GREETINGS FROM YOUR CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY BOARD

Annwyl Ffrindiau / Dear Friends,
How quickly our beautiful fall weather turned into a Winter Wonderland!

It was a great experience to once again attend NAFOW and to become immersed in Welsh culture. Toronto “did Canada proud”! We’ve been assured that NAFOW will be in Calgary in 2016. We’re excited to have been selected and look forward to having your help with planning an excellent conference. The twelve members of CWS who were in Toronto were very proud to witness Laura Styler being awarded the David G. Morris Memorial Award. Ardderchog a llongyfarchiadau, Laura! (Excellent and Congratulations, Laura!)

Our Seniors’ Tea returned to The Dove’s Nest restaurant this year, much to the delight of our participants. The food, including our welcome tea and Welsh cakes, was delicious and Gale Tesarski and her staff always “go the extra mile” to ensure we are well taken care of! Two food boxes were prepared for members who are in nursing homes. Thanks Morfudd Jones and Pat Lambeth for delivering them.

The weather became uncooperative for our Noson Lawen and we reluctantly decided to cancel it. We are hoping to reschedule it as a Spring event. Many thanks to Ted Jones, CWS member and owner of the Tea Trader Shop in Inglewood, for donating his Welsh breakfast tea for the Noson Lawen. We look forward to sharing it with you at a future event.

We hope to see a good turn out for our brunch at the Executive Royal Inn North on December 15. You don’t want to miss the opportunity to listen to Madge Clarke and Jane Davies who are going to entertain us and help with our carol sing!

Dymuniadau Gorau, Elaine :)

Our sincerest condolences go out to:
Morfudd Jones who lost her brother, Llewellyn, in August. The funeral was held in Wales, and to Linda France, whose father passed away in Ottawa in September.

Upcoming Events:
*Christmas Brunch: At the Royal Executive Inn, 2828 23 St NE, Calgary, AB T2E 8T4 on Sunday, December 15th. Meet at the Emerald A Ballroom at 11am for a 11:30 start. Entertainment included.
*St. Dwynwen’s Family Get-together: At the Royal Canadian Legion, 9202 Horton Road SW on Saturday, February 1st at 4pm. A fun event of games, song, dance and food for the whole family.

Ynys Llanddwyn, Anglesey. This is St Dwynwen’s church, an important shrine in the Middle Ages.
Laura Styler Wins David G. Morris Award

Laura Styler competed in the NAFOW ‘semi-professional’ eisteddfod and was adjudicated by the Three Welsh Tenors. Laura says ‘I am very happy to say that I won the David G. Morris Memorial prize which awards $3500 and will allow me to fly to Wales and compete in the National Eisteddfod in August 2014 in Llanelli’. Laura sang ‘Brindisi’ from La Traviata with the Three Welsh Tenors on the evening of informal singing. ‘Brindisi’ is a drinking song, which Laura says was ‘pretty apt as this was sung in the bar area’. As is the tradition, the winner of the David G. Morris Award, sang a solo at the Sunday Gymanfa Ganu. Laura thrilled the five hundred strong audience with her performance of ‘Y Blodau Ger y Drws’ by Meirion Williams.

Laura, a member of The Calgary Welsh Society, has performed in several of our own ‘Spring Is Singing’ concerts and is a regular performer in Calgary opera. She is a piano and voice teacher at her Cantabile Music Studio.

A Boy’s Childhood in Wartime Wales

In nineteen-forty my dad went off to war
Leaving my mother weeping and all forlorn
Spending the war years home in Gilfach Goch
Close to the very house where she was born.

My mother, us boys, her mam and dad
All shared our wartime trials in this home,
A collier’s terraced house of quarried stone
And hills above for little boys to roam.

My friend was Moggy Jones, an older boy than me
And I was happy that he lived close by.
While men fought, made guns, or dug for coal
We ‘guarded’ Gilfach, ready to do or die.

Below Tai Grey we built our sturdy fort,
Imaginary guns trained on the sky
Or out towards Glyn Ogwr and the sea beyond
To shoot imagined bombers flying by.

The War seemed foreign and so far away.
The pits were in the valley just below,
So every boy and girl in school would know
Whose dad was working underground each day.

And dread it was when the colliery hooter wailed.
It was “books away” and the often practiced drill,
Standing in lines in the yard outside
Then quietly joining mothers on the hill.

Patiently waiting for the cage to rise
Were mothers, all shawled and stony faced
Sometimes lifting a hanky to their eyes
Hoping and praying that their man was safe.

For me and Moggy the war was sometimes close.
A plane crashed on the mountain while we played.
And almost every night around the radio
We heard about another bombing raid.

Once a bomb fell on our lovely church,
Another on the doctor’s house close by.
The ruins became another place to play
Open unto the hills and to the sky.

Our most exciting time was Saturday
And matinees held in the Workman’s Hall.
With ‘pictures’ of Tarzan swinging in the trees
And calling the animals with his jungle call.

The War waged on, so everybody stood
When Union Jack and King came on the screen.
This was a magic place, where children could
Feast their young eyes on things they’d never seen.

Our feeble light came from a simple lamp
Fueled by oil and flickered eerily;
Also by firelight coming from the grate,
A light so weak that we could barely see.

Yet by that light I spent the evening hours
Reading things that made my spirit soar:
Exciting things in weeklies just for boys
Great tales for boys whether rich or poor.

War years in Gilfach with barely enough to eat,
The grime, the smoke, the clanking from the pit;
After more than seventy years the memories live on,
Childhood in Gilfach — I’ll always remember it.

Brian Lewis, Calgary, Sept 21, 2013
A Profile of Dr. Cledwyn Haydn-Jones

Dr. Cledwyn Haydn-Jones is well known to us as a man with a beautiful singing voice and a wonderful sense of humour; a man who regales us with anecdotes and stories and enthralls us with his oratory and sincere delivery of facts. Cled, as he prefers to be known, is an academic who is a great entertainer and friend to all. He’s a modest man who immediately suggests there’s no need to mention his four degrees and many accomplishments!

Cled was born into a Welsh speaking home in Bangor, Caernarvonshire (now Gwynedd) and didn’t speak English until he was five years old. His dad, John, was a headmaster and his Mom, Nancy, a music teacher. Theirs was a fine arts oriented family with John being a poet (bardd) and actor. He took the bardic name Haydn Arfon. Nancy taught piano and singing and her bardic name was Frydlas. The whole family, including sister Marilyn, had a crazy sense of humour and loved pulling practical jokes, especially Mom, who did her best to foster the family’s “sense of the absurd”!

Cled attended the historical Friars School, one of the best Rugby schools in North Wales and loved playing the sport until he was sidelined by a leg injury. The Urdd Gobaith Cymru (Welsh League of Youth), or Urdd as it’s called, played a large part in his life. Urdd is a Welsh youth movement with branches throughout Wales. Their activities vary from small group meetings to camping and sporting events and the week long, annual Urdd Eisteddfod. After graduating from Bangor University he took a teaching position and was soon involved in a “chalk and easel” romance with the lovely Julie. Both master teachers, they have a shared dedication to promoting excellence in teaching. This delightful couple have been together for almost 50 years!

In 1969 Cled, Julie and baby son John sailed from Liverpool to Montreal, on the Empress of England. From there CP Rail transported them to their new Canadian home in Kyle, Saskatchewan where Cled had accepted a teaching position. Over the next few years he became principal and superintendent of schools in a number of communities both in Saskatchewan and Alberta. He’s especially proud of his early 1980’s involvement as President and constitution writer of Saskatchewan LEADS program (League of Education, Administrators, Directors and Superintendents). The purpose of LEADS is to promote leadership for excellence in education and to provide services and support to its members.

Cled has been an adjunct professor with Gonzaga University, Spokane for almost 30 years and for the past ten years he has been an instructor with Calgary University’s Faculty of Education. He’s worked with many teachers in training at U of C. and through his Gonzaga affiliation he has given numerous workshops for future administrators. This busy man also has his own Consulting Service cleverly named “Aberdawn”. In Welsh, Aber = river mouth and “Dawn” = talent. So “Aberdawn” can be translated as “Emerging talent in a new day”!

Cled and Julie are members of Christchurch Anglican Church and often delight the congregation by reading the lesson. They belonged to the Braggarts drama group and enjoy all types of music, drama and ballet. Other interests include rugby, skiing and sailing. They travel frequently and have visited India, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Thailand. But their favourite places to visit are Los Angeles, to see son David, and London, England, to visit son John and daughter Elizabeth. Their biggest joy is spending time with Elizabeth’s children, their grandsons six year old Jones and one and a half year old Heath.

Cled and Julie, thank you for the many ways you have helped Calgary Welsh Society.

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**2014 Six Nations Rugby: Wales’ Schedule**

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<td>Wales v Italy</td>
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<td>14:45</td>
<td>Wales v Scotland</td>
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**Interested in learning and practicing the Welsh language?** If you are interested in the occasional meeting to practice your Welsh, contact Tracy Burr at 403-278-3012 or email her at cwiltwr@hotmail.com for further details.
BEIBL SANT IOAN, MYNWY (ST. JOHN'S BIBLE, MONMOUTH)

Last February members of ChristChurch Anglican including Morfudd, Julie and I guided by pilgrims, had the pleasure of seeing two large volumes of the St. John's Bible (SJB). Our examination of the tomes was a rich aesthetic and spiritual experience!

Mona Matthews in her report said the following: ‘The fourth seminar [I attended] was on Welsh Writing During the American Civil War presented by Dr. Jerry Hunter. It was interesting to know that there were 45,000 Welsh people living in America in 1861 and many of them fought for the abolition of slavery. During the four years of the Civil War the Welsh soldiers wrote 10,000 pages to their families and to the Welsh newspaper, Y Drych. [Dr Hunter, is vice chancellor and professor in Bangor University].

For Elaine the ‘highlights…included attending the opening concert which featured the Three Welsh Tenors and having the privilege of meeting these very funny fellows in other settings, finally getting to hear the wonderful Pontarddulais Male Voice Choir, listening to the fabulous mezzo soprano, Catrin Rowenna Davies, joining in the nightly community singing in the lobby, and singing traditional, favourite hymns at the Gymanfa Ganu. Elaine also was invited to the Ninna breakfast by Dr. Arturo Roberts where she presented him with a donation from our society. Ninna is the one remaining North American Welsh Newspaper that incorporates ‘Y Drych’.

Margaret Freedman experienced her ‘…first NAFOW in Toronto. There was so much to see & attend. The first event, the opening ceremony, was so well done, with the children acting as both the historical & modern figures, with Welsh connections to Ontario. It was so entertaining. The evenings that crowds gathered to sing a mix of Welsh songs in the hotel foyer, was amazing. The entertainment at the Grand Banquet was also wonderful... Thanks to the Calgary Welsh Society I am now a convert to NAFOW and hope to attend many more in the future!

Laura Styler also attended the Toronto NAFOW and was supported by the Calgary Welsh Society. See her story on page 2.

CWS members in Toronto

NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES, TORONTO, 2013

Once again the Calgary Welsh Society was well represented at the North American Festival of Wales. The following are excerpts of interest from the reports submitted by members who were financially supported by our Society. They give a taste of what was experienced.

The seven Heritage Editions of SJB were purchased for St. Mary's University College, Calgary by a benefactor. SJB is the first handwritten and illuminated bible in more than 500 years. This marvellous project was commissioned by the Benedictine Monks of St. John's Abbey at the University of Minnesota.

AND...SJB WAS CREATED AND PRODUCED IN WALES! The Bible team worked sedulously on their project at the Hendre Hall Scriptorium near Monmouth under the direction of Donald Jackson who is the foremost calligrapher in the world and HM The Queen's Calligrapher and Scribe. The work of the artisan is similar to that of bible making in the Middle Ages with its use of materials like vellum, quills, handmade ink, homegrown pigments and gold leaf.

For further information on SJB please note these websites:
www.saintjohnsbible.org, www.stmu.ab.ca/SJB/default.html (St. Mary's University College)
www.michaelfreeman-photos.com/ (great photos at Hendre)