

# CHELMSFORD and DISTRICT WELSH SOCIETY



## MAY NEWSLETTER/ CYLCHLYTHYR MIS MAI 2021

### President Chatter May

What has happened to April showers? I now find myself having to brave the cold easterly wind to water the garden. Carys and I are getting a fair amount of work done on our boat, the dry weather has enabled us to do all the varnishing, we are now ready to get the sails from the sail loft and looking forward to take the boat out for a sail. We are hoping that if all goes well to have a committee meeting later this month and explore having a get together in June or July.

I was getting rather concerned that Carys's hearing was not what it used to be, so I asked a friend of ours which was the best way to approach the matter. His advice was, stand fifty paces away from her and ask a simple question, and if she does not answer walk ten paces and repeat the question, continue doing this every ten paces until she answers. When the opportunity arose and from fifty paces I asked "what is for dinner tonight?", no answer. I repeated the question every ten paces with the same results, until I was right behind her and asked again "what is for dinner tonight?"

She turned round and said "FOR THE FIFTH TIME, IT IS CHICKEN PLEASE WEAR YOR HEARING AID!"

**Cofion Cynnes**

**Arthur**

### Thank you to Anja for the following information

**Brother Gildas Parry** will, by God's Grace, be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood by the Bishop of Brentwood, The Right Reverend Alan Williams, on **Monday, 7th June 2021 at 7.30 pm** at Our Lady Immaculate Church, New London Road, Chelmsford.

**This will be live streamed on [tinyurl.com/OLlchelmsford](https://tinyurl.com/OLlchelmsford)**

### Date for the diary- Bring Your Own lunch at Radley Green Farm June 25th

**A warm welcome is extended to all members of the Chelmsford Welsh Society to join us at Radley Farm for a 'Lunch Time Picnic' on June 25<sup>th</sup>, from 12pm to 3p.m.**

Hopefully we will be able to sit out in the garden, so please would you bring your own comfortable deck chair/ chair and cushions etc. If the weather happens to be inclement then we can all move into the Barn.

Please bring your own choice of food for your picnic, but a Tea and Coffee facility will be provided at the Farm for each member to help themselves.

It will be so good and uplifting to see everyone after such a long winter of lockdown and a lovely start to the Summer Season.

**A very big Welcome to All from Shirley**



**Croeso cynnes iawn i bawb, a mi fydd hi yn braf iawn i weld pawb eto ar ddechrau tymor yr haf.**

## A few recommendations for your leisure time by Kay Bright

If you're not tempted to sit outdoors and shiver at a local pub, then you may be interested in some programmes I have come across on television and a recommendation for some reading.

A few weeks ago, while flicking through the channels, I came across a programme on S4C, '**Y Dre Cymreig**'. It explores the history and architecture of Welsh towns and the first one I came across was Crickhowell which is one of my favourite places to visit when I go to Wales. Subsequent programmes have included Merthyr Tydfil and Dolgellau. The presenters explore not only well-known sites but go into private homes from all sorts of historical times.

Another programme I have enjoyed recently on Channel 5 is Kate Humble's '**Escape to the Farm**'. Her farm is in Monmouthshire and, of course, includes farming but also explores the local area and has recipes too.

Nearer to our homes in Essex is the **National Trust** site of **Sutton Hoo** near Woodbridge in Suffolk. If you haven't visited, do try. It has recently been developed by the National Trust and makes a fine day out. '**The Dig**' by Robert Preston is a book I have read recently. It tells the story of the archaeological dig in 1939 at Sutton Hoo where the famous **Anglo-Saxon treasure** was unearthed. The central characters, Basil Brown and Edith Pretty, are well formed and the tension and excitement of the dig are related in what is an easy and enjoyable read.



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### **Thank you to David Brown for the following article**

Every **Sunday** morning at **8.00 a.m.** there is service broadcast throughout the local BBC networks.

I must have been up early that day (unusual for me) I heard the following which I thought I could share with you. A service led by musician and broadcaster Mal Pope.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09fvfzl>



### [Sunday Services - Welsh hymns - BBC Sounds](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09fvfzl)

Worship led by musician and broadcaster, Mal Pope whose father, Stan, was a preacher.

[www.bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk)

## Ciwb Cwts – Welsh language sessions

**Ciwb Cwts** is a basic **Welsh language sessions**, which are tailored for parents, grandparents or any other relatives working with young children, or anyone who wishes to learn some basic Welsh. The sessions are **free**, available virtually and you can follow them from anywhere around the world! The sessions will run for 8 weeks and will start on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May. There are plenty of courses available on different days and different times.

★ **Iau / Thursday**  
10:00 - 11:00  
13:00 - 14:00  
16:00 - 17:00

★ **Gwener / Friday**  
10:00 - 11:00  
13:00 - 14:00

**LWB Cwts**  
meithrin.cymru/ciwbcwts

In 8 weeks you can learn to speak Welsh with your child - all from the comfort of your sofa!

Am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â:  
For more information please contact:  
anna.jones@meithrin.cymru

**Gwynedd**

mudiad meithrin

dynguymraeg.cymru  
Iarnwedd Cymru

## PUK PUKS! By Brian Farmer

In the early 1980s I worked as the Regional Engineer North Coast for the government of **Papua New Guinea**, half an island to the north of the pointed bit of Australia. We lived in Lae, a town on the east coast of the mainland and capitol of Morobe province, the other provinces I covered were Madang and East & West Sepic up against Irianjaya an Indonesian protectorate.



I regularly visited the provincial capitals, usually by air, but I was able to drive the 100 or so miles to Madang, a tropical paradise with dozens of islands in a bath warm sea, although that meant crossing 9 rivers. The rivers varied from about 100 to 400 yards wide and were subject to flash floods, which occasionally washed people and vehicles away. At a river crossing the dirt road widens because the river bottom is constantly changing and there's not a single crossing point. The depth of the water can be roughly judged by how smooth it is, rough is shallow and smooth is deep. It's best to wait until another vehicle crosses and follow its track, however, there's usually not much traffic and time is short, so I often just trusted my driving skill (luck).

At one time my 2 daughters (12 & 13) were on school holiday, so I decided that we could all take the Madang trip and stretch the business bit to a couple of days R&R. We made it there OK, but on one crossing the Landcruiser went into a hole and we were shipping water, but we got through. After a pleasant stay at the Coast Watchers hotel - built as a memorial to the Australian coast watchers, who stayed behind and reported, by radio, on the movements of Japanese forces during WWII. They gave the US fleet 2 hours warning of attacking aircraft and helped the Americans to win the Battle of the Coral Sea. Not many coast watchers survived the war.

On the way back to Lae I had a flash of inspiration, my daughters were quite tall and where they could go on the river bed I could follow in the Landcruiser – problem cracked; we duely drove home in quick time. That evening in the bar of the Lae expat club, I decided to share my brilliant solution to what was a problem to everyone. After I'd finished my story someone said 'What about the Puk Puks'? I froze – Puk is pigen English for crocodiles - the rivers of PNG are infested with fierce fresh water crocodiles! My daughters still dine out on the tale of their dad's carelessness with their young lives.



**Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter. If you have anything that you would like me to include in the June Newsletter, please can you contact me before June 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**Diolch yn fawr**

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