

CHELMSFORD and DISTRICT WELSH SOCIETY



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER/ CYLCHLYTHYR MIS MEDI 2021

Note from our new President

It gives me great pleasure to write a short note to you all as the incoming President. The last 18 months have seen unprecedented changes in our lives – would you believe that our last evening meeting was held in February 2020. The committee has been working very hard to produce an attractive, varied programme for the next 10 months. We will be welcoming back the unique storyteller **Debra John**, as well as the young Welsh tenor, **Dafydd Wyn Jones**, who won the prestigious Blue Riband at the National Eisteddfod of Wales in 2020. Also, we can look forward to our annual **St. David's Day Dinner** next March and to welcoming the **Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir** to our concert in June. This particular choir has particular significance to me as my father was one of its original members back in 1933.

One of my main aims as President is to increase the society's membership so, please mention us to your friends and colleagues.

I'm sure that the new parking arrangements, outlined by Gwenno, will make it much easier for us to access the Chapter House, especially during the winter months.

I am really looking forward to seeing you all at our **next meeting** on the **22nd of September** and catching up on news.

Diolch yn fawr
Gwil Williams

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 22nd September 2021 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Our Autumn programme commences with our usual Croeso yn OI (Welcome back meeting). It is a great opportunity to chat and catch up on all the news with old and new friends, and hopefully we will be able to welcome new members to the society. Our new President, **Gwil Williams**, will be there to welcome you and to inform you of the events that have been arranged for the year. There will be cheese and wine refreshments and the usual raffle.

Annual subscription price is **£25**. **Carys Williams** will be there to receive your money or cheques. However, you can send your subscription to Carys at 3 Engelfields, South Street, Tillingham, Essex, CM0 7AT, prior to the meeting if you so desire. Please enclose a s.a.e with your cheque, which should be payable to '**Chelmsford & District Welsh Society**', and a programme card will be sent to you.

Dates for the diary

- **Wednesday, 22nd September- Croeso yn OI - 7.30pm at The Chapter House, Chelmsford.**
- **Sunday, 17th October-Songs of Praise/Cymanfa Ganu**
- **Wednesday, 27th October- Musical Evening with Dafydd Wyn Jones**

WELSH CLASSES

Welsh classes will be restarting on **Tuesday 28th September at 10.30am**. If anyone would be interested in attending regular Welsh classes, or would like some more information, please can you get in touch with **Ivy Price on 01277 210541** or **Sina Williams on 01245 231279**.

UPDATE on CAR PARKING

The Cathedral has allowed us to use their car park during our monthly meeting. The code to exit the Cathedral car park will be announced at each monthly meeting. Please make a note of this during the meeting so you can exit the car park. The code will only be valid to use during the evening of our monthly meetings.

Access to the Cathedral Car Park

1. The Cathedral has allowed us to use their car park which is a couple of hundred yards down Waterloo Lane on the left hand side.
2. There may still be some roadside parking available in Cottage Place and Legg Street as previously.
3. Cottage Place entrance from its junction with New Street, adjacent to the pub, appears a bit restricted.
4. Before leaving the Chapter House, ensure you know the current code number to lower the car park barriers.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. DO **NOT** DRIVE UNDER THE BRIDGE AT THE RAILWAY STATION IN EITHER DIRECTION IT IS A BUS GATE AND WILL INCUR A HEFTY FINE.
2. IN SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER WORK IS BEING CARRIED OUT ON THE SOUTHBOUND A12 BETWEEN JUNCTION 19 AND JUNCTION 15 WHICH MAY LEAD TO ROAD CLOSURES BETWEEN 21.00 AND 06.00. IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER THE CLOSURES WILL BE NORTHBOUND BETWEEN 21.00 AND 06.00 IT IS ADVISED YOU CHECK BEFORE YOU TRAVEL.

Live Music Returns by David Brown

Katherine Jenkins was the star of the open air concert at Maldon at the end of July, with special guest Paul Potts, and they were joined by the Kingdom Choir and Collabro. A very special evening.

In August, The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, performed their first live event at Audley End, and provided music for the Spitfire display as well as other artists. Joining Russell Watson on stage was the soprano Christina Johnston and the NHS Chorus 19. Mark Kingswood took the first spot of the evening, a Jazz Blues and Big Band singer.

Both these concerts were the first performances for the artists in front of a live audience since the spring of 2000 and became quite emotional for all artists. Both events ended with stunning firework displays.

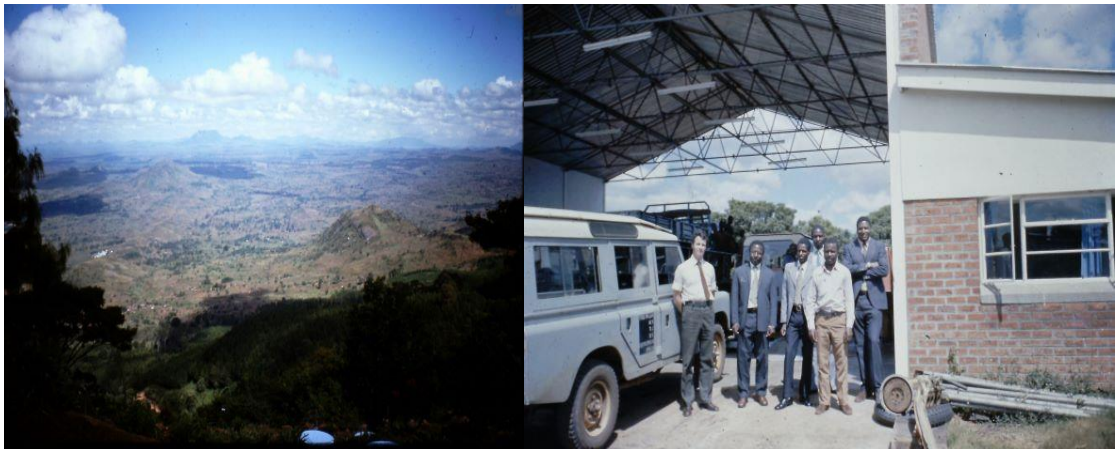


ROADSIDE ENCOUNTER by Brian Farmer

When I was working as an engineer for the Malawi government, based in Blantyre in the 1970s, I spent a morning visiting the last British officer in the Malawian Army. He was Captain Joe Brown ex-REME, who showed me around his workshop in the old colonial capital Zomba about 40 miles away. After a pleasant morning I set off back home and on the way I stopped for a break on the dirt road, to admire the view.

As I was stood at the side of my Landrover a family group approached on the other side of the road. In front was a man who wore a fez and Arabic dress and carried a staff and behind him were some women, well covered and a few children, walking in line. As they came opposite to me they stopped, turned towards me and raised their hands to their foreheads with the thumbs meeting and their forefingers extended in a sort of W and bowed, I bowed back. They then turned and walked on, nothing was said, no noise was made.

When I got back to the office I told my colleague Bill McInnon about the incident and asked what it meant? He said that they were displaying the sign of the bull and saluting me as a Bwana (chief, leader). Then and now I find the event to be extremely moving. We are led to believe that in the past there was intense animosity between the different races in Africa which couldn't be further from the truth. The Yao people in our area were friendly and easy going. Our nearest neighbours were a German woman married to a Malawian, our children often played together. Although there was a great deal of poverty and stealing was common, we were completely safe at home and on the streets at any time.



We send our best wishes to **Cynthia Styles** who has recently moved into Cherry Wood Residential Home in Chelmsford.

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