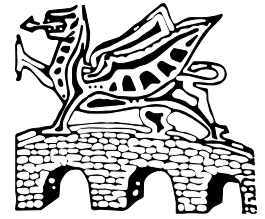


# CHELMSFORD and DISTRICT WELSH SOCIETY



## APRIL NEWSLETTER/ CYLCHLYTHYR MIS EBRILL 2021

### President Chatter April

As you may have seen from the Society's web site Stuart Roberts passed away last month. It is hard to believe that he is no longer with us, it could only have been about three or four weeks ago that he rang Carys and had a long chat. He was especially interested in what was happening in the Welsh Society.

Well at the moment it seems that the spring weather has gone away and the hard work in our garden has come to an abrupt halt, I am not complaining.

It is bitterly cold here in Tillingham, Carys and myself have been getting our boat ready for the sailing season, and after a good amount of work last week, due to the cold weather, we have an enforced rest this week.

We had our second jab last Friday. We are very positive of the Society starting again in September, so much so that Gwenno has booked the Chapter House up to December of next year. We are looking forward to see you all then-if not before.

**Cofion Cynnes  
Arthur**

### Sad News- Stuart Roberts

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of **Stuart Roberts** on 12<sup>th</sup> March at Manor Lodge Care Home.

Stuart was especially interested in the Welsh Society and always looked forward to the monthly newsletter. He was also a passionate member of the Chelmsford Male Voice Choir,

Stuart loved the Welsh Society and hardly missed a meeting until he was confined to a wheel chair. However he did turn up to share with the Society his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Even though he was confined to a wheel chair, he never missed the Annual Concert. He will be missed.



**Thank you to David Brown** for sending this lovely photo of the **Tenby Daffodils**.

Like Gary Owen, I kept the daffodil bulbs from last year's **St David's Day dinner** which were given to **Edith**. They have flourished again this year. So apt being Tenby daffodils. Hopefully I can keep them going for next year.

## MALAWI ENCOUNTER by Brian Farmer

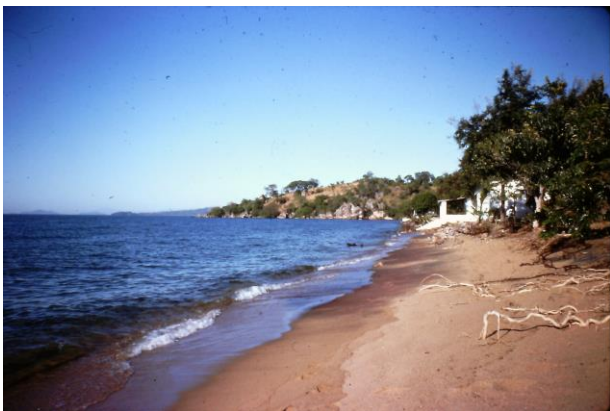
In 1976 I went to work in Malawi, with my wife and daughters aged 5 & 7, as a government engineer, sponsored by the UK Overseas Development Ministry. We lived in Blantyre, the commercial capital in the south of the small and poor country. The town was named after the village in Scotland where missionary Dr Livingstone was born. He visited the country, then named Nyasaland, in the 1860s to explore and attempt to stop the Arab and Zulu slavers, who were depopulating the country. About 3 hours' drive from home was Lake Malawi, a lovely fresh water lake where we had occasional weekend breaks, at the lodges and hotels, on the lake shore.

When I first arrived in country I met a Goan called Roue Rodrigues (Goa was once a Portuguese enclave in India); he and his family ran a garage in Blantyre. At the same time Dr Hastings Banda, the president of Malawi, had decided to expel all the Goans from the country and Roue had a white Mercedes 250s for sale. He was very pleased to sell the car to me because they were forbidden to take money (the Kwacha) out of the country when they left and I could pay him with a Sterling cheque.

As we drove to the lake we noticed a place on the side of the road where they were selling pineapples and so, after a very pleasant stay at the lake, near Monkey Bay (!) we decided to stop to buy some fruit on the way home. While I was bartering for the pineapples the car became surrounded by local Yao people and lots of children. After I had paid for the fruit they showed me a small, beautifully marked vervet monkey they had, wanting to sell it. The wise thing to do, was for me to buy the animal and release it later, but it was so obviously in distress, because they had around its neck a leash made of banana tree leaves, which was cutting into its flesh; I quickly drew out a clasp knife and cut the monkey free.

It jumped to the ground and ran under my car and the crowd became very agitated. I looked quickly under the car, no sign of the monkey, so I jumped in started it and drove slowly away from the furious crowd, who were shouting and throwing things. I drove carefully around a bend, until we'd left behind the pursuers and stopped. I got out, raised the bonnet and there, on top of the engine, was the monkey. It looked around and in a flash jumped over the storm drain at the road side, towards the trees. At the edge of the bush it turned back, looked at me, waved a paw and disappeared into the scrub.

My daughters dispute the waving bit, but I'm sure the monkey did. After 2 years of use I sold the car to a South African, at a profit. Malawi is far from the ocean, there is no salt in the air so cars don't rust, and the bodywork was immaculate although it was nearly 20 years old.

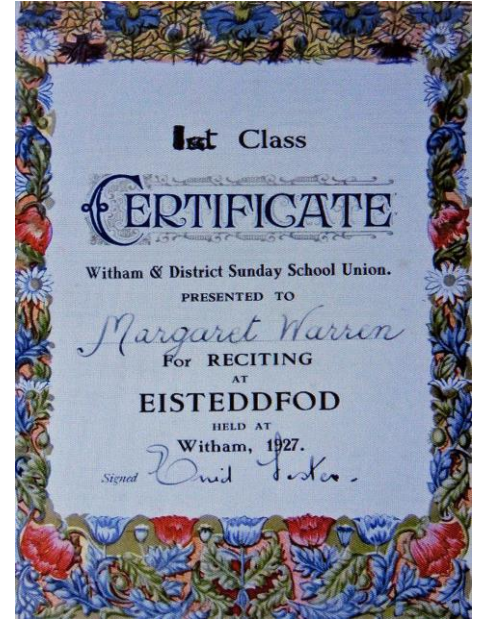


## Eisteddfod Witham- David Brown

I am a member of the Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk group on Facebook and recently came across a picture of a certificate awarded at the **1927 Witham Eisteddfod** which I enclose.

I wonder if anyone in the society has any knowledge of a **Welsh community in Witham**. I lived in Witham for a few years and was always intrigued by the church at the bottom of the hill known as the Guithavon Valley Evangelical Church, with the nearby Guithavon Road and Guithavon Street. It all sounded vaguely Welsh to me.

A little research has thrown up that the name may be from the old Brittonic language which was spoken in Essex until about 6-700 AD where Guith perhaps derived from Gwydd (Woods), and Avon derived from Afon (River). However, this does not explain the existence of an Eisteddfod in 1927. **Anyone any ideas?**



## Update on Teddy Pope



Teddy is now 5 months old and has settled in very well with our family life. He is enjoying the walk to school every morning and loves exploring in the woods. He has a very calm personality, but will howl like a wolf when Anna is practising the harp or piano!

Mae Teddy yn 5 mis oed erbyn hyn ac yn mwynhau mynd am dro i'r ysgol bob bore, ac wrth ei fodd yn archwilio yn y coed ar y penwythnosau. Mae o yn dynner dros ben ond yn udo fel blaidd bob tro fydd Anna yn ymarfer ei thelyn neu'r piano!

**Gwenno, Chris ac Anna Pope**



## Huw Williams concert

Thank you to **Kay Bright** for sending the information and the link below. Some of our society members may be interested in a concert that **Huw Williams** is doing on **5<sup>th</sup> May**. If you click on the link then tap on the menu (three lines logo) and there is a series of performers (Huw being among them) that you can choose from and pay for a ticket to watch an online concert.

<https://livetoyourlivingroom.com/events/>

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