CHELMSFORD and DISTRICT WELSH SOCIETY



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER/ CYLCHLYTHYR MIS TACHWEDD 2020

Annwyl Gyfeillion

What a fantastic Newsletter we had in October. I was so pleased to see that our Society is alive and kicking.

Please keep on contributing, we love to hear from you.

I love it when Gwenno tells me that she only needs a few lines from me, and being a very obedient type, I do as I am told.

Keep safe and let us all hope that the vaccine will be with us soon.

Cofion cynnes iawn

Arthur

Dyma'r newyddion o Radley Gwyrdd

Mae'r teulu i gyd yn iawn, mae babi Charlie, enw Harley'n saith mis o oed. Babi hapus iawn. Mae Bella'n fabi hapus iawn hefyd -ci bach pwysig iawn efo llais swnllyd! Rydyn ni'n cerdded milltiroedd pob dydd mewn haul a glaw - mae hi'n rhedeg ar ol popeth syth yn symyd- adar, cwningod a cheirw - hapus iawn ydw i fod coesau byr gan Bella! Gobeitho cawn ni weld ein gilydd yn fuan yn y flwyddyn nesaf.

Hwyl fawr Shirley

Here is the news from Radley Green

The family are all well, Harley, Charlie's baby is now 7 months old, a happy baby. Our baby Bella is also very happy. She is a small important dog with a loud voice. We walk miles in sunshine and rain, she runs after everything, birds, rabbits & deer. I am very happy that she only has short legs. Hopefully we will see one another early in the new year for Welsh conversation and laughter.









Curo'r Corona'n Coginio

I've had great pleasure during this lock-down looking at a Welsh Facebook site called **Curo'r Corona'n Coginio** – Beat Corona by Cooking

On this site, men, women and children from all over Wales have been sharing their favourite recipes. These include cakes, dinners and puddings. Often what they produce is given away to neighbours in lock-down, or people living alone – an act of true kindness and generosity.

The recipes are written in Welsh, and the illustrations are truly mouth-watering. **Merched y Wawr** have now compiled a selection of these recipes into a handsome book and you will not be surprised to learn that I have already bought a copy. It costs £10. Trying out the various recipes has given me great pleasure as well as keeping me out of mischief!

Thinking of you all Keep safe





Dwi wedi cael boddhad mawr yn ystod yr amser dan glo yn gwylio safle Weplyfr Gymraeg o'r enw **Curo'r Corona'n Coginio**. Ar y safle hon mae dynion, menywod a phlant dros Gymru gyfan wedi cyfrannu eu hoff reseitiau, yn cynnwys cacennau, ciniawau a phwdinau o bob math. Yn aml, fyddai'r bobl yn rhoi'r bwyd roeddent wedi goginio I gymdogion o dan glo neu pobol yn byw ar ben eu hunan – caredigrwydd a haelioni yn wir.

Mae'r reseitiau wedi eu hysgrifennu yn Gymraeg, a mae'r lluniau yn wych. Erbyn hyn, ma **Merched y Wawr** wedi casglu amrywiaeth o'r reseitiau, ac wedi argraffu llyfr coginio.

Fyddwch chi ddim yn synnu fy mod wed prynu'r llyfr coginio hyfryd yma. **Y gost yw £10.** Dwi'n cael pleser mawr wrth drio'r reseitiau allan. Mae hefyd yn fy nghadw allan o ddrygioni.

Yn meddwl amdanoch i gyd Cadwch yn ddiogel

The book is available from <u>www.carreg-gwalch.cymru</u> or from Siop y Pethe 01970 617120 www.siopypethe.cymru/cy/.

Piano and Singing tuition with The Vocal Academy Are you interested in having piano or singing lessons? Or know someone who is?

Our society member, **Debs Allen- Morgan** is a qualified and experienced music teacher who offers online piano and singing lessons for children and adults of all ages. For more details please look at **The Vocal Academy** Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/the.vocal.academy.essex/

Or contact Debs on 07967712348.

Did you know that these 20 people were Welsh? By Gwil Williams

When you ask someone to name a famous Welsh person, the usual names e.g. Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey, Gareth Edwards are always evident. However, are you aware that the following 20 celebrities were born in Wales?

1. Bertrand Russel (1872-1970)

The famous philosopher, mathematician, historian and writer, whose work culminated in a Nobel prize, was born in Trellech, Monmouthshire. The home that inspired his formative years, Cleddon Hall, was sold in 2012 for £2 million pounds. His links with Wales continued until his death, aged 97 in Penrhyndeudraeth.

2. Ray Milland (1907-1986)

Ray Milland was one of Hollywood's most bankable and durable film stars and was based in the USA from 1930. However, he was born Alfred Reginald Jones on 3 January 1907 in Neath. He was schooled independently before attending the private King's College School in Cardiff. His screen career ran from 1929 to 1985, and he is best remembered for his Academy Award-winning portrayal of an alcoholic writer in Billy Wilder's *The Lost Weekend* (1945) and also for such roles as a leading man opposite John Wayne's character in *Reap the Wild Wind* (1942), the murder-plotting husband in Alfred Hitchcock's *Dial M for Murder* (1954), and Oliver Barrett III in *Love Story* (1970).

3. Paul Whitehouse (1958 >)

Paul was one of the main stars of the BBC comedy *The Fast Show* and has worked closely with Harry Enfield and Charlie Higson. Most recently you might have seen him with comedian Bob Mortimer in the excellent *Mortimer and Whitehouse: Gone Fishing*. He was born in Stanleytown, Glamorgan and his mother sang with the Welsh National Opera. The family moved to Enfield when he was 4 years old and he remembers classmates in his primary school making fun of his Welsh accent!

4. Lawrence of Arabia (1888 – 1935)

Colonel Thomas Edward Lawrence was an archaeologist, army officer, diplomat and writer who became famous for his role in the Arab Revolt and the Sinai and Palestine Campaign against the Ottoman Empire during the First World War. The film of his exploits, starring Peter O'Toole, was produced in 1962.

He was born, out of wedlock, in Tremadog, on the edge of the Llyn Peninsula, in 1888, to a governess, whose family originated from Swansea and an Anglo-Irish nobleman. 8 years later the family moved to Oxford, where he later took a degree in History. The house at Tremadog where he was born remains intact and is now a hostel.

5. Kenneth Baker (1934>)

Ex-teachers like myself will remember our *Baker Days*! He is a former Conservative MP and cabinet minister, holding the offices of Home Secretary, Education Secretary (hence the *Baker Days*). He was born in Newport, the son of a civil servant. However, as a youngster, the family moved to England and he was educated at Hampton Grammar School, followed by St. Pauls. He is now titled Baron Baker of Dorking.

6. Michael Howard (1941>)

Another Tory minister, Michael Howard was born in Llanelli, the son of a Russian mother and Romanian father, who fled persecution in Europe to find a safe haven in Wales. He served as Leader of the Conservative Party from 2003 to 2005. His title now is Lord Howard of Lympne.

7. Keith Allen (1953>)

Keith is an actor, pantomime star and television presenter. He is the father of singer Lily Allen. He was born in Llanelli; his father was a Royal Navy submariner. He spent most of his childhood in Gosport, Hampshire, while his father served in Portsmouth. At the age of 11 he was sent to a boarding school in Brentwood when his father was posted to Singapore. He was expelled from the school at the age of 13 and later sent to borstal.

8. Pam Ferris (1948>)

The actress, most famous for appearing in *The Darling Buds of May* as Catherine Zeta-Jones' mum with David Jason as her husband, was born in Hanover, Germany to Welsh parents while her father was serving in the RAF. Her parents later returned to live in Aberkenfig, near Bridgend where her father became a policeman. When Pam was 13, the family emigrated to New Zealand.

9. Geoffrey Howe (1926-2015)

The former Tory Chancellor and Deputy Prime Minister to Margaret Thatcher, who later took up the title of Lord Howe of Aberafon came from Port Talbot. He was born there in 1926, the son of a local solicitor. He was proud of his Welsh roots although he was heavily defeated when he stood as a Conservative candidate for Aberafon in the 1955 and 1959 elections. As a barrister he represented NCB managers at the Aberfan enquiry and then chaired the Ely Hospital inquiry.

10. Jeff Banks (1943>)

The clothes designer co-founded the fashion chain *Warehouse* in the late 1970's. He later created and presented the television programme *The Clothes Show.* He was born in Ebbw Vale. His sheet metal worker father left his mother when he was 8 years old, so she decided to move to London with her son. He said that his early life in Ebbw Vale showed him how hard life could be and gave him a term of reference that he said influenced him in almost everything he did.

11. Timothy Dalton (1946>)

He was the fourth actor to play *James Bond*, where he starred in *The Living Daylights* and *License to Kill*. He was born in Colwyn Bay to an English father who had been a captain in the Special Operations Executive during the Second World War. When Timothy was 4 years old, the family moved to Belper in Derbyshire.

12. Christian Bale (1974>)

The actor, famous for his portrayal of *Batman* was born in Haverfordwest. His father was stationed at what was then RAF Brawdy. When Christian was 2, the family left Wales when his father became a commercial pilot, leading to the family moving to Portugal, the USA and finally Bournemouth. When his parents divorced in 1991, he followed his father to California. He is now considered to be one of the finest actors of his generation and has received two Golden Globes and an Academy Award.

13. Jonathan Pryce (1947>)

He has played Shakespearean heroes (Hamlet, Shylock, Macbeth), starred in musicals (Miss Saigon), Hollywood films (Pirates of the Caribbean) and, recently, featured in the TV epic *Game of Thrones*. The actor was born close to my home village in Carmel, Flintshire. His father, a former coal miner, ran the village grocery shop and he attended the local grammar school in Holywell. He has 2 sisters who still live in the area. He is patron of the Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir.

14. Terry Jones (1942-2020)

The actor, writer and comedian was best known as a member of the *Monty Python* comedy team. He was born in Colwyn Bay, the son of Dilys Newnes and Alick George Parry-Jones, a bank clerk. The family home was named *Bodchwil*. When he was 4 years old, the family moved to Claygate in Surrey. Later, whilst studying History in Oxford, he met up with Michael Palin; the two later joined up with Eric Idle and John Cleese amongst others to form *Monty Python's Flying Circus*.

15. Julia Gillard (1961>)

Julia is a politician who became Australia's first female Prime Minister from 2010 to 2013. She was born in Barry and migrated with her family to Adelaide when she was 5 years old.

Julia's father was born in Cwmgwrach, whilst her mother was born in Barry. Julia suffered from pneumonia as a child so her parents decided to head to a healthier climate.

She studied for a law degree in Melbourne and became a partner in a law firm. She later became Chief of Staff to the Australian labour Party, following on to become Deputy Prime Minister. After the 2010 election, she became Prime Minister, forming a coalition with the Green Party and 3 independent members.

16. Griff Rhys Jones (1953>)

Cardiff born Griff is a comedian, writer, actor and TV presenter. He starred in a number of television series with his comedy partner, Mel Smith e.g. *Not the None O'clock News* and *Alas Smith and Jones*. Later he replaced Dennis Norden as the presenter of *It'll be Alright on the Night*.

Griff's father, Elwyn Rhys Jones was a doctor, who, when Griff was just 6 months old, moved to Essex. He attended the nearby Brentwood School during his secondary education then read History and English at Oxford University.

17. Helen Willets (1972>)

Helen is a meteorologist who often presents the weather forecasts on the BBC. She attended Eirias High School in Colwyn Bay before obtaining a 1st class degree in Physics at Nottingham. She later joined the Met Office and from 1995 she appeared as a forecaster on BBC Television and Radio in Wales before moving to London in 1997.

She is an accomplished badminton player and has represented Wales at international level.

18. Michael Heseltine (1933>)

Although his father was a Welsh colonel, Michael's family were descended from farmers, dockers and coal workers from South Wales. He was born in 1933 in Swansea and remembers fishing as a child in Brynmill Park. After attending the independent Shrewsbury School, he studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford. Following graduation, he became an officer in the Welsh Guards. He stood as a Tory candidate for the Gower in 1959 but failed to win in a safe Labour seat.

He later became an established Tory MP and was a prominent figure of Margaret Thatcher and John Major's governments.

19. Ivor Novello (1893-1951)

He was born in Cowbridge Road East in Cardiff. The house, just to the west of the River Taf, was called *Llwyn yr Eos.* His real name was David Ivor Davies; he was the son of Clare Novello Davies who founded the Welsh Ladies Choir in Cardiff. After competing in various *Eisteddfodau* from an early age, he went on to Magdalene College in Oxford.

In 1916 he joined the RNAS and began training as a pilot. However, after crashing twice he was grounded! His real contribution was as a composer e.g. songs such as *Keep the Home Fires Burning*. After the war his career took off and he contributed numbers to several successful musicals.

20. Dawn French (1957>)

Maybe Dawn was in and out of North Wales quicker than the aircraft flown by her father's RAF colleagues, but she was born in Holyhead's former Y *Gors* maternity hospital whilst her father Denys was a corporal technician stationed at nearby RAF Valley. She soon left the area to attend a boarding school in Plymouth before travelling around the country with her family to various schools. Dawn later attended the London School of Speech and Drama where she met Jennifer Saunders – the rest is history!

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to this month's newsletter. If you have anything that you would like me to include in the December Newsletter, please can you contact me before December 7th.

Diolch yn fawr

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