Draig Werdd — Green Dragon

Newsletter – September 2004

Our autumn newsletter once again contains a digest of news items relating to Wales and Welsh-Irish relationships which have appeared during the summer. Of particular interest is the debate over increased powers for the Welsh assembly, as advocated earlier this year by the Richard commission – powers which would go a long way to delivering the long sought-for Welsh Parliament.

The governing Labour party's response to this has been mixed, with enthusiasm amongst Labour's Assembly members being countered by hostility from Labour's MPs in the southern industrial constituencies – worried that their own relevance may be sidelined, perhaps? In any case, Labour's absolute majority in the Assembly since the last election and the presence of a Labour government in Westminster means that whatever anybody else thinks, it's what the Labour party thinks that will control the outcome. Follow the news links below to get the latest situation.

Things are thankfully not so complicated for us in Draig Werdd – we just need to hold our AGM, which is taking place this year at 8pm on Tuesday evening, October 12th, in the upstairs room in Scruffy Murphy's in Dublin. This will be followed by an informal social evening downstairs in the bar. Among the motions for discussion will be a possible renaming of the society, a proposal to hold regular monthly social gatherings and discussion about next year's St. David's Day celebrations. Come along to air your views on what you'd like to see from a Welsh society in Ireland – and if you can't get to the AGM, join us downstairs in the bar for a few drinks and chat later on. If you haven't been to any of our meetings before, this will be a great opportunity for you to get to know people. Just look for the green dragon!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 12 October*:* Draig Werdd AGM & Social Evening in Scruffy Murphy's, off Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2. The AGM will be held upstairs at 8pm, and will be followed by a social evening downstairs in the bar. More details from www.draigwerdd.org .

Cylchlythyr – Medi 2004

Mae cylchlythyr yr hydref unwaith eto'n cynnwys casgliad o eitemau newyddion yn ymwneud â Chymru ac â'r cysylltiadau rhwng Cymru ac Iwerddon a ymddangosodd dros yr haf. O ddiddordeb arbennig mae'r ddadl dros gynyddu grymoedd y Cynulliad, rhywbeth a hyrwyddwyd yn gynharach eleni gan Gomisiwn Richard – grymoedd a fyddai'n ateb i raddau helaeth y gofyn am Senedd Gymreig y bu llawer yn galw amdani mor hir.

Cymsg fu ymateb y blaid Lafur, gydag aelodau Llafur y Cynulliad yn frwdfrydig ond gwrthwynebiad chwyrn gan aelodau seneddol Llafur yn etholaethau diwydiannol y de – gan ofni mai lleihau wnaiff eu perthnasedd, efallai? Beth bynnag am hynny, mae mwyafrif llwyr Llafur ers yr etholiad diwethaf a llywodraeth Lafur yn San Steffan yn golygu mai barn y Blaid Lafur fydd yn cyfrif yn y pen draw, beth bynnag fo safbwynt pawb arall. Dilynwch y cysylltiadau isod i ddarllen am y sefyllfa ddiweddaraf.

Nid yw pethau mor gymhleth i ni yng Nghymdeithas Draig Werdd, diolch i'r drefn – y cwbl sydd raid i ni ei wneud yw cynnal ein Cyfarfod Blynyddol, a gwneir hynny eleni am 8 nos Fawrth, Hydref 12, i fyny'r grisiau yn Scruffy Murphy's yn Nulyn. Dilynir hyn gan noson gymdeithasol anffurfiol i lawr y grisiau wrth y bar. Ymhlith y cynigion i'w trafod mae newid posibil i enw'r Gymdeithas, cynnig i gynnal nosweithiau cymdeithasol bob mis a thrafodaeth ar ddathliadau Dydd Gŵyl Dewi y flwyddyn nesaf. Dewch draw i roi eich barn ar yr hyn yr hoffech ei weld o Gymdeithas Gymreig yn Iwerddon – ac os na fedrwch gyrraedd erbyn y Cyfarfod Blynyddol, ymunwch â ni yn nes ymlaen i lawr y grisiau wrth y bar er mwyn gwlychu'ch pig a chael sgwrs. Os na fuoch yn un o'n cyfarfodydd o'r blaen, dyma gyfle gwych i ddod i adnabod pobl. Edrychwch am y Ddraig Werdd!

DYDDIADAU I'W NODI

Nos Fawrth 12 Hydref: *Cyfarfod Blynyddol a Noson Gymdeithasol Draig Werdd yn Scruffy Murphy's, wrth Lower Mount Street, Dulyn 2. Cynhelir y cyfarfod lan y grisiau am 8 o'r gloch, gyda'r noson gymdeithasol i ddilyn i lawr y grisiau yn y bar. Mwy o fanylion i'w cael ar www.draigwerdd.org .*

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:

- **Agor ysgol uwchradd Aeleg**
  02/07/2004 Bydd ysgol uwchradd newydd drwy gyfrwng Yr Aeleg yn cael ei hagor am y tro cyntaf yn Yr Alban yn 2005.
- **Traditional Welsh dishes inspire ready-meals range**
  05/07/2004 A new range of ready meals have been produced based on the traditional Welsh dishes of cawl and lobsgows.
- **Wales and Ireland reach agreement on future of coasts**
  06/07/2004 The governments of Wales and Ireland are being urged to empower local communities in the future management of their coasts.
- **Ardaloedd Gwyddeleg i golli statws?**
  06/07/2004 Gallai ardaloedd sydd wedi eu dynodi yn ardaloedd Gwyddeleg golli'r statws ac o'r herwydd golli arian. Honnir bod yna ardaloedd yn Iwerddon sy'n rhan o'r Gaeltacht nad ydyn nhw'n defnyddio'r iaith.
- **MPs debate assembly powers**
  07/07/2004 MPs are discussing for the first time a report which recommends more powers for the Welsh assembly. A commission, chaired by Labour peer Lord Ivor Richard, called in March for full primary law-making powers to be given to the assembly over 10 years.
- **Anger as wind farm given go-ahead**
  08/07/2004 A controversial decision by four Welsh Assembly members to grant approval for the UK's tallest wind farm off the South Wales coast was greeted with fury yesterday.
- **To save a poor sinner - Wales and the Revival 1904-05**
  09/07/2004 There will be a rare opportunity to taste the excitement and trepidation of the Great Revival of 1904-05 at The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, from 10 July until 8 January 2005.
- **Empowered Assembly 'will lose jobs'**
  12/07/2004 Jobs could be lost if more powers are given to the National Assembly, a top Welsh economic expert warned last night.
- **Birth rate drops sharply but Wales still expects...**
  13/07/2004 The population of Wales will continue to grow despite the national birth rate falling by almost a third, experts said last night.
- **WDA chief quits**
  16/07/2004 The chief executive of the Welsh Development Agency dramatically announced his resignation yesterday in the wake of the Assembly Government's decision to scrap the quango.
- **Dadlau am reol Gymraeg yr Eisteddfod**
  19/07/2004 Mae'r Eisteddfod Gendedlaethol yn gwadu honiad Cylch yr Iaith bod 'na gynllun ar y gweill i newid rheol Gymraeg y Brifwyl.
- **I'm a celebrity, get me Welsh TV!**
  22/07/2004 Jonathan Ross and Chris Moyles have been talking about it for months. Now leading TV critic Victor Lewis-Smith has joined the ranks of celebrity viewers across the UK using digital TV to watch Welsh language channel S4C.
- **Irish back power link**
  27/07/2004 Proposals for two massive electricity connectors between Ireland and Wales, able to carry 500 megawatts each, have been approved by the Irish cabinet.
- **Labour's 'no' to assembly power**
  03/08/2004 Labour Party members have rejected calls for the Welsh assembly to be given full law-making powers - unless a referendum favoured the move.
- **Future of our nation fudged**
  04/08/2004 Peter Hain and Rhodri Morgan today reveal what many will see as their fudged response to the issue of extra powers for the National Assembly.
- **More power for assembly - Hain**
  05/08/2004 Welsh Secretary Peter Hain says the Welsh assembly will see its powers increase. As Labour unveiled its proposals for the future of devolution in Wales, Mr Hain said Labour would draft legislation in Westminster to give the assembly more scope to make its own decisions.
- **Ceisio gwyliau ar Ddydd Dewi**
  06/08/2004 Cafodd ymgyrch newydd ei lansio ar y Maes yng Nghasnewydd ddydd Iau i geisio cael diwrnod o wyliau ar ddiwrnod cenedlaethol nawddsant Cymru.
- **'Newport sets Eisteddfod standard'**
  09/08/2004 The Newport Eisteddfod will be the gold standard against which all future eisteddfodau are judged, an MP said last night.
- **Welsh computer workstation nears completion**
  15/08/2004 A full Welsh computer workstation has taken a step nearer completion with two new developments that will extend the use of Welsh in computing.
- **Wales as a country of inward migration**
  17/08/2004 Which countries have a higher proportion of their population born outside their borders than Wales? It's a question stimulated by the latest compilation of figures on the population in Wales from the 2001 Census.
- **New on the web - who was who in Welsh life**
  24/08/2004 To find out who was who in the life of Wales, you need only visit the National Library of Wales' latest bilingual website, the free Welsh Biography Online (http://wbo.llgc.org.uk/).
- **'Llai o Guinness ar ôl atal smygu'**
  03/09/2004 Yn ôl cwmni Guinness mae yna lai o bobol yn yfed ei ddiod ers i smygu gael ei wahardd yn nhafarndai Iwerddon.
- **Agor Gardd Owain Glyndwr**
  04/09/2004 Cafodd gardd arbennig ei hagor ddydd Sadwrn er cof am Owain Glyndŵr. Ym Mhennal, Meirionnydd, mae'r ardd - yn y fan y lluniwyd Llythyr Pennal gan Owain Glyndŵr yn gofyn am help y Ffrancwyr i drechu'r Saeson yn ystod y gwrthryfel.
- **Store appears to back England**
  08/09/2004 Welsh shoppers are being urged to wave the flag and support "their country" in the World Cup qualifier games - but appear to have been asked to back rivals England.
- **Town to fly flag on Glyndw^r Day**
  08/09/2004 A Welsh town that has had an ambivalent relationship with the name Owain Glyndw^r has now voted to fly his standard on the council's flagpoles.
- **Beibl 1588 ar y we**
  10/09/2004 Mae'r Llyfrgell Genedlaethol wedi gosod Beibl William Morgan yn ddigidol ar y we union 400 mlynedd ers iddo fe farw.
- **Labour's 'yes' to assembly powers**
  11/09/2004 Labour aims to gradually give the Welsh assembly more powers if it wins the next general election. A party conference in Cardiff voted overwhelmingly to support the move - which will also see changes to the way assembly members are elected.
- **Dathlu partneriaeth Geltaidd**
  12/09/2004 Mae cerddorion Gwyddelig wedi teithio i Gymru i ddathlu cynllun rhwng parc yn y gogledd a gerddi yn Iwerddon. Mae grŵp o gerddorion wedi bod yn perfformio ym Mharc Glynllifon ger Caernarfon ddydd Sul gan roi sêl bendith i gynllun o'r enw Gairdín Celtaidd.
- **Glyndwr's rule is celebrated**
  16/09/2004 Flags are being flown across Wales to celebrate 600 years since Owain Glyndŵr held his first Welsh Parliament. The rebel leader was crowned as Prince of Wales at Machynlleth in 1404. He is considered one of the great heroes of Welsh history.
- **'Welshness' is a winner says Tory**
  17/09/2004 The former head of Margaret Thatcher's Number 10 policy unit last nighturged Welsh Conservatives to back full lawmaking powers for the National Assembly.
- **English quit Welsh holiday homes**
  19/09/2004 English people with second homes in Wales are selling up and buying houses abroad instead.
- **Let Assembly run poll on powers: Plaid leader**
  25/09/2004 A referendum on powers for the National Assembly is "extremely likely" and should be run by the Assembly itself, says Plaid Cymru Assembly leader Ieuan Wyn Jones.

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