



Draig Werdd

The Welsh Society in Ireland



Newsletter – Spring 2007

As has been the case for the past number of years, we recently celebrated St. David's Day with a well-attended and highly enjoyable dinner, which this year took place at the Montclare Hotel, Dublin. Guest for the evening was harpist Ann Jones, who entertained us after the dinner with a selection of traditional Welsh music. If you want to see some of the people who were there, visit <http://www.draigwerdd.org/Photo%20gallery.htm> for some photos of the event.

Functions such as this are a good way of attracting new members to the society, and this year was no exception. However, if you are aware of any Welsh people inside or outside Ireland who would like to join our membership list, email us at info@draigwerdd.org with the details. This will ensure that they will be kept informed about society functions and other activities of Welsh interest for those living in Ireland. We do not currently hold regular meetings, but are always keen to arrange visits to events of Welsh interest in Ireland. If you become aware of any such events, then email us with the details and we will seek to publicise the event amongst the membership and organise group visits where possible. We have had many successful functions of this nature in the past, and as well as providing enjoyable social evenings they also serve to help fulfil one of the aims of the society, which is to raise the profile of Wales and the Welsh in Ireland.

Raising their profile in Wales at the moment are politicians of all parties, who are moving into top gear in the run-up to the Assembly elections, which will be taking place on 3rd May - see the news item links on the next page for a number of entries relating to the election. A close result is expected, the question being as to whether the current Labour government will gain enough seats to remain in power, or whether a coalition of some of the current opposition parties will form the next government. As part of our aim of promoting Welsh affairs within Ireland, we will be keeping as many people as possible informed of progress over the next few weeks, and will be able to review the situation in our next newsletter.

Unfortunately, one of the decisions that a new administration in Cardiff will not be able to make is the establishment of St. David's Day as a national holiday in Wales, despite overwhelming support for this within Wales itself. This decision can only be made by the Westminster government, as it happens, so we'll have to wait for a change of mind there. Or else a change in the way that Wales is governed – but that's another story!

Cylchlythyr – Gwanwyn 2007

Yn ôl arferiad y blynyddoedd diwethaf, dathlasom Ddydd Gwyl Dewi yn ddiweddar gyda chinio poblogaidd a phleserus, a gynhaliwyd eleni yng ngwesty'r Montclare yn Nulyn. Ein gwestai i'r noson oedd y delynores Ann Jones, a'n diddanwyd wedi'r bwyd gyda detholiad o gerddoriaeth draddodiadol Gymreig. Os ydych chi am weld pwy oedd yna, ewch i <http://www.draigwerdd.org/Lluniau.htm> i weld nifer o luniau o'r achlysur.

Mae gweithgareddau fel hyn yn modd effeithiol i ddenu aelodau newydd i'r gymdeithas, a nad oedd yr achlysur eleni yn eithriad. Fodd bynnag, os ydych chi'n ymwybodol o Gymry y tu fewn neu y tu allan i Iwerddon a fyddai'n hoff o ymuno â'n rhestr aelodaeth, anfonwch neges e-bost atom gyda'r manylion, i info@draigwerdd.org. Sicrhawyd felly eu bod nhw'n dal i dderbyn gwybodaeth am weithgareddau'r gymdeithas a gweithgareddau eraill o ddiddordeb Cymreig i'r rhai sy'n byw yn Iwerddon. Nad ydym ar hyn o bryd yn cynnal cyfarfodydd rheolaidd, ond yr ydym yn wastad yn awyddus i drefnu ymweliadau i ddigwyddiadau o ddiddordeb Cymreig yn Iwerddon. Os ydych chi'n ymwybodol o ddigwyddiadau felly, anfonwch e-bost atom gyda'r manylion a gallwn ni ddarparu'r wybodaeth i'r aelodaeth a hefyd drefnu ymweliadau os bosib. Yr ydym wedi cynnal nifer o weithgareddau llwyddiannus felly yn y gorffennol, ac yn ogystal â ddarparu nosweithiau cymdeithasol pleserus maent hefyd yn ein helpu i gyflawni un o'n hamcanion, sef i godi proffeil Cymru a'r Cymry yn Iwerddon.

Codi'r proffeil yng Nghymru ar hyn o bryd yw gwleidyddion o bob blaid, sy'n wrthi'n paratoi ar gyfer etholiad nesaf y Cynulliad, a gynhelir ar Fai 3 – gweler nifer o ddolennau'r newyddion sy'n sôn am yr etholiad ar y dudalen nesaf. Mae'n debygol fydd y canlyniad yn un weddol agos, a bydd rhaid i ni aros i weld os bydd y lywodraeth Lafur yn gallu ennill digon o seddau i ddal ei gafael ar yr awennau, neu os bydd rhai o'r wrthbleidiau presennol yn gallu ffurfio clymblaid i reoli'r cynulliad newydd. Fel rhan o'n amcan o hyrwyddo materion Cymreig yn Iwerddon, mi fyddwn yn darparu gwybodaeth am yr etholiad dros yr wythnosau nesaf, a byddwn hefyd yn trafod y sefyllfa yn ein cylchlythyr nesaf.

Yn anffodus, un o'r penderfyniadau sydd y tu allan i reolaeth y lywodraeth newydd yng Nghaerdydd yw i greu gwyl genedlaethol yng Nghymru ar gyfer Dydd Gwyl Dewi, er gwaethaf y gefnogaeth lethol sydd yn bodoli yng Nghymru ei hun. Dim ond y lywodraeth Brydeinig yn San Steffan sydd yn gallu gwneud y penderfyniad hwn, fel mae'n digwydd, felly bydd rhaid i ni aros am newid meddwl yno yn gyntaf. Neu am newid sut mae Cymru yn cael ei lywodraethu – ond mae hynny'n bwnc hollol wahanol!

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:

- **Polisi dwyieithog y Gleision**
20/12/2006 Mae un o dimau rygbi rhanbarthol Cymru yn rhoi mwy o le i'r Gymraeg fel rhan o ymdrech i ddenu mwy o gefnogwyr Cymraeg eu hiaith. Ers dechrau'r tymor rygbi newydd mae rhaglen Gleision Caerdydd yn cynnwys tudalen Gymraeg ym mhob rhifyn.
- **Welsh nod for English Parliament**
21/12/2006 England should have its own parliament, the presiding officer of the Welsh Assembly, Lord Elis-Thomas, has said. He said England should be "free and have devolution as well", supported by Welsh and Scots devolution campaigners.
- **Wales must stay in the UK - Hain**
15/01/2007 Peter Hain warns today that the "Balkanisation" of Britain that would follow the break-up of the United Kingdom would be a "disaster for Wales".
- **Yanks' love of Welsh spawns online uni course**
15/01/2007 A growing appetite among Americans to learn Welsh has spawned a new internet course at one of the country's universities.
- **Labour accused over Union scare tactics**
16/01/2007 Opposition parties in Wales have accused Labour of "scaremongering" about the break-up of Britain to make up for a lack of coherent policies ahead of May's elections for the National Assembly and Scottish Parliament.
- **Snowdon 'snowless by 2020' claim**
16/01/2007 Snowdon could lose all its snow in less than 15 years as climate change continues to take hold, it is claimed. Wales' highest mountain has seen its snow covering fall by about a third in 10 years, Bangor University scientists and environmentalists have found.
- **68% am fod yn rhan o Brydain**
16/01/2007 Bron i 70% o Gymry o blaid aros yn rhan o Brydain yn ôl arolwg gan raglen Newsnight a BBC Cymru.
- **Welsh students stay near home to cut costs**
19/01/2007 Welsh universities and colleges witnessed an astonishing 11% rise in students from Wales over the past year, according to the latest official figures released yesterday.
- **Papur dyddiol gam yn nes**
23/01/2007 Cyhoeddi'r papur dyddiol cynta "Y Byd" gam yn nes am fod cais am gymorthdal rhanbarthol yn llwyddiannus.
- **Prescriptions to be free in Wales**
24/01/2007 All prescriptions in Wales will be free from April 1 after the National Assembly voted through the flagship policy last night.
- **Welsh pub smoking ban from April 2**
31/01/2007 The days of the smoky Welsh pub were officially numbered yesterday as Assembly Members voted to introduce a smoking ban in enclosed public places in less than nine weeks.
- **Hendrix riddle sparks stampede for Tich's Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau**
31/01/ 2007 The work of a Welsh guitarist has been in huge demand because of his connection to a Jimi Hendrix mystery.
- **Arwyddion: Caer a Bryste**
01/02/2007 Enwau lleoedd yn Lloegr i gael eu rhoi yn ddwyieithog ar arwyddion ffyrdd yng Nghymru
- **Cymdeithas yr Iaith: Miloedd mewn ewylllys**
03/02/2007 Mae dyfodol ariannol Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg yn ddiogel ar ôl derbyn cannoedd o filoedd o arian mewn ewylllys.
- **The end is nigh for most of our chapels**
05/02/2007 Chapels are as much a traditional symbol of Wales as the mining industry, male voice choirs, cawl and rugby. But an expert has warned this stereotypical slice of religious Welsh life is now in near-terminal decline, with only 2% of chapels built a century ago likely to last another 20 years.
- **Davies to contest assembly seat**
05/02/2007 Former Welsh Secretary Ron Davies confirms he will stand as an independent for the Welsh assembly.
- **DNA tests prove Jefferson's Welsh lineage**
08/02/2007 Science may have finally settled a row over the lineage of one of the most influential US presidents - and it seems Thomas Jefferson really was Welsh.
- **Wales 'building blocks' are in place**
12/02/2007 One of Wales's most distinguished historians has asserted that the country is on its way to becoming a "nation state". John Davies, whose highly praised A History of Wales was first published in Welsh as Hanes Cymru in 1990, has written a new chapter of 20,000 words for a revised edition, published this week.
- **Heroes of Wales top choices for coat of arms**
12/02/2007 Owain Glyndwr and St David are the Welsh heroes who should be represented on any coat of arms designed for the Welsh Assembly, many people believe.
- **Fferi: 'Hwb i Abertawe'**
26/02/2007 Bydd gwasanaeth nwyddau'n hwylio rhwng Abertawe a Chorc yn Iwerddon wedi i'r gwasanaeth teithwyr ddod i ben.
- **'St David's Day holiday would promote Wales'**
27/02/2007 An e-petition to make St David's Day a bank holiday has gathered more than 11,000 signatures on the 10 Downing Street website.
- **Bush's St David's Day message**
01/03/2007 US President George Bush said the people of Wales and America "stood together" in a St David's Day message.
- **Stampiau arbennig Gwyl Ddewi**
01/02/3007 I ddathlu tirweddau Cymru ar Ddydd Gŵyl Dewi mae casgliad arbennig o stampiau yn cael eu cyhoeddi.
- **Hendrix Welsh anthem recording a hoax**
02/03/2007 A recording of a psychedelic electric guitar version of the Welsh National Anthem said to have been played by rock legend Jimi Hendrix has been revealed as a hoax.
- **St David's Day heralds resurgence of eisteddfodau in our schools**
02/03/2007 Growing interest in Welsh identity has sparked a resurgence in school eisteddfodau.
- **Employment highest for 30 years**
09/03/2007 Employment in Wales is the highest in three decades but more needs to be done in some areas, a report finds.
- **Gwylwyr yn canmol Pantyfedwen**
12/03/2007 Yr emyn Pantyfedwen sydd wedi ei ddewis fel 'Emyn i Gymru 2007' gan wylwyr y gyfres deledu poblogaidd Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol.
- **Pice gorau'r wlad yn Sir Gâr**
13/03/2007 Gwraig fferm o Feidrim, Sir Gaerfyrddin yw enillwraig cystadleuaeth pice ar y maen Ffermio ar S4C.
- **'Learn Welsh too' migrants urged**
21/03/2007 Migrant workers are being urged to learn both Welsh and English to help them settle in Wales. The advice comes from the Social Justice Minister Edwina Hart in her introduction to a new information pack called "A Welcome to Wales".
- **Siom: Diwedd ar Wlad y Gân?**
21/03/2007 Cerddorion o Gymru yn siomedig oherwydd prinder cyfleoedd cerddorol i blant a phobl ifanc.
- **Revived Euro-treaty hope for devolved regions,says Rhodri**
22/03/2007 Any attempt to revive the European Constitution should give due recognition to the role of devolved administrations like the National Assembly, Rhodri Morgan said last night.
- **Provision of Welsh-language education 'has failed to keep up with demand'**
23/03/2007 Demand for Welsh language education is outstripping supply, a new report warns.
- **What the Assembly can do for a healthy Wales**
26/03/ 007 Health is likely to take centre stage as politicians battle for our votes in the run-up to May's National Assembly elections.

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