cope, 30, who lives in Minnesota, had no connections with Wales, but took up the challenge after seeing the Learn Welsh website in 2000.
- [St David's parade to honour Senedd](#)
20/02/2006 A delivery of messages from around Wales will be part of this year's St David's Day Parade in Cardiff in honour of the opening of the Senedd.
- [M&S 'drop' scone for Welsh cake](#)
20/02/2006 A retail giant has backed down on an attempt to rename the Welsh cake to cater for an international market. Marks and Spencer customers in Wales were baffled when they went in search of the national cake to discover it had been relabelled a "currant drop scone".
- [Welsh language proved a barrier to top job](#)
21/02/2006 One of the nation's most distinguished elder statesmen has said he was repeatedly overlooked for the role of Welsh Secretary because he speaks Welsh.
- [The Irish scientist helping Wales to develop more explosive rugby players](#)
24/02/2006 In the run-up to this year's Six Nations, sports scientists at the University of Wales, Swansea, have been helping to ensure the Welsh team are in peak physical condition. Former rugby centre Dr Liam Kilduff, who hails from Athlone, is heading the WRU-commissioned project.
- [Welsh caught in Dublin riots](#)
27/02/2006 Pitched battles broke out between rioting protesters and police in a Dublin city centre swollen by thousands of Welsh rugby fans over the weekend.
- [Surprise celebrity at annual parade](#)
28/02/2006 The third annual St David's Day parade through the streets of Cardiff is due to take place tomorrow.
- [New mace is gift from down under](#)
28/02/2006 More than 200 years of history linking Wales to Australia will be celebrated at the opening of the Senedd. A ceremonial mace has been flown from Sydney, as a gift from the government of New South Wales.
- [90% o blaid gwyl gyhoeddus](#)
01/03/2006 Mae bron 90% o'r Cymry'n credu y dylai Gŵyl Dewi fod yn ddiwrnod o wyliau cyhoeddus.
- [A new chapter in Welsh history](#)
02/03/2006 The latest milestone in Wales' fledgling democratic adventure was reached at 12.16pm yesterday when the Queen declared the new Senedd building open.
- [Agor cartre newydd cynulliad](#)
02/03/2006 Wedi wyth mlynedd o gynllunio mae cartref newydd £67m y cynulliad, adeilad y Senedd, wedi ei agor yn swyddogol ar Fawrth 1. Bu 500 o westeion, gan gynnwys cynrychiolwyr llywodraethau Ewrop, y Gymanwlad ac aelodau'r Teulu Brenhinol ym Mae Caerdydd ar gyfer yr agoriad.
- [Wales police merger to go ahead](#)
03/03/2006 Home Secretary Charles Clarke will press ahead with the merger of Wales' police forces despite objections from all four police authorities.
- [Agor ysgol feithrin yn Y Wladfa](#)
07/03/2006 Mae ysgol feithrin wedi agor yn swyddogol yn Nhreleu ym Mhatagonia ddydd Llun. Ysgol Feithrin yr Hendre yw'r ysgol feithrin Gymraeg swyddogol gyntaf i agor yn y Wladfa.
- [From 2011 Welsh get the chance to be counted](#)
09/03/2006 A Welsh tick box will be included in the next UK census, officials confirmed yesterday.
- [Welsh more patriotic than ever](#)
10/03/2006 Patriotic Welshness is more popular than ever before, an influential body of academics has concluded - even though the jury is out on whether we're better off under devolution.
- [Guess who we have to thank for devolution ...](#)
23/03/2006 Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will be described as the "midwife of devolution" in Wales and Scotland in a lecture next week.
- [Stena to cut Irish Sea sailings](#)
23/03/2006 Budget airlines and rising fuel costs are blamed for Stena Line cutting ferry sailings from Holyhead to Ireland.
- [Airline to end scheduled flights](#)
23/03/2006 Air Wales has announced it is to cease running scheduled airline services from next month. Up to 80 jobs will be lost at the Cardiff International Airport-based company as it moves to charter flights and freight transport only.
- [Labour 'wrong to scrap WDA'](#)
28/03/2006 Labour's decision to scrap the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) is "flawed" and "wrong", CBI director-general Sir Digby Jones said.
- [Airport plans for £100m extension](#)
29/03/2006 Cardiff International Airport is aiming to step out of Bristol airport's shadow with £100m expansion plans.
- [Al-Jazeera buys Welsh sheep show](#)
03/04/2006 A Welsh-language children's show featuring musical sheep is to be shown on Arabic TV channel al-Jazeera. The Middle East broadcaster has brought the rights to screen 52 episodes of S4C's The Baaas, as well as the Welsh children's show Sali Mali.
- [Llyfr emynau Cymraeg i'r Catholigion](#)
07/04/2006 Am y tro cyntaf mae llyfr emynau Cymraeg yn cael ei gyhoeddi ar gyfer yr Eglwys Gatholig. Yn y gorffennol dau lyfr yn gyda deholiad o emynau sydd wedi eu defnyddio a dyma fydd y tro cyntaf i'r cyfan gael eu rhoi at ei gilydd.

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