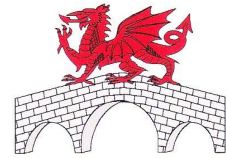


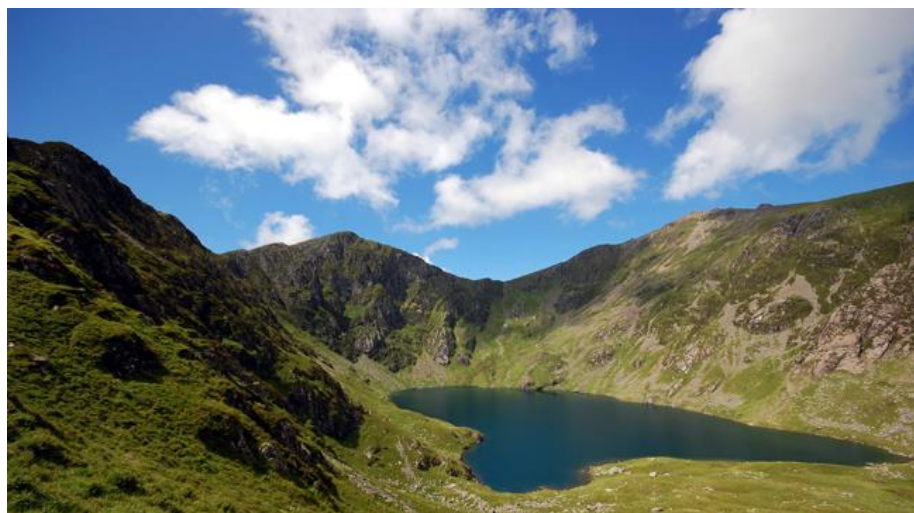
CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT WELSH SOCIETY  
Cymdeithas Gymraeg CHELMSFORD a'r Cylch



## THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY 2015 / 2016



**President, Shirley Moody**



## Committee Members 2015 . 2016

President / Llywdd	<i>Shirley Moody</i>
Vice President / Is-lywydd	<i>Arthur Williams</i>
Honorary Vice Presidents	<i>Jean Davies, Norma Maskell, Janet Wash Eddie Alcock, Derrick Thomas</i>
Past President	<i>Buddug Rowland Frank</i>
Secretary / Yagrifennydd	<i>Mair Thomas</i>
Assistant Secretary	<i>Brian Thomas</i>
Membership Secretary	<i>Carys Williams</i>
Treasurer	<i>Carys Williams</i>
Concert Organiser	<i>Arthur Williams</i>
St David's Day Dinner Organisers	<i>Cynthia Styles &amp; David Brown</i>
Webmaster & Audio	<i>David Brown</i>
Press Secretary	<i>Jim Armishaw</i>
Society Archivist	<i>Eddie Alcock</i>
Multimedia	<i>Mike Price</i>
Refreshments	<i>Liz Armishaw Maureen Byatt Edith Brown Enid Morris Ivy Price</i>
Raffles	<i>Ron Jones Brian Farmer John Morris</i>
Church Services	<i>Shirley Moody</i>
Welsh Classes	<i>Shirley Moody</i>

## MONTHLY MEETINGS and EVENTS 2015 – 2016

SEPTEMBER 24 <sup>th</sup>	CROESO YN ÔL
OCTOBER 2 <sup>nd</sup>	AN EVENING with DYLAN THOMAS & FRIENDS with the Phoenix Players
OCTOBER 25 <sup>th</sup>	HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE at St Michaels & All Angels Church
NOVEMBER 26 <sup>th</sup>	CHILDHOOD in WALES
DECEMBER 10 <sup>th</sup>	ŷPARTI NADOLIGqCHRISTMAS PARTY
JANUARY 23 <sup>rd</sup>	NOSON LAWEN
FEBRUARY 19 <sup>th</sup>	HEDD WYN. A BAFTA nominated film
FEBRUARY 26 <sup>th</sup> (Friday 7pm)	ST. DAVIDq DAY DINNER at the County Hotel, Chelmsford
FEBRUARY 28 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday 3.30pm)	ST. DAVIDq DAY SERVICE at Little Baddow URC
MARCH 24 <sup>th</sup>	ŷTHE WORLDq GREATEST CONSULTING DETECTIVEq with David Jones
APRIL 16 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to Norwich Welsh Society including city tour
APRIL 28 <sup>th</sup>	"SongCycle" Male acapella quartet.- Bach to the Beatles
MAY 8 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday to Wednesday)	VISIT TO CAERNARFON organised by Shirley Moody
MAY 26 <sup>th</sup>	'ANY QUESTIONS'
JUNE 5 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday 10.30am)	SUMMER SERVICE at Little Baddow URC
JUNE 11 <sup>th</sup>	ANNUAL CONCERT with Cor Godre'r Aran at Chelmsford Cathedral
JUNE 23 <sup>rd</sup>	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JUNE 25 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday 2.30pm)	CHARITY GARDEN PARTY at Radley Green Farm'

### OTHER FUND RAISING / CHARITY EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 26 <sup>th</sup>	FUND RAISING COFFEE MORNING Hosted by <i>Mike &amp; Ivy at Radley Green</i>
DECEMBER 6 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday) at 3pm	CHRISTMAS TEA Hosted by <i>Liz &amp; Jim Armishaw</i>
FEBRUARY 13 <sup>th</sup>	VALENTINES COFFEE MORNING Hosted by <i>Buddug and Ray Rowland Frank</i>
MARCH 19 <sup>th</sup>	MIKES MUSICAL MISCELLANY with <i>Mike Price</i> , hosted by <i>Shirley &amp; Don Moody</i>
MAY 18 <sup>th</sup>	MORNING COFFEE in the COUNTRY Hosted by <i>Carys &amp; Arthur Williams</i>

## JUNE NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS MEHEFIN 2015

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we approach the end of another society year -time has absolutely flown by! Our President, **Buddug Rowland Frank**, will be standing down at the AGM and we have had a most enjoyable and successful year under her impressive leadership. The programme she planned for the year was quite exceptional and it had a very strong Welsh flavour. Felly diolch yn fawr iawn i chi **Buddug**. The 3- night visit to Aberystwyth was most enjoyable with excellent food, impressive visits and enjoyable evening entertainment. **David Brown** has included a colourful photographic record of the visit on our web-site. We look forward to our visit to **Caernarfon in 2016!** Society member, **John Lloyd Williams**, gave a most entertaining and informative presentation on 'The Restoration of a Coach' at our May monthly meeting.

### *'Annual General Meeting'*

**Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at the Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.**

I hope that you will make a very special effort to attend this event. It will give you an opportunity of thanking **Buddug** for all her work throughout the year and of formally witnessing the induction of **Shirley Moody** as our new President. New officers and committee members will be elected

in preparation for what promises to be an exciting 2015-16 society year. The retiring committee thank all members for their loyal support throughout the year. The meeting will take the usual format and a cheque to the value of **£2000** will be presented to representatives of **First Step**. It is remarkable to think that we have had considerable enjoyment at our events and at the same time we have been able to make a substantial donation to a worthwhile charity. In addition donations totalling **£385** have been made to other charities and organisations. Thank you all for your support. Following the formal part of the evening the catering committee will provide refreshments. Our new President, **Shirley Moody**, will be arranging community singing for the second part of the evening.

Refreshments . Catering Committee; raffle . **Edith Brown, David Brown, Ivy Price, Ron Jones and Maureen Byatt.**

**CHARITY/FUND RAISING COFFEE MORNING.** **Edith and David Brown** held a **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> May** which raised **£287**. We extend our sincere thanks to our hosts for the warmth of their hospitality and to those members and friends who attended this event.

**WELSH CLASSES.** The next classes will be held on **Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015** at **Radley Green Farm** at **2pm**. We thank **Shirley Moody** for hosting these classes throughout the year and **Ivy Price** and **Zena Williams** for assisting with the teaching of the various groups. Full marks to those members who have been so keen to become more proficient in the language of heaven!

**ANNUAL SUMMER SERVICE** at **Little Baddow URC** on **Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 10.30am**. I hope that you will be able to attend this service and it would be great to see a few new faces there. Society members have joined forces with the church members since 1964 for this annual morning service. It is a tradition we wish to sustain.

**ANNUAL CONCERT – NEARLY A SELL OUT!** The annual concert will be held in Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7.30pm . doors opening at 6.45pm. **Arthur Williams** has had some tickets returned by the London Welsh Choir. If you require tickets please contact **Arthur** on **01621 778711** as soon as possible. Please note that the **'After Glow'** will be held in a private room in **The Saracens Head Hotel**, 3 High St. Chelmsford . just 100 yards from the Cathedral. You and your friends are cordially invited to join us there after the concert.

**GARDEN PARTY** hosted by **Shirley and Don Moody** at **Radley Green Farm** on **Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 2.30pm**. This will be first fund/charity raising event of our new President, **Shirley Moody** - and it is most appropriate that this event will be held in her delightful garden.

Family and friends are invited to join us for what has become a most enjoyable occasion. Admission is **£5** to include tasty refreshments; **children free**. We are always pleased to see children at this function as they add so much to the event. Games and activities will be organised as usual . providing you with the opportunity to win some fabulous prizes. In addition the **IBUTHO- Anglo Zulu Group** will be in attendance. Please bring folding chairs and a folding table ( and spears) with you if possible. Raffle prizes will be most welcome. **Directions to Radley Green Farm** . take the A414 (signposted Harlow, M11) road from Chelmsford. You will pass two garden nurseries and the Fox and Goose Pub . carry on until you see a large signpost for Radley Green, Roxwell and Willingale; turn right; there is a recent barn conversion on your left; drive along this road . the Cuckoo Pub (now a restaurant) is on your left and just a little further along the road on the left is the farm . take the second entrance with the Welsh Dragon flying at the gate. You have arrived . I hope!

Best wishes to all members for a happy summer break. If you are going on holiday . have a great time. I hope to see you at some if not all the above events.

Cofion Cynnes,

*Mair Thomas*



## Meeting and Activities Report June 2015

### AGM

Forty six members attended the AGM of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society on 25 June. Reporting on her year of office, Buddug Rowland Frank said that it had been a privilege to be President, and thanked the hardworking committee for being so supportive. The monthly meetings had been a great success and had a distinctive Welsh flavour. Several had featured people from the Aberystwyth area where she had grown up, and in addition the annual four day trip had been to the region. Special highlights had been the St David's Day dinner and the annual concert, given by London Welsh Male Voice Choir and mezzo soprano Eirlys Myfanwy Davies. She thanked the members of the committee and their spouses who had opened their homes for fund raising/charity events. The President's charity was First Step which aims to maximise the potential of very young children with special needs and/or disabilities, and she was pleased to hand a cheque for £2266 to Colin Coe, a trustee. She thanked the members who supported all the Society's events. The Secretary, Mair Thomas, echoed Buddug's thanks to the committee. She paid tribute to Norma Maskell and Agnes Evans, faithful members who had died during the year. The President sets the mood, brings personality, and she thanked Buddug and her husband Ray for living up to this ideal. Mair has been Secretary since 1992 and she announced, to general dismay, that she would only serve one more term and then retire. Carys Williams presented her Treasurer's Report, which showed the the Society to be financially healthy. As a result the subscription for the 2015/16 season would remain at £15, surely the best value for money anywhere! Buddug then retired and Shirley Moody was installed as President, with Arthur Williams as Vice-president. Shirley said that she was honoured and delighted to be embarking on a second term. The officers and other committee members were then elected. Buddug was presented with a Society goblet.

Refreshments of strawberries and cream were served during the interval, with wine provided by Janet and Richard Wash to celebrate their Golden Wedding. They were presented with a basket of flowers. After the interval a sing-song directed by Ivy Price had been planned. But first Ivy, a first class off-the-cuff entertainer, thrilled the audience with a hilarious, though perfectly serious, account of her recent visit to the USA!

The first event of Shirley's term was a Charity Garden Party at her home on 27 June, enjoyed by 52 adults and a dozen children in perfect summer sunshine, raising £461.



Retiring President,  
Buddug Rowland Frank



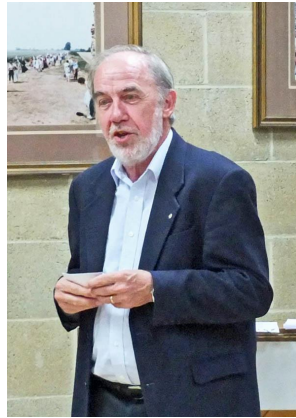
Secretary, Mrs Mair Thomas



Treasurer, Mrs Carys Williams



Presentation of cheque to FIRST STEPS



President elect Shirley Moody



President Shirley Moody



Vice President Arthur Williams



A Society Goblet for Buddug



A Society Goblet for John Lloyd Williams



Founder, Janet Wash 50th Wedding Anniversary



Strawberry Supper



An American Adventure with Ivy Price



Ivy plays for Community singing.  
Brian Thomas sings %Evening Prayer+



## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS MEDI 2015

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

Listed below are some of the forthcoming society events as we begin another Society year

### *'Croeso Yn Ôl'*

**Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at the Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.**

We are commencing our autumn programme with our usual **Croeso Yn Ôl**. It is a great opportunity for a social get-together where we can catch up on all the news with old and new friends . hopefully we will be able to welcome new members to the society. Our new President, **Shirley Moody**, will be there to welcome you and to inform you of the events and visits that she has arranged in conjunction with the committee for 2015-16. There will be Cheese and Wine organised by our hard working catering committee. **Mike Price** will give a visual musical presentation of highlights from the summer season in Wales. **Carys Williams** will be there to receive your annual subscription of **£15** and to present you with the programme card which contains all information regarding the events for 2015-16. However, you can send your subscription to **Carys** at 3 Engelfields, South St. Tillingham 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 and District Welsh Society and a programme card will be sent to you. Please pay your subs. before the end of November 2015 or we will regretfully assume that you no longer wish to renew your membership.

Refreshments . Catering Committee; raffle . **Arthur Williams, Enid Morris, Shirley Moody, Jim Armishaw.**

I am delighted to report that the **ANNUAL CONCERT** given by the **London Welsh Male Voice Choir**, with soloist **Eirlys Myfanwy Davies**, at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015 was a tremendous success. It is encouraging to receive so many favourable comments from those who attended this sell out event. We thank our concert secretary, **Arthur Williams**, for all his hard work in ensuring that the annual visit of a Male Voice Choir receives such adulation from all those who attend our prestigious concerts.. ,

The **FUND RAISING CHARITY GARDEN PARTY** which was held on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at Radley Green Farm was most successful and was very well attended. It was most encouraging to see so many children at this event. Fun and games and a delicious tea were much enjoyed by members and friends on a sunny June afternoon. The sum of **£461** was raised . a wonderful outcome! We thank **Shirley** and **Don Moody** for their support, generosity and the warmth of their hospitality.

**CHARITY/FUND RAISING COFFEE MORNING.** **Ivy and Mike Price** invite you to a **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 10.30am.** Their address is **54 Warescott Rd. Brentwood CM15 9HE.** If you require directions please ring them on **01277 210541.** Raffle prizes will be much appreciated. This will be a warm up for the crucial England v Wales Rugby World Cup match which will be played later that day.

**VISIT TO NORTH WALES - May 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 2016.** Next year, our President is organising a visit to North Wales and we shall be staying in the Royal Celtic Hotel, Caernarfon for 3 nights. The inclusive cost of this visit will be **£280** per person for those sharing a room and **£305** for those requiring a single room. This includes hotel accommodation, coach travel, entertainment on 3 evenings; admission to places of interest and gratuities for the coach driver and hotel staff. A non-refundable deposit of **£60** is required at the time of booking and **Shirley** requests that you complete a booking form which can be obtained from her, indicating your specific requirements. Please book early as we have to inform the hotel of our room requirements.

**HARVEST SONGS of PRAISE – DIOLCH AM Y CYNHAEAF – Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2.30pm in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Roxwell.** Please put this date in your diary and invite your family and friends to join you for this afternoon of song. More details in the next Newsletter.

**WELSH CLASSES.** The next classes will be held on **Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at Radley Green Farm at 2pm.** **Shirley Moody** is looking forward to welcoming old students back and would be delighted to accept new learners. If you speak Welsh why not join the group and get involved in the regular usage of the language.

**Essex Police Choir** will be holding their annual charity concert in Chelmsford Cathedral on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7.30pm. They will be joined by the **Essex Police Band** and **Gwent Police Male Voice Choir.** Tickets costing £10 can be obtained from Mark Lawrence 07802 414793.

### **SOCIETY NEWS**

- Congratulations to **John Styles** who celebrated his **90<sup>th</sup>** birthday in July.

The President and her committee send their best wishes to all members and especially those who have been unwell during the summer break. We hope to see you at our monthly meetings and events. Our society is successful because of the support it receives from the membership.

**Cofion Cynnes,  
Mair Thomas**

## Meeting and Activities Report September 2015

### "CROESO YN ÔL"

An introduction to our president's charity "SNAP", Refreshments and a look at this year's National Eisteddfod with Mike Price



Shirley Moody, President



Deirdre Pembroke on behalf of the SNAP charity



Opening her first monthly meeting as President of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society on 24 September, Shirley Moody welcomed the 52 members attending, which included 4 new members. The theme was the traditional Croeso Yn Ôl (Welcome Back). She then introduced Deirdre Pembroke, a volunteer and ambassador for SNAP (Special Needs & Parents), the Society's charity during her year of office. Deirdre gave a moving account of the work of the charity. Based in Brentwood and in its 21st year of operation, it caters for children with special needs, including dyslexia, autism and complex medical problems, and supports their parents and siblings. Housed in its own purpose built accommodation, it currently supports 1800 families. Its budget of about £0.5m per annum is becoming increasingly difficult to fund. It has a large team of very committed volunteers. During the interval delicious refreshments of bread and cheese, pate, grapes and wine were enjoyed. Afterwards, society member Mike Price gave an excellent presentation of the recent National Eisteddfod of Wales. This annual event, conducted exclusively in the Welsh language (with a translating facility available), is the pinnacle of the Welsh cultural calendar, with 100,000 visitors over 8 days enjoying keen, friendly competition in vocal and instrumental music, composing and reciting poetry and prose, traditional and modern dance, and crafts. Childhood immersion in this friendly cultural activity feeds into the strong tradition of adult choirs. The Society sponsored the 16 to 19 year old female and male vocal solo competitions, won by Mared Elin Williams and Rhydian Jenkins. A surprise visitor at the Eisteddfod was the poet Benjamin Zephaniah, who stayed for the whole week and enjoyed it so much that he intends to return next year. He was particularly interested and surprised by the ceremony of the Charing of the Bard! Arthur Williams, the Vice-president, congratulated Mike on his excellent presentation.

*Jim Armishaw*

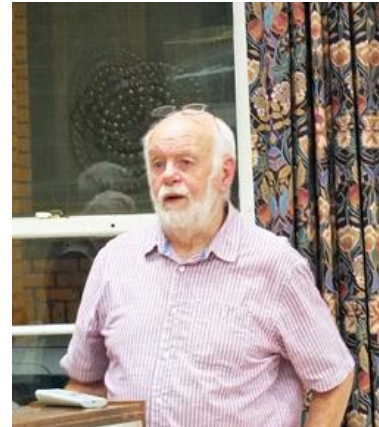




Refreshments



John Styles celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup>  
Birthday with cake



Mike Price presents  
Excerpts from this year's  
National Eisteddfod



Mike Price



Ron Jones officiates at the raffle



Vice President, Arthur Williams

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS HYDREF 2015

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

Our September '**Croeso Yn Ôl**' meeting saw the Cathedral Chapter House almost full to capacity. The catering committee organised a tasty variety of cheeses, biscuits, bread and nibbles for us to enjoy. Our new President, **Shirley Moody**, provided the wine - courtesy of one of her friends. We also had a piece of birthday cake to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of **John Styles**. **Shirley** informed all present of the forthcoming society events and then introduced **Deirdre Pembroke**, a representative of **SNAP** (Special Needs and Parents) who gave us a most informative account of the work of this charity group. **SNAP**, a Brentwood based organisation, is **Shirley's** chosen charity for her year in office and it appears to be a most deserving cause. I feel sure that thanks to the support of our members a large cheque will be presented to **SNAP** at our AGM in June 2016. The first charity event was held on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015 with a last minute change of venue from the home of **Ivy** and **Mike** in Brentwood to Radley Green Farm. 40 members and friends attended the event on a beautiful autumn morning and **£305** was raised for the charity which included donations from those members who were unable to attend the coffee morning. Thanks to **Ivy** and **Mike Price** for organising the event and **Shirley** and **Don Moody** for hosting it. Details of our next monthly meeting and other events are listed below:

### *'An Evening with Dylan Thomas and Friends' presented by the Phoenix Players of West Mersea*

**Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 at the Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.**

This will be the third time that **John Davies** has brought the **Phoenix Players** to entertain us. We thoroughly enjoyed their previous visits and their planned programme for this meeting looks most exciting. The group will present dramatised readings of **Dylan's** . Quite Early One Morning and Return Journey together with hilarious short stories by some of **Dylan's** contemporaries. There will also be the rare opportunity of hearing two musical settings of **Dylan's** poems by **Elizabeth Lutyens**. This is an evening that you cannot miss- it should be a memorable occasion. I look forward to another full house at the Chapter House.

Refreshments and raffle . **Liz Armishaw, Cynthia Styles and Mair Thomas.**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS.** **Carys Williams**, our treasurer, wishes to thank the **68** members who have already paid their annual subscription. She will be collecting the annual subscription at the next monthly meeting. In return you will receive a copy of the 2015-16 programme. Should you be unable to attend, please send a cheque to **Carys** - 3 Engelfields, South St. Tillingham CM0 7AT payable to the Chelmsford and District Welsh Society and enclose a stamped addressed envelope so that you can be sent the programme. **David Brown** has put a pro-forma on the society web-site. Should we not receive your subscription by the end of **November 2015** we will regrettably assume that you no longer wish to continue your membership and we will cease to send you a monthly Newsletter

**HARVEST SONGS of PRAISE – DIOLCHGARWCH AM Y CYNHAEAF– Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2.30pm in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Roxwell.** **John Taylor**, the music director of the Chelmsford Male Voice Choir, will lead the singing and **Gwilym Morris**, the church organist will provide the accompaniment. If you haven't attended one of our singing festivals before . please make this year your first! You will be able to enjoy singing your favourite harvest hymns. In 2014 the church members outnumbered members of our society . **we can't let that happen again!** Please come along and bring your family and friends to an enjoyable afternoon. The singing will be followed by light refreshments . a chance for a cup of tea and a chat! Our President, **Shirley Moody** looks forward to welcoming you to the event which is being held in her parish church.

**VISIT TO NORTH WALES - May 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 2016.** I repeat the details as listed in the previous Newsletter. Next year, our President is organising a visit to North Wales and we shall be staying in the Royal Celtic Hotel, Caernarfon for 3 nights. The inclusive cost of this visit will be **£280** per person for those sharing a room and **£305** for those requiring a single room. This includes hotel accommodation, coach travel, entertainment on 3 evenings; admission to places of interest and gratuities for the coach driver and hotel staff. A non-refundable deposit of **£60** is required at the time of booking and **Shirley** requests that you complete a booking form which can be obtained from her or **Carys Williams** indicating your specific requirements. Please **book early** as we have to inform the hotel of our room requirements.

**WELSH CLASSES.** The next classes will be held on **Monday, 12 and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at Radley Green Farm at 2pm.**

**CONCERT** Chelmsford Male Voice Choir will be holding a concert on **Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> November in Trinity Methodist Church Chelmsford** commencing at **7.30pm**. If you require tickets, priced at **£10**, for this concert please telephone **Brian Thomas** on 01245 269845.

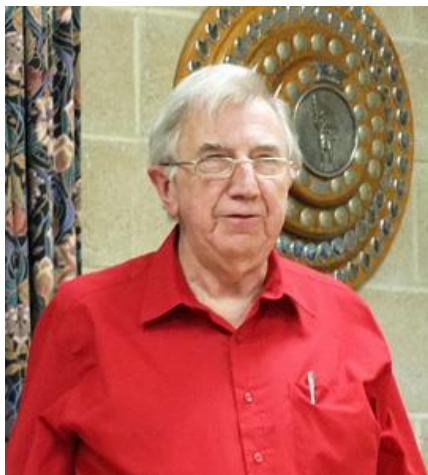
Cofion Cynnes,  
Mair Thomas

## Meeting and Activities Report October 2015

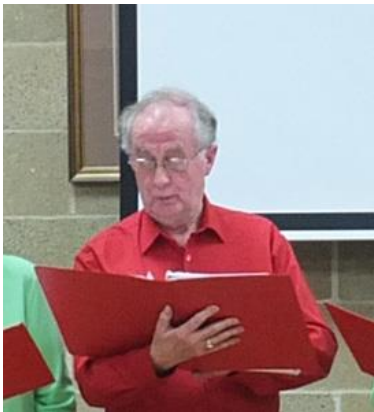
### October Meeting 2015 **AN EVENING with DYLAN THOMAS & FRIENDS** **with the Phoenix Players from West Mersea**

Shirley Moody, the President of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society, opened the October monthly meeting with the sad news of the death of Ron Maskell, a faithful member for many years. She welcomed back old friends of the Society, the Phoenix Players of West Mersey, who presented an exciting Evening with Dylan Thomas and his Contemporaries. The talented cast of nine wove a wonderful journey through the works of Dylan Thomas, Griff Davies, Bruce Chatwyn, and Richmal Crompton, which had been skilfully dramatised and adapted by Prof John Davies with dramatic special effects provided by Beryl Balls. Dylan Thomas's works included *The Return Journey* (1947), where the narrator returns to seek an old acquaintance in various haunts in war-torn Swansea. The old acquaintance is Dylan himself who, it turns out, is dead! Several of Thomas's poems have been converted by the composer Elizabeth Lutyens, a close family friend, into songs with uncomfortable, disturbing harmonies, and three of these were sung by Sue Davies. Griff Davies's hilarious *Resurrection*, which observes the place of death and funerals in Welsh life, was humorously portrayed by the cast. Finally, they sang the Rev Eli Jenkins's *Sunset Prayer* from Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood*, accompanied on the piano by John Wolton. The enthusiastic applause showed how much everybody had enjoyed the evening. They were congratulated by Arthur Williams, the Vice-president. On Sunday 25 October, the Society joined the congregation of St Michael and All Angels Church, Roxwell, for a service, *Diolchgarwch am y Cynhaeaf* (Harvest Songs of Praise), conducted by John Taylor, MD of Chelmsford Male Voice Choir, and with Gwilym Morris at the organ. This was followed by tea and delicious cakes. There was an excellent turn out at the Charity Coffee Morning, arranged by Ivy and Mike Price and hosted by Shirley and Don Moody, which raised £305.

*Jim Armishaw*







## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS TACHWEDD 2015

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

The October monthly meeting proved to be most interesting, humorous and enjoyable. Fifty members attended the event. The Phoenix Players presented a memorable evening with readings from the works of Dylan Thomas and some of his friends. On Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, many members joined the congregation of St. Michael and All Angels Church Roxwell, for a Harvest Songs of Praise. Those present enjoyed singing well known harvest hymns. I extend a big thank you to those who made the effort to attend and to those who organised the service.

### **'CHILDHOOD IN WALES'**

**Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at the Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.**

Three members of our society have volunteered to share their memories of growing up in different parts of Wales. **Janet Wash** grew up in the beautiful county of Pembrokeshire, **Arthur Williams** is proud to have hailed from Caernarfonshire and **Brian Thomas** grew up in the shadow of Castell Coch in Glamorganshire. Please come and join us for what promises to be an enjoyable walk down memory lane evening.

Refreshments and raffle . **Enid Morris, Mary Jones and Hazel Hammond.**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS.** **Carys Williams**, our treasurer, wishes to thank the **90** members who have already paid their annual subscription. She will be collecting the annual subscription at the next monthly meeting. In return you will receive a copy of the 2015-16 programme. Should you be unable to attend, please send a cheque to **Carys** - 3 Engelfields, South St. Tillingham CM0 7AT payable to the Chelmsford and District Welsh Society and enclose a stamped addressed envelope so that you can be sent the programme. Should we not receive your subscription by the end of **November 2015** we will sadly assume that you no longer wish to continue your membership and we will cease to send you a monthly Newsletter.

**VISIT TO NORTH WALES - May 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 2016.** **45** members have put their names down for the visit to the Royal Celtic Hotel, Caernarfon for 3 nights. There are still a few places available for this delightful holiday. The inclusive cost of this visit will be **£280** per person for those sharing a room and **£305** for those requiring a single room. This includes hotel accommodation, coach travel, entertainment on 3 evenings, admission to places of interest and gratuities for the coach driver and hotel staff. A non-refundable deposit of **£60** is required at the time of booking and **Shirley** requests that you complete a booking form which can be obtained from her or **Carys Williams** indicating your specific requirements. Please **book early** as we have to inform the hotel of our room requirements.

**WELSH CLASSES.** The next classes will be held on **Monday, 9th and 13th November 2015** at **Radley Green Farm** at **2pm**.

### **SOCIETY NEWS.**

**Ron Maskell** sadly passed away on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2015 . just one year after the death of **Norma**, his much loved wife. His funeral will be held on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 12 noon at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Great Burstead CM11 2TR, followed by cremation at Chelmsford Crematorium at 1.30pm. We send our deepest sympathy to all the family at the loss of a much loved father and grandfather. **Ron** was a gentle gentleman who was much respected by all who had the good fortune to know him. Both **Norma** and **Ron** were supportive and faithful members of our society for many years. The family will be most pleased to see society members at the services and invite them to join the family for light refreshments at the County Hotel, Chelmsford following the cremation.

- We send our deepest sympathy to **Margaret Shannahan** on the loss of her only brother. Margaret has been in Wales for the funeral.

Cofion Cynnes,  
*Mair*



## Meeting Report November 2015

### CHILDHOOD in WALES

with Janet Wash, Arthur Williams & Brian Thomas

Childhood in Wales was the theme of the November meeting of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society, presented by three members of the Society. Janet Wash was born in Milford Haven in glorious Sir Benfro (Pembrokeshire). She spent a short time in Devon at the outbreak of WW2, and on returning home spent a carefree childhood playing on the beach in all weathers, largely unaffected by the war apart from seeing the Admiralty oil tanks in the naval base of Pembroke Docks ablaze for several days following an air raid. Later, she attended Milford Haven Grammar where competition was rife. The English teacher was the terrifying D. W. Walters, of textbooks fame. Many years later she was surprised to meet up again with the music teacher, Grack Jaw+Wally Walters, who was the conductor at a concert of 1000 English Voices which she attended at the Royal Albert Hall. She enjoyed sport immensely, and was School Captain at tennis and hockey. The school celebrated St David's day with an Eisteddfod in the morning and tennis in the afternoon. Weekend regattas, singing in the church choir and the Sea Rangers completed a rather full life! Arthur Williams lived in the small village of Y Fron in Sir Gaernarfon (Caernarvonshire), in the heart of the slate quarrying rural Welsh Wales. He had a blissful childhood amidst the brutal yet beautiful scenery of mountains, slag heaps and associated man made lakes, where little boys could risk their lives climbing and swimming. When he asked the pastor whether his dog, Ben, would go to heaven when he died, he was most disappointed to be told No!+Brian Thomas was born in Abercwmboi, north of Caerdydd (Cardiff) in Sir Forgannwg (Glamorganshire). Home was a two up-two-down cottage with an outside toilet, and during WW2 he shared a bedroom with young Henry, an evacuee from Rainham, near London. He could hear the bombing of Caerdydd, where more than 2000 bombs were dropped, and their air raid shelter was a slate slab in the pantry. The village primary school had a narrow curriculum of Maths and English, aimed at the 11+ exam, and gas mask rehearsals were held. Meagre rations were supplemented with home grown vegetables, by rearing pigs and having a ferret to catch rabbits. Collecting things, especially birdsqeggs was a favourite hobby (birds can only count up to 3, apparently!) Janet, Arthur and Brian were congratulated by the President, Shirley Moody, and David Brown thanked for preparing the visual aids. The December meeting will be held earlier than usual, on 10th December.

*Jim Armishaw*



Shirley Moody, President



Janet Wash





Arthur Williams, Vice President



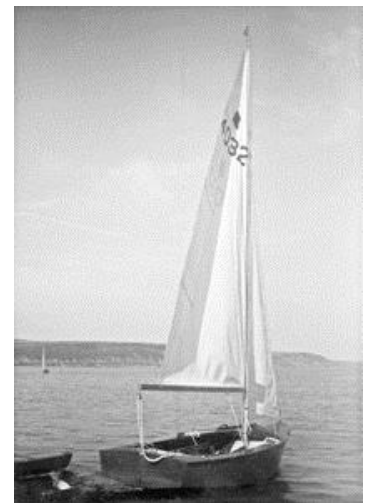
Brian Thomas



Y Fron



Brian Thomas



Janet Washes Boat

*Jim Armishaw*

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS RHAGFYR 2015

### *Nadolig Llawen i chi gyd Merry Christmas to you all*

Annwyl Gyfeillion,

We are on countdown to Christmas. Our President, **Shirley Moody**, is looking forward to welcoming you all to our Christmas events.

#### *'Te Nadolig' - Christmas Tea*

**Liz and Jim Armishaw** will be hosting this event on **Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015** at **3pm**. at their home -: **38A Chignal Rd. Chelmsford, CM1 2SB**. They will be delighted to see you at this popular gathering where we will make a good start to the Christmas season . food and carols! If you could bring a small wrapped gift for the raffle they would be most grateful. Ring **Liz** or **Jim** on **01245 281162** if you require directions or further information

#### *'Parti Nadolig'*

*Cathedral Chapter House on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 7pm for a 7.30pm start*

Our Christmas meeting promises to be a jolly festive celebration. Please make every effort to join us for fun and games, seasonal carols and songs, a bumper raffle and tasty Christmas refreshments provided by the catering committee. You are invited to bring along a Christmas themed hat- (**both men and women!**) - and the winner of the best design will get a fabulous prize! There will be an opportunity for those who wish to make a donation to the President's Charity, in lieu of sending Christmas cards. **Shirley** will be making a large card for you to sign. Come early to get a good seat as we are expecting a full house and you can be assured of an enjoyable start to the festive season. Raffle prizes will be provided by the Society.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS.** **Carys Williams**, our treasurer, wishes to thank all members for paying their annual subscription so promptly.

**VISIT TO NORTH WALES - May 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 2016.** We give our thanks to all those who have booked for this tour. Final payments will be due by the end of **February 2016**.

**WELSH CLASSES.** The last Welsh class of 2015 will be held on **Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015** at **Radley Green Farm** at **2pm**. Participants extend their thanks to **Shirley Moody** for hosting these classes and the dedicated leaders of the various groups.

**NOSON LAWEN.** Our homespun evening of Welsh entertainment will be held on **Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016** at the usual venue. We are providing an opportunity for members to display their talents. Please ensure that all acts have a strong Welsh flavour. Give your names to **Shirley Moody** (tel: 01245-248178) well before the event in order that she can organise the programme

**DYLAN THOMAS – A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES.** The BBC Singers will be presenting this show at the Milton Court Concert Hall, Silk St. London on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 7.30pm. Tickets priced at £25, £17.50 and £10 can be obtained from the Box Office on **020 7638 8891** [barbican.org.uk](http://barbican.org.uk)

**SOCIETY NEWS** The society sends its best wishes to all members who have been unwell and wish them a speedy recovery to better health. We all look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

*May I wish you all a very merry and enjoyable Christmas with your family and your friends.*



**Cofion Cynnes,**  
*Mair Thomas*

## Meeting Report November 2015

### ‘PARTI NADOLIG’ CHRISTMAS PARTY

The sixty members at the Chelmsford and District Welsh Society Christmas party enjoyed a great evening of fun, games, poems, prose, and a pantomime, interspersed with well-loved carols and other songs in Welsh and English. The highlight was a side-splitting pantomime, Cinderella, composed and narrated by the talented Enid Morris with the President, Shirley Moody, as a convincing Cinderella and members of the Committee playing the other characters. The prizes for the best festive hats went to Margot Williams and Roy Allen. A hilarious game involved players sitting in cramped opposite rows (as on the tube) attempting to arrange the mixed up 36 pages of a broadsheet newspaper in their correct order. It was beginning to look like an impossible task until Diane Moulton's eureka moment. Readings of poems and prose were delivered by Mair Thomas, Arthur Williams, Buddug Rowland Frank, Enid Morris and Brian Thomas. Brian's reading was from the December 2004 Thought For The Day broadcast of the Rev. John Bell of the Iona Community, which concludes with the thought that, maybe, the Nativity is really a story for adults. The final item was a very funny action song version of The 12 Days Of Christmas, with the members divided into teams to sing and act the various gifts, conducted by Liz Armishaw. Without doubt the society has several talented thespians. The evening had begun with festive mulled wine, and tasty refreshments were enjoyed during the interval. At the conclusion, the Vice-president, Arthur Williams, thanked everybody who had contributed, in any way, to a fun filled evening. The fund raising/ charity Christmas Tea, hosted by Liz and Jim Armishaw, raised £316.

The 28 January Meeting will be a traditional Welsh Noson Lawen, when members will provide the entertainment. .

*Jim Armishaw*



Arthur Williams



Pass the parcel



Cinderella



Cinderella





Pass the hat



Sort the Newspaper



We Three Kings



Arthur Williams



12 days of Christmas with Enid Morris



12 days of Christmas with Liz Armishaw

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS IONAWR 2016

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

**BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA**  
**A very happy and peaceful 2016 to you all.**

We look forward to a busy time for our Society in the next few months. I hope that you will make every effort to support as many of our events as possible. Details are listed below:

### *'Noson Lawen'*

**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at the Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.**

We start 2016 with a meeting of homespun entertainment. As usual, we are looking for you, our members, to volunteer to entertain us with songs, poetry, prose, jokes, dances . or any particular skill that you can share with members. **Please don't be shy!** Ring **Shirley Moody**, our President, on **01245-248178**, with details of your proposed performance as soon as possible, in order that she can organise her programme . no auditions required! Please remember that we are looking for items with a strong Welsh flavour if possible. The format of this evening is always much appreciated by members and I look forward to seeing you in a full Chapter House.

Refreshments and raffle . **Heulwen Newman, Rosina Jones and June Jones.**

**XMAS TEA.** The Christmas Tea hosted by **Liz and Jim Armishaw** was well attended and raised **£316**. We thank our hosts for the warmth of their hospitality and those members who attended this function.

**WELSH CLASSES.** The next classes will be held on **Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 at Radley Green Farm at 2pm.**

**St. VALENTINE'S CHARITY COFFEE MORNING on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 10.30am** hosted by **Buddug and Ray Rowland Frank** at their home . 40 Ingrebourne Gardens, Upminster RM14 1BN. Telephone . 01708 222691. Raffle prizes will be most appreciated.

**St DAVIDS DAY DINNER, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at the County Hotel at 7pm.** Tickets costing **£35** for this annual event are available from **Cynthia Styles** on 01245-469713 or **David Brown** on 01245-465052 - or at our January monthly meeting. Cheques should be payable to Chelmsford and District Welsh Society. There is a vegetarian option available and if you require this then please inform **Cynthia Styles** of your requirements. I hope that you will be able to attend this most important function.

**St. DAVID'S DAY SERVICE, Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 3.30pm.** This annual event will be held as usual at **Little Baddow URC**. The **Rev. Dr. Cally Hammond** will be taking the service. This service is a most special event in our programme and it would be wonderful to see some new faces attending! Tea will be served after the service and lifts can be arranged for any member without transport. Give me a ring on 01245-269845 if you require a lift.

**VISIT TO CAERNARFON - May 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 2016.** The final payment for this visit should be made before the end of **February 2016**. The final amount due is **£220** per person for those sharing a room and **£245** those in a single room. Cheques payable to the Chelmsford and District Welsh Society should be given to **Carys Williams** or sent to her home address . **3 Engelfields, South St. Tillingham CM0 7AT.**

**VISIT TO NORWICH on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016.** Our society has been invited by the **Norwich Welsh Society** to join them for their April monthly meeting. It is intended to make this a full day and a coach has been booked. If you would like to join fellow society members on this trip please give your name/s to **Carys Williams** as soon as possible. It promises to be a most memorable day.

**SERVING of REFRESHMENTS at our MONTHLY MEETINGS.** We are most grateful for all the help given by members at our monthly meetings. However, we need offers to serve at our March, April and May meetings. Please let me know if you are prepared to help in order that I can finalise the rota list.

### **SOCIETY NEWS**

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death, after a prolonged illness, of **Phil Lowe**. **Phil** enjoyed attending our monthly meetings and events and our annual visits to Wales. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family. She will be sadly missed by all who had the good fortune to know her. Her funeral was held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

- A number of members have been unwell over the holiday period. We wish them all a speedy recovery and better health during 2016.

**Cofion Cynnes,**  
*Mair Thomas*



## Meeting and Activities Report January 2015

# "NOSON LAWEN"

*An evening of entertainment from the membership and their friends*



President, Shirley Moody



Founder Member, Jean Davies



Secretary, Mair Thomas

At the January meeting the Chelmsford and District Welsh Society held a Noson Lawen, a tradition where the members provide the entertainment. Children in Wales are weaned from an early age to compete at Eisteddfodau, and so the President, Shirley Moody, had an easy task in finding volunteers to take part. Founder member, Jean Davies, read several amusing tales featuring Christmas and the New Year. Carys and Arthur Williams sang several folk songs, to Arthur's guitar accompaniment. Mair Thomas told an amusing tale of God describing a wonderful country he was preparing for the Welsh; when the Archangel Gabriel wondered why he was so generous, he was told to just wait to see who he was giving them as neighbours! Eddie Alcock unravelled the intricacies faced by learners of the Welsh language, and how a little Wenglish could help. Buddug Rowland Frank played harp arrangements by Meinir Heulyn, and several traditional Welsh airs. Brian Thomas told two stories, the first a sad love story and the second an hilarious rugby version of Cinderella, featuring Society members. A popular first for the Society was the ukulele duo of Gwenno Llwyd and Brian Farmer. Jim Armishaw read a poem Aelwyd Nain (Grandmother's Hearth) which he had written for an eisteddfod in 1953. Welsh symbols described by Val Allen included the majestic red kite, at one time protected by capital punishment and then treated as vermin to near extinction, before a recent welcome resurrection. Welsh saints and sinners were Liz Armishaw's subjects; Saint Melangell and Saint Silyn, saviours of a hare and a stag; and the pirates, Hari (Henry) Morgan who became governor of Jamaica, and Bartholomew Roberts (Black Bart) who captured 400 ships. Communal singing included the much loved My Little Welsh Home and Ar Hyd Y Nos. The Black Sheep Choir of Society members and their friends, formed specially for the Noson Lawen by Derrick Thomas and led by John Taylor, sang five songs, at various times, beginning with a great favourite I Bob Un Sy'n Ffyddlon, and the haunting Fields of Athenry. They followed with Working Man, a sad mining song, and the sailing song Sloop John B. The evening ended with the choir, suitably attired, singing the Gendarmes Duet to thunderous applause. Arthur, the Vice-president congratulated and thanked everybody who had taken part, and especially those in the choir who were not members of the Society for the time they had spent rehearsing.

*Jim Armishaw*





Carys & Arthur Williams



Ukulele duet, Brian Farmer and Gwenno Pope



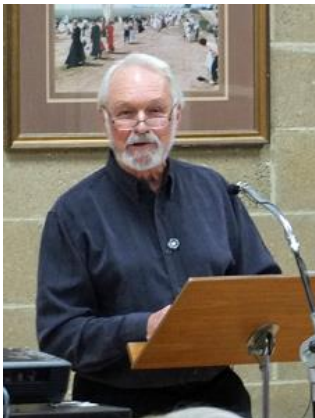
Eddie Alcock



Buddug Rowland Frank



Brian Thomas



Jim Armishaw



Val Allan



Liz Armishaw



Black Sheep Choir Leader Derrick Thomas and Soloist Gareth Williams



Guitarists John Taylor and Arthur Williams accompany the Black Sheep Choir



The Black Sheep Choir

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS CHWEFROR 2016

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

Our President, **Shirley Moody**, wishes to thank all those members who volunteered to perform at our annual **Noson Lawen**, held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The evening was a huge success and much enjoyed by all present. We extend a special thank you to **Derrick Thomas** for organising the **Black Sheep Choir**. The choir stole the show with their exceptional presentation and they certainly deserved the enthusiastic applause given by the audience.

Details of the next monthly meeting . **NOTE** . the earlier date, are listed below, together with other events:

### CHELMSFORD PREMIERE of the WELSH FILM

#### *'HEDD WYN'*

**Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016 – 7pm for a 7.30pm start at the Cathedral Chapter House**

'**Hedd Wyn**' is an anti-war film based on the life of **Ellis Evans** (1887-1917), a Welsh language poet who was killed during the Battle of Passchendaele in World War 1. Ellis left school at the age of 14 and worked as a shepherd on his father's farm, near Trawsfynydd. He was posthumously awarded the bardic chair at the 1917 National Eisteddfod of Wales. Hedd Wyn (Blessed Peace) was the bardic name of Ellis. The film won the Royal Television Society's Award for Best Drama and a BAFTA Cymru Awards in many categories and was the first Welsh film nominated for an Academy Award. I feel sure that you will enjoy this moving film which will have English sub-titles. I look forward to seeing you at this premiere performance!

Refreshments and raffle . **Kay Bright, Pauline Lewins and Marian Farmer**

**St. VALENTINE'S CHARITY COFFEE MORNING on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 10.30am.** We are indebted to **Buddug** and **Ray Rowland Frank** for generously hosting this event once again at . 40 Ingrebourne Gardens, Upminster RM14 1BN. Telephone . 01708 222691.

Come along with your family and friends and don't forget to bring a raffle prize. I look forward to seeing you there!

**WELSH CLASSES.** The next classes will be held on **Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016** at **Radley Green Farm** at 2pm.

**St DAVIDS DAY DINNER, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at the County Hotel at 7pm.** Tickets costing **£35** for this annual event are available from **Cynthia Styles** on 01245-469713 or **David Brown** on 01245-465052 - or at our February monthly meeting. Cheques should be payable to Chelmsford and District Welsh Society. There is a vegetarian option available and if you require this, or you have any other dietary requirements, then please inform **Cynthia Styles**. The **Mayor of Chelmsford** will be attending the dinner. I hope that you will be able to come to this most important function - tasty food, excellent company and the angelic sound of the harp!

**St. DAVID'S DAY SERVICE, Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 3.30pm.** We shall be visiting Little Baddow URC as we have done for many years for this special service. I hope that many of you will make an effort to join us. I am so pleased to inform you that the **Rev. Dr. Cally Hammond** will be taking the service. **Cally** makes a big effort to travel from Cambridge to visit us at this time of the year as a tribute to her late mother, **Betty**, who was a most loyal member and officer of our society for so many, many years. Tea will be served after the service and lifts can be arranged for any member without transport. Give me a ring on 01245-269845 if you require a lift.

**VISIT TO CAERNARFON - May 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 2016.** Thanks to all those members who have already made the final payment. **Carys Williams** would be most grateful to receive the final payment before the end of **February 2016**. The final amount due, after deducting your deposit, is **£220** per person for those sharing a room and **£245** those in a single room. Cheques payable to the Chelmsford and District Welsh Society should be given to **Carys Williams** or sent to her home address . **3 Engelfields, South St. Tillingham CM0 7AT.**

**VISIT TO NORWICH on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016.** A coach has been booked for this visit to the **Norwich Welsh Society** to join them for their April monthly meeting. It is intended to make this a full day outing. The cost of the coach is £20 per person and it will leave Radley Green Farm on the Saturday morning. This will enable you to park your car at the farm. If you would like to join fellow society members on this trip please give your name/s to **Carys Williams** as soon as possible. Further details will be given in the next newsletter.

**MIKE'S MUSICAL MISCELLANY.** The date of this event has been changed from Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March to **Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm.** The original date clashed with Easter Saturday. The event will be hosted by **Shirley and Don Moody** at Radley Green Farm. Further information will be listed in the March Newsletter.

### SOCIETY NEWS

- We have **98** paid up members . can we make it **100!**
- **LLONGYFARCHIADAU- Congratulations** to **Marie and Eddie Alcock** who celebrate their **Diamond (60<sup>th</sup>) Wedding Anniversary** on **February 11<sup>th</sup> 2016.**

**Cofion Cynnes,**  
*Mair Thomas*

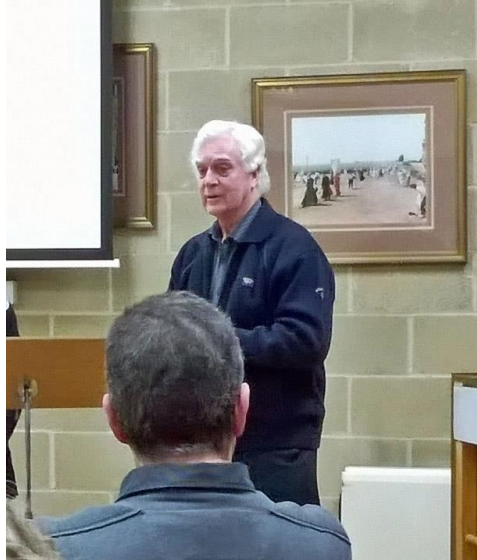


## Meeting and Activities Report February 2016

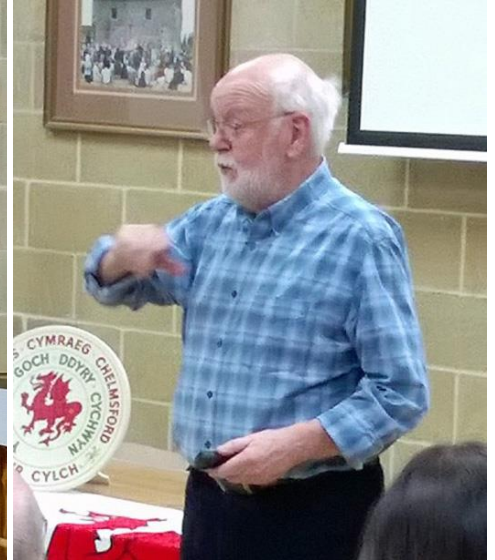
### "FILM NIGHT" The BAFTA nominated film "HEDD WYN" *with Mike Price*



President, Shirley Moody  
Copyright © Gwenno Pope



Vice President, Arthur Williams  
Copyright © Gwenno Pope



Mike Price  
Copyright © Gwenno Pope

The anti-war biopic *Hedd Wyn* (Blessed Peace), which won the 1993 Royal TV Society's Award for Best Single Drama and was the first British motion picture nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards, was the subject of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society's February monthly meeting. It told the story of the poet Ellis Evans, whose bardic name was Hedd Wyn, the eldest of 14 children of a Snowdonia hill farmer in Trawsfynydd. A Christian pacifist, he did not initially enlist for WW1 feeling he could never kill anyone, but in June 1917 he chose to join the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in place of a younger brother. He was a prodigious poet and won many chairs at Eisteddfodau. The pinnacle of his achievement was winning the chair at the National Eisteddfod of Wales in Birkenhead in September 1917 with his ode *Yr Arwr* (The Hero), submitted under the pseudonym *Fleur de Lys*. The poem contained two principal characters, *Merched y Drycinoedd* (Daughters of the Tempests), symbols of the beauty of nature, love and creativity, and *Yr Arwr*, a symbol of goodness, fairness, freedom and justice. The adjudicators announced the winner, and the trumpets sounded to call *Fleur de Lis* to receive the chair. But *Hedd Wyn* was already dead, killed at the battle of Passchendaele 17 days earlier. The chair was draped in a black sheet, the festival in tears and the poet in his grave. The festival is now referred to as *Eisteddfod y Gadair Ddu*, the Eisteddfod of the Black Chair. At the conclusion, Arthur Williams, the Vice-president, recited the very moving poem penned as a tribute to *Hedd Wyn*'s memory by Robert Parry.

*Jim Armishaw*

# St David's Day Celebrations 2016

## "St David's Day Dinner" County Hotel, Chelmsford



The "Daffodil Girls"



The Mayor and Councillor Jean Murray receive their daffodils



Bethan Semmens



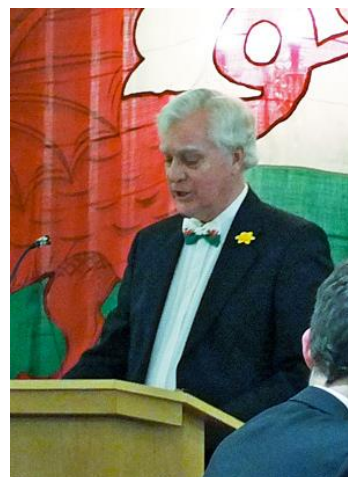
Tables laid for dinner in the Ballroom



Mayor with Buddug Rowland Frank



President, Shirley Moody



Vice President, Arthur Williams



Chelmsford and District Welsh Society celebrated the life of their patron saint, Dewi Sant, with a splendid dinner at the County Hotel, graced by the presence of the Mayor of Chelmsford, Cllr Paul Hutchinson and his escort, and a service of thanksgiving at Little Baddow URC. The dining room was beautifully arranged under the direction of the Dinner organisers Cynthia Styles and David Brown, under the regal gaze of Y Ddraig Goch, the Welsh national banner. Innovative leek and daffodil table arrangements were provided by the President, Shirley Moody. Bethan Semmens, a talented harpist, provided nostalgic musical entertainment. The loyal toast to The Queen was proposed by Shirley, and the toast to Dewi Sant by Arthur Williams, the Vice-president. Arthur's researches had yielded interesting facts about Dewi: he was responsible for instituting twelve monasteries, most of which were in what is now England; he was known as the waterer because he stood immersed in cold water for hours as a penance, so this love of water did not mean that he was teetotal. The diners were relieved. Shirley introduced the Guest of Honour, Dr Alan Rees, a Cardiff consultant and Vice-president of the Royal College of Physicians of London, with forty years of clinical practice and research into juvenile onset Type 1 diabetes. His was a superb speech. First mentioned on papyrus in Egypt 3550 years ago it was still a major killer until the early 1900s. Elizabeth, the young daughter of a rich American politician was at death's door when she was one of the first children to be given insulin. Discharged four months later she lived to the age of 73, having had about 73000 injections. Records at the American Library of Congress showed that she had Welsh ancestry. Dr Rees instituted a medal awarded to those on insulin for 50 years. He proposed a toast to The Society. In response, Shirley delivered an impressive poetic ode to the leek, and proposed a toast to Our Guests. In response, the Mayor congratulated Dr Rees on his brilliant speech, and recalled how much he had enjoyed attending the Society's annual concerts in 2012 and 2015. His Welsh connections were two sisters living in south Wales and as an 11 year old schoolboy being placed in St David's House. Communal singing to the accompaniment of the harp was followed by a harp recital, before Brian Thomas, the MC, declared the dinner over. The members were delighted that the Rev Dr Cally Hammond was well enough to officiate at the church service once again, after an absence of a year. As always Cally gave a thought provoking sermon. The lessons were read by Shirley Moody in Welsh and by Arthur Williams in English. Brian Thomas led the dedication of the last hymn, Seintiau Cymru, to Ron Maskell and Phil Lowe, members who had died during the last year. Keith Byatt was the organist.

*Jim Armishaw*



M.C Brian Thomas



Guest of Honour Dr Alan Rees



The Mayor of Chelmsford





A break in proceedings  
for the raffle



The Raffle Table



Bethan Semmens



Bethan Semmens



National Emblems the  
Leek & Daffodil

## ST DAVID'S DAY SERVICE at LITTLE BADDOW URC 28-02-2016



URC Chapel, Little Baddow

## MARCH NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS MAWRTH 2016

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

The past week has been particularly busy for our society. We celebrated the life of our patron saint- **David**, with a dinner and a church service. The dinner was held as usual at the County Hotel, Chelmsford and it was attended by over 80 members and friends who enjoyed a fine meal, interesting speeches and excellent entertainment. We thank **Cynthia Styles** and **David Brown** for organising such a successful event; **Shirley Moody**, our President, for providing appropriate table arrangements and for her impressive poetic speech; and **Brian Thomas** for being MC for the evening. We were honoured once again by the attendance of the Mayor of Chelmsford, **Councillor Paul Hutchinson** and his escort for the evening, **Councillor Jean Murray**. Members were delighted that the **Revd. Dr. Cally Hammond** was able to officiate once again at our delightful and well attended service held at Little Baddow URC. Details of the next monthly meeting and other events are listed below:

### **'THE WORLD'S GREATEST CONSULTING DETECTIVE' (SHERLOCK HOLMES)**

**A presentation by David Jones**

**On Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.**

One of our newer members, **David Jones**, is presenting this talk. **David** hails from Wrexham and it was when he attended Grove Park Grammar School for Boys that he first became interested in Sherlock Holmes. He trained as a teacher at Bangor Normal College and he taught in a number of schools including the deputy headship of a Junior school in Colchester. His presentation will be in two parts thus ensuring that you will have time for interval refreshments. **David** was first appointed membership secretary of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 2009 and the society has nearly 1500 members worldwide. He has spoken at numerous Sherlock Holmes events including presentations at the House of Commons and Trinity College, Oxford. Please come along for what promises to be a most fascinating and informative evening.

Refreshments and raffle . **Carys Williams, Anja Welsh-Smyth and Yvonne Blackwood.**

**St. VALENTINE'S FUND RAISING/ CHARITY COFFEE MORNING on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 10.30am.** We extend our warmest thanks to **Buddug** and **Ray Rowland Frank** for hosting this event for the third year running at their delightful home. It was well attended and **£267** was raised. Many thanks to those who attended or who made a donation / provided raffle prizes.

**WELSH CLASSES.** The next classes will be held on **Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.2016 at Radley Green Farm at 2pm.**

**MIKE'S MUSICAL MISCELLANY (An Evening of Mirth, Music and Mayhem)** will be held on **Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.00pm at Radley Green Farm.** Our President, **Shirley Moody**, invites you and your friends to another musical evening with supper and wine at her delightful home. Those of you who have attended before will know what an interesting, entertaining and enjoyable evening it always is . so please ring **Shirley** on **01245-248178** as soon as possible to reserve your place! Inclusive cost **£15.**

**ANNUAL CONCERT at CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL on SATURDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016.** The concert will be given by the world famous **Côr Godre'r Aran** and guest soloists **Aled Wyn Davies (tenor)** and **Steffan Lloyd Owen (baritone).** Tickets priced at **£16** are now available from **Arthur Williams** on **01621 778711.** We have **500 tickets** to sell for this most popular event. It will require a **big effort** by all our members to ensure that we have another full house. The concert has not as yet been advertised to the general public, thus ensuring that our members have the first opportunity to purchase tickets. **Don't leave it too late or you may be disappointed!**

**VISIT TO CAERNARFON - May 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 2016.** All payments should have been made to **Carys Williams**. If you have not paid, please send a cheque payable to the Chelmsford and District Welsh Society to **Carys Williams** at her home address . **3 Engelfields, South St. Tillingham CM0 7AT.** We will be leaving Radley Green Farm at 8.30am prompt and your cars can be left at the farm, courtesy of **Don** and **Shirley Moody.**

**VISIT TO NORWICH on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016.** There is still room on the coach for this visit . contact **Carys Williams** on **01621 778711** if you would like to join us on this trip. The coach will leave Radley Green Farm at 10am.

### **SOCIETY NEWS**

- **Ron Jones** has resigned from the committee due to ill health. **Ron** was first appointed to the committee in 1992 and was President for 1999-2000. We thank **Ron** for his loyal service and his good humour. The good news is that he will still draw the raffle! The committee has proposed that he be made an honorary vice-president of the society in appreciation of his dedicated service.
- I send best wishes to all those members who have been unwell and hope that they will soon be well enough to join us again at our meetings and events. We do miss you!

**Cofion Cynnes,  
Mair Thomas**

## **"THE WORLD'S GREATEST CONSULTING DETECTIVE"**

**(Sherlock Holmes)  
with David Jones**



President Shirley Moody



David Jones

President Shirley Moody welcomed everyone to the March meeting in particular new members and the evening's speaker David Jones whose home town is Wreccsam. Shirley outlined recent events which included the most enjoyable St David's Day celebrations and the fund raising evening organised by Mike Price, "Mike's Musical Miscellany" which raised £700.

David Jones, a retired headmaster, and member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London was then invited to take the floor. David outlined the life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle from his birth in Edinburgh in 1859, through his education to becoming a medical doctor. Unfortunately his skills as a doctor did not fully occupy his time and during spare time in his surgery began writing. Efforts to publish his stories were unsuccessful until his first Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson story was serialised in the Strand Magazine in 1891. Fifty six stories and four novels followed, which earned him considerable sums of money. By 1893 he had wearied of the Holmes and Watson stories and "killed off" Holmes during a struggle with his arch enemy Moriarty at the Reichenbach Falls featured in the book "The Final Problem". However by 1903 Sherlock Holmes was resuscitated to bolster the author's dwindling funds. David also outlined the author's private life with his love of sport and laudanum. His political and religious views were discussed and his attraction to spiritualism and the occult. Doyle died in 1931 aged 71 at his home in Crowborough, West Sussex.

The Swiss Tourist board and the Sherlock Holmes Society regularly sponsor a re-enactment of the struggle between Sherlock Holmes and the evil professor Moriarty at the Reichenbach Falls, near Meiringen. In 2012 David was fortunate enough to be chosen to play the part of Sherlock Holmes in this re-enactment.

During the second half of the evening the Sherlock Holmes film "Musgrove Ritual", chosen for its loose Welsh connection, was shown. At the end of the evening Vice-President Arthur Williams thanked David for his most enjoyable talk and presented him with a Society Goblet.





David Jones



David Jones & Arthur Williams



The artist Sidney Paget's depiction of the fight at Reichenbach Falls where both fall to their "deaths"  
 Sidney Paget illustrated many of the Sherlock Holmes stories giving rise to the later dress code  
 of the detective in films and TV.



A picture from the 2012 re-enactment staged at the Reichenbach Falls featuring  
 David Jones as Sherlock Holmes

## APRIL NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS EBRILL 2016

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we only have two monthly meetings left before we come to the end of the society year. The year has flown by and we have had a most enjoyable series of events. However, we still have several interesting meetings, events and visits for you to enjoy. I should like to thank all those members who supported the recent events. **45** members and friends attended **'Mike's Marvellous Music Miscellany'** held on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at Radley Green Farm. If you haven't attended one of **Mike's** musical evenings you have missed a real treat. We owe many thanks to **Mike** for his presentation and to **Shirley Moody** and her helpers for providing an excellent supper. The sum of **£575** was raised for our fund raising/charity account. At our March monthly meeting, **David Jones** provided members with a most interesting, well researched and enjoyable presentation on Sherlock Holmes. It is with regret that we have had to change the planned programme for our April monthly meeting - details of the change is listed below:

### **'SONG CYCLE'**

**on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.**

We have been most fortunate to obtain the services of **'Song Cycle'** for this meeting. The quintet of male singers derived their name from a sponsored cycle ride they made when journeying from church to church on bicycles. Since its inception in 1996, the group has raised over £30000 for charities. They present a wide range of music ranging from church music to music by popular composers such as Lennon and McCartney. The group has sung at Exeter, Wells, Truro, Salisbury, Guildford, Worcester and Salisbury cathedrals and the abbeys of Bath and Sherborne. They have broadcast on local radio stations and have also appeared on the BBC's Songs of Praise with Aled Jones. It looks as though we are in for a most entertaining evening so please come along and bring your friends with you.

. Refreshments and raffle . **Diane Moule, Elsie Salmon and Kay Bright.**

**WELSH CLASSES.** The next classes will be held on **Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** at Radley Green Farm at 2pm.

**ANNUAL CONCERT at CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL on SATURDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016.** The concert will be given by the world famous **Côr Godre'r Aran** and guest soloists **Aled Wyn Davies (tenor)** and **Steffan Lloyd Owen (baritone)**. Tickets priced at **£16** are now available from **Arthur Williams** on **01621 778711**. We have **500 tickets** to sell for this most popular event. I repeat what I wrote in the March Newsletter - **a big effort is required by all our members** to ensure that we have another full house and a profit making concert. Please purchase your tickets as soon as possible. Encourage your family and friends to come to this outstanding concert. They can be sure of the very best of Welsh choral singing and two outstanding soloists. **Don't leave it too late or you may be disappointed!**

**VISIT TO CAERNARFON - May 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 2016.** We are on countdown for this annual visit to Wales. Please ensure that you arrive at Radley Green Farm by 8.15am as we want to leave promptly at 8.30am for our long journey to North Wales. Should you have a problem on the way to Radley Green then please ring **Shirley Moody 07836748621** or **Carys Williams 07857526087**. We will be staying at the **Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon** telephone: **01268 674477**. The hotel has complimentary wireless access. Hotel guests have the free use of the leisure centre and swimming pool . so bring your swimming costume if you want a swim! Could you ensure that you put your name on your case/s to assist the hotel staff. On the Tuesday we will be visiting **Electric Mountain** where we have a conducted tour of the site. Please be sure that you wear flat sensible shoes . no sandals, open toes or heels!

**VISIT TO NORWICH on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016.** Parking arrangements as usual. The coach will leave Radley Green Farm at **10am**.

**ADVANCE NOTICE** **Carys** and **Arthur Williams** will be hosting a coffee morning at their home in Tillingham on **Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 2016** at 10.30am. More details in the May Newsletter.

**MAY 28<sup>th</sup> – ANY QUESTIONS?** If you have any questions that you would like to ask our distinguished panel of experts at our May monthly meeting then please put them in writing and give them to **Shirley Moody** at the next monthly meeting.

**NEW SECRETARY** I am pleased to inform you that **Gwenno Pope** is to replace me as secretary at the June AGM. Most of you will be aware that she has been a member of the Society for the past 2 years. She hails from Caernarfon and is a fluent Welsh speaker. **Gwenno** has attended committee meetings since November 2015 and is already actively involved in society affairs. She will be writing and distributing the May and June Newsletters. I have had the honour of being secretary for 24 years and I have very much enjoyed the experience of working for such an active and friendly society. **Brian** joined me as assistant secretary when the digital age took over and he has made an enormous contribution to the running of the society. I have enjoyed telling him what to do! I give a very big thank you to all our members for the tremendous support given to me over the years. It has been my privilege to assist our hard working committee members and those who have undertaken the role of society president so effectively for the past 24 years. **Brian** and I look forward to continuing for many years as loyal members of the Chelmsford and District Welsh Society.

**Cofion Cynnes,  
Mair Thomas**



## Meeting and Activities Report April 2016

Several members of the Chelmsford and District Welsh Society spent a memorable day trip to Norwich recently, to visit the Norwich Welsh Society. Following a guided tour they were treated to an excellent meal, followed by a traditional Noson Lawen with both societies providing the entertainment. The entertainment at the 28 April monthly meeting was provided by Song Cycle, the very talented all singing all cycling male voice quartet, who have cycled 687 miles, visited 663 churches, sung 316 motets and raised over £36000 for the Friends of Essex Churches Trust. Their programme ranged from Bach to the Beatles and everything in between, including The Owl and the Pussycat, Postman Pat and I'm a Train. The audience enjoyed the evening immensely, and a return visit will be eagerly awaited. During May, there will be a visit to Caernarfon on 8th-11th and a fund raising/charity coffee morning hosted by Carys and Arthur Williams on 18th. Any Questions will be the theme at the monthly meeting on the 26th.

*Jim Armishaw*

### Visit to Norwich Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April



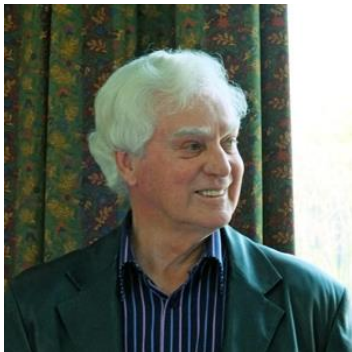
The Forum



City Hall



St Peter Mancroft Church



Arthur Williams



Buddug



Jim Armishaw



The Cycle Song+



Jim, Arthur & Mike



Shirley Welsh



Anne Cole



Barbara Roberts





Ceinwen



Gareth Phillips



Jan Pulfer



Mary Edwards



Shirley & Barbara



Shirley & Ceinwen

## "SongCycle"



President Shirley Moody



Brian Lynn



Richard Baker



Nick Rayner



Sam Adams



Sam Adams and Vice President Arthur Williams



SongCycle



## MAY NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS MAI 2016

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

Another busy month of events for our society. Quite a few members enjoyed a memorable day trip to Norwich recently, and met up with the Norwich Welsh Society who gave us a very warm welcome. Both societies provided some entertainment and a good time was had by all. A special thank you to **Arthur Williams** for arranging the programme for this visit.

We enjoyed being entertained by Song Cycle at our April monthly meeting. A very talented male voice quartet from Brentwood. They presented us with a wide range of music from Bach to the Beatles and had plenty of fun along the way. Many thanks to **Mike Price** for arranging the evening.

### *'ANY QUESTIONS'*

**on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.**

If you have any questions that you would like to ask our distinguished panel of experts at our May monthly meeting, then please pass them on to **Shirley Moody** ASAP.

Refreshments and raffle . **Liz Armishaw, Ivy Price and Buddug Rowland Frank**

**WELSH CLASSES.** The next classes will be held on **Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May at Radley Green Farm at 2pm.**

**ANNUAL CONCERT at CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL on SATURDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016 at 7.30pm .** The concert will be given by the world famous **Côr Godre'r Aran** and guest soloists **Aled Wyn Davies (tenor) and Steffan Lloyd Owen (baritone)**. Tickets priced at **£16** are now available from **Arthur Williams** on **01621 778711**. We have **500 tickets** to sell for this most popular event. **A big effort is required by all our members** to ensure that we have another full house and a profit making concert. Purchase your tickets as soon as possible. Encourage your family and friends to come to this outstanding concert. They can be sure of the very best of Welsh choral singing and two outstanding soloists. **The future of our annual concerts are in the hands of our members, so please can all members make every effort to sell at least 2 tickets each.**

**VISIT TO CAERNARFON - May 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 2016.** Please ensure that you arrive at Radley Green Farm by **8.15am** as we want to leave promptly at 8.30am for our long journey to North Wales. Should you have a problem on the way to Radley Green then please ring **Shirley Moody 07836748621** or **Carys Williams 07857526087**. Please note that the **correct telephone number** for the **Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon** is **01286 674477**. The hotel has complimentary wireless access. Hotel guests have the free use of the leisure centre and swimming pool . so bring your swimming costume if you want a swim! Could you ensure that you put your name on your case/s to assist the hotel staff. On the Tuesday we will be visiting Electric Mountain where we have conducted a tour of the site. Please be sure that you wear flat sensible shoes . no sandals, open toes or heels!

**SUMMER SERVICE, Little Baddow URC on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 10.30am.** We shall be returning to Little Baddow URC for this special service. I hope that many of you will make an effort to join us. Refreshments will be served after the service and lifts can be arranged for any members without transport.

**MORNING COFFEE IN THE COUNTRY on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 10.30am** hosted by **Carys** and **Arthur Williams** at their home .

3 Engelfields, South Street, Tillingham. CM0 7AT. Telephone -01621 778711. Raffle prizes will be most appreciated.

**DATE FOR THE DIARY-JUNE 25<sup>th</sup>-Summer Garden Party** at Radley Green Farm from 2pm. Come along with your family and friends.

### **SOCIETY NEWS**

- **Cynthia and John Styles** have both been in hospital in recent weeks. I am delighted that both are now home and we wish them a speedy recovery to improved health.
- Congratulations to **Glenys Freeman** who will be celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this month.
- **Marion and Brian Farmer** recently celebrated special birthdays with a fantastic party which raised around £800 for the Parkinson Society.

**Cofion Cynnes,**  
*Gwenno Pope*



## Meeting and Activities Report May 2016

### Visit to Caernarfon 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May

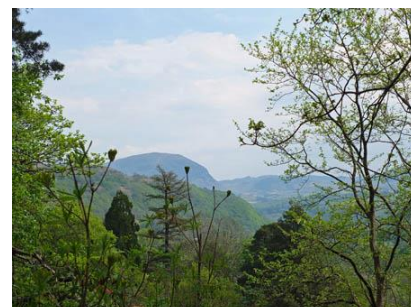
The Celtic Royal Hotel in Caernarfon was this year's base for the traditional May pilgrimage for members and friends of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society to the Land Of Our Fathers. Three days of interesting visits, excellent dinners and evenings of superb entertainment were enjoyed by all. A few even swam and visited the Gym! The visits were to: Plas Tan Y Bwlch House and Gardens in Maentwrog; the Lloyd George Museum in Llanystumdwy; an underground tour of the unique pump storage Dinorwig Power Station in Llanberis (The Electric Mountain) which is used to control the National Grid; the impressive Caernarfon Castle, built by the Normans to subdue the rebellious Welsh and now celebrated as a Welsh national treasure; and an exhibition, lecture and short film about the famous poet Hedd Wyn and the Black Chair, which was the subject of the Society's February meeting. Entertainment on the first evening was provided by Hogiau Bonc male group with a love of singing in harmony (and beer!), on the second evening by Cor Cyfnod, a superb ladies choir, and some young instrumentalists, and on the third evening by harp and fiddle duo Ann Hopcyn and Bil Efans, with the members joining in with some singing. This always happens! On the coach during the return journey, the President, Shirley Moody, thanked Carys Williams who looked after the cash and liaised with the hotel, Gwenno Pope who arranged the local visits and excellent evening entertainment, Brian Thomas who produced the informative brochure, and Trevor our careful and courteous coach driver.



Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon



Arriving at Plas Tan Y Bwlch



View Plas Tan Y Bwlch



Shirley with Hogiau Bonc



Cycling with Hogiau Bonc



Lloyd George Museum



Three wise Men at Llanystumdwy



Shirley with Cor Cyfnod



Cor Cyfnod





Brother & Sister duet



Preparing for the Electric Mountain



The height of fashion



Mike and Ivy on the slippery slope



Waiting for the Castle tour



Ann Hopcyn and Bil Efans

## May meeting - "ANY QUESTIONS"



The panel with Chairperson Shirley Moody



L to R Judith Wooley, Ray Rowland Frank & Val Allen



Brian Farmer & Paul Meyer



Any Questions?, with a non-political flavour, was to be the theme at the lively May meeting of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society, chaired by the President, Shirley Moody, with a panel comprising Brian Farmer, Paul Meyer and Val Allen, who were all born in Wales, and Ray Rowland Frank and Judith Woolley who were born in England. On the whole, the audience and panel were in broad agreement.

Should the government provide more financial support for charitable organisations? . well, yes, much more, was the general feeling. Which pose would you assume as a sculpture? . Shirley would like to be The Thinker. Which BBC programmes would you scrap and which would you expand? . considerable disagreement here, the men would reduce those involving cooking, East Enders, antiques and most knockout competitions, and enjoy those involving wild life and sport. There was general agreement that inconsiderate use of mobile phones is a curse, but can also be useful when used sensibly. Most of the audience had enjoyed Shakespeare at school: it appears that teachers of English in Welsh schools in the 1950s had done a good job! Unsurprisingly, almost everybody agreed that the only lie which was acceptable was a white lie. Finally, a lady from the south asked a highly charged political question: are men from south Wales more loquacious than those from north Wales? Her husband looked amazed! The general feeling was that it depended more on who was their spouse. The meeting had begun with wine, provided by Shirley, and ended with tea and biscuits. The panel were thanked and rewarded by Shirley for delivering a splendid evening.

*Jim Armishaw*



Raffle with Brian Farmer



The "Knee Tremors" with Ivy Price on piano



The Cycle Song (once again!!!)



Arthur Williams presents  
Brian Farmer with a "liquid" gift



## JUNE NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS MEHEFIN 2016

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

This is the last newsletter of the society's year until our new programme starts in September. Our first meeting in September will be on **Thursday 22nd September 2016**, so please don't forget to put this date in your diaries. We will have another exciting and varied programme lined up for the year, so we look forward to seeing you at our monthly events.

This was another busy month of events for our society. We enjoyed a fantastic and memorable trip to Caernarfon, and were so lucky to have good weather. The photos of the trip are on the society's website. A special thank you to all involved with the arrangements.

We had another successful evening with plenty of fun and humour at our May monthly meeting of Any Questions.

We also enjoyed a very pleasant summer service at Little Baddow URC on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, and received a warm welcome by the church.

Details of the next monthly meeting and other events are listed below:

### *'ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*

**Thursday, June 23rd 2016 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.**

In the first half of the meeting the President, Secretary and the Treasurer will deliver their report on the society's year, and the election of officers will be confirmed. In the second half, a presentation will be given by one of our members, Beth Schuler.

Refreshments . **Catering committee**

Raffle prizes-**Brian Farmer, David Brown, Edith Brown, Mike Price and Gwenno Pope**

**WELSH CLASSES** - Classes will be held on **Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June** at **Radley Green Farm** at **2pm**.

**ANNUAL CONCERT at CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL on SATURDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016 at 7.30pm** . The concert will be given by the world famous **Côr Godre'r Aran** and guest soloists **Aled Wyn Davies (tenor)** and **Steffan Lloyd Owen (baritone)**. Tickets priced at **£16** are available from **Arthur Williams** on **01621 778711**. **THERE ARE TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR THIS EVENT, AND CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE DOOR**. A special Thank you to **Arthur and Carys Williams** for all their hard work involved in organizing this annual event.

**COFFEE MORNING IN THE COUNTRY** on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Many thanks to **Arthur and Carys Williams** for hosting this event at their delightful home. It was well attended and £321 was raised for our fund raising/charity account. Many thanks to those who attended or who made a donation/provided raffle prices.

**SUMMER GARDEN PARTY**- on **Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> 2016** at Radley Green Farm from **2pm**. Address is Radley Green Farm, Radley Green CM4 0LU. Come along with your family and friends. All parents must be aware that they are responsible for their own children at the party, and that there are two deep ponds at Radley Green Farm. Please remember to bring your deckchairs along to the party. Any food donation for the refreshments will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Edith Brown on 01245 465052 if you are prepared to bring some refreshments.

### **SOCIETY NEWS**

- As previously announced, **Mair and Brian Thomas** are stepping down from the society's committee after 24 years of dedication and hard work. They have both played an integral role in running the society. We would like to say a very big **THANK YOU** to both, on behalf of the committee and all of our society members, and we hope that you will enjoy your free time. **DIOLCH YN FAWR IAWN**.
- We would also like to say Thank you to **Shirley Moody**, who has been president for this past year; we have had an enjoyable programme of events under her Presidency.
- We wish James Salmon a speedy recovery after his recent operation.
- Best wishes to all those members who have been unwell. We hope that they will soon be well enough to join us again at our next meeting and events.

**Cofion Cynnes,**  
*Gwenno Pope*

Meeting and Activities Report May 2016  
**The 2016 Choir Concert**  
with the **Cor Godre'r Aran**

Aled Wyn Davies (tenor)  
Steffan Lloyd Owen (baritone)



The near capacity audience at Chelmsford Cathedral on 11 June were treated to a veritable feast of music, delivered by the sublime world famous Cor Godre'r Aran male voice choir and soloists, tenor Aled Wyn Davies and baritone Steffan Lloyd Owen. They were warmly welcomed by Shirley Moody, President of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society. In her Civic Welcome at the commencement of the second half, the Mayor of Chelmsford Cllr. Patricia Hughes congratulated the choir and soloists on truly wonderful performances. Under the direction of their Musical Director, Eirian Owen, who both conducts and accompanies them on the piano, the choir produces a unique sound, always a perfect interpretation: soothing, gentle, powerful, exciting and spine tingling, and always as one and with perfect breath control. Their programme commenced with a rousing Bryn Myrddin, followed by Mikailikov's Blagoslovi, Eric Jones's Salm 23, The Pasture by Randall Thompson, Verdi's Evviva Bevviam, an emotional Y Tangnefeddwyr (The Peacemakers) by Eric Jones, Karl Jenkins's latest commission In Musico Modulamine and an exciting Iŷn Gonna Walk. After the interval they sang a gentle Eli Jenkins's Prayer a rousing Pilgerchor from Wagner's Tannhauser, Eirian's arrangements of Homeward Bound and the sublime Fields of Athenry, Anthem from Chess, the gentle, patriotic Gwinllan A Roddwyd Iŷn Gofal by Caradog Williams, and finished with Yn Y Man by Gareth Glyn. to thunderous applause. Aled's solos included some favourite Welsh melodies, a song by Tosti and an exciting Granada which thrilled the audience.

Steffan, at the age of 20 embarking on a career as a winner of the Kathleen Ferrier Bursary Award, sang songs by Schubert, Tosti and Welsh melodies. Aled and Steffan concluded their programme with Robat Arwyn's sublime duet Benedictus, followed by an exciting Y Ddau Wladgarwr (The Two Patriots). At the conclusion Shirley, congratulated Eirian, Aled, Steffan and the magnificent choir on a superb concert. The audience then joined the choir and soloists to sing our beloved Welsh National Anthem, Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau.



# "AGM" & Beth Schulter & Strawberries



President Shirley Moody hands over a cheque for £2500 part of the money raised during the fundraising year



2015 - 2016 President, Shirley Moody



Retiring Secretary Mair Thomas



Treasurer Carys Williams



Thanks to Mair Thomas and assistant Brian for the 24 years of diligent service.



Deirdre Pembroke from SNAP



Shirley hands over the presidency to Arthur Williams



The June meeting of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society was the last of the 2015/16 season. In her President's Report at the AGM, the outgoing President, Shirley Moody, paid tribute to four long term committee members who were retiring from their duties: Ron Jones, President in 1999/2000; four times President Cynthia Styles, who had arranged the splendid St David's Day Dinner for many years; Mair Thomas who was President twice and a superb Secretary for 24 years, assisted by her husband Brian, two times President, a meticulous and inspiring personality. In her Secretary's Report, Mair thanked Shirley for arranging such a fun year and for her generosity, together with her husband Don, in hosting so many events. She said that the Society was the most successful and flourishing in the diaspora, thanks to the dedication of the Committee, the support of the members and the range and quality of the events; in her letter, the Mayor of Chelmsford had praised, in glowing terms, the annual concert which she had attended recently. Mair had been concerned about finding someone to take over her duties, and was delighted when Gwenno Pope, highly talented and committed had volunteered and was already very involved. Carys Williams, in her Treasurer's Report, was pleased with the healthy financial situation. The Society had donated £2902 to various, mainly local, charities; in particular, a representative of SNAP, the President's charity which supports 2000 special needs children from 1700 families, was delighted to receive a cheque for £2500. Shirley then passed on the Presidency to Arthur Williams. He presented a bouquet of flowers from the Society to Mair, in recognition of her dedication; Shirley presented Gwenno with flowers. Ron, Cynthia, Mair and Brian were made Honorary Vice-presidents of the Society. Arthur said that it was a great honour to be elected President for the 2016/17 season. Brian Farmer was elected Vice-president, Gwenno elected Secretary, Carys elected treasurer and Eddie Alcock elected Auditor. Kay Bright and Sina Williams were elected to the committee. With the exception of those retiring, the remaining members were re-elected. After an intermission for strawberries and cream, and a chat, Society member and prolific science fiction author, Beth Schulter, gave an interesting account of the difficulties a writer has, at the beginning of a career, in finding a publisher; she now has a 6 year contract with American publisher William and Brown.

The first event of the new season was a charity garden party, hosted by Shirley and Don Moody, held in a relatively dry and sometimes sunny spot surrounded by an otherwise very wet Essex, raising £368 for the President's Charity, Essex Air Ambulance.

*Jim Armishaw*



Arthur Williams hands over the Vice Presidency  
to Brian Farmer



Beth Schulter