

Draig Werdd



Newsletter – September 2003

Cylchlythyr – Medi 2003

Those of you living in Ireland who are able to receive S4C and BBC Wales TV (and for those of you who can't, visit our website at www.draigwerdd.org for information on how to) may have seen some of this year's National Eisteddfod from Meifod (in the old county of Montgomeryshire) during the first week of August.

While watching events in Meifod, did you reflect on how many other countries in the world bestow their highest national honours on poets and musicians, rather than politicians, businessmen and soldiers? (And for that matter, in how many countries would a town centre be dominated by a statue honouring a choir conductor, as Aberdare is by that of Caradog, conductor of "Y Côr Mawr"?).

As was mentioned more than once during the week, the eisteddfod cry of "a oes heddwch" ("is there peace" – a call to the audience prior to the crowning or chairing of a winning poet) had a special significance this year. Who knows – maybe the eisteddfod message will spread beyond the confines of Meifod and of Wales.

Bear all this in mind the next time you come across someone in the media condemning us because of who we are (see the news items below on Janet Street-Porter for the latest ugly manifestation of this). You may want to enlighten them with these thoughts.

In the meantime, why not come along to Draig Werdd's "Grand Slam" comedy evening, on 24th September, in Scruffy Murphy's (see panel below)? This will give you the opportunity to meet other Draig Werdd members, new and old, and wallow in a little nostalgia at the same time. The evening begins at 7:30 with our AGM, followed by a showing of the film "Grand Slam" (with Windsor Davies, Huw Griffiths, Dewi Pws, etc.), and the best of Max Boyce on video, in our own private room with bar service. An opportunity for you to make your voice heard in Draig Werdd, and to hear what other members have to say. Or just to come along and enjoy the company.

And if you're looking for something a little more serious, Theatr Gwynedd are presenting a new play "Ta ra Teresa" during the Dublin Fringe Theatre Festival. The play is performed in a mixture of English and Welsh (with sub-titles). Performances take place from 7-11 October at the Project theatre. Visit the Fringe website at www.fringe-fest.com or the Draig Werdd website at www.draigwerdd.org for more information.

Efallai i rai ohonoch sydd yn byw yn Iwerddon ac yn gallu derbyn S4C a BBC Cymru ar y teledu weld rhywfaint o'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ym Meifod (yn yr hen sir Drefaldwyn) yn ystod wythnos gyntaf Awst. (Os nad ydych yn medru derbyn y sianelau hyn, edrychwch ar ein safle we www.draigwerdd.org i gael gwybod sut i'w cael).

Tybed a fu i chi feddwl, wrth wyllo'r digwyddiadau, pa faint o wledydd eraill yn y byd sy'n cyflwyno eu hanrhydeddau pennaf i feirdd a cherddorion, yn hytrach na gwleidyddion, gwŷr busnes a milwyr? (Ac o ran hynny, mewn faint o wledydd y gwelwch gerflun o arweinydd côr yn ganolbwynt tref, fel y mae delw Caradog, arweinydd y Côr Mawr, yn Aberdâr?)

Fel y cyfeiriodd amryw yn ystod yr wythnos, yr oedd arwyddocâd arbennig i'r gri 'A oes heddwch?' eleni. Pwy a ŵyr? - efallai y bydd neges yr Eisteddfod yn ymestyn y tu hwnt i gyffiniau Meifod a Chymru.

Cadwch hyn mewn cof y tro nesaf y dowch ar draws rhywun yn y cyfryngau yn ein condemnio am ein bod yr hyn ydym (gweler yr eitem isod ar Janet Street-Porter am yr enghraifft wrthun ddiweddaraf o hyn). Efallai yr hoffech eu goleuo gyda'r ystyriaethau hyn.

Yn y cyfamser, pam na ddowch draw i Noson gymdeithasol "Grand Slam" Draig Werdd ar Fedi 24 yn Scruffy Murphy's (manylion ar y panel isod)? Cewch felly gyfle i gyfarfod â'n haelodau eraill, hen a newydd, ac i deimlo rhywfaint o hiraeth ar yr un pryd. Mae'r noson yn dechrau am 7.30 gyda'r Cyfarfod Blyneddol Cyffredinol, ac wedyn dangosir y ffilm "Grand Slam" (gyda Windsor Davies, Huw Griffiths, Dewi Pws ac eraill), a'r gorau o waith Max Boyce ar fideo, a'r cwbl mewn ystafell breifat, gyda gwasanaeth bar. Dyma gyfle i chi leisio'ch barn yng nghymdeithas Draig Werdd, a chlywed beth sydd gan eraill i'w ddweud. Neu, dewch yn unig i fwynhau'r gwmniaeth.

Ac os ydych chi'n chwilio am rywbeth sy'n fwy ddifrifol, mae Theatr Gwynedd yn cyflwyno'r ddrama newydd "Ta ra Teresa" fel rhan o Wyl Ddrama'r "Fringe" yn Nulyn. Mae'r ddrama yn cael ei pherfformio mewn cyfuniad o Gymraeg a Saesneg (gyda is-deitlau). Mae'r perfformiadau yn cymryd lle bob nos o'r 7^{ed} i'r 11^{eg} Hydref yn Theatr y Project. Am fwy o wybodaeth, ewch i wefan y Fringe ar www.fringe-fest.com, neu wefan Draig Werdd ar www.draigwerdd.org.

**Draig Werdd AGM +
“Grand Slam”
Comedy Evening**

Upstairs in
Scruffy Murphy's
Lower Mount Street
Dublin 2

Wednesday 24th September at 7.30pm

The best of valley humour with Windsor
Davies, Huw Griffiths, Dewi Pws, Siôn
Probert, Max Boyce et al.

*Phone Geraint Waters on 01-2822386 for more
information or email post@draigwerdd.org*

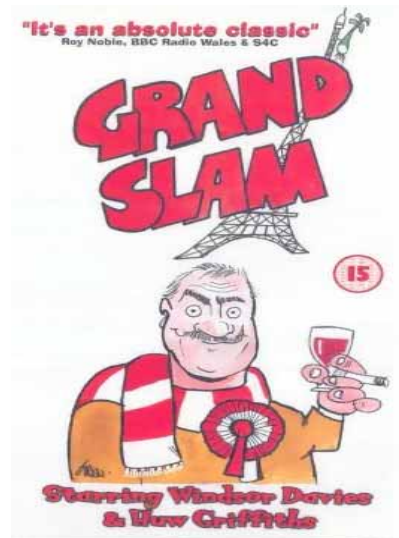
**Cyfarfod Blynyddol
Draig Werdd a
Noson Gymdeithasol
“Grand Slam”**

Lan llofft yn
Scruffy Murphy's
Lower Mount Street
Dublin 2

Nos Fercher 24^{ain} Medi am 7.30pm

Gorau'r hiwmor y cymoedd gyda
Windsor Davies, Huw Griffiths, Dewi
Pws, Siôn Probert, Max Boyce ac eraill

*Ffoniwch Geraint Waters ar 01-2822386 am fwy
o wybodaeth neu e-bostiwch
post@draigwerdd.org*



Dates for your diary:

7th-11th October at Project Arts, Dublin: The play “Ta Ra Teresa”, produced by Ian Rowlands and Theatr Gwynedd, will be staged as part of the Dublin Fringe Festival. Five performances are planned on consecutive nights from 7th to 11th October, at 18:15 in the Project. Admission on each night is €12.00. The play was written by Aled Jones Williams and was performed for the first time last year by Theatr Gwynedd. The play was awarded the prize for best drama by Theatr Cymru. It deals with the effect of non Welsh-speaking people moving to live in Welsh-speaking areas. A third of the drama is in English and the remainder in Welsh. Translations will be displayed on a screen at the back of the stage.

Thursday evening, October 16th at UCD, Belfield: a lecture entitled “Post-devolution Wales: land of the runaway pig” will be given by Professor M. Wynn Thomas, Professor of English at University College of Wales, Swansea. The lecture is open to all. More details will be published nearer the date on our website www.draigwerdd.org and distributed via email.

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 chwi:

- **Welsh Labour 'running scared'** 16/05/2003
The Labour Party in Wales was accused last night of chickening out of the biggest political question facing Wales. It will not be expressing a view, on whether the National Assembly should be given more powers, to the commission set up by First Minister Rhodri Morgan to examine the question.
- **Theatr genedlaethol i Sir Gâr** 21/05/2003
Mae Sir Gaerfyrddin wedi ei ddewis i fod yn gartref i Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru, sy'n gorff cenedlaethol newydd sbon.
- **Choir tradition faces struggle** 22/05/2003
Fears that choirs are dying out in the land of song have been voiced due to major recruitment problems. A number of choirs in south east Wales have said that they are struggling to attract young people to join their choirs.
- **National anthem ban at stadium** 23/05/2003
A row leads to God Save The Queen and Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau being scrapped from play-offs at the Millennium Stadium this weekend.
- **Sheep farmers still suffer fallout from Chernobyl** 26/05/2003
Welsh farmers are still blighted with the fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster 17 years after it happened, Welsh Secretary Peter Hain has admitted.
- **Rhodri challenged to preserve Welsh communities** 27/05/2003
Language campaigners yesterday challenged First Minister Rhodri Morgan to prove his commitment to helping preserve Welsh communities.
- **Urdd to expand 'right to the border'** 28/05/2003
The Urdd announced a further expansion into the most anglicised area of Wales yesterday and revealed more non-Welsh speakers have visited this Eisteddfod than ever before.
- **Jobs go as Dublin ferry axed** 28/05/2003
Ferry trips between Mostyn Docks in Flintshire and Dublin are being stopped by P&O - just 18 months after the company pledged their support to the redeveloped dock.
- **Plaid attack government over EU approach** 02/06/2003
Plaid Cymru and the Scottish National Party today that the UK Government could not be trusted to protect the interests of Wales and Scotland in Europe.
- **Golau o'r diwedd i bentref gwledig** 03/06/2003
Am y tro cyntaf erioed fe fydd un gymuned wledig yng nghanolbarth Cymru yn derbyn cyflenwad trydan. Fe fydd 12 o dai yng Nghwm Brefi ger Tregaron yn cael cyflenwad trydan parhaol ar gost o £300,000, wrth iddyn nhw gael eu cysylltu gyda'r grid cenedlaethol.
- **Cardiff loses out on Euro title** 04/06/2003
Cardiff loses out in bid to be Capital of Culture for 2008. Wales's culture minister Alun Pugh expressed disappointment but congratulated Liverpool on its success.
- **Gaeleg: Pâr yn ennill brwydr** 04/06/2003
Mae cwpwl o'r Alban wedi ennill yr hawl i gofrestru enw eu babi yn yr iaith Aeleg. Austin ac Eleni Boyle yw'r cwpwl cyntaf yn yr Alban i gofrestru enw'n gyfangwbl yn y Gaeleg.
- **Liverpool wants to host eisteddfod** 05/06/2003
The city which defeated Cardiff in the race to become European capital of Culture in 2008 has said it wants to host Wales' premier cultural festival. Liverpool wants to host the National Eisteddfod as part of its year as European Capital of Culture.
- **Former Plaid Cymru AM dies** 11/06/2003
Leading Plaid Cymru figure and former assembly member Phil Williams has died suddenly at the age of 64. Dr Williams was a space scientist of world renown and spoke for Plaid on economics before retiring from the Welsh assembly at the election six weeks ago.
- **Hain denies Welsh Secretary axe** 03/06/2003
Confusion reigns as Peter Hain says neither his job nor the Wales Office were abolished on Thursday. Critics rounded on Tony Blair after he appeared to move Wales' and Scotland's Westminster voices to a new Department for Constitutional Affairs in London.
- **Baronet attacks Welsh 'xenophobia'** 16/06/2003
Baronet Sir Dai Llewellyn claims an upsurge in Welsh nationalism has driven him out of his home country.
- **Villagers hit back at 'bitter Sir Dai' blast** 17/06/2003
Playboy Sir Dai Llewellyn is suffering from a bad case of sour grapes, according to villagers he labelled a bunch of Welsh nationalists.
- **Welsh Assembly 'could be model for Europe'** 18/06/2003
The Welsh Assembly could become a role model for new regionalised systems of government in England and across Europe, an expert will tell Assembly Members today.
- **Exiles' choir to walk back in tribute** 20/06/2003
Seventy-five years ago legions of unemployed miners left the South Wales Valleys on foot to find work in the emerging car manufacturing industry in Oxford. And to mark the anniversary of the exodus from Risca, Caerphilly, to the William Morris factory, the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir will make the return journey.
- **Hain 'sympathy' on assembly power** 20/06/2003
Welsh Secretary Peter Hain suggests a well-argued case for more powers for the assembly could win his backing.

- [Cernyw yn galw am gynulliad](#) 05/07/2003 Mae anfonlonrwydd mawr yng Nghernyw ynglŷn â chynlluniau'r llywodraeth ar ddatganoli rhanbarthol yn Lloegr.
- [Harri Potter yn Gymraeg](#) 10/07/2003 Mae hi wedi cymryd 'sbel' ond mae Harri Potter yn medru siarad Cymraeg o'r diwedd! Cafodd cyfrol gynta'r gyfres, Harri Potter a Maen yr Athronydd, ei chyhoeddi yn swyddogol yn Aberystwyth.
- ['Infant Assembly not ready for more power'](#) 11/07/2003 The National Assembly for Wales should not be handed extra powers for a generation because it is not yet doing the job it was set up to do, say local government chiefs.
- [New Archbishop takes over](#) 14/07/2003 The Most Rev Dr Barry Morgan has been inaugurated as Archbishop of Wales. Dr Morgan, a Welsh speaker, has held posts in several places in Wales during his 31 years of ordained ministry.
- [Labour moves against new powers for Welsh assembly](#) 16/07/2003 There is no pressing need for the Welsh assembly to take on the additional powers of the Scottish parliament, the Labour Party has suggested.
- [Morgan gives evidence on assembly](#) 25/07/2003 First Minister Rhodri Morgan gives evidence to a body set up to look into whether the Welsh Assembly should have more powers.
- [Revealed - Welsh survival gene](#) 04/08/2003 According to a University of Glamorgan Professor, the Welsh have an in-built survival gene, triggered only when their identity is under threat, a University of Glamorgan professor has revealed.
- [Ioan joins the Welsh elite](#) 04/08/2003 Actor Ioan Gruffudd has returned to his homeland to join one of Wales' most elite cultural groups. The 29-year-old star of Hornblower and Great Expectations was made a member of the Gorsedd of the Bards - the guardians of Welsh language and culture - at the National Eisteddfod
- ['Townie threat' to rural areas](#) 05/08/2003 Country-loving townies who buy farms but do not work the land themselves are threatening the future of small farms. Research by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors reveals that four in 10 farms sold between April and June in Wales went to non-farmers.
- [Coron i ferch y gadair gyntaf](#) 05/08/2003 Ddwy flynedd yn ôl yr oedd Mererid Hopwood yn dathlu bod y fenyw gyntaf erioed i ennill Cadair yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Ddydd Llun, yr oedd y bedwaredd ferch i ennill y goron.
- [Battle against opencast plan](#) 05/08/2003 Plans to re-open the biggest opencast coalfield in western Europe are being bitterly fought in Merthyr Tydfil.
- [Cyhoeddi'r Cymro'n ddigidol](#) 06/08/2003 Mae Y Cymro wedi arwyddo cytundeb sy'n golygu mai hwn yw'r papur newydd Cymraeg cyntaf fydd ar gael yn gyfan gwbl ddigidol dros y rhyngwyd.
- [Storm over English race claim](#) 08/08/2003 Plaid Cymru's Dafydd Iwan rejects calls to pull out of the party's leadership contest after starting a race row. Mr Iwan, the current Plaid vice-president, said in an Eisteddfod speech on Thursday that people were leaving England for Wales to escape Indian and Pakistani immigrants who had settled there.
- [Twm Morys yn ennill y Gadair](#) 08/08/2003 Twm Morys sydd wedi ennill Cadair Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Maldwyn a'r Gororau. Mae'n aelod brwd o Cymuned ac yn canu efo band Bob Delyn a'r Ebillion.
- [Choir hits discordant note](#) 14/08/2003 The BBC's National Chorus of Wales has come under fire from some of its own members amid concerns that it is losing its Welsh identity.
- [TV star attacks unfriendly Welsh](#) 15/08/2003 Television personality Janet Street-Porter launched an Anne Robinson-style attack on Wales yesterday, labelling people in the north "unfriendly".
- [French memorial to Welsh Prince](#) 15/08/2003 A Welsh Prince who fought for the French before being killed by an English spy is commemorated in France. Owain Lawgoch (Owain of the Red Hand) died at the hands of an English spy in 1378 in south-west France whilst fighting alongside the French during a siege of English forces in a local castle.
- [Creu geiriadur tafodieithol](#) 15/08/2003 Mae geiriadur yn cynnwys geiriau ac ymadroddion tafodieithol Cymraeg yn cael ei baratoi ar hyn o bryd. Yr Athro Peter Wynn Thomas, o Adran y Gymraeg, Prifysgol Caerdydd sydd yn gyfrifol am lunio 'Geiriadur Tafodieithol y Gymraeg'.
- [High cost of euro snub](#) 20/08/2003 Staying out of the euro is said to be costing Welsh farmers about £160m.
- [Pressure group in Festival picket](#) 20/08/2003 A Welsh language pressure group targets Janet Street-Porter after comments she made last week.
- [New Cardiff stadium gets green light from council](#) 20/08/2003 Cardiff Council's Planning Committee has given plans for a football stadium at Leckwith the green light.
- [English accused of 'colonising' Wales](#) 26/08/2003 A storm erupted last night after the Archdruid of Wales, Dr Robyn Lewis, branded English people living in Wales as colonisers who believed their own culture to be superior.

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