

## **CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT WELSH SOCIETY**

*CYMDEITHAS CYMRAEG CHELMSFORD A'R CYLCH*

# **THE FIVE YEARS TO JULY 2016**





## The President's Foreword

“Fifty Years of the Welsh Society in Chelmsford” was published in June 2012. It was compiled by our archivist, Eddie Alcock, who has now assembled the activities of the Society for the next five years – 2011 to 2016. It is difficult to find the right words to describe the hard work that has gone into producing this booklet. I extend my sincere thanks to Eddie for once again turning up trumps and for keeping us all up to date.

It is quite remarkable that the privilege of writing the Foreword for the first publication fell to my wife, Carys, who was President at the time. Five years on, it is now my turn to say a special “thank you” to her for her support and invaluable advice during the past year.

My year as President is drawing to a close and I must say that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the Society in that capacity. I thank each and every member of the Committee for the tremendous support and encouragement that they have given me over the past twelve months and I also thank all the members of the Society for their support. It has been very much appreciated.

It has been a most enjoyable year. I make no apologies for the number of musical evenings that there have been in my Programme. I only hope that you have all enjoyed them as much as I have. Our St David's Day Dinner was very lively and full of laughter and it will live in my memory for a very long time.

I make no apologies for repeating what Carys wrote five years ago.

*“Heddiw mae ein Cymdeithas yn hapus a bywiog, ac ein haelodau yn ffyddlon, gweithgar a chroesawgar. Gobeithio i'r sefyllfa yma barhau am fflynddoedd lawer.”*

Today, our Society is happy and lively, and our members are loyal, industrious and welcoming. We hope that this situation will continue for years to come.

Diolch yn fawr  
Arthur Williams  
President (2016/17)



## **The Compiler's Foreword**

I cannot believe that twenty six years have passed since Marie and I joined the Chelmsford & District Welsh Society following our post-retirement move to Chelmsford. In 1995-96 I had the honour of being the President of the Society and I have enjoyed serving as Treasurer for eighteen and as Concert Secretary for six years. I am proud to be numbered among the Honorary Vice-Presidents.

If you are wishing to relive or to experience for the first time the events of the last five years I would recommend that you log on to [www.chelmsfordwelsh.org.uk](http://www.chelmsfordwelsh.org.uk). The Website was constructed by David Brown, the Society's Webmaster and Audio Manager, and is a comprehensive and colourful record of the events of the past five years - and more! It is easy to negotiate one's way around the site so as to catch up on the reports and photos of past events.

If, on the other hand, you wish to hear about the organisation of the Society and about some of the people who have worked behind the scenes during the past five years you should read on.

Marie and I continue to enjoy the friendship of so many members of the Society and I offer an apology to those whose contributions have been great but whose efforts have not been acknowledged in the following pages.

Eddie Alcock  
Honorary Vice-President and Society Archivist  
March 2017





# CHELMSFORD & DISTRICT WELSH SOCIETY CYMDEITHAS CYMRAEG CHELMSFORD A'R CYLCH

## THE FIVE YEARS TO JULY 2016

### Introduction

On St David's Day in 1961 more than one hundred people responded to the invitation, placed in the local paper, to come to a meeting in Kings Road Junior School. During the course of the evening it was agreed that a formal Welsh Society should be set up and that membership should be open to all persons *being either Welsh, or of Welsh extraction, or having Welsh connections*. Fourteen of the people who were at that first meeting were nominated to "come together on March 16<sup>th</sup> 1961 to take the matter forward". They decided that the first event should be a Social Evening and that was duly held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Kings Road School Hall. The programme for the evening consisted of Welsh Music on records, readings from the works of Dylan Thomas and a Cymanfa Ganu. Predictably, the arrangements for refreshments were left in the hands of "the Misses Margaret Harris and Janet Laycock". Janet, together with her husband, Richard, still regularly attend the meetings of the Society and she was actually one of the three members who were invited to talk to the November 2015 Monthly Meeting "about their childhood in Wales".

The Society's first Constitution was approved at the General Meeting that was held on October 24<sup>th</sup> 1961. Officers were elected and an Annual Subscription of 2/6d (12 ½ pence) was set. The Chelmsford and District Welsh Society was formally in business.

In 2012, on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee, the Society produced a record of the events that had brought so much joy to Welsh exiles in and around Chelmsford during its first fifty years. This second instalment, covering the next five years, is a much more manageable task.

Before we look at the achievements of the men and women who, for the past fifty six years, have generously given up so much of their time and energy, we should first take a look at the framework within which it has taken place.

### Changes to the Constitution

The latest Constitution and Rules are much more comprehensive than the ones drawn up by the founding members in October 1961. During the intervening fifty odd years they have been revised on many occasions. The current version, which was approved at an Executive Committee meeting as recently as 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015, shows that the criteria for membership still include "*being Welsh*" but the original coverage of "*being of Welsh extraction, or having Welsh connections*" has been expanded to "*persons interested in Welsh activities*".

The Objectives, too, have been regularly reviewed and they now read:

- *To provide for and to encourage all exiled Welsh to meet from time to time and to participate in social, cultural and other activities, and*
- *To support Welsh cultural activities.*

## The Management of the Society

The Society has evolved an effective committee structure. Its officers are the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer and they are supported by an Executive Committee consisting of, nominally, twelve members. The responsibility for organising some of the major events ó e.g. the St David's Day Dinner, the Annual Concert, the church services ó is placed in the hands of nominated Committee members. Even though the Officers and the committee members play an important part in the life of the Society it is the President who has the key role.

### The President

According to the Constitution, the President shall be the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and he (she) shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, held in the month of June. No other formal conditions are attached to the Office. The rules do not specifically preclude him from holding office for two or more consecutive years but, in practice, no President has ever been elected for a second consecutive term of office. A list of the men and women who have served as President between 1961 and 2016 is contained in Appendix B.

Although no-one has held the office for two consecutive years ten members have been President twice and a further two - Mair Goodman and Cynthia Styles - have each served as President on **three** occasions. In Appendix B each second term of office is shown in *italics* while the third periods for Mair and Cynthia are in **bold**.

As a result, in its first fifty five years the office of President has been held by **forty one** different members of the Society. Interestingly, (and harmoniously) there have been **five** instances where both the **husband and the wife** (obviously at different times) have been President.

The list of Presidents yields some interesting facts about the period. It shows that during the Society's first twenty years there were only **five female** Presidents compared with **fifteen** during the last twenty years ó i.e. a three-fold increase. The unbroken run of five female Presidents - *Carys Williams, Liz Armishaw, Ivy Price, Buddug Rowland-Frank and Shirley Moody* ó from 2011 to 2015 has, of course, contributed to this increase. During the fifty five years of its existence there have twenty seven male and twenty eight female Presidents.

The list of Presidents contains one other interesting feature. During its first six years, three of the Presidents ó *S Upshall, TLT Williams and TDE Williams* - were known by their initials and surnames. That is how they are referred to in the Society's minutes etc. All the other presidents have been addressed, familiarly, by their Christian names.

It is said that during the second half of the twentieth century virtually every school in Essex had at least one Welsh teacher on its staff. Many of them became members of the Society and that is reflected in the fact that **thirty** of the Society's presidents have either been **teachers** or have been directly involved in education. It is also the reason why the Society does not hold any meetings during July and August.



Carys Williams 2011 -2012



Liz Armishaw 2012 -2013



Ivy Price 2013 -2014



Buddug Rowland Frank 2014 -2015



Shirley Moody 2015 -2016

## The Committee

Similar gender and teacher patterns can be found in the composition of the Committee. There were four women and ten men on the 1961 Piloting Committee. That compares with ten women and seven men on the 2015 Committee. The 2015-16 Committee included twelve members who were either teachers or were directly involved in education and it contained no fewer than five married couples.

## The Committee Turnover

The success of the Society can be attributed, as we have already stated, to the regular changeover of Presidents. It has also been helped by the composition of the Committee with its mix of men and women and its healthy number of spouses. However, somewhat paradoxically, it can also be ascribed to the fact that over the years there has been a very low turnover of committee members. Year after year the programmes have been regularly implemented by **fresh** presidents and by (no! not **stale**, but) **experienced** committee members. However, it now appears that we are coming to the end of another phase in the life of the Society as we face a series of key retirements.

The first person to terminate his service on the Committee was **Derrick Thomas**. At the end of the 2011-12 season Derrick, a seasoned veteran of the conflict in Korea, decided on health grounds to call it a day. For two decades he had arranged the annual (day) trips; he had been President on two occasions (1994-5 and 2006-7) and for most of the period he had been 'half of the raffle team'. He was also instrumental in introducing the Leek Ceremony, which he and his wife Vera had witnessed in Hong Kong, to the Society. We are indeed fortunate that he remains a regular contributor to our *Noson Lawen*. While he puts the smallest mouth organ in Essex up to his mouth we put our hearts into ours.

The next change in the management team occurred in May 2013 with the sad demise of **Gwyneth Abbott**. Gwyneth had been a senior member of the Refreshments Team for several years. Her style was very much 'hands on'. Sadly her husband, Chris, died in the following December.

We have to return to the raffle team to identify our next 'departure'. As well as being a 'raconteur extraordinaire' (and so often his stories were, indeed, 'tres extraordinaire') and a Past President of the Society (1999-2000) **Ron Jones** had been the other half (with Derrick) of the raffle team for as long as most members can remember. Sadly, in March 2016 Ron decided, also due to failing health, that after 24 years on the Committee he should relinquish his seat and, at the same time, step back from his front-line work on the raffle.

As with all of the Society's tasks they are not vacant for long and Derrick and Ron were seamlessly replaced by Brian Farmer and John Morris, although rumour has it that while Brian's and John's attention has been diverted, Ron has been heard urging the winners (so often Committee Members) to come up quickly to collect their raffle prizes.

Then, totally unexpected, at the end of her Report to the 2015 AGM, **Mair Thomas** shocked and dismayed those present when she announced that she would be retiring as Society Secretary at the 2016 Annual General Meeting. Mair had been a member of the Committee for thirty years and had filled the onerous office of Secretary since 1992. She had taken over as Secretary from Cyril Howells who had been in post for twenty six years and so, between them, they filled that



demanding position for exactly fifty years. Mair had also been President on two occasions (1990-91 and 2005-06). An extract from the Fiftieth Anniversary Document illustrates one of the ways in which she influenced the smooth running of the Society.

*“To those who were on the Committee in the early 1990’s Mair will be especially remembered for the changes she introduced in the production of (NB Not the printing but the arranging thereof!), each year’s programme. The following is an extract from the June 1976 Minutes “The Meeting was asked to pass to the Secretary any suggestions for next year’s programme“ and, in 1983, the same message was tersely put as “Ideas for next year’s programme”. So, while the rest of the Committee departed for a care-free summer break Cyril was left to follow up the suggestions and then lengthy discussions would take place in the subsequent Committee Meetings. That has now changed. During the closing months of each year Mair liaises with the President-elect to ensure that the following year’s programme can be ratified by the Committee before they depart for the summer break. With the content, cost and contracts for the following year’s meetings finalised, the Membership Programme Cards are printed and are ready to be exchanged for the annual subscription at the September meeting. All agree that the new procedures have not adversely affected the quality or the variety of the programmes”*

Following the announcement of Mair’s impending retirement there was no automatic successor and the possibility of job-sharing was being considered when Mair received a call from one of the Society’s newer members. Gwenno Pope, a fluent Welsh speaker from Caernarfon, had only been a member of the Society for two years when she informed Mair that she would like to be considered for the post. She duly attended her first Committee Meeting in November 2015 and produced her first set of Minutes and the Newsletter in May 2016. The scope of the Society was immediately widened as she used her Social Media skills to publicise the existence of the Society. Gwenno was also instrumental in causing the average age of the Committee to fall.



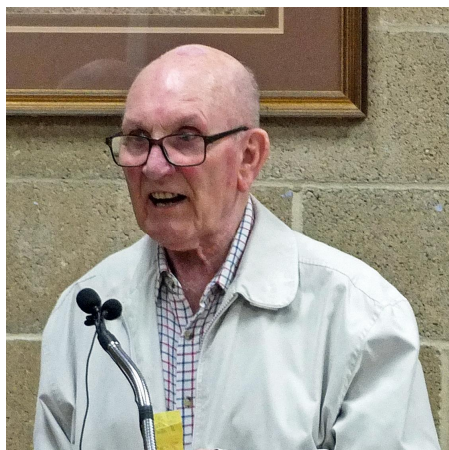
Secretary, Gwenno Pope

The next retirement also affected the Secretariat. When she made the announcement about her impending retirement Mair informed everyone that her husband, **Brian**, would be leaving the Committee at the same time. Brian had also been on the Committee for thirty years and had



served as President on two occasions (1987-88 and 2001-02). When carbon paper and snopake were replaced by computers Brian applied his considerable electronic skills to the Society's secretarial needs. He was promoted to the office of Assistant Secretary and he and Mair formed a very effective team. We know from the final paragraph of their last Newsletter that at least one of them had obtained great satisfaction from the relationship. (*I have enjoyed telling him what to do*) Fortunately, there have been no reported cases, yet, of members suffering withdrawal symptoms now that Eli Jenkins's Prayer is no longer heard being sung in the corridors of the Chapter House.

Sadly even that is not the end of the changes. This time the affected event is the Annual Dinner. To prove how rare an event this is we have to go back to 1967 when Mair Goodman (one of the original members of the Society and the first female President) was asked to liaise with the manager of the County Hotel over the menu for that year's St David's Day Dinner. The Dinner was a success and Mair continued to liaise with the manager for the next thirty four years. In 2002 Cynthia Styles took over from Mair but now she, too, has decided, on health grounds, not to seek re-election to the 2016-17 Committee. Between them, Mair and Cynthia have organised fifty dinners and, coincidentally, they are also the only members who have been President of the Society on three separate occasions.



Ron Jones (Ron the Raffle)



Derrick Thomas with his Korea Medal



Brian Thomas



Mair Thomas

Those of us who have attended the Dinners during the past decade and a half have benefitted from Cynthia's artistic flair and her attention to detail. We all have visual memories of her colourful table arrangements and her stylish Table Menus. The following quotation refers to one of the recent dinners - "The tables were stunningly bedecked in yellow and green, under the gaze of a resplendent Ddraig Goch (the red dragon on the national banner)."

Cynthia is so appropriately (sur)named.



Cynthia Styles

Following their retirement Derrick, Ron, Mair, Brian and Cynthia were appointed Honorary Vice-Presidents for their exceptional contributions to the life of the Society.

Two of the original members who were instrumental in starting the society, Jean Davies and Janet Wash, have also been appointed Honorary Vice Presidents. Both are still active society members.



Founder member, Jean Davies



Founder member, Janet Wash

We leave 2015/16 on a sober note. The coming year will be the first in which there will not be a "Mair" on the Committee and it will also be the first time in thirty years that we will have a "Thomas-free" Committee.

Diolch yn fawr iawn i chi gyd.

## The Society's Open Meetings

The Thursday evening meetings are at the heart of the Society. If you were to ask any member what the Society means to them most would reply 'The Thursday evening's entertainment' or 'Meeting up with friends once a month'. The meetings are held in the Cathedral Chapter House, usually on the fourth Thursday of each month and audience participation is an essential part of the evening. At the start of each meeting the President invites everyone to stand and join in the singing of 'Unwaith Eto'. Unwaith Eto is the song that is sung by expatriate Welsh folk all over the world. It is a powerful portrayal of the sense of longing (hiraeth) for their homeland.

*Unwaith eto 'n Nghrymu annwyl,  
Rwyf am dro ar dir fy ngwlad.  
Llawen gwrdd a hen gyfeillion  
Sydd yn rhoddi mawr fwynhad.  
Rhai ymffrostiant mewn prydferthwch  
Gwledydd pell mewn swynol gan.  
Ond I mi 'does dan yr heulwen  
Wlad mor bur a Gwalia Lan*  
**Cytgan**  
*Magwyd fi ar ei bron,  
Ces fy siglo yn ei chrud.  
O wledydd y ddaear  
Dyma 'r oreu yn y byd.*

At the end of the evening the President wishes everyone 'a safe journey home' and the evening concludes with the singing of the Welsh National Anthem.

Every meeting is, of course, different but four of them in each year – September, December, January and June – do tend to have a recurring format.

**September** is the *welcoming back* month – *Croeso yn ol* – and the meeting is the first for the new President. He outlines his programme for the year ahead and announces his chosen Charity. The evening ends with some light entertainment. During the five year period of this review the entertainment has consisted of a DVD presentation of the current year's National and/or International Eisteddfod, as compiled by Mike Price, the Society's Multimedia organiser.

The **December** meeting takes the form of a Christmas Party and, following a series of games, the evening concludes with communal carol singing. Occasionally the celebrations are enhanced by the presence of a special guest. For example, in 2014 Buddug welcomed Robin Huw Bowen, the renowned Triple Harpist, to Chelmsford. It was his second visit to the Society.

The **January** meeting – *Noswaith o Adloniant Cymraeg* – is an *evening of Welsh entertainment* provided, with one exception, by the members themselves. The exception occurred in 2015 when the talented Frindiau o Geredigion were our guests. The concert party consisted of six women and four men plus an extremely talented drama student who had been a National Eisteddfod winner.

The **June** get-together brings the year's meetings to a close. It is the Society's Annual General Meeting during which a cheque is handed over to a representative of the President's Charity.

The new President accepts the 'chain of office' and after some special seasonal refreshments members enjoy some light entertainment and depart for the three month break.

The President and Secretary liaise to provide some high-quality entertainment for the other six meetings of the year. Appendix A contains a brief comment on the meetings that have been held during the past five years. Fuller details with pictures are available on the Society's Web Site and in the relevant year's Folder that has been assembled by David.

The following are some of the guests who have been recommended by the Presidents. During 2011-12 Carys's guest, Tudur Owen, an S4C presenter and comedian, told us about growing up on his father's farm in Anglesey. Carys was also instrumental in getting Betty Williams, a past MP for Conwy and a cousin of her husband Arthur, to tell us about her journey from her childhood home at the top of the hill to the House of Commons ('O ben y bryn i'r Ty Cyffredin).

Liz set up an evening with the tenor Trebor Edwards, the most successful singer of the Welsh recording industry.

Ivy's brother-in-law, Roger Price, contributed a subtle mixture of humour and pathos while John Scannel, her husband's barrister friend, told us several tales of the 'robing room'.

A random selection of other events that have given great entertainment throughout the years includes:-

- The ascent of Everest (Tori James)
- Crossing the Atlantic in a rowing boat (Elin Haf)
- Spending an hour in a doctor's surgery (Dr Huw Idris Jones)
- Hearing about some of the tricks used by auctioneers (Mike Logan Wood).
- The times of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle told to us by a suitably attired David Jones, a Society member.

Carys was serving her second term as President during the Society's Golden Jubilee Year and she is responsible for a number of special events. The first was the gift of an 'iced cupcake' (appropriately decorated with a red dragon) to everyone present at the Croeso yn Ol meeting in September 2011. Then the Guest of Honour at the St David's Day Dinner was Huw Edwards, the talented Journalist, Newsreader, Presenter and President of the London Welsh Society. The May meeting took the form of a Special Golden Jubilee Dinner for eighty members. It was unique in that admittance was restricted to 'ticket holders only'. Finally, an attractive commemorative Golden Jubilee bookmark was provided to all members.

A detailed list of open meetings can be found in Appendix A towards the back of this booklet.

### **St David's Day Dinners**

We have heard how the inaugural meeting was held on March 1<sup>st</sup> 1961. In the following year a St David's Day Dinner was held at the Lion and Lamb Hotel (now the site of Duke's Night Club) when one hundred and fifty two guests attended. In 1963 the Dinner was held at the Civic Centre and then, in 1964, the celebrations transferred to the County Hotel which has hosted the event ever since. The Dinner is a prestigious formal event and the Society is honoured that during the period of this review the Mayor has always been in attendance. The Guests of Honour are selected by the President and as the following list shows they come from varied 'walks of life'.

**2012** ó Huw Edwards ó Television presenter & newsreader and President of the London Welsh Society

**2013** - Prof Emeritus John L Davies ó Founder of the Phoenix Players et al

**2014** - Gruffudd Glyn ó a young RADA-trained actor

**2015** ó Her Honour Judge Eleri Rees ó the first female Recorder of Cardiff

**2016** ó Dr Alan Rees ó a Cardiff Consultant specialising in juvenile Type 1 Diabetes.

As we have stated above, the retirement of Cynthia signifies a major break with the past as she and her predecessor, Mair Goodman, had organised fifty dinners. The new òteamö that takes over in 2017 will be equally successful and will undoubtedly still be able to count on the professional services of David Brown and his wife, Edith.

### **The Annual Male Voice Concerts**

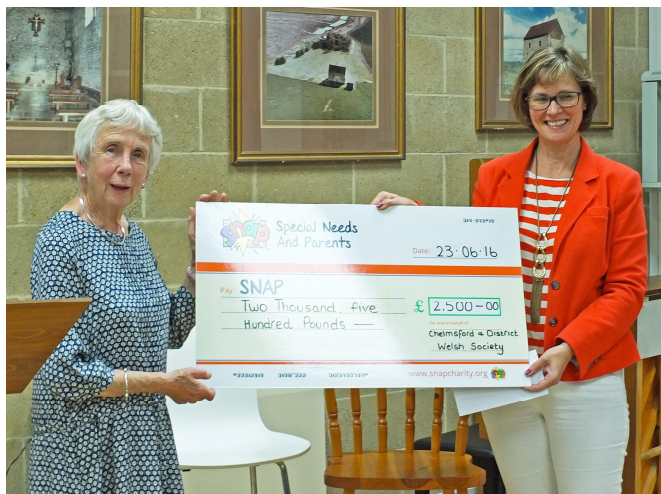
The Society held its first meeting in Spring 1961 but members had to wait until the Summer of 1968 for the first Male Voice Concert. Then, the choir that was invited to give that concert was not òfrom the valleys or from North Walesö. No! It was virtually a òlocalö choir ó The London Male Voice Choir. In the following year the concert was given by Pontarddulais, then by Cwmfelin (shortly before they changed their name to Llanelli) and, in 1971, Pontarddulais returned to give their second concert within three years. A full list of the choirs that have sung to us in each May or June since 1961 appears in Appendix C.

That first concert was held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1968 and the venue was the Civic Centre. The following year the Pontarddulais concert was held in Hoffman's Social Hall but in 1970 there was a return to the Civic Theatre and it remained the venue for the next ten years. During that period the Committee became increasingly aware that the visiting choirs were voicing their concerns that the drapes that shrouded the stage were absorbing the strong tones that they were emitting. They were unable to deliver their full musical experience. Accordingly a new venue was sought and the Committee òdiscoveredö Christ Church. The church had good acoustics, it could accommodate a large choir and an audience of five hundred and there were adequate parking spaces within the church grounds and on the adjacent New London Road. In addition the large hall plus kitchen beneath the church was an excellent place in which to host the Choir tea. Sadly, following a 2007 health and safety check, the capacity of the Church was reduced to four hundred and in order to satisfy the demand for tickets a third concert hall was sought. The venue that was chosen was the Cathedral, positioned right in the centre of the city. It had the capacity to accommodate an audience of five hundred, the choir teas could be served in the Chapter House and it had excellent acoustics. The only drawback was that the view from some of the seats was restricted by some heavy stone pillars.

Appendix C shows that all the choirs who have visited us during the past five years have previously been to Chelmsford. *Brythionaid* were paying their third summer concert but they had also sung at the Charity Concert that was held in the Central Baptist Church in December 2004. *Cor Godre'r Aran's* first visit was as recent as 2003 but they have since returned four times - in 2005, 2010, 2013 and 2016. *Pontarddulais* have appeared on our stage no fewer than eight times; that is three times more than any other choir. The members of the *London Welsh Choir* were our first guests ó in 1968 ó and together with the Birmingham-based *Canoldir Choir* (1982) they are the only ones not to have been based in Wales.



## Donations to Charity



Shirley Moody presents a cheque for £2,500  
to Deirdre Pembroke of SNAP in 2016

The first tangible charitable donation that was made by the Society was the princely sum of £5 that was sent to the 1965 Cambria Colliery Disaster Fund, following the death of thirty one miners. Twelve months later, double that amount was despatched to another colliery-related disaster; namely the catastrophic collapse of the colliery spoil tip, in the village of Aberfan, that resulted in the deaths of one hundred and sixteen children and twenty eight adults. At present day prices these amounts seem derisory but, after allowing for inflation, they equate to about £90 and £180 respectfully. For each of the next fifteen years amounts ranging from £200 to £700 were paid to worthy causes. The bulk of these funds came from the one meeting of each year that was billed as 'The Charity Evening'. Everyone seemed to agree that the attendance at these meetings was poor and eventually this led to a change.

Nowadays, there is no Charity Evening as such, but the Society's calendar contains half a dozen fund-raising events. One of the early events in the year is a Halloween Supper at Radley Green. The last event of the year is always a Garden Party at the same location. In between there are a number of smaller events that are held in members' homes. For years Mair and Brian provided a Christmas Tea but two years ago Liz and Jim took over as hosts. St Valentine's Day is set aside for the journey to Upminster where members partake of Welsh cakes and coffee in Buddug's and Ray's home. Lunch in the Country provided by Carys and Arthur at their Tillingham home, provides a second opportunity for those of us who live in Chelmsford to appreciate what the 'and District' part of our title means. Throughout the year there are a number of occasions when members and friends get together to listen to the programmes that Mike has put together, often following a supper of fish and chips. These events are remembered for the quality of the music and for their alliterative titles e.g. **Mike's Musical Miscellany**. The Charity Fund also benefits from the coffees and teas and Welsh cakes - served to members and friends by Cynthia & John, Maureen & Keith and Edith & David.

Several members still remember the day in September 2012 when the Battle of the Sexes took place at Forefield Green. That was the morning when none of the ladies were able to get a seat in the Summer House because the men 'had got there first'. The deadlock was eventually broken when Edith announced that coffee and light refreshments were being served *in the house*.

The Charities who have benefited from the Society's donations during the past five years are listed in the following Table. It shows that £12,000 has been given to the President's nominated charities with a further £2,000 going to other recipients. These include £250 to Marie Curie for the daffodils that are distributed at the St David's Day Dinner and £750 to the National Eisteddfod as prizes for the winners of two of the youth competitions.

**Essex Air Ambulance** and **J's Hospice** are self-explanatory. **CHESS** is a charity that supports the homeless across Chelmsford and Essex through the provision of temporary accommodation, including a Night Shelter. **First Step** offers educational services, support, information and encouragement to parents of young children up to the age of 5 in Havering who have special needs and/or disabilities. **SNAP** is a charity serving children up to the age of 25 who have any special need or disability and who live in Essex. It informs, encourages and supports parents.

Year	President	Nominated Charity Name	Donation	Other Donations	Total Donations
2011/12	Carys Williams	Essex Air Ambulance	£500	£570	£3,063
2012/13	Liz Armishaw	J's Hospice	£4,101	£420	£5,170
2013/14	Ivy Price	CHESS	£2,620	£380	£3,000
2014/15	Buddug Rowland-Frank	First Step	£2,250	£385	£2,635
2015/16	Shirley Moody	SNAP	£2,500	£401	£2,903
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£11,971</b>	<b>£2,156</b>	<b>£14,127</b>

### Hymns and Praise

We have already heard that the ten monthly meetings are held in the Cathedral Chapter House and that the venue for our Annual Concert is the Cathedral. However, these are not the only times that we go to church.

An essential part of our St David's Day celebrations is the afternoon service that is held in Little Baddow URC Church on the nearest Sunday to March 1<sup>st</sup>. Apart from 2016 when she was not well the services during the past decade have been taken by Dr Cally Hammond, Dean of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge. Cally has a very strong link with the Society as she is the daughter of the late Betty and Ron Hammond. Betty was President of the Society in 1989 and in 2003.



Little Baddow URC Church



St Michael and All Angels, Roxwell

Each June the Society returns to Little Baddow Church to join the local congregation in its service of prayer and praise. This custom goes back as far as 1964 when Eric Davies, who was about to complete his first term of office as Society President, invited Society members to the Little Baddow morning service. Although we are guests at this service an invitation is always extended for our President and Vice-President to read the first lesson of the morning in English and then in Welsh.

A Gymanfa Ganu was one of the items that were included in the programme for the first meeting of the Society on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1961. It is not surprising that members still come together virtually every year for a 'Songs of Praise'. The latest arrangement is for us to join the congregation of St Michael and All Angels, Roxwell.

### **Welsh Classes**

Among the activities that the members of the 1961 Piloting Committee thought the Society should provide was 'Welsh Learning Classes'. During the past five years there have been fortnightly classes that have taken place, courtesy of Shirley and Don, in Roxwell. Initially, Arthur Williams was the teacher but he subsequently handed over to Ivy Price and Sina Williams. Ivy takes the beginners and Sina's pupils have some prior knowledge of the Welsh language. In addition there are four other extremely serious 'pupils' who can be identified by the massive dictionaries they carry. They are the Welsh Scrabble contestants. In total, approximately twenty members turn up on alternative Monday afternoons.

### **The Annual Trips**

Until the mid-90s the trips were to locations in the South East and Norfolk that could be reached by coach within a couple of hours. The opening of the Channel Tunnel meant that some of the towns in Northern France were added as venues and then in 2006 the first three night break to Cardiff was organised. The longer trips have continued and during the past five years our Presidents have taken us to Beaumaris, Llangollen, Bridgend, Aberystwyth and Caernarvon. In 2016 we also had an away day to Norwich which concluded with tea and a Noson Lawen hosted by the local Welsh Society.



Caernarfon Castle, from our 2016 visit



Aberystwyth Promenade, from our 2015 visit



### **Deceased Members of the Society**

Each year the President dedicates the final hymn of the St David's Day service to those Society Members who have died during the course of the year. The following thirteen loyal and supportive members of the Society have been remembered during the last five services.

- Haydn Stephens (recognised by his American Welsh Accent) & his wife, Gwenda.
- Gwyneth Abbott (i/c refreshments) & her husband, Chris.
- Norma (Hon Vice President) & her husband, Ron.
- Menna Hubbard (remembered for wearing a Welsh costume at a 2005 civic event).
- Des Richards (for many years Des arranged the Annual Concert interval teas).
- Ron Hammond MBE (widower of Betty who was a former President and Treasurer, and father of Cally, our ōministerö).
- Alun Thomas (died as a result of a stroke while attending a friend's funeral in Wales).
- Renee Foster (had moved to Mansfield)
- Agnes Evans (very active nonagenarian)
- Phil Lowe (regularly attended our monthly meetings and enjoyed our trips to Wales).

### **Some Special Acknowledgements.**

In every organisation there are a handful of members who generously give up their time and use their talents for the benefit of others. In this context the following members of the Society deserve special mention.

#### **David Brown**



David's official title is *Webmaster and Audio Manager*; a modern sounding name for the most technical, and possibly the most onerous job in the Society. Before every meeting David wheels in his equipment and sets up the projector and the microphones. The screen ensures that everyone can join in the singing, whether it is *Unwaith Eto*, the *National Anthem* or a *Noson Lawen* item. Guest speakers are able to liaise with David to get visual support for their presentations. David also ensures that everyone who has to speak has appropriate amplification. So, gone are the days when members would come away from the meetings muttering about missing so much because they could not hear. As a Society we are very fortunate to have a member who has the talent and generosity to provide such high-quality visual and audio aids. However, it is as Webmaster that he ensures that all members and the ōoutsideö world can relive, in word and picture, the achievements of the past, and can keep in touch with the present. The Website that he has created is very easy to negotiate and we marvel at the fact that David has constructed it from scratch. We appreciate that it is regularly updated.

### **Keith Byatt**



We are fortunate that our singing is never ‘unaccompanied’ because there is always at least one pianist in the audience. Until the turn of the century, Hilary Tucker was our regular accompanist and when she moved to Bristol the ‘stool’ passed to Keith. For the past fifteen years or so at the beginning and the end of each evening Keith has always been seated at the piano ready for the moment when the President invites members to stand and sing. On those few occasions when Keith is absent either Ivy Price or Buddug Rowland-Frank are available. Keith also invariably plays the organ at the Society’s St David’s Day service and at the Annual Cymanfa Ganu.

### **Arthur Williams**



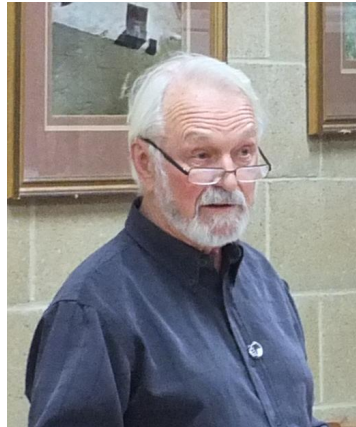
Full recognition is always given to the volume of work that is carried out by the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. However, the contribution made by the Concert Secretary tends to go unnoticed. At least twelve months before each concert he either liaises with the President Elect to agree which choir will be invited to sing to us, or he selects a choir, often after having attended one of their concerts or practises. As Concert Secretary he assumes full responsibility for all aspect of the week-end. He agrees a date and a fee with the choir. He repeats the process with the supporting artistes and he books the Cathedral and the hotel where the choristers will spend their night in Chelmsford.

### **Elizabeth Peters**

For many years Elizabeth has brought a bag of 5p coins to the monthly meetings with a request that the Treasurer add their value to the Charity Fund. During the period of this review almost fifty such bags have been handed over. Diolch yn fawr iawn, Elizabeth.



### **Jim Armishaw**



Ten times each year we eagerly open 'The Essex Chronicle' to read the reports of what the members of the Society have been doing and to get a preview of what the next month holds in store for us. I am sure that many (most) of us digest the graphic descriptions without having any regard as to their origin. We are truly indebted to Jim Armishaw for the task that he so admirably and anonymously undertakes. His Press Releases have actually been invaluable in forming the basis for many of the reviews in this document.

Jim also holds the record for, year after year, selling the most concert tickets; regularly achieving well in excess of one hundred sales. Liz has confirmed that despite his aggressive selling Jim still has plenty of friends.

### **Mike Price**



If there were a prize for the person who, ostensibly, spends most time 'for the benefit of members' it would have to go to Mike who spends days (Ivy says 'weeks') listening to music from all corners of the world in order to select the gems that he shares with us during his Musical Merry-Go-Round/Miscellany Evenings. Add to this the time he spends condensing the National and International Eisteddfod programmes into the Croeso and AGM packages and he is a clear winner.

### **Shirley & Don Moody**



As we have heard, the Society holds its monthly meetings in the Cathedral Chapter House, the Annual Dinner and Concert are held in the County Hotel and Cathedral respectively and the church-related events are held in Little Baddow or Roxwell churches. For all other events we are indebted to Shirley and Don Moody. Shirley was President of the Society in 2009 and 2015 and she currently organises the church services. As a result of their generosity we have free use of the heated hall at their farm in Roxwell. The use extends to the eleven mornings each year when the Committee is welcomed with coffee and croissants, the twenty or so afternoons when the Welsh students extend their knowledge of the 'language of heaven' and a couple of musical evenings when funds are raised for the Annual Charity. In addition whether it is a day trip to Norwich or a three day trip to the Principality secure parking is provided. Each year's programme concludes with a garden party on a sunny rain-free Saturday afternoon in June.

### **The Future of the Society**

The Society ended 2015/16 in a very strong position and there appear to be no causes for concern. The number of paid-up members is over one hundred and the Society Funds are in excess of £10,000. The demand for Dinner and Male Voice Choir Tickets continue to make both events viable and the Annual residential trips to the Principality still command a clientele in excess of forty. It is heartening to witness the involvement of our younger members and to see them spreading the knowledge of the Society through Facebook and other Social Media. A full set of officers and committee members has been elected for the coming year. I predict that there will be a job for the archivist to do in 2022.

## Appendix A

### The Monthly Meetings

The following brief comments relate to the Open Meetings that have been held during the five years of this review.

#### **PART ONE – 2011-12 (The Society's 51<sup>st</sup> Year) under President Carys Williams**

CROESO YN OL (Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>) ó 65 Members and two visitors from Vancouver attended the 'Welcome back' meeting. Mike Price's professional DVD presentation of the highlights of the Wrexham National and the Llangollen International Eisteddfods delighted the audience.

MEMORIES of an ANGLESEY FARMER with TUDUR OWEN (Oct 27<sup>th</sup>) ó The audience of 80 heard Tudur ó a regular performer on S4C - skilfully and hilariously weave fact and fiction into the account of how his father was persuaded by a rogue Dubliner to open a zoo on his farm on Anglesey.

ADVENTURES of an OCEAN ROWER (Nov 24<sup>th</sup>) Elin Haf shared her oceanic rowing experiences with us. We sensed her excitement and exertion and heard about the blisters on her hands and elsewhere.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION ó DATHLU NADOLIG (Dec 15<sup>th</sup>) ó Over 80 members saw the Committee Members change from being residents at Cartref Hamdden Haulfryn (Sunshine Retirement Home) into the cast of Mamma Mia. The evening concluded with carols.

NOSWAITH O ADLONANT GYMRAEG (Jan 26<sup>th</sup>) ó The evening contained professional contributions by many of the Society's amateurs. It included 'Eistedd ar Ben LLidiart' by the Welsh Class and the singing of a four part harmony by Mike and Ivy Price and two of their friends from Llanelli. Buddug played the harp and demonstrated the art of Penillion singing.

GOING GOING í GONE (Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>) Mike Logan Wood let us into the secret nods, winks, prods and finger signs used by bidders to conceal their intentions from other bidders. He recalled how he tried to remember a Mr Nap's name by picturing a 'knapsack'. The atmosphere was very tense indeed when he referred to him as Mr 'Ruck'.

O BEN Y BRYN IŴR TY CYFFREDIN (March 22<sup>nd</sup>) Betty Williams, the cousin of the President's husband, was one of the 101 women who entered parliament in 1997. She was proud of her involvement in the introduction of the Minimum Wage and she spoke about the shortage of female toilets, the female prejudice from some male members and the pink ribbon on her coat hanger that was meant to hold her sword while she was in debating chamber.

Y TREN BACH (26<sup>th</sup> April) ó Ian King took 70 members on an enchanting journey along the narrow gauge railway track from Porthmadog to Caernarfon using narrative, slides and videos. His presentation contained lots of interesting facts covering the period since 1832 when it was built to transport roofing slates to Porthmadog harbour.

GOLDEN JUBILEE DINNER (May 24<sup>th</sup>) Uniquely, entrance to this 'monthly meeting' was by ticket only. 80 Members attended and were presented with an attractive commemorative Golden Jubilee bookmark. Mike Price gave a visual presentation on 'Golden Wales'.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Jun 28<sup>th</sup>) - The Jubilee Year was described as 'yn flwyddyn gwyh, blwyddyn ardderchog'. Carys said that despite the high level of expenditure, partly due to the Jubilee Celebrations, the Society's finances remained healthy.

## **PART TWO – 2012-13 (The Society's 52nd Year) under President Liz Armishaw**

CROESO YN OL (Sept 27<sup>th</sup>) ó 70 Members and Jane Whiffen, the inspiration behind Jø Hospice, attended the 1st meeting of the Society's 52nd year. Mike Price gave a 2 hour DVD presentation of some of the highlights of the 2012 National Eisteddfod of Wales and of the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. It was a delightful mixture of choral and instrumental music, dance and humour.

NOSWAITH GYDA TREBOR EDWARDS (Oct 25<sup>th</sup>) ó On his 2<sup>nd</sup> visit to the Society, Trebor sang a perfect selection of Welsh airs and songs from the shows. Meinir Wyn Davies, a Society member and a winner of the National Eisteddfod oBlue Ribandö was his accompanist. Trebor sang 6 items in each half and Meinir delighted with 2 medleys, each containing 6 Welsh airs.

CHARITY CONCERT (Nov 24<sup>th</sup>) ó On an extremely wet and windy evening over 230 members and friends gathered in the Central Baptist Church to enjoy a charity concert given by the Chelmsford Male Voice Choir. The soloist was Emily Onsloe, soprano. The profit for the evening was **£1,800**

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION ó DATHLU NADOLIG (Dec 13<sup>th</sup>) ó 46 Members were present for an evening of festive songs, carols and readings by Society members, followed by a CD presentation by Mike Price of music in churches and concert halls from all over Europe. The highlight was undoubtedly -Suo Ganö sung, in impeccable Welsh, by Kings College Choir, Cambridge.

NOSWAITH O ADLONANT GYMRAEG (Jan 24<sup>th</sup>) ó In inclement weather 47 members, including newly-born Kate, attended an enjoyable evening of fun, poignancy, mirth, wonder and a touch of ðhiraethö. 13 members gave solo performances and there was full audience participation as Ivy Price led the singing of -Ar Lan y Morö and -Sosban Fachö Buddug Frank told us how Blodwen Jones, a collector of rugby shirts, ended up at the bottom of the scrum on the day that the Neath No 3 failed to turn up.

YNYS BYR (CALDEY ISLAND) AND THE HOLY COAST (Feb 21<sup>st</sup>) ó In a well-researched illustrated talk David Brown, the Society's webmaster, told us about the Saints of West Wales and the day-to-day life of the small community of Cistercian Monks who still practise their faith on Caldey Island.

WELSH MYTHS AND LEGENDS (March 21<sup>st</sup>) - Pat Beddoe, one of the ðWives and Mothers of Aberfanö, concluded her talk on the journey of the Celts across Europe with some Welsh nicknames that included a Travel Agent who was known as *Tom, There and Back* and his brother *Bill One Way* who was an undertaker.

CONQUERING EVEREST (25<sup>th</sup> April) - Tori James, the first Welsh woman and, at the time, the youngest British woman to stand on the summit of Everest, gave an inspirational one and a half hour talk on her training, the perils of the climb and her plans to walk to the South Pole. She had raised £54,000 to cover the rigorous training and the climb itself.

CALL MY BLUFF (23<sup>rd</sup> May) ó Brian Thomas, the Society's Assistant Secretary, had selected a fine range of words for Enid Morris (the renowned thespian), the enigmatic and poker-faced Shirley Moody & Brian Farmer and the ever-chuckling John Lloyd Williams to challenge the audience.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Jun 27<sup>th</sup>) - 57 people attended the AGM and listened to the review of the past year's events. A cheque for £4,000 was presented to Jø Hospice. A further £1,070 had been donated to several other charities during the course of the year. Following light refreshments Mike Price gave a presentation of the highlights of the Urdd 2013 Eisteddfod that included performances by Cor Godreö Aran and Aled Wynn Davies.

### **PART THREE – 2013-14 (The Society's 53rd Year) under President Ivy Price**

CROESO YN OL (Sept 26<sup>th</sup>) ó David Hodgson, a trustee, described how CHESS (*Chelmsford Churches Homeless Emergency Support Scheme*), caters for the single homeless adults of Chelmsford by providing a night shelter, support services and temporary accommodation. Then, Mike Price wowed us all with a wonderful DVD presentation of the 2013 National Eisteddfod that had been held in Denbigh. 62 members attended this, the first meeting of the Society's year.

MANY A SLIP with ROGER PRICE (Oct 24<sup>th</sup>) ó Roger Price, Ivy's brother-in-law, spoke with great humour about his life as the Entertainments Officer for Bridgend. He related how one member thought that Stuart Burrows was too expensive as 'the bloke down the pub plays the piano all night for £400. On a more serious note Roger spoke about Paul Robeson's great love for the starving South Wales miners ó 'it's the first time I've seen white men treated like black men'.

TALES from the ROBIN ROOM with JOHN SCANNEL (Nov 28<sup>th</sup>) - John Scannel, the son of a Port Talbot steel smelter, spoke of his experiences as a barrister. We were told about the potential juror who asked to be excused because his wife was 'due to conceive' within the scheduled period of the trial. There was also the rogue who had been awarded a huge sum after falling off a scaffold; he was 'confident that he would be cured' during his imminent pilgrimage to Lourdes.

PRAISE THE LORD WE ARE A MUSICAL NATION with GWYN PARRY JONES (Dec 12<sup>th</sup>) ó Gwyn Parry Jones, composer, conductor and former Head of Music at Reading University gave a masterful presentation that included Stuart Burrows singing 'Danny Boy' and Grace Williams' 'Fantasia on Welsh Nursery Rhymes'. Members were challenged to identify all of the Nursery Rhymes. After the refreshments Gwyn conducted the Carol Service.

NOSWAITH GYMRAEG (Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>) - 80 members and friends enjoyed an evening of varied entertainment that began and ended with Ivy, Mike and two of their friends from Wales singing some traditional airs. The highlight of the other contributions was the *Black Sheep Choir's* rendition of 'A Working Man' (the song about coal miners), 'The Fields of Athenry' (about the potato famine in Ireland) and 'I bob un sydd ffyddlon' Buddug, the year's Vice President, captivated the audience by playing 'Calon Lan' and 'Eli Jenkins' Prayer' on the harp.

AR EICH CAIS/THE CHOICE IS YOURS (Feb 20<sup>th</sup>) Mike Price was the impresario for the evening as fourteen members introduced their favourite piece of music, poetry or prose to an audience of 58. Predictably, the selection included items by Bryn Terfel, Richard Burton and Phillip Maddoc.

SALTY TALES (March 27<sup>th</sup>) by LINDSAY GORDON- Lindsay Gordon spoke to 67 members about his exciting life at sea and then in the Australian mines. He has since spent thirty years as an expert witness on maritime disputes. His experiences were as varied as his grandparents' nationalities ó English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh

A YOUNG ACTOR IN WALES (April 24<sup>th</sup>) ó Using the script for one of the episodes *Rheinalt Wyn Davies*, a member of the cast of *S4C's 'Rownd a Rownd'*, illustrated the task of 'learning his lines'. He informed us that his ambition was to star in 'Coronation Street'.

A MUSICAL EVENING WITH HELEN (22<sup>nd</sup> May) ó Helen Hooker, a graduate of Trinity College, London, enthralled her audience by playing nine different recorders (not simultaneously) as she illustrated a wide range of music..

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Jun 26<sup>th</sup>) - 50 people attended the AGM and listened to the review of the past year's events. A cheque for £2,620 was presented to CHESS. Following refreshments of scones, strawberries and cream Mike Price gave a presentation of the highlights of the Urdd 2013 Eisteddfod. They included performances by Cor Godre' Aran and Aled Wynn Davies



#### **PART FOUR - 2014/15 (the Society's 54th year) under President Buddug Rowland-Frank**

CROESO YN OL (Sept 25<sup>th</sup>) ó Colin Coe and Brian Peters, trustees of *First Step* (the President's nominated charity), described the work of the Charity. Mike Price set the tone for the year with a wonderful DVD presentation of the 2014 National Eisteddfod. There were 54 members in attendance.

QUIZ EVENING (Oct 23rd) ó Brian Thomas and Arthur Williams tested the members' knowledge on subjects ranging from B (for Bible) to W (for Wales). Surprisingly, full marks could not be given for the collective nouns for alligators (a *congregation*), zebras (a *dazzle*), polar bears (an *aurora*) or for cheetahs (a *coalition*).

HEAD-HUNTERS, CANNIBALS AND EXPATRIATES (Nov 27<sup>th</sup>) - Brian Farmer drew on his experiences of living in Papua New Guinea to describe its history, geography and customs. The 54 members present, especially those learning Welsh, could not believe that over 700 different languages are spoken by the tribes.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION with ROBIN HUW BOWEN (Triple Harp) (Dec 11<sup>th</sup>) ó Robin Huw Bowen, maestro of the Welsh Triple Harp, enthralled an audience of 80 with its history followed by a programme of varied and exciting music. The evening concluded with the singing of traditional English and Welsh carols. Ivy Price was the accompanist.

NOSON LAWEN (Jan 22nd) ó The in-house comedians and songsters were given a rest as this year's evening of traditional Welsh entertainment was provided by the highly talented *Ffrindiau o Geredigion* who had travelled to Chelmsford from the Aberystwyth area. The choir of 6 ladies and 4 men sang a range of songs including *Handel's 'Art thou Troubled'* and *'Eli Jenkin's Prayer'*. Humour, in large measure, was contained within the three hilarious monologues delivered by Meleri Morgan, a National Eisteddfod Winner, and Nia Wyn Jones, another Eisteddfod Winner, enchanted the 75 strong audience with a Welsh folk song.

A DOCTOR CALLS by Dr HUW IDRIS JONES (Feb 19th) - We were given a quick medical course before we were invited to join Dr Jones in his surgery in Anglesey. 'Look for a shuffle or a limp?' he instructed. 'The ankles, eyes and hands will also tell you a lot.' But, we were not prepared for the sight of the confused lady with limited English (and no Welsh) who was subjected to a full physical examination even though she had only come to the surgery to pass on the following message 'My neighbour is sorry but she is unable to keep her appointment this morning'. During the past 30 years patients have advanced, we were told, from having the same 'family doctor' to having to negotiate a touch-tone telephone. 'Press 1 for appointments; Press 2 for Test Results etc'.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES by CYRIL EVANS (March 26<sup>th</sup>) ó Cyril Evans, who would shortly show us around the Library during our trip, whetted our appetites with an informative and humorous talk. We heard that the Library housed the first book that was printed in Welsh in 1546 and also Bishop Morgan's translation, in 1588, of the complete Bible.

LIFE IN MERTHYR TYDFIL by GWYNNE MACK (April 23rd) Gwynne Mack, a native of Merthyr who has lived in Essex for many years shared his well-researched history of Merthyr with 58 Society members and friends.

RESTORING A COACH by JOHN LLOYD WILLIAMS (May 28<sup>th</sup>) ó John, a Society Member, spoke about his restoration of the 1950 vintage coach which he had purchased in 1981. His father had been one of its drivers when it was used for sightseeing trips around North Wales. He had obtained replacement parts from all over the world ó eg the hub caps were purchased from South America. Those who know John will agree that the only word to describe the talk is 'Benedigedig'!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Jun 25<sup>th</sup>) - 46 members attended the meeting. A cheque for £2,266 was presented to Colin Coe, a trustee of 'First Step'. Then, some lively community singing was preceded by a humorous account of meeting Welsh folk during Ivy's family trip to several major American cities.

## PART FIVE - 2015/16 (the Society's 55th year) under President Shirley Moody

CROESO YN OL (Sept 24<sup>th</sup>) ó Deidre Pembroke, a volunteer, described how SNAP (Special Needs for Parents and Siblings) which has been nominated as this year's Charity, catered for children with special needs and provided support for their parents and siblings. It was in its 21<sup>st</sup> year of operation and was housed in purpose-built accommodation in Brentwood. Mike Price set the tone for the year with a wonderful DVD presentation of the 2015 National Eisteddfod. There were 52 members in attendance.

AN EVENING WITH DYLAN THOMAS AND FRIENDS (Oct 22nd) ó On their third visit to Chelmsford the Phoenix Players of West Mersea presented works by Dylan Thomas and others. The audience was enthralled by the 'prototype' for 'Under Milk Wood', by Griff Davies' tale of the sister who, during the wake, sat up in her coffin only to be accused of 'second-hand living' and by the chairman in the Richmael Crompton script who thanked Jesus at the end of the Christmas party, 'without whom we would not be celebrating'. Sue Davies sang three songs that contained disturbing harmonies.

CHILDHOOD IN WALES (Nov 26<sup>th</sup>) ó This was an evening of reminiscence as Janet Wash (Sir Benfro), Arthur Williams (Sir Gaernarfon) and Brian Thomas (Caerdydd) selected memories from their childhood.

PARTI NADOLIG (Dec 10<sup>th</sup>) ó Sixty members enjoyed an evening of fun, games and poems interspersed with carols. The President was convincing in the title role of Cinderella.

NOSON LAWEN (Jan 28th) ó More than a dozen members provided the evening's entertainment. An unusual item was a Ukelele duet by Gwenno Pope and Brian Farmer and this was followed by a return visit of the Black Sheep Choir whose contribution to the evening's entertainment included 'A Working Man' and 'The Fields of Athenry'.

HEDD WYN (Feb 18<sup>th</sup>) ó Members watched a film about Ellis Evans, the eldest of fourteen children, who although he was a pacifist chose to enlist in June 1917 in place of one of his brothers. He died at Passchendaele seventeen days before he was awarded the bardic chair at the 1917 Eisteddfod at Birkenhead. In a moving session the chair was draped in a black sheet ó Eisteddfod y Gadair Ddu.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST CONSULTING DETECTIVE by DAVID JONES (March 24<sup>th</sup>) ó David Jones, former headmaster and member, both of the Welsh Society and the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, in suitable attire, gave an interesting talk about the life and work of the great detective. This was followed by a film that had a loose Welsh connection.

SONG CYCLE ó A QUARTET (April 28<sup>th</sup>) An evening of outstanding entertainment by a male voice quartet with music ranging from sacred motets to 'Bob the Builder' and 'I am a train, I am a train'.

ANY QUESTIONS (May 26th) ó A panel of five answered a range of questions 'from the floor'. The only forbidden topic was 'should we remain or brex?' A lady from the 'south' wanted to know whether men from South Wales are more loquacious than those from North Wales. The consensus of opinion was that it depended upon who the spouse was.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Jun 23rd) ó This meeting was unique in that 4 committee members ó Ron Jones, Cynthia Styles, Brian Thomas and Mair Thomas - who, between them, had filled the office of President for 9 years stood down as Committee Members. They were all made *Honorary* Vice Presidents for the tremendous contributions they had made to the Society. A cheque for £2,500 was presented to SNAP's Deidre Pembroke. After an interlude for strawberries and cream Beth Schuller, a Society Member and a prolific science fiction author, gave an interesting talk about the difficulties of finding a publisher and of the strange world she now 'inhabits'.

## Appendix B

### PRESIDENTS

Year				Name
1961	to	1962	<i>1st</i>	Jones . Mervyn
1962	to	1963	<i>2nd</i>	Upshall . S
1963	to	1964	<i>3rd</i>	Davies - Eric
1964	to	1965	<i>4th</i>	Williams - TLT
1965	to	1966	<i>5th</i>	Goodman - Mair
1966	to	1967	<i>6th</i>	Williams - TDE
1967	to	1968	<i>7th</i>	Dutton - Margaret
1968	to	1969	<i>8th</i>	Coleman Cyril
1969	to	1970	<i>9th</i>	Buxton . Margaret
1970	to	1971	<i>10th</i>	Richards . Derfel
1971	to	1972	<i>11th</i>	<i>Davies - Eric</i>
1972	to	1973	<i>12th</i>	Jeffreys . Glyn
1973	to	1974	<i>13th</i>	Dunn - Dick
1974	to	1975	<i>14th</i>	<i>Goodman - Mair</i>
1975	to	1976	<i>15th</i>	Howells - Cyril
1976	to	1977	<i>16th</i>	Lloyd . Wyn
1977	to	1978	<i>17th</i>	Heffernan . Jim
1978	to	1979	<i>18th</i>	Davies . Margaret
1979	to	1980	<i>19th</i>	Williams . Gwyn
1980	to	1981	<i>20th</i>	Davies - Ken
1981	to	1982	<i>21st</i>	Ferguson . Gill
1982	to	1983	<i>22nd</i>	Tucker . Hillary
1983	to	1984	<i>23rd</i>	Jordan . Glyn
1984	to	1985	<i>24th</i>	Styles . Cynthia
1985	to	1986	<i>25th</i>	Davies . Meic
1986	to	1987	<i>26th</i>	Florence - Howells
1987	to	1988	<i>27th</i>	Thomas . Brian
1988	to	1989	<i>28th</i>	Dunlevy . Sheila

Year				Name
1989	to	1990	<i>29th</i>	Hammond . Betty
1990	to	1991	<i>30th</i>	Thomas - Mair
1991	to	1992	<i>31st</i>	<i>Howells - Cyril</i>
1992	to	1993	<i>32nd</i>	Jordan - Margaret
1993	to	1994	<i>33rd</i>	<i>Davies – Ken</i>
1994	to	1995	<i>34th</i>	Thomas . Derrick
1995	to	1996	<i>35th</i>	Alcock . Eddie
1996	to	1997	<i>36th</i>	<i>Dutton - Margaret</i>
1997	to	1998	<i>37th</i>	<b>Goodman – Mair</b>
1998	to	1999	<i>38th</i>	Byatt - Maureen
1999	to	2000	<i>39th</i>	Jones . Ron
2000	to	2001	<i>40th</i>	<i>Styles – Cynthia</i>
2001	to	2002	<i>41st</i>	<i>Thomas – Brian</i>
2002	to	2003	<i>42nd</i>	Armishaw - Jim
2003	to	2004	<i>43rd</i>	Hammond . Betty
2004	to	2005	<i>44th</i>	Williams . Carys
2005	to	2006	<i>45th</i>	Thomas - Mair
2006	to	2007	<i>46th</i>	<i>Thomas – Derrick</i>
2007	to	2008	<i>47th</i>	<b>Styles – Cynthia</b>
2008	to	2009	<i>48th</i>	<i>Byatt – Maureen</i>
2009	to	2010	<i>49th</i>	Moody . Shirley
2010	to	2011	<i>50th</i>	<i>Armishaw – Jim</i>
2011	to	2012	<i>51st</i>	<i>Williams – Carys</i>
2012	to	2013	<i>52nd</i>	Armishaw . Liz
2013	to	2014	<i>53rd</i>	Price . Ivy
2014	to	2015	<i>54th</i>	Rowland-Frank - Buddug
2015	to	2016	<i>55th</i>	<i>Moody – Shirley</i>

#### Notes

1. Italics denotes a second term of office
2. Bold denotes third term of office.

## Appendix C

### ANNUAL MALE VOICE CHOIRS

Year	Choir	Year	Choir
1968	The London Welsh (1st visit)	1993	Pontarddulais (6th visit)
1969	Pontarddulais (1st visit)	1994	Trelawnydd (1st visit)
1970	Cwmfelin (Llanelli) (1st visit)	1995	Dunvant (4th visit)
1971	Pontarddulais (2nd visit)	1996	Trelawnydd (2nd visit)
1972	Treorchy	1998	Dowlais (1st visit)
1973	Froncysyllte (1st visit)	1998	Llanelli (4th visit)
1974	Beaufort	1999	Maelgwyn (1st visit)
1975	Mynydd Mawr	2000	Dowlais (2nd visit)
1976	Pontarddulais (3rd visit)	2001	Llanelli (5th visit)
1977	Tredeggar Orpheus	2002	Dunvant (5th visit)
1978	Brythoniaid (1st visit)	2003	Godre'r Aran (1st visit)
1979	Cwmbach	2004	Ystradgynlais (2nd visit)
1980	Llanelli (2nd visit)	2005	Godre'r Aran (2nd visit)
1981	Dunvant (1st visit)	2006	Pontarddulais (7th visit)
1982	Canoldir	2007	Dunvant (6th visit)
1983	Pontarddulais (4th visit)	2008	Llanelli (6th visit)
1984	Dunvant (2nd visit)	2009	Maelgwn (2nd visit)
1985	Brythoniaid (2nd visit)	2010	Godre'r Aran (3rd visit)
1986	Froncysyllte (2nd visit)	2011	Trelawnydd (3rd visit)
1987	Pontarddulais (5th visit)	2012	Brythioniad (3rd visit)
1988	Llanelli (3rd visit)	2013	Godre'r Aran (4th visit)
1989	Dunvant (3rd visit)	2014	Pontarddulais (8th visit)
1990	Morrison Orpheus	2015	The London Welsh (2nd visit)
1991	Traeth	2016	Godre'r Aran (5th visit)
1992	Ystradgynlais (1st visit)		

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