

Draig Werdd



Newsletter – May 2003

Cylchlythyr – Mai 2003

Now that the dust has settled on the Welsh Assembly elections on May 1st, it may be possible to draw some conclusions from the outcome and look forward to what may happen over the next four years of Welsh Assembly government – which is looking at this stage like a Labour-only administration.

Whatever opinions one has of the result itself, the low turnout at the polls must be concern to all – down from 45% in 1999 to 38% this time. One reason for this may be the lack of relevance which people feel that the Assembly has to their everyday lives, given its extremely limited powers. Surely the time has now come for it to be given primary legislative and tax-varying powers similar to those of the Scottish Parliament – a position favoured by the majority of Assembly members, and a majority of the electorate in Wales (according to opinion polls published before the election).

After all, when virtually all AMs and over 80% of the population are in favour of declaring St. David's Day a national holiday in Wales, but the Assembly has to defer this decision to the government in Westminster (which vetoed it), is it any surprise that government in Wales is viewed as undemocratic and the Assembly as irrelevant!

Draig Werdd will keep you informed of developments in this area over the next four years. In the meantime, if you're looking for Welsh music and entertainment in Dublin over the coming weeks, why not come along to the joint Cantorion Pontarddulais / Dublin Welsh choir concert on May 16th, or the Noson Lawen the following evening (see enclosed notices).

And finally, if any of you are interested in seeing Huw Edwards' excellent series of programmes (in English) on the history of the Welsh language (see news item below), contact Draig Werdd for a copy of the video – email post@draigwerdd.org, or phone 01-2822386. And stay current on events by visiting our website at www.draigwerdd.org - this now displays headline links to Welsh news items, refreshed daily.

Yn awr fod pethau wedi tawelu ar ôl yr etholiadau i'r Cynulliad ar Fai y cyntaf, efallai y gellir tynnu rhai casgliadau o'r canlyniad ac edrych ymlaen at yr hyn a all ddigwydd yn ystod pedair blynedd nesaf y llywodraeth newydd - a fydd, mae'n ymddangos, yn weinyddiaeth Lafur unblaid.

Beth bynnag yw eich barn am y canlyniad ei hun, bydd rhif isel y rhai a bleidleisiodd - i lawr o 45% yn 1999 i 38% y tro hwn - o bryder i bawb. Efallai mai un rheswm am hyn yw'r teimlad ymhlith yr etholwyr nad yw'r Cynulliad, gyda'i rymoedd pitw, yn berthnasol i'w bywyd beunyddiol. Does bosibl nad yw'r amser wedi dod i roi iddo'r gallu i greu deddfau ac ac i amrywio trethau fel y gwna Senedd yr Alban - safbwynt a rennir gan fwyafrif aelodau'r Cynulliad, a mwyafrif etholwyr Cymru (yn ôl arolygon barn a gyhoeddwyd cyn yr etholiad).

Wedi'r cwbl, pan yw bron y cwbl o Aelodau'r Cynulliad a thros 80% o'r boblogaeth o blaid gwneud Dydd Gŵyl Dewi'n ŵyl genedlaethol yng Nghymru, ond bod rhaid i'r Cynulliad geisio caniatâd San Steffan (sydd wedi gwrthod ei roi), a yw'n syndod o gwbl yr edrychir ar y Cynulliad fel corff annemocrataidd ac amherthnasol?

Bydd Draig Werdd yn gadael i chi wybod beth yw'r datblygiadau yn y maes yn ystod y pedair blynedd nesaf. Yn y cyfamser, os byddwch yn chwilio am gerddoriaeth ac adloniant Cymreig yn Nulyn yn ystod yr wythnosau nesaf, dewch draw i'r cyngerdd a gynhelir ar y cyd rhwng Cantorion Pontarddulais a Chôr Meibion Cymry Dulyn ar Fai 16, neu'r Noson Lawen y noson ganlynol (mwy o fanylion wedi eu hamgáu).

Ac i gloi, os hoffai rhai ohonoch weld cyfres ardderchog Huw Edwards o raglenni (Saesneg) ar hanes yr iaith Gymraeg (y ceir manylion amdani ymhlith y newyddion isod), yna cysylltwch â Draig Werdd, un ai drwy e-bostio post@draigwerdd.org neu drwy ffonio 01-2822386, i gael benthycar fideo. Ac i wybod beth sy'n digwydd fel y mae'n digwydd, ewch at www.draigwerdd.org. Bellach mae'r safle'n cynnwys dolennau llinell bennawd i eitemau newyddion Cymreig, a'r rheini'n cael eu hadnewyddu'n ddwyddiol.

Join us for a
Social Evening

with
Cantorion Pontarddulais
and
Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir
Saturday 17th May from 8.30pm onwards
in Kiely's, Mount Merrion,
Dublin

No admission charge

Ymunwch â ni mewn

Noson Lawen

gyda
Cantorion Pontarddulais
a
Chôr Meibion Cymry Dulyn
Nos Sadwrn 17^{eg} Mai o 8.30pm ymlaen
yn Kiely's, Mount Merrion,
Dulyn

Mynediad am ddim

DUBLIN WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR

Musical Director: Keith Young
Accompanist: Elizabeth Keighary

Presents

CANTORION PONTARDDULAIS

National Eisteddfod of Wales
Winners : 1997, 1998 ,1999 , 2000, 2001

Musical Director: Ifor Miles
Accompanist: Ian Lewis

With

TERESA CARLEY – Soprano

In support of

FRIEDREICHS ATAXIA SOCIETY IRELAND

E-mail : fasi@eircom.net

Tickets €10

Available at the door and from:-
Barbara: Tel. 01-289 4788 or Mob. 086 855 4176
Choir: Tel. 01-298 6344

St NICHOLAS OF MYRA CHURCH
FRANCIS STREET , DUBLIN 8

FRIDAY MAY 16th 2003 at 8 pm

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:

[Welsh history series is ratings hit](#) 11/2/2003

A history series that has featured everything from mediaeval bards to protesting students has become the surprise television hit of 2003. Recently released figures show that the first programme in the six-part BBC Wales series *The Story of Welsh* with Huw Edwards attracted an audience of nearly a quarter-of-a-million. (*Contact Draig Werdd* if you would like a copy of a video of the series)

[Census shows Welsh language rise](#) 14/02/2003

Results of the census 2001 show a significant increase in the numbers of people speaking Welsh.

[Yr Iaith Gymraeg](#) 19/02/2003

Mae canlyniadau Cyfrifiad 2001 yn dangos fod yr iaith Gymraeg ar gynnydd gydag 20.5% o bobol yng Nghymru bellach yn siarad y Gymraeg, sy'n gynnydd o 2% ers 1991.

[Tax powers 'bad for Wales' say Tories](#) 25/02/2003

Businesses would abandon Wales if the Assembly was given the power to vary tax, Welsh Tory leader Nick Bourne claimed today.

[Lib-Dems' Assembly power plan](#) 25/02/2003

Welsh Liberal Democrats yesterday unveiled proposals to scrap the post of Welsh Secretary, replace the National Assembly with a law-making "Senedd" of 80 members and cut the number of Welsh MPs from 40 to 28.

[St David lights up New York](#) 26/02/2003

One of the world's most prestigious buildings will be dressed in the colours of the Welsh flag to celebrate St David's Day.

[I was wrong about Rhodri, says Prime Minister](#)

01/03/2003 Tony Blair heaped praise on the man he tried to prevent from becoming the First Minister for Wales as he admitted for the first time he misjudged Rhodri Morgan.

[Royal Mail to mark 600th anniversary of Owain Glyndwr's crowning](#) 01/03/2003

The Royal Mail will celebrate the 600th anniversary of Owain Glyndwr's being crowned Prince of Wales by issuing a set of commemorative stamps.

[Cymru o blaid gwyl ar Wyl Dewi](#) 01/03/2003

Mae arolwg barn yn awgrymu bod y mwyafrif llethol o bobol Cymru o blaid troi Dydd Gwyl Dewi yn wyl banc swyddogol.

[Cyhoeddi papur dyddiol yn y Wyddeleg](#) 01/03/2003

Mi fydd y papur dyddiol cyntaf mewn iaith Geltaidd yn cael ei gyhoeddi yn Iwerddon o 28 Ebrill ymlaen.

[Radical newspaper to be launched in Wales](#)

01/3/2003 A new radical tabloid weekly paper for Wales is aiming to be "the people's voice". Seren, which means star in Welsh, is a bilingual paper that will cover news that its supporters say the mainstream media ignores.

[Bush's St David e-mail on war is sent back to US](#)

07/03/2003 A St David's Day message from President Bush addressed to the people of Wales was rejected by the National Assembly's Presiding Officer because it contained a reference to war.

[Ron Davies agrees to quit politics](#) 10/03/2003

Ron Davies yesterday bowed to the inevitable and announced that he was quitting politics.

[Conservatives 'best bet to make Assembly a success'](#) 10/03/2003

They may have campaigned against devolution but the Conservatives now offer the "greatest hope of making the National Assembly a success," according to party leader Nick Bourne.

[AM hits at supermarket](#) 10/03/2003

A North Wales AM has criticised a supermarket chain for promoting English produce at the expense of local suppliers.

[Clear red water's community basis](#) 12/03/2003

Rhodri Morgan last night expanded on the reasons why he believes there must be 'clear red water' between his administration in Cardiff and Tony Blair's New Labour government at Westminster.

[Devolution settlement - 'worst of both worlds'](#)

13/03/2003 One of Britain's top constitutional experts claims the current devolution settlement in Britain is giving Wales the worst of both worlds and Scotland the best.

[Y Celtiaid yn tynnu ynghyd](#) 14/03/2003

Bydd Arlywydd Llydaw yn cwrdd â Rhodri Morgan i drafod yr hyn sy'n gyffredin rhwng y cefndryd Celtaidd.

[Cryfhau'r cysylltiad Celtaidd](#) 14/03/2003

Datganoli yw'r ateb i bobol Cymru a Llydaw, meddai Prif Weinidog y Cynulliad, Rhodri Morgan

[Confusion over future of top-up fees for Wales students](#) 14/03/2003

Welsh education minister Jane Davidson is facing calls to clear the uncertainty surrounding top-up fees for students in Wales. Ms Davidson announced today that top-up fees would not be charged in Wales before 2007.

[Water drinkers switch to Welsh](#) 22/03/2003

Anti-French sentiment in the US could be a factor behind increasing demand for Welsh bottled water on the other side of the Atlantic

[Census managers 'break promise to list people as Welsh'](#) 22/03/2003

A new row over the 2001 census erupted yesterday when it emerged that the official results on ethnicity omit any reference to people who stated they were Welsh.

[Cynulliad: Ail-lansio grantiau addysg](#) 22/03/2003

Mae cynllun grantiau'r Cynulliad yn cael ei ail-lansio wedi ei fethiant cychwynnol i ddenu ceisiadau ariannol gan fyfyrwyr yng Nghymru.

[Stars make film about wonders of Welsh-language poetry](#) 24/03/2003

A host of Welsh-speaking stars and celebrities have put together a film offering a snapshot of the diversity of the language's literary, musical and poetic offerings.

[Children record traditional songs for future generations](#) 26/03/2003

Schoolchildren turned into recording stars for the day at a studio in Gwynedd. Three small rural primary schools in the Nantlle valley joined forces to make a special recording to safeguard the nation's traditional nursery rhymes and songs for the future.

[Labour's new vow to nation](#) 02/04/2003

Free prescriptions for all and free breakfasts for every primary school child are on the way in Wales.

[Llafur yn condemnio trefniant Môn](#) 02/04/2003

Mae'r Blaid Lafur yng Nghymru wedi condemnio penderfyniad eu cynghorwyr ym Môn i ymuno â chynghorwyr Plaid Cymru.

[Cardiff wins just 3% of TV vote](#) 03/04/2003

Cardiff's expectations of how winning the 2008 Capital of Culture bid will transform life in the city may be unrealistic, according to a leading architecture critic.

[French campaign for new ferry route to link with Wales](#) 08/04/2003

A campaign has been launched in France for a new ferry route to Wales.

[Trafod ieithoedd lleiafrifol](#) 08/04/2003

Bydd dros 80 o arbenigwyr o Ewrop a thu hwnt yn ymgasglu ym Mhrifysgol Cymru, Aberystwyth ddydd Mawrth i drafod cyflwr ieithoedd lleiafrifol ar draws y byd

[Natural beauty push would lift Valleys tourism](#)

09/04/2003 The South Wales Valleys are ripe for exploitation as a tourist venue, but they should focus on the area's natural beauty instead of big man-made attractions, a study says.

[National Assembly's 'two big failures'](#) 11/04/2003

The leader of the pro-devolution Yes For Wales campaign at the 1997 referendum says the National Assembly's two conspicuous failures in its first term have been in health and transport.

[Tourists to return to poet's home](#) 15/04/2003

Tourists are getting ready to visit Dylan Thomas' historic west Wales home for the first time since major renovation work was completed.

[Galw ar y Toriaid i bleidleisio](#) 22/04/2003

Mae arweinydd y Ceidwadwyr, Iain Duncan Smith, wedi galw ar bobol Cymru i bleidleisio yn Etholiad y Cynulliad ar 1 Mai hyd yn oed os ydyn nhw'n gwrthwynebu datganoli.

[The changing face of Ieuan Wyn Jones](#) 23/04/2003

Ieuan Wyn Jones will face pressure to resign as Plaid Cymru president if Labour wins an overall majority in next week's National Assembly election.

[Beirniaid diwylliant yng Nghymru](#) 23/04/2003

Fe fydd panel o feirniaid yn ymweld â Chaerdydd ddydd Mercher fel rhan o gais y ddinas i ennill teitl Dinas Diwylliant Ewrop 2008.

['Separation' row stirred by Hain](#) 24/04/2003

Welsh Secretary Peter Hain has reopened the debate about Plaid Cymru's long-term aims by claiming that Labour's main rival wants to take Wales out of the United Kingdom.

[Jones in top 10 pop rich list](#) 25/04/2003

Singer Tom Jones' personal fortune has risen substantially to put him in the top 10 of the UK's richest showbusiness stars.

[Taith awyr o Gaerdydd i Lundain](#) 28/04/2003

Am y tro cyntaf ers 35 mlynedd fe fydd gwasanaeth awyr newydd yn cychwyn ddydd Llun o dde Cymru i Lundain.

[New Archbishop of Wales elected](#) 28/04/2003

The Church in Wales' electoral college, which began meeting today at Holy Trinity Church, Llandrindod, has elected Rt Rev Dr Barry Morgan, Bishop of Llandaff as the next Archbishop of Wales.

[Darganfod rhan o gastell Glyndwr](#) 30/04/2003

Mae archeolegwyr yn honni ei fod wedi darganfod sylfeini adeilad coll ar stad Owain Glyndwr yn Sycharth.

[Majority want more powers for Assembly](#) 01/05/2003

A majority of people want the National Assembly for Wales to be given more powers, according to a survey carried out for BBC Wales.

[Noson lwyddiannus i Lafur](#) 02/05/2003

Mae Llafur yn dathlu ei llwydiant yn Etholiad y Cynulliad tra bod Plaid Cymru siomedig ei bod wedi colli seddi.

[Labour set for working majority](#) 02/05/2003

Labour today won the Welsh Assembly election taking half of the 60 seats.

[Low turn-out disappoints politicians](#) 02/05/2003

Welsh Secretary Peter Hain this morning expressed his disappointment at the low turn-out in the Assembly election.

[Plaid Cymru: Arweinydd newydd tro nesaf?](#)

03/05/2003 Mae un o ASau Plaid Cymru wedi datgan posibilrwydd na fydd Ieuan Wyn Jones yn arwain yn etholiad nesa'r Cynulliad.

[Triumphant Rhodri eyes going it alone](#) 03/05/2003

Rhodri Morgan stands at the threshold of majority government after an election victory that amounts to a huge personal triumph.

[All bets are off on Ieuan Wyn Jones](#) 03/05/2003

Bookies were yesterday refusing to take bets on Ieuan Wyn Jones holding Plaid Cymru's leadership after the party's disastrous showing at the polls.

[Cyhoeddi Steddfod yr Urdd](#) 03/05/2003

Bydd gorymdaith trwy Gaergybi fel rhan o Wyl Cyhoeddi Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2004.

['Think of all Wales, Rhodri'](#) 05/05/2003

Victorious Rhodri Morgan was warned last night that his new Cabinet could cause huge divisions among Labour activists.

['Time to convince stay-at-home voters'](#) 05/05/2003

Labour has to prove to stay-at-home voters that the Assembly can make a difference, Welsh party leader Rhodri Morgan said yesterday. Mr Morgan said the two-thirds of voters who did not turn out in Thursday's election must be convinced the Assembly can improve their schools, hospitals and economy.

[Agor canolfan y Nant Gwrtheyrn](#) 05/05/2003

Rhys Ifans, yr actor byd enwog, fydd yn agor canolfan dreftadaeth newydd yn Nant Gwrtheyrn bawn Llun.

[Stabbed in the back](#) 09/05/2003

Plaid Cymru's dramatic dumping of its leader yesterday was plotted at a secret meeting in the home of one of the favourites to succeed him.

[MPs campaign to save the Welsh Secretary](#)

09/05/2003 The position of Welsh Secretary in Tony Blair's Cabinet is in jeopardy because of a bitter behind-the-scenes row.

[Plaid Cymru'n chwilio am arweinydd newydd](#)

09/05/2003 Yn dilyn cyhoeddiad Ieuan Wyn Jones i ymddiswyddo fe fydd Plaid Cymru yn chwilio am arweinydd newydd.

[Sir Gâr: Trafod argyfwng iaith](#) 09/05/2003

Mae'r iaith Gymraeg yn iaith leiafrifol ar aelwydydd Dinefwr yn Sir Gaerfyrddin, medd adroddiad. Ac mae colled ieithyddol sylweddol pan yw plant yn symud o addysg gynradd i addysg uwchradd.

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