

Chelmsford & District Welsh Society
Cymdeithas Gymraeg Chelmsford a'r Cylch



THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY 2016 / 2017



President, Arthur Williams



Committee Members 2016 . 2017

President / Llywdd	<i>Arthur Williams</i>
Vice President / Is-lywydd	<i>Brian Farmer</i>
Honorary Vice Presidents	<i>Jean Davies, Janet Wash, Ron Jones, Eddie Alcock, Derrick Thomas, Brian Thomas, Mair Thomas, Cynthia Styles,</i>
Past President	<i>Shirley Moody</i>
Secretary / Yagrifennydd	<i>Gwenno Pope</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>Liz Armishaw Kay Bright</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>Edith Brown Maureen Byatt Enid Morris Kay Bright Buddug Rowland Frank</i>
Raffles	<i>Brian Farmer John Morris (co-opted)</i>
Church Services	<i>Shirley Moody</i>
Welsh Classes	<i>Sina Williams Ivy Price Mike Price</i>

MONTHLY MEETINGS and EVENTS 2016 – 2017

SEPTEMBER 22 nd	CROESO YN ÔL
OCTOBER 23 rd Church	HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE at St Michaels & All Angels
OCTOBER 27 th	An Evening with the Bartell Family
NOVEMBER 24 th	%KEEPSAKE+ Recorders & Piano
DECEMBER 15 th	P ARTI NADOLIGqChristmas Celebration
JANUARY 26 th	NOSON LAWEN
FEBRUARY 16 th	A Presentation by DEIAN HOPKIN
FEBRUARY 24 th (Friday 7pm)	ST. DAVID& DAY DINNER at the County Hotel, Chelmsford
FEBRUARY 26 th (Sunday 3.30pm)	ST. DAVID& DAY SERVICE at Little Baddow URC
MARCH 23 rd	"TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF LIFE AS A CRIMINAL BARRISTER" with Brian Reece
APRIL 27 th	%SONG CYCLE+ Male acapella quartet.- Bach to the Beatles
MAY 25 th	%AR EICH CAIS+ Your Choice with Mike Price
JUNE 4 th (Sunday 10.30am)	SUMMER SERVICE at Little Baddow URC
JUNE 10 th	ANNNUAL CONCERT with the %NORTH WALES MALE VOICE CHOIR+at Chelmsford Cathedral
JUNE 22 nd	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JUNE 24 th (Saturday 3.00pm)	SUMMER CELEBRATION at Radley Green Farm

FUND RAISING / CHARITY EVENTS

OCTOBER 26 th	FUND RAISING COFFEE MORNING Hosted by <i>Maureen & Keith Byatt</i>
DECEMBER 11 th (Sunday) at 3pm	CHRISTMAS TEA Hosted by <i>Liz & Jim Armishaw</i>
MARCH 11 th <i>Moody</i>	MIKES MUSICAL MISCELLANY with <i>Mike Price</i> , hosted by <i>Shirley & Don</i>
MAY 3 rd	LUNCH at the BROWNS Hosted by David & Edith Brown
JUNE 7 th	MORNING COFFEE IN THE COUNTRY Hosted by Carys & Arthur Williams

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 5th 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 Schulter.

Refreshments . **Catering committee**

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

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

ANNUAL CONCERT at CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL on SATURDAY, 11th 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, 18th 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 25th 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 JUNE 2016

AGM

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 Schalter, 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



Presentation of cheque to
Deirdre Pembroke of SNAP



Retiring Secretary Mair Thomas and Assistant
Secretary Brian Thomas, both awarded
Honorary Vice Presidents

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES REPORT JUNE 2016 (Continued)



Treasurer, Mrs Carys Williams,



New President, Arthur Williams



Arthur Williams bestows the Vice
Presidency
on Brian Farmer



Strawberry Supper



Society member and author,
Beth Schuler

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS MEDI 2016

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

I hope that you have all enjoyed the summer break, and ready for our new programme of exciting events for this coming year.

Please find below a list of the forthcoming society events.

'Croeso Yn Ôl

Thursday, 22nd September 2016 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Our Autumn programme commences with our usual **Croeso Yn Ôl** (Welcome Back meeting). It is a great opportunity to catch up on all the news with old and new friends and hopefully we will be able to welcome new members to the society. Our new President, **Arthur Williams**, will be there to welcome you and to inform you of the events and visits that have been arranged for the year. There will be Cheese and Wine organised by our catering committee. **Mike Price** will present the visual highlights from the Llangollen International

Eisteddfod and the National Eisteddfod. Please note that the **new annual subscription price is £17**, and **Carys Williams** will be there to receive your money or cheques. She will then give you the programme card which contains all information regarding the events for 2016-17. However, you can send your subscription to **Carys** at 3 Engelfields, South Street, 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 subscriptions before November 2016, or we will regretfully assume that you no longer wish to renew your membership.

We are looking for **volunteers to help** with the tea and refreshments in our monthly meetings. If you would like to help then please give your name to **Enid Morris**.

Refreshments . **Catering committee**

Raffle prizes-**Enid Morris, Brian Farmer, Sina Williams, Shirley Moody and Carys Williams**

WELSH CLASSES - Classes will be held on **Monday, 12th and 26th September 2016 at Radley Green Farm at 2pm**. All old and new students are welcome. If you speak Welsh why not join the group and get involved in the regular usage of the language. Please ask for more details, if you are interested in joining the Welsh classes.

CHARITY COFFEE MORNING WITH THE BYATT'S on **Wednesday, 12th October 2016 at 10.30am**.

Maureen and Keith Byatt invite you to a Coffee Morning to raise money for our President's chosen charity- Essex Air Ambulance. Their address is **7 Canuden Road, Chelmsford, CM1 2SU**. If you require directions please ring them on **01245 256939**. Donation of £5 per person and raffle prizes will be much appreciated.

HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE-CYMANFA GANU DIOLCHGARWCH - **Sunday, 23rd October 2016 at 2.30pm in St Michael and All Angels Church, Roxwell**. Please put the date in your diary and invite your family and friends to join you for this afternoon of song. Our President would like to invite you to choose your favourite hymn to present at the service. Please get in touch if you are interested.

VISIT TO ANGLESEY 14th-17th May 2017 - Next year, our President is organising a 3 day visit to Anglesey. More details will be included in the next newsletter. If you are interested in attending this trip, please contact **Carys & Arthur Williams on 01621 778711**.

We are delighted to report that the **ANNUAL CONCERT** given by **Cor Godre'r Aran**, with soloists **Aled Wyn Davies** and **Steffan Lloyd Owen**, at Chelmsford Cathedral on June 11th 2016 was a spectacular event. It is encouraging to receive so many favourable comments from those who attended this fantastic concert.

We enjoyed an excellent afternoon at the **FUND RAISING SUMMER GARDEN PARTY** which was held on **Saturday, June 25th 2016** at Radley Green Farm. We had plenty of fun and games and a delicious tea. We managed to raise £388.58 for our charity fund. We thank Shirley and Don Moody for their support, generosity and hospitality.

SOCIETY NEWS

- The President and his 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,
Gwenno Pope

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES REPORT SEPTEMBER 2016

"CROESO YN ÔL"

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

Croeso Yn Ol (Welcome Back) was the theme, and the hall was full, with several new members, for Arthur Williams's first monthly meeting as President of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society. He outlined an exciting programme for his year of office, then introduced Teresa James, an Ambassador for Essex Air Ambulance, his chosen charity. She gave an excellent presentation, describing the work of the charity, its role in delivering treatment for a stroke patient within the 'golden hour' and the monumental task of funding the service; it relies heavily on its weekly lottery, with 154,000 contributors. The helicopters have a doctor, paramedics and a crew of ex service personnel; they can only fly during daylight hours. After an interval for a chat, with bread, cheese, grapes and wine, Mike Price, the Society's multimedia organiser, delivered excellent DVD presentations of two of Wales's major annual festivals. In its present form since 1861, Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru, the National Eisteddfod of Wales which was held this year in Abergafenni, is one of Europe's largest and oldest cultural festivals, attended by about 160,000 people over 8 days; there they enjoy keen friendly competition in poetry, music, arts, dance and crafts, all conducted in Welsh. From an early age, children are steeped in the culture, which is the foundation of choral singing in adulthood. Each year, the Society sponsors the prizes for the winners of the 16-19 year old male and female singers, which were won by Rhys Meilyr and Tesni Jones. The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod began in 1947, as an attempt to heal the worldwide wounds following WW2, and has been described as 'Wales's Gift to the World'. Over the years people of all ages, from more than 50 nations worldwide have come to compete in singing, dancing and playing a instruments, with audiences of 50,000 over 5 days. Here, young people from warring nations intermingle happily. At the conclusion, the winners of the various choir competitions compete for the ultimate prize, The Pavarotti Choir of the World trophy, - Luciano Pavarotti sang here with the Modena choir from Italy in the early 1950. Mike's presentation was superb, and earned a loud applause. He was thanked and congratulated by Brian Farmer, the Vice-president.



Arthur Williams, President

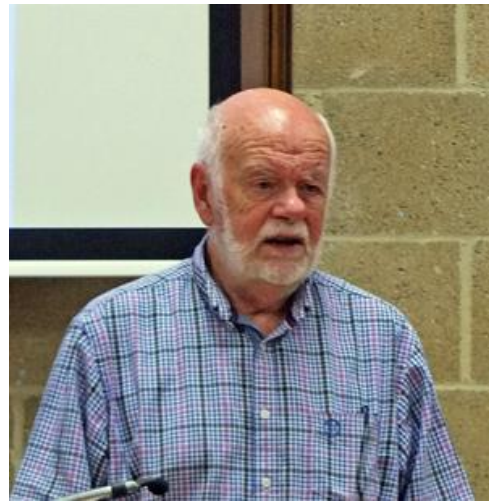


Theresa James on behalf of the Essex Air Ambulance outlines Arthur's Charity.

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES REPORT SEPTEMBER 2016 (Continued)



Derrick Thomas shows his recently presented Korean Medal



Mike Price presents Eisteddfod 2016



Ron Jones the raffle



Vice President Brian Farmer

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS HYDREF 2016

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

We enjoyed a great evening for our £Croeso yn Olqmeeting, with such a good turn out from our members. It was also fantastic to see some new faces . Welcome to our society! Thank you to the catering committee for organising the cheese and wine refreshments and thank you also to **Shirley Moody** for providing the wine.

Arthur Williams, our new President took us through the programme of events for the year, and also talked about one of his chosen charities for the year- The HobbiesqClub in Tillingham. The other charity that we will be supporting this year is the Essex Air Ambulance, and Teresa James from the charity gave us an interesting insight into all the good work that goes on with the charity. Then we enjoyed a visual presentation from Mike Price showing us the highlights from the Llangollen International Eisteddfod and the National Eisteddfod in Abergavenny. Thank you **Mike Price** for an excellent evening.

A Musical Evening with the Bartels Family- featuring Harp and Flute
Thursday, 27th October 2016 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Come and join us for this musical evening with the talented Bartels family for plenty of fun and some community singing.

Refreshments and raffle prizes . **Jean Jones, Rosina Jones and Heulwen Newman**

SUBSCRIPTIONS- Carys Williams, our Treasurer, wishes to thank the 71 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 2016-17 programme. Should you be unable to attend, please send a cheque to **Carys- 3 Englefields, South Street, Tillingham, Essex CM0 7AT**. If we have not received your subscriptions by the end of November 2016, we will regrettably assume that you no longer wish to continue your membership and we will cease to send you a monthly Newsletter.

WELSH CLASSES – The next class will be held on **Monday, 10th October 2016 at Radley Green Farm at 2pm**. If you speak Welsh, why not join the group and get involved in some welsh conversation and welsh scrabble. Please ask for more details if you are interested in joining the Welsh classes.

CHARITY COFFEE MORNING WITH THE BYATT's on **Wednesday, 12th October 2016 at 10.30am**. **Maureen and Keith Byatt** invite you to a Coffee Morning to raise money for our President's chosen charity- Essex Air Ambulance. Their address is **7 Canuden Road, Chelmsford, CM1 2SU**. If you require directions please ring them on **01245 256939**. Donation of £5 per person and raffle prizes will be much appreciate. Please come and support our first charity event of the year.

HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE-CYMANFA GANU DIOLCHGARWCH - Sunday, 23rd October 2016 at 2.30pm in St Michael and All Angels Church, Roxwell. Please invite your family and friends along to join us for this afternoon of song. It will be a pleasurable afternoon with some soloists, church choir and singers from the Roxwell School. There will also be some congregational singing followed by tea and cake. Your attendance at this event will be highly appreciated and welcomed.

VISIT TO ANGLESEY SEPTEMBER 17th- 20th, 2017 – Some of you have already booked your place on this visit to Anglesey in September. If you would like to join us, please get in touch with **Arthur & Carys Williams** on **01621 778711 ASAP**, as they will need to confirm numbers with the hotel to confirm the booking. If we don't receive enough responses, then unfortunately this trip may have to be cancelled. **Don't forget to get in touch ASAP if you would like to join us on this trip.**

SOCIETY NEWS

- Congratulations to **Mrs Elizabeth Peters** who celebrated her 90th Birthday recently. We all enjoyed singing £Penblwydd Hapus/Happy Birthdayto Elizabeth at our last meeting.
- Our best wishes to all members who have been unwell and we hope to see you all soon.

**Cofion Cynnes,
Gwenno Pope**

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES REPORT OCTOBER 2016

October proved to be a busy month for Chelmsford Welsh Society. A coffee morning at the house of Maureen and Keith Byatt was well attended and provided members a social gathering whilst raising the grand sum of £217 towards this year's fund raising. On Sunday 23rd the society joined with the congregation of Roxwell church for a Cymanfa Ganu (Songs of Praise). The hymns were chosen and introduced by members of the society and congregation each giving the reason for their choice. The choir of Roxwell Primary school charmed everyone with two well-known Welsh songs 'My Little Welsh Home' and 'Sospan Fach'. The church choir also gave a memorable rendition of 23rd Psalm to the tune by Howard Goodall (Theme from 'The Vicar of Dibley'). David Pattrick, the recently arrived church organist, had expertly coached both choirs and accompanied the afternoon's hymns. Everyone enjoyed the tea and cake provided by the Roxwell W.I. after the service. At our monthly meeting we were sorry to hear that quite a few members were unwell although most were recovering well and would be back with us soon. For our evening's entertainment we welcomed firm society friends, the Bartels family; Rachel on Harp, husband Ken on flute, soprano saxophone and piano, and daughter Katie on flute. Rachel, as always, had many amusing stories to tell of her life in Essex and of her recent visits to support her parents back in Wales. The music varied from Mozart to Myfannwy, and from Welsh folk tunes to favourite hymns. Everyone joined in with Men of Harlech and Ar Hyd Y Nos (All through the Night), making it a most enjoyable and entertaining evening. They were thanked by Brian Farmer, the Vice-president for their excellent playing and the joyful atmosphere of the evening. Our meeting next month features the piano and recorder duo 'Keepsake' and held on Thursday November 24th at 7.30 p.m.



Rachael



Rachel



Rachael and Katie



Katie



Ken



Ken

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS TACHWEDD 2016

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

October proved to be a busy month for the Chelmsford Welsh Society. The coffee morning at the Byatts was well attended and we managed to raise £217 for this year's charity. Many thanks to **Maureen & Keith Byatt** for hosting this event. On the 23rd October, the society joined with the congregation of Roxwell Church for our annual *Cymanfa Ganu* (Songs of Praise). The Roxwell Primary School choir charmed everyone with two well-known Welsh songs *My Little Welsh Home* and *Sosban Fach* and we all enjoyed the tea and cake provided by the Roxwell W.I.

A very big thank you to **Shirley Moody** for all her hard work in organising this event. We welcomed the Bartels family on the 27th October, Rachel on the harp, husband Ken on flute, Saxophone and Piano, and daughter Katie on the flute. Rachel, as always, had many amusing stories to tell of her life in Essex and of her recent visits to Wales. The music varied from Mozart to Myfannwy, and from Welsh folk tunes to favourite hymns. It was a most enjoyable and entertaining evening. They were thanked for their excellent playing and the joyful atmosphere of the evening by Brian Farmer, the Vice-President. Thank you to **David Brown** for all his work behind the scenes.

Keepsake- featuring Recorders and Piano

Thursday, 24th November 2016 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Sue Handscombe will demonstrate the versatility of the recorder with a wide repertoire of music. Hans Montanana will be on the piano. Hans has been playing the piano since he was seven and has been a music teacher and accompanist for many years.

Please come along for what promises to be a most entertaining evening.

Refreshments and raffle prizes . **Enid Morris, Mary Jones and Gwenno Pope**

SUBSCRIPTIONS- **Carys Williams**, our Treasurer, wishes to thank the 87 members who have already paid their annual subscription. She will be collecting the annual subscription of **£17.00** at the next monthly meeting. In return, you will receive a copy of the 2016-17 programme. Should you be unable to attend, please send a cheque to **Carys- 3 Englefields, South Street, Tillingham, Essex CM0 7AT**. If we have not received your subscriptions by the end of November 2016, we will regrettably assume that you no longer wish to continue your membership and we will cease to send you a monthly Newsletter.

WELSH CLASSES – The next class will be held on **Monday, 7th and 21st November 2016 at Radley Green Farm at 2pm**. If you speak Welsh, why not join the group and get involved in some welsh conversation and welsh scrabble. Please ask for more details if you are interested in joining the Welsh classes.

NOSON LAWEN . Our homespun evening of Welsh entertainment will be held on **Thursday 26th January 2017**. We would like to encourage our members to take part and display their talents. **Please don't be shy!** You could entertain us with your songs, poetry, prose, jokes, dance- or any particular skill that you would like to share with the members. If you would be interested in taking part in our *Noson Lawen* please give your name to **Arthur Williams** on **01621 778711**.

AR EICH CAIS- Mike Price will be organising another evening of music especially selected and presented by the society members on the **25th May 2017**. He has already received a few requests. If you would like to get involved, then please contact **Mike Price** with your requests on **01277 210541**.

VISIT TO ANGLESEY SEPTEMBER 17th - 20th, 2017 – Some of you have already booked your place on this visit to Anglesey in September. If you would like to join us, please get in touch with **Arthur & Carys Williams** on **01621 778711 ASAP**, as they will need to confirm numbers with the hotel to confirm the booking. If we don't receive enough responses, then unfortunately this trip may have to be cancelled. **Don't forget to get in touch ASAP if you would like to join us on this trip**. You are also welcome to invite friends to join you on the trip to North Wales.

SOCIETY NEWS

- Our best wishes to all members who have been unwell and we hope to see you all soon.

Cofion Cynnes,
Gwenno Pope

MEETING REPORT NOVEMBER 2016

KEEPSAKE



Sue Handscombe and Hans Montanana - KEEPSAKE

The excellent musical entertainment at the 24 November meeting of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society was provided by Keepsake, with Sue Handscombe playing an amazing range of seven recorders accompanied by Hans Montanana on the piano. Having played the recorder during their school days, the audience were truly amazed at the versatility of the instrument when played by a professional musician. First documented in the Middle Ages and continuing in popularity through the Renaissance and Baroque periods, the recorder then languished until it was revived in the last century. Much of the music Sue played had originally been composed for other instruments, including the violin, harpsichord, flute and cornet. Included in the repertoire were compositions from the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Baroque, some jazz, enchanting pieces imitating the woodlark, starling and nightingale, and a medley of Welsh airs. The piano and recorder replaced the brass band and cornet, including double tonguing, in a Salvation Army composition, Deliverance. In an 11th century composition for a Pipe and Taber, a three holed pipe was played with one hand whilst the other played the tabor drum. At the conclusion Sue and Hans were congratulated by the Vice-president, Brian Farmer, to loud applause.



MEETING AND ACTIVITIES REPORT NOVEMBER 2016 (Continued)



Vice President Brian Farmer thanks KEEPSAKE

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS RHAGFYR 2016

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

We enjoyed another musical evening in November. The excellent musical entertainment was provided by Keepsake, Sue Handscombe playing an amazing range of seven recorders, accompanied by Hans Montanana on the piano. We were all truly amazed at the versatility of the recorder when played by a professional musician.

Dathlu Nadolig/Christmas Celebrations with Sorela

Thursday, 15th December 2016 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

A celebration of Christmas with the fantastic Welsh girl group **'SORELA'**. Three welsh sisters sing acapella folk songs and some seasonal songs, complete with Christmas themed supper.

Refreshments and raffle prizes . **Catering committee**

Christmas Tea/Te Nadolig

Liz and Jim Armishaw will be hosting this event on **Sunday 11th December 2016 at 3pm**, at their home . **38A Chignal Road, 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! Donation of £5.00 and a wrapped gift for the raffle would be much appreciated. If you require directions please ring them on **01245 281162**

SUBSCRIPTIONS- **Carys Williams**, our Treasurer, wishes to thank all the members for paying their annual subscription.

WELSH CLASSES – The last class of this year will be held on **Monday, 12th December 2016 at Radley Green Farm at 2pm**.

Please ask for more details if you are interested in joining the Welsh classes.

NOSON LAWEN . Our homespun evening of Welsh entertainment will be held on **Thursday 26th January 2017**. We would like to encourage our members to take part and display their talents. **Please don't be shy!** You could entertain us with your songs, poetry, prose, jokes, dance- or any particular skill that you would like to share with the members. If you would be interested in taking part in our **Noson Lawen** please give your name to **Arthur Williams** on **01621 778711**, as we need more volunteers for this evening of entertainment.

VISIT TO ANGLESEY SEPTEMBER 17th- 20th, 2017 – Some of you have already booked your place on this visit to Anglesey in September. If you would like to join us, please get in touch with **Arthur & Carys Williams** on **01621 778711 ASAP**, as they will need to confirm numbers with the hotel to confirm the booking. **Don't forget to get in touch if you would like to join us on this trip.** You are also welcome to invite friends to join you on the trip to North Wales. Deposit for this trip will need to be paid in January.

SOCIETY NEWS On behalf of the committee I would like to wish you all a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i bawb

Cofion Cynnes,
Gwenno Pope

MEETING REPORT DECEMBER 2016

Christmas Celebrations with **SORELA**



Three sisters, Lisa, Gwenno and Mari form the acapella group SORELA

A full house of members and friends at Chelmsford and District Welsh Society's Dathlu Nadolig (Christmas Celebration) were welcomed with a warming glass of mulled wine and mince pies. The entertainment was provided by Sorela, an a cappella close harmony folk song group of three young sisters from Aberystwyth, daughters of Linda Griffiths (Healy) from the very popular folk group Plethyn. Lisa Angharad, Gwenno Elan and Mari Gwenllian gave a wonderful concert of exquisite harmony, which included the ancient traditional Plygain songs *Ar Gyfer Heddiw* Bore (In Readiness for this Morning) and *Daeth Nadolig* (Christmas Came). Plygain carols are sung a cappella, usually in candle lit chapels, between 3 am and 6 am over the Christmas period and early January, with verses on the crucifixion and resurrection as well as the birth of Christ; they are very beautiful and tonally different from modern day carols. The group sang several more Welsh traditional and popular English songs, with Lisa proving to be an excellent compere. A feast of sandwiches and cakes was enjoyed during the interval. The audience joined in to sing a couple of carols on each side of the interval. At the conclusion Sorela were rewarded with loud applause and orders for their CD which is due out soon! The Society was very sad that this was to be the last meeting for Brian and Mair Thomas before they move to live near Cambridge. Brian and Mair have been pillars of the Society for so many years. It is hoped that they will return from time to time. A fund raising/charity Christmas tea hosted by Liz and Jim Armishaw raised £273.



JANUARY NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS IONAWR 2017

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA / HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We enjoyed a fantastic evening for our Christmas Celebration/Dathlu Nadoligq with the talented sisters Sorelaqproviding the entertainment. They sang a mixture of Welsh and English folk songs and their harmonies were exquisite. Thanks to the Catering Committee for arranging the delicious food and drinks. We also enjoyed a great afternoon at our annual Christmas Teaq There was plenty of food and some great singing. The event was well attended and we raised £273. A special Thank youqto Liz and Jim Armishaw for hosting the event.

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.

'Noson Lawen'

Thursday, 26th January 2017 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

We start 2017 with an evening of homespunqentertainment. We would like to encourage our members to take part and display their talents. **Please don't be shy!** You could entertain us with your songs, poetry, prose, jokes, dance- or any particular skill that you would like to share with the members. If you would be interested in taking part in our Noson Lawenq please give your name to **Arthur Williams** on **01621 778711**, as **we need more volunteers** for this evening of entertainment.

Refreshments and raffle prizes . **Sina Williams, Anja Welsh Smyth and Gaynor Birch**

WELSH CLASSES – The next classes will be held on **Monday, 9th and 23rd January 2017** at **Radley Green Farm** at **1.30pm**.

Please ask for more details if you are interested in joining the Welsh classes.

ST DAVID'S DAY DINNER, Friday 24th February 2017 at The County Hotel, Chelmsford at 7pm

Tickets costing **£37.50** for this annual event are available from **Kay Bright** on **01245 380543**, or email **kay.bright14@yahoo.co.uk**. Tickets will also be sold at our January monthly meeting. Cheques should be payable to Chelmsford & District Welsh Society. There is a Vegetarian option available, and if you require this, then please inform **Kay Bright** of your requirements. I hope that you will all support the Society and attend this most important function.

ST DAVID'S DAY SERVICE, Sunday 26th February 2017 at Little Baddow URC at 3.30pm

This service is a most special event in our programme and it would be wonderful to see some new faces attending. Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

VISIT TO ANGLESEY SEPTEMBER 17th - 20th, 2017 - For those of you who have booked to go on this visit, a **deposit of £75 per person** will be required by the **end of January 2017**. Cheques should be payable to Chelmsford & District Welsh Society, and should be passed on to **Carys Williams, 3 Englefields, South Street, Tillingham, CM0 7AT**. There are still some spaces available if you would be interested in joining this trip. Please contact **Arthur & Carys Williams** on **01621 778711 ASAP**, as they will need to confirm numbers with the hotel to confirm the booking.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES - Please make a note in your diaries that our **HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE/CYMANFA GANU DIOLCHGARWCH** will take place on **Sunday 15th October 2017**. This is another special event for our Society and would encourage you all to attend.

SOCIETY NEWS- It was lovely to welcome back some of our members in our December meeting, who have been unwell over the last few months, especially **Mick and Hazel Hammond** and **Cynthia Styles**. We would like to wish **Cynthia** a speedy recovery after her recent fall. Congratulations to **Mair Thomas** who celebrated a special birthday recently.

We would also like to wish **Mair and Brian Thomas** all the best in their new home in Bluntisham. Both have been dedicated members of the society for the last 33 years and we will all miss them very much. We would like to thank them once again for all their hard work over these years.

**Cofion Cynnes,
Gwenno Pope**

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES REPORT JANUARY 2017

"NOSON LAWEN"

An evening of entertainment from the membership and their friends

The January meeting of the Chelmsford and District Welsh Society, held at the Cathedral Chapter House, took the form of a Noson Lawen (translating roughly into English as *A Merry Evening*), in which Society members themselves provided various forms of entertainment.

President Arthur Williams acted as MC for the evening, interspersing the acts with some hilarious answers to GCSE questions. Long-standing member Derrick Thomas warmed up a packed hall with some amusing anecdotes, delivered in his usual inimitable style. The President then provided the guitar accompaniment for himself and his wife Carys, duetting with some traditional Welsh songs.

Dianne Moul held her listeners in thrall with a reading of Noel Coward's poem *The Boy Actor* before Brian Farmer and the Society's Secretary, Gwenno Pope, picked up their ukeleles to lead the audience, from whose ranks an informal (but, one suspects, pre-planned) kazoo and tambourine band emerged, in a miscellany of folk songs and sea shanties.

Following a rendering of one of her favourite poems, *The Small Window* by RS Thomas, Margaret Cox shared some reminiscences of her past working at Broomfield Hospital; the concert hall, gardens and cherry tree-lined drive (not to mention the free parking) are sadly long-lost to visitors to the modern hospital of today!

The skillful fingers of harpist Buddug Rowland Frank opened the second half of the programme with a medley including traditional Welsh tunes, hymns and an Italian song, *Santa Lucia*. An appreciative audience then enjoyed Clive Bright's unaccompanied baritone performance of the well-known Welsh ballad *Myfanwy*.

Stuart Austin, in his first attendance at a Society event, surprised the audience by singing a version of *The Day We Went to Bangor*, followed by a tune on his harmonica. The Welsh learners class demonstrated its progress in the language by singing a variety of Welsh pieces under the watchful eye of their tutor, Ivy Price, who accompanied them on the piano. The evening's programme was completed by appearances in both halves by two groups of performers. Five-piece guitar/mandolin combo, *Indifferent Strings*, performed an eclectic mixture of items, ranging from the English classic *Greensleeves* to Caribbean number *Yellow Bird*, via a sailor's hornpipe. The *Black Sheep* choir sung four pieces, the volume of two of which (Tom Jones classics *Delilah* and *The Green Green Grass of Home*) was considerably swelled by the enthusiastic participation of the audience.



The Black Sheep Choir

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES REPORT JANUARY 2017 (Continued)



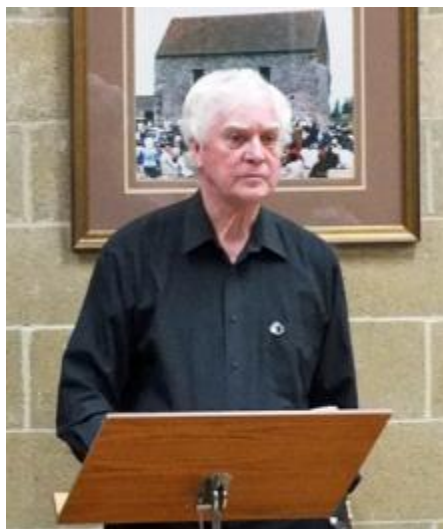
(In)Different Strings



The Society's Welsh Learners Group



Buddug Rowland
Frank



Arthur Williams



Margaret Cox

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES REPORT JANUARY 2017 (Continued)



Stuart Austin



Clive Bright

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS CHWEFROR 2017

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

Our President, **Arthur Williams**, wishes to thank all those who volunteered to perform at our annual **Noson Lawen** in January. The evening was a great success and much enjoyed by all present. It was lovely to welcome some new faces, Gwyn & Vera Davies, Philip Truscott, Stuart Austin, Dai and Tina Rees, and Anna Buttimore with her daughter Angharad. We hope that you all enjoyed the evening.

A presentation by Sir Deian Hopkin- 'The Devil's Music in Wales'

Thursday, 16th February 2017 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Sir Deian Hopkin is an academic and former Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of the London Southbank University. He was also President of the National Library of Wales from 2011-15.

Refreshments and raffle prizes . **Marion Farmer, Sue Bridger and Dianne Moul**

WELSH CLASSES – The next classes will be held on **Monday, 6th and 20th February 2017 at Radley Green Farm at 1.30pm.**

Please ask for more details if you are interested in joining the Welsh classes.

ST DAVID'S DAY DINNER, Friday 24th February 2017 at The County Hotel, Chelmsford at 7pm

Tickets costing **£37.50** for this annual event are available from **Kay Bright** on **01245 380543**, or email **kay.bright14@yahoo.co.uk**. Tickets will be sold at our February monthly meeting. Cheques should be payable to Chelmsford & District Welsh Society. There is a Vegetarian option available, and if you require this, then please inform **Kay Bright** of your requirements. I hope that you will all support the Society and attend this most important function. Please get in touch with Kay **asap** if you are interested in attending this event as she will need to confirm the final numbers with The County Hotel by **early February**.

ST DAVID'S DAY SERVICE, Sunday 26th February 2017 at Little Baddow URC at 3.30pm

This service is a most special event in our programme and it will be taken by the **Revd Dr Cally Hammond**. All members and non -members are welcome. It would be wonderful to see some new faces attending. Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

VISIT TO ANGLESEY SEPTEMBER 17th - 20th, 2017 - For those of you who have booked to go on this visit, a **deposit of £75 per person** will need to be paid **asap**. Cheques should be payable to Chelmsford & District Welsh Society, and should be passed on to **Carys Williams, 3 Englefields, South Street, Tillingham, CM0 7AT**. There are still some spaces available if you would be interested in joining this trip. Please contact **Arthur & Carys Williams** on **01621 778711 ASAP**, as they will need to confirm numbers with the hotel to confirm the booking.

MIKE'S MUSICAL MISCELLANY (An evening of Mirth, Music and Mayhem)- will be held on **Saturday 11th March, 2017 at 7.30pm** at Radley Green Farm. Those of you who have attended before will know what an interesting, entertaining and enjoyable evening it always is. Tickets are **£15 each** to include a fish and chips supper. Please ring **Mike & Ivy Price** on **01277 210541** or **Eddie Alcock** on **01245 603448** to reserve your place.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES - Please make a note in your diaries that our **ANNUAL CONCERT** featuring the **North Wales Male Voice Choir**, will be held at **Chelmsford Cathedral** on **Saturday 10th June at 7.30pm**. Tickets will be on sale from March onwards. **HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE/CYMANFA GANU DIOLCHGARWCH** will take place on **Sunday 15th October 2017**. This is another special event for our Society and would encourage you all to attend.

SOCIETY NEWS-

Mair and Brian Thomas would like to say 'Thank You' for all the cards and messages that they have received. They are settling in well to their new home in Cambridgeshire. If you would like to send them a card or get in touch, here are the details- 4 Laxton Grange, Bluntisham, Cambridgeshire, PE28 3XU. 01487 840335. They would be delighted to hear from you.

We wish all of our members who have been unwell recently a speedy recovery- especially **Shirley Moody**, **Cynthia Styles** and **Jean Jones**. A special mention to **Vera Thomas** also, who is unable to attend the monthly meetings, but it was lovely to see **Vera** and **Marie Alcock** at our Christmas Tea in December.

Cofion Cynnes,
Gwenno Pope

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES REPORT FEBRUARY 2017

THE %DEVIL\$ MUSIC+IN WALES

with Prof. Sir Deian Hopkin



The %Devil\$ Music+ in Wales, was the subject of the eminent historian Prof. Sir Deian Hopkin's talk at the February meeting of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society. In his welcome speech the President, Arthur Williams, recalled that after the hearing a talk on jazz given by the Professor several years ago he had been inspired to learn two chords, which had allowed him to entertain on the guitar ever since! Jazz appears to have begun with the Fisk Jubilee Singers, a gospel group at the Fisk University for free slaves in the Mississippi delta, in 1874. Many in the audience were amazed to learn how popular trad jazz had been in Wales early in the 20th century, with 120 dance bands in the Abertawe (Swansea) area, including the world champions Valleys Jazz Band. Fashions changed after WW2. Jazz pianist Dill Jones had a huge impact on the UK scene, with the best band of the day, and best pianist for 3 years. He turned Welsh traditional music into jazz, and a jazz seminar was held at the National Eisteddfod. Aberhonddu (Brecon) Jazz Festivals of the 90s were regarded as the best in Europe. The new generation of Welsh artists include: Ian Shaw, singer and pianist at Ronny Scott's Club; Gwilym Simcock (Bangor Cathedral, Chethams School and the RA), BBC Young Musician of the Year, composer of jazz and classical music; Karl Jenkins, jazz musician for 20 years and now a foremost classical music composer. Recently, jazz in Wales went through a rough time, with the Brecon Festival reduced to a Jazz Weekend, but is showing signs of renewal with festivals in Llangollen and Abergwaun (Fishguard), and the North Wales Jazz Programme. At the conclusion, the Vice-president, Brian Farmer, congratulated Sir Deian for delivering such an excellent talk and presented him with a Society goblet.



Vice President presents Sir Deian
a Society Goblet



Prof. Sir Deian Hopkin

ST DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATIONS FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2017

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



Members of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society and their guests celebrated the Feast their patron saint Dewi Sant (St. David) with a grand Dinner at the County Hotel, Chelmsford, and a service of thanks giving at Little Baddow URC. The tables in the dining room was beautifully dressed in the Welsh colours of white and green, with daffodil centre pieces, under the proud gaze of y Ddraig Goch (Red Dragon) on the national flag. The diners stood to welcome the arrival of the President Arthur Williams and Vice-president Brian Farmer and their wives, escorting the Guest of Honour Tudur Owen and his wife and the Mayor of Chelmsford Cllr. Patricia Hughes and her escort, to the strains of the violin and harp played by Bil Evans and Ann Hopcyn. The Grace was said by Society member Brother Gildas, garbed in the white robe of the Norbertines Order. Rather appropriately, Gildas was a 4th century saint, taught by St. Illtud in Glamorgan, who preached to Nonnita when she was pregnant with Dewi!

The menu comprised: traditional cawl cenin a thatws (leek and potato soup); cyw iar wedi rostio gyda lemnw a them (roast chicken with lemon and thyme) served with tortellini efo madrach gwyllt a tharagon (tortellini of wild mushrooms and tarragon); tarten lemnw a hufen ia (lemon tart with ice cream). The loyal toast to the Queen was proposed by the President. The Vice-president sainted several Welsh rugby greats, before proposing the toast to Dewi Sant! In a speech of welcome and thanks, the President congratulated and thanked Liz Armishaw, Kay Bright and David Brown for their impeccable organisation of a splendid Dinner, and Shirley Moody for providing the daffodils. He thanked the committee for their support throughout the year and said how proud he was that the Society had raised over £30,000 for local charities in recent years. He welcomed the Mayor and her escort, and Ann Hopcyn and Bil Evans for coming all the way from Caernarfon to provide the musical entertainment. He then introduced the Guest of Honour Tudur Owen and his wife. Tudur, originally from Ynys Mon (Anglesey) but now living in Caernarfon appears regularly on a number of comedy and other entertainment programmes on the Welsh TV channel S4C, and on radio. He has written several programmes for radio, and travels the UK as a popular circuit stand-up comic. It was no surprise that he delivered a hilarious and at times daring performance, at the end of which he proposed a toast to Our Guests. He was rewarded by loud applause. The Mayor responded on behalf of the guests in an accomplished speech, part of which was inspired by Tudur's delivery. Bil and Ann then entertained with traditional Welsh music, with some audience participation including Cerdd Dant where the singers sing a different tune from that played by the instrumentalists. John Roberts, splendid in red outfit, was an excellent MC. The evening ended with an enthusiastic rendition of Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau.

ST DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATIONS (Continued)



Ann Hopcyn, Harpist.



John Roberts, M.C



Vice President Brian Farmer and wife Marion entertain Chelmsford's Mayor Councillor Patricia Hughes



Arthur Williams President



Brian Farmer Vice President



Councillor Patricia Hughes,
Mayor of Chelmsford

ST DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATIONS (Continued)



Guest of Honour, North Wales Comedian,
Tudur Owen



Entertainment with Bil Evans(Violin) and
Ann Hopcyn (Harp)

ST DAVID'S DAY SERVICE at LITTLE BADDOW URC 26-02-2017

Officiating, as always, at the church service was the Rev. Dr. Cally Hammond, Dean at Gonville and Caius College. Cally's mother, who died several years ago, was a past President of the Society and Cally has honoured her memory by continuing to officiate. The singing and sermon were inspirational, ending with the hymn Seintiau Cymru, (Saints of Wales). The Society is grateful to the officers of URC for allowing them to enjoy the Church for so many years.



Little Baddow URC
Venue for the St David's Day Service

MARCH NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS MAWRTH 2017

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

Our Society members have enjoyed a busy few weeks with plenty of events. We celebrated Saint David's Day with our annual dinner and church service. The dinner was held at The County Hotel, Chelmsford with over 85 members and friends attending. We enjoyed a fine meal and great entertainment. The Guest of Honour was the stand up comedian Tudur Owen, with musical entertainment performed by Bil Evans and Ann Hopcyn.

A special 'Thank you' to **Liz Armishaw, Kay Bright, David and Edith Brown** for organising such a successful event and also 'Thank you' to **Shirley Moody** for providing all the table decorations. Our St David's Day service was well attended by our members at Little Baddow URC. Officiating at the service, as always, was The Rev. Dr Cally Hammond.

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

'Trials and Tribulation of Life as a Criminal Barrister' with Brian Reece
Thursday, 23rd March 2017 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Refreshments and raffle prizes . **Ivy Price, Janet Wash and Kay Bright**

WELSH CLASSES – Next classes will be held on **Monday, 20th March and 3rd April 2017** at **Radley Green Farm** at **1.30pm**.

If you speak Welsh, why not join the group and get involved in some Welsh conversation and scrabble. Please ask for more details if you are interested in joining the Welsh classes.

MIKE'S MUSICAL MISCELLANY, Saturday 11th March- SOLD OUT

APRIL MEETING on THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST 2017- We will welcome back the accapella male quartet group. Song Cycleq This talented group performed for our society last year and was enjoyed by all.

Annual Concert at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, 10th June 2017

This concert will feature the **North Wales Male Voice Choir** and soloists. **Tickets** priced at **£16** are **now available** from **Arthur Williams** on **01621 778711** and **Eddie Alcock** on **01245 603448**. We have 500 tickets to sell for this popular event. It will require a big effort by all of our members to ensure that we have another full house. The concert has not yet been advertised to the general public, thus ensuring that our members have the first opportunity to purchase tickets. Please contact the ticket sellers if you would like any more information.

VISIT TO ANGLESEY SEPTEMBER 17th- 20th, 2017 . There are still some spaces available if you would be interested in joining this trip. The cost of the trip is £340 per person with a £30 single supplement. The full balance of the trip to be paid in June. Please contact **Arthur & Carys Williams** on **01621 778711 ASAP**, as they will need to confirm numbers with the hotel to confirm the booking.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES - Please make a note in your diaries that our **HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE/CYMANFA GANU DIOLCHGARWCH'** will take place on **Sunday 15th October 2017**. This is another special event for our Society and would encourage you all to attend.

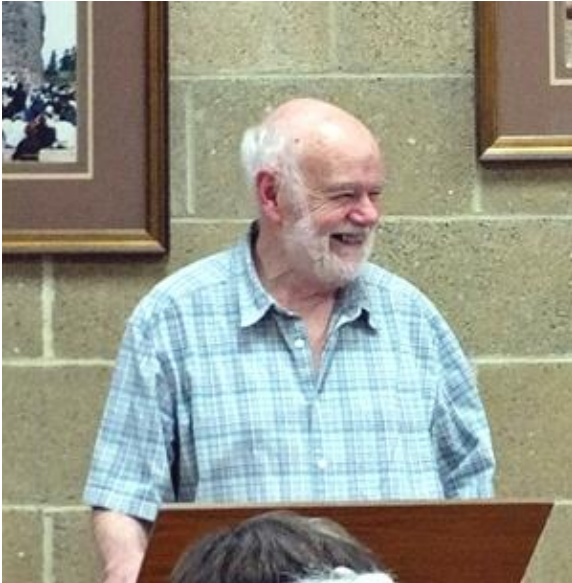
SOCIETY NEWS- Our best wishes to all members who have been unwell and we hope to see you all soon.

Cofion Cynnes,
Gwenno Pope

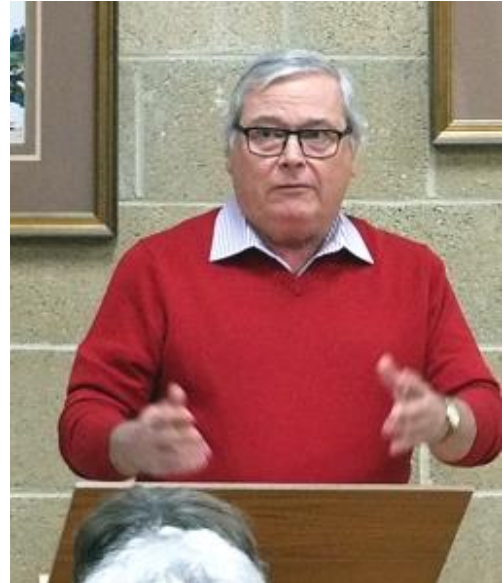
MEETING AND ACTIVITIES REPORT MARCH 2017

"Trials and Tribulations of Life as a Criminal Barrister"

An evening with Brian Reece



Mike Price introduces the evening's guest speaker



Brian Reece

Following the St. David's Day celebrations (dinner at the County Hotel) on Friday 24th February and a church service on Sunday 26th) it was back to %business as usual+for the Chelmsford and District Welsh Society.

On 11th March Don and Shirley Moody hosted %Mikes Musical Miscellany+, during which Mike Price played excerpts from a wide variety of musical numbers, accompanying each piece with a witty and informative introduction. A fish and chip supper added to the enjoyment of the event which, as evidenced by an early sell-out of tickets, had been eagerly awaited following the success of a similar event last year.

Thursday 23rd March saw the Society's regular monthly meeting take place at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House with a talk by barrister, Brian Reece. Brian's 43 year legal background has provided him with an endless source of anecdotes, some of which he shared with a packed audience. Brian started by illustrating the phenomenal changes and growth in the number of courts that have taken place since he started his career and continued the first half of his presentation with accounts of serious incidents (both gruesome and shocking) from many of his cases over the years. Whilst fascinated by these accounts the audience's nerves were calmed, after a break for refreshments and a raffle, when Brian's emphasis switched to accounts of a more humorous nature, belying the impression that many of us may have of the legal profession being somewhat stuffy and over-formal. Apparently even judges have their light-hearted moments in court!

The Society's next regular meeting is on Thursday 27 April, when, Song Cycle, the very talented all singing, all cycling, local male voice quartet, which has raised over £36000 for the Friends of Essex Churches Trust, will be making a repeat appearance.

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES REPORT MARCH 2017 (Continued)



Ron Jones announces the winners
of the raffle



Brian Reece

APRIL NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS EBRILL 2017

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

It was another busy month after our St David's Day celebrations. On the 11th March, Don & Shirley Moody hosted Mike's Musical Miscellany which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The fish and chip supper also went down well! Thank you to **Shirley & Don Moody** and to **Mike Price** for organising this special event and we raised over £400 for our charity. In the March monthly meeting we enjoyed a talk by the legal barrister Brian Reece, where he shared his humorous stories with a packed audience.

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

An Evening with 'Song Cycle'

Thursday, 27th April 2017 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

The quartet 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 £36,000 for charities. They present a wide range of music ranging from church music to popular composers such as Lennon and McCartney.

Refreshments and raffle prizes . **Buddug R Frank, Liz Armishaw and Rachel Taylor**

WELSH CLASSES – The next class will be held on **Monday, 24th April 2017** at **Radley Green Farm** at **2.00pm**.

Please ask for more details if you are interested in joining the Welsh classes.

Annual Concert at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, 10th June 2017

This concert will feature the **North Wales Male Voice Choir** and soloists. **Tickets** priced at **£16** are **now available** from **Arthur Williams** on **01621 778711** and **Eddie Alcock** on **01245 603448**. We have 500 tickets to sell for this popular event. It will require a **big effort by all of our members** to ensure that we have another full house. The concert has not yet been advertised to the general public, thus ensuring that our members have the first opportunity to purchase tickets. Please contact the ticket sellers if you would like any more information.

VISIT TO ANGLESEY SEPTEMBER 17th- 20th, 2017 . There are still some spaces available if you would be interested in joining this trip. The cost of the trip is £340 per person with a £30 single supplement. The full balance of the trip to be paid in June. Please contact **Arthur & Carys Williams** on **01621 778711 ASAP**, as they will need to confirm numbers with the hotel to confirm the booking.

CHARITY EVENT- LUNCH AT THE BROWNS – This event is now **SOLD OUT**

SUMMER CELEBRATION –Saturday June 24th 2017 at Radley Green Farm. Please make a note of the date in your diaries. More details will follow in the next Newsletter.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES - Please make a note in your diaries that our **HARVEST SONGS OF PRAISE/CYMANFA GANU DIOLCHGARWCH** will take place on **Sunday 15th October 2017**. This is another special event for our Society and would encourage you all to attend.

SOCIETY NEWS- Our best wishes to all members who have been unwell and we hope to see you all soon.

Cofion Cynnes,
Gwenno Pope

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES REPORT APRIL 2017

"SongCycle"

An evening with the accomplished male a cappella quartet



There was a full house at the April meeting of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society, in anticipation of the return visit of the immensely talented Song Cycle, an all singing all cycling male voice quartet, who gained their love of music as young choristers at the parish church of St. Thomas of Canterbury, Brentwood. They claim that their passion for singing is matched with a liking of real ale, good food and wine! Since their inception in 1996 they have raised over £40500 for the Friends of Essex Churches Trust, and celebrated their 20th birthday in 2016 by singing all 150 psalms to Anglican chant in a day . 2811 verses including a Gloria to each over a period of 15 hours. Wow! Their repertoire includes sacred music and a variety of styles from Bach to the Beatles. The audience were delighted and spellbound by their performance, which included an hilarious and complicated spoken chorus, Local Geographical Fugue, about the towns and villages around Basildon and Billericay. Spoken chorus competitions are a feature of Welsh Eisteddfodau. At the conclusion the Vice-president, Brian Farmer, thanked and congratulated the group for giving an excellent musical performance.

The members were very happy to have Stuart Roberts back amongst them after several years absence due to illness. Stuart celebrated his 80th birthday by provided wine, and the Society provided birthday cakes.



President Arthur Williams



Stuart Roberts

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES REPORT APRIL 2017 (Continued)



Stuart Roberts and friends applaud SongCycle



Vice President, Brian Farmer
thanks SongCycle

MAY NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS MAI 2017

Annwyl Gyfeillion . Dear Friends,

We enjoyed being entertained by Song Cycle at our April meeting, and it was a pleasure to welcome them back again. We also celebrated **Stuart Robert's** 80th birthday at this meeting with some wine and cake. It was also good to welcome some new faces. Our charity event Lunch at the Browns was a great success, with a lovely lunch and great atmosphere enjoyed by all who attended. We raised £400 for charity. A very special Thank You to **David and Edith Brown** for hosting this event at their home.

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

'Ar Eich Cais'- your choice of music with Mike Price

Thursday, 25th May 2017 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Another musical feast chosen by our members.

Refreshments and raffle prizes . **Pauline Lewins, Yvonne Blackwood and Ann Hunt**

WELSH CLASSES – The next classes will be held on **Monday, 8th and 22nd May 2017 at Radley Green Farm at 2.00pm.**

Please ask for more details if you are interested in joining the Welsh classes.

Annual Concert at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, 10th June 2017

This concert will feature the **North Wales Male Voice Choir** and soloists. **Tickets** priced at **£16** are **now available** from **Arthur Williams** on **01621 778711** and **Eddie Alcock** on **01245 603448**. We have 500 tickets to sell for this popular event. It will require a **big effort by all of our members** to ensure that we have another full house. Encourage your family and friends to come to this outstanding concert. **Each society member should try and sell at least two tickets, to make this a successful event. If not enough tickets are sold, the future of our annual concert will be in jeopardy.** Please contact the ticket sellers if you would like any more information.

VISIT TO ANGLESEY SEPTEMBER 17th- 20th, 2017 . There are still some spaces available if you would be interested in joining this trip. The cost of the trip is £340 per person with a £30 single supplement. The full balance of the trip to be paid in June. Please contact **Arthur & Carys Williams** on **01621 778711 ASAP**, as they will need to confirm numbers with the hotel to confirm the booking.

SUMMER SERVICE, Little Baddow URC on Sunday, 4th June 2017 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.

MORNING COFFEE IN THE COUNTRY on **Wednesday, 7th June 2017 at 10.30am** hosted by **Carys & Arthur Williams** at their home . 3 Engelfields, South Street, Tillingham CM0 7AT. Telephone- 01621 778711. Raffle prizes will be most appreciated.

SUMMER CELEBRATION on **Saturday, 24th June 2017 at 3pm.** This event will take place at Radley Green Farm. Please come and join us for a delightful Afternoon Tea. Tickets are £5 each and will be sold at our next monthly event, or can also be purchased on the day. Come along with your family and friends.

SOCIETY NEWS

- **Frank Hatch** sadly passed away recently in North Wales. Frank was one of our new members and joined our society last year. We send our sympathy to his family.
- Best Wishes to **Maureen Byatt, June Jones, Margot Williams** and **Cynthia Styles** who have all been unwell recently.
- Happy Birthday to **Stuart Roberts, David Brown** and **John Williams** who all recently celebrated some very special Birthdays.

Cofion Cynnes,
Gwenno Pope

Meeting and Activities Report May 2017

"AR EICH CAIS"

An evening of music and other entertainment as selected by society members.
Organised by Mike Price.



President, Arthur Williams



Elsie Salmon

There was a full house at the May meeting of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society. Ar Eich Cais (Your Choice) was the theme with members choosing some music or other entertainment which had a particular meaning for them, all arranged as a superb video presentation by Mike Price. Roger Whittaker's River Lady reminded The President Arthur Williams of romantic days at university, while Keith Byatt enjoyed driving in the country to Albinoni's Adagio. Dave Edmunds's I Hear You Knocking transported Kay Bright back to her first year in secondary school and the Rockfield residential recording studio. Gwilym Williams chose Dafydd Y Garreg Wen (David of the White Rock) sung by the famous tenor David Lloyd, who was in school with his father. The wonderful counter tenor Andreas Scholl singing Handel's Largo was Anja Smith's choice. Ryan Davies was a very popular hilarious comedian, who sadly died young; in Carys Williams's choice he sang Kalinka with the Gentlemen Songsters, who were had no idea of what to expect; Derrick Thomas was proud to present a sketch by his fellow 'Gower Boy'. Mike Price selected an item which is always shown at Christmas in Germany and Austria, Dinner For One, a sketch which everybody should see! David Alexander singing The Price of Coal was Vice-president Brian Farmer's choice, in memory of the awful conditions of the miners, who paid the ultimate price. Marion Farmer chose Elin Manahan Thomas singing the song she sang at the opening of the London Olympics, Handel's Let the Bright Light Shine. My Little Welsh Home sung by the maestro Bryn Terfel transported Doug Elkof back to his childhood. The sublime Rene Fleming singing Korngold's Lied der Marietta was Liz Armishaw's choice. Finally, Be Still My Soul sung to the tune Finlandia, sung by John Eifion and the Brythoniaid male choir took Eddie Alcock back to the Sixth Form days of his youth. Mike's added bonus was a sublime Finnish Male Chorus singing Finlandia. Mike's contribution to all the Society's musical events is immense. By popular agreement this had been one of the best evenings in the Society. During the interval, the members feasted on wine and cakes, provided by Elsie Salmon to celebrate her husband, James's, birthday and his miraculous recovery after a serious illness. The next meeting will be the AGM on 22 June, followed by a Summer Celebration on Saturday 24 June.

Meeting and Activities Report May 2017 (Continued)



Mike Price



Derrick Thomas



Doug Elkov



Vice President Brian Farmer

JUNE NEWSLETTER / CYLCHLYTHYR MIS MEHEFIN 2017

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 **28th September 2017**, 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.

We enjoyed an amazing evening at our May meeting, where **Mike Price** had cleverly presented a great variety of some of our members chosen music. It was a fantastic and fun filled evening. We also celebrated **James Salmon's** birthday and enjoyed some wine and cake. A very special Thank you to **Mike Price** for arranging such a special evening for us all to enjoy.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 22nd June 2017 at Chelmsford Cathedral Chapter House at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

In the first half of the meeting the President and Treasurer will deliver their report on the Society's year, and the election of officers will be confirmed. There will be some entertainment in the second half. **If you are interested in becoming a Committee member, where you can get involved with the running of the Society, then please get in touch.**

Refreshments- Catering Committee

Raffle prizes . **David Brown, Kay Bright, Buddug Rowland Frank and Jim Armishaw**

WELSH CLASSES – The next classes will be held on **Monday, 5th and 19th June 2017** at **Radley Green Farm at 2.00pm.**

Please ask for more details if you are interested in joining the Welsh classes.

Annual Concert at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, 10th June 2017

This concert will feature the **North Wales Male Voice Choir** and soloists. **Tickets** priced at **£16** are available from **Arthur Williams** on **01621 778711** and **Eddie Alcock** on **01245 603448**. **THERE ARE TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR THIS EVENT.** Please contact the ticket sellers if you would like any more information. Listen out for **Arthur Williams** who will be promoting this concert on **BBC Essex** this Monday 5th June at 1.15pm

VISIT TO ANGLESEY SEPTEMBER 17th- 20th, 2017 . The full balance of the trip is due to be paid by the **end of June**. Please send your cheques to **Carys Williams**, 3 Englefields, Tillingham, Essex CM0 7AT. All cheques to be made to the **Chelmsford & District Welsh Society**. The balance of **£295** is to be paid for a **single room**, and **£265** each for a **double room**.

MORNING COFFEE IN THE COUNTRY on **Wednesday, 7th June 2017 at 10.30am** hosted by **Carys & Arthur Williams** at their home . 3 Englefields, South Street, Tillingham CM0 7AT. Telephone- 01621 778711. Raffle prizes will be most appreciated.

AFTERNOON TEA on **Saturday, 24th June 2017 at 3pm**. Please come and join us for a delightful Afternoon Tea. Tickets are £7.50 each and will be sold at the AGM, or can also be purchased on the day. If you would like to come to this event, please ring Carys Williams on 01621 778711, so we have an idea of how many to cater for. The address is Radley Green Farm, Radley Green, CM4 0LU. Please remember to bring your chairs along, and any raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated.

SOCIETY NEWS

- We would like to say a special Thank you to **Arthur Williams**, for his excellent year as President. Thank you also to **Carys Williams** for her hard work and support during the year. We also appreciate the effort and hard work that they both put into the organising of our Annual Concert.
- Happy Birthday to **James Salmon**.
- Best wishes to all members who have been unwell recently.

**Cofion Cynnes,
Gwenno Pope**

Meeting and Activities Report June 2017

The 2017 Choir Concert NORTH WALES MALE VOICE CHOIR



There was a full house at the Chelmsford and District Welsh Society's annual concert at Chelmsford Cathedral on 10 June, graced by the presence of the Mayor of Chelmsford, Cllr. Duncan Lumley. They were rewarded by a wonderful evening of song given by a superb choir, Cantorion Gogledd Cymru (The North Wales Male Voice Choir), who are based in Betws-y-Coed in Snowdonia. They delivered an exciting

programme with a balance of Welsh and English numbers which allowed the choir to display their full range of expertise, opening with the powerful and moving Y Ddau Wladgarwr (The Two Patriots), followed by a haunting Bring Him Home from Les Misérables, Er I Ti Ddweyd (Despite What You Said) and I Believe. The choir contains many talented soloists, nine of whom performed at the concert! The first three to perform were baritones: Tudur Efans sang I'll Walk With God from The Student Prince; Ifan Owen sang a Welsh favourite, Can yr Aradr Goch (The Song of the Red Plough); and John Arwyn Davies sang Just Wearying for You. Tudur was also the amusing, and rather daring, MC. The first half concluded with the choir singing the beautiful Benedictus composed by Robert Arwyn, followed by a gentle lullaby Fy Mhlentyn (My Child) composed by the Musical Director Aled Wyn Edwards, and two popular numbers, Bridge Over Troubled Waters and You'll Never Walk Alone.

The second half began with the audience and choir singing the well-known hymn Gwahoddiad (The Invitation). The Mayor delivered a speech of Civic Welcome to the choir and soloists. The choir then sang the powerful Anthem Geltaidd (Celtic Anthem) and followed with the spiritual Angels Watching Over Me, a sentimental Pan For Nos and Tydi a Dy Ddoniau (When The Night / You and Your Gifts) and a moving The Lord's Prayer. Next the soloists: the baritone Gwyn Jones sang Some Enchanted Evening from the movie South Pacific; a quartet, Bedwyn Efans, Richard Tudor, Hywel Roberts and Steffan Parry sang Let Me Dream, and finally an immensely talented young man, James Edwards, sang Stars from the musical Les Misérables, to thunderous applause. The concert continued with four songs by the choir, a gentle Deep Harmony, the hymns Bryn Myrddin with its crescendo of Amens and the beautiful Morte Christe, and finally a joyful Yn Y Man (In the Sweet Bye and Bye). Following a standing ovation at the end of the scheduled programme, the audience were rewarded by an encore, a powerful American Trilogy.

This was a truly great concert by a choir and soloists led by a charismatic Musical Director, Aled Wyn Edwards and accompanied by a talented pianist, Richard Hibbs. They were congratulated and presented with gifts from the Society by the President and Concert Organiser, Arthur Williams. This was the 49th annual concert the Society have arranged, and they are grateful to the citizens of Chelmsford and the surrounding towns and villages for their continuous support.

Meeting and Activities Report June 2017 (Continued)



Arthur Williams



Choir Compere and Soloist



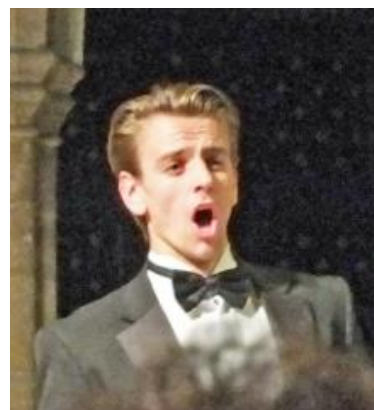
Choir Soloist



Cllr Derek Lumley,
Mayor of Chelmsford



Choir Soloist



Choir Soloist, James Edwards



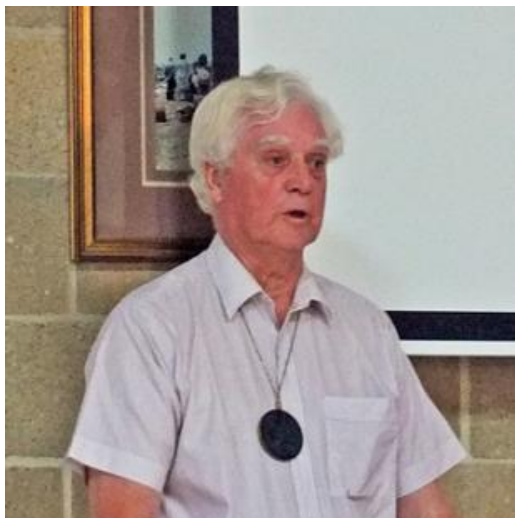
Tenor section



Post-Concert afterglow at the Atlantic Hotel

Meeting and Activities Report June 2017 (Continued)

"SOCIETY AGM"



Arthur Williams outgoing President



Arthur presents the Air Ambulance
with a cheque for £2000

The June meeting of the Chelmsford and District Welsh Society held on Thursday 22nd June was the last of the 2016/17 season and included the Annual General Meeting. The outgoing President Arthur Williams outlined the programme of events that had been staged during his time in office and thanked all the committee members that had served him so well in his time in office.

Also during the year several successful events took place to raise money for charity. These included a garden party, coffee mornings, a lunch and a musical evening. The money raised allowed the society to give a £2000 cheque to the Essex Air Ambulance, the lead charity of Arthur's year. Another beneficiary was the Tillingham Hobbies Club that runs worthwhile activities for 6 to 17 year olds in Arthur's home village. Retiring committee member Maureen Byatt was made an Honorary Vice-president of the Society in recognition of all the hard work she had done for the society over the years including a year as Society President.

Treasurer Carys Williams gave her report showing that the society had made a small overall loss on the year, but in general, the society's finances were in a healthy position. It was decided to increase the annual subscription for the coming year to £20 to cover this shortfall. All agreed that this still reflected incredible value for money.

Arthur then passed on the Presidency to Brian Farmer who in turn appointed Ivy Price as his Vice President for the coming season. The AGM was then formally closed and all those who attended were treated to a generous strawberry supper. After the drawing of the raffle new president Brian Farmer gave a short illustrated presentation on his time in the African state of Malawi. Brian included photos of the countryside and wildlife as well as the customs and dress of the local people who were most industrious and friendly. At that time the country was a one party state under the presidency of Hastings Banda and although still one of the world's poorest countries does now have a multiparty system of government.

On Saturday 24th June the new president Brian Farmer held his first event, a fund raising afternoon tea, at the home of Shirley and Don Moody. Our thanks go to Shirley and Don for the use of their barn and all the facilities. The Society will next meet after the summer break on Thursday September 28th at 7.30 p.m for the %Groesol Yn Ol (Welcome Back) meeting where the president will introduce his charity for the year and Mike Price will show extracts from this year's National Eisteddfod.

Meeting and Activities Report June 2017 (Continued)



Arthur Williams hands Maureen Byatt the office of Honorary Vice President



Arthur Williams hands over the Presidency to Brian Farmer



Gwenno Pope, Secretary



Ivy Price, Vice President



Afternoon Tea at Radley Green



Arthur presents £250 to the Tillingham Hobbies Club



Bessie keeps an eye on the proceedings

Meeting and Activities Report September 2017

"SOCIETY TRIP to BEAUMARIS, Anglesey, September 2017



Beaumaris with Snowdonia in the distance across the Menai Straits

On 17 September, forty four members and friends of Chelmsford and District Welsh Society set out on the long journey to Ynys Mon (Anglesey) to enjoy a three day visit, originally planned for May by the then President, Arthur Williams. They stayed in Beaumaris at the Grade 1 listed Bulkeley Hotel, which was built as a Georgian Showpiece for the visit by Princess Victoria to perform the opening ceremony for Telford's 1826 Menai Bridge, the first modern suspension bridge in the world. Arthur had planned an exciting itinerary: on the first full day a coach trip through the beautiful Nant Francon Pass and Llanberis Pass followed by a one hour trip through stunning scenery on the Snowdon Mountain Railway to the summit of Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon), and then a visit to a Slate Museum; on the following day, a cruise on the Menai Straits, which separates Anglesey from the mainland, under the Menai Bridge and Stephenson's 19th Century Britannia Bridge, followed by a conducted tour of Anglesey led by the archaeologist Rhys Mwyn, which included a tour of an RNLI boat house and a visit to a prehistoric copper mine. Excellent musical entertainment was provided after dinner on each evening: on the first evening Brodyr Magee, five brothers whose ages ranged from 20 to 6, gave a captivating vocal and instrumental performance; on the second evening, Meibion (Sons of) Goronwy a male voice choir formed a year ago: and on the final evening, another local male voice choir, Cor Meibion Y Foel.



Entertainment on Sunday evening, with Brodyr Magee



Arthur thanks Brodyr Magee for a most entertaining

Meeting and Activities Report September 2017 (Continued)



At Llanberis ready for the ascent of Snowdon



On the Snowdon Train



A view from the summit



A demonstration of slate splitting and cutting at the Slate Museum



Monday evening entertainment from Meibion Goronwy



Meeting and Activities Report September 2017 (Continued)



Britannia Bridge on our boat trip down the Manai Straits



Visit to the Lifeboat Station at Moelfre



Visit to the ancient open cast copper mine on Parys Mountain



A group photo on Parys Mountain



Cor Meibion Y Foel



Cor Meibion Y Foel



Arthur thanks Cor Meibion Y Foel



Time to go home

