



# Draig Werdd

## The Welsh Society in Ireland



### Newsletter – Winter 2007

Since the appearance of our last newsletter, Wales has lost one of its best-loved and most inspirational characters with the sudden death of Ray Gravell. A former rugby player for Llanelli, Wales and the Lions, Ray made a successful transition into broadcasting and acting when his rugby career came to an end and had become one of the most popular personalities in Wales. Ray had the rare gift of being able to communicate his love of Wales and the Welsh language in an inclusive way which alienated nobody and which won him many friends throughout the world, several thousand of whom were present at his funeral in Stradey Park. You can read more about the funeral and read some of the tributes to him in a number of our news links below.

Ray had a particular love of Ireland and regularly visited his many friends there. Some of you may remember his appearance as a guest speaker in a St. David's Day dinner in Dublin in the early 1990s, where he spoke in his usual passionate manner about his life and his country, to an audience which included some of his former adversaries on the international rugby pitch. We had hoped to invite Ray back to celebrate our national day with us in the near future – that will sadly not now be possible but his memory will hopefully continue to raise our national morale when the spirits are low.

We are fortunate, however, to have another inspirational and charismatic Welshman as a guest for our St. David's Day dinner in 2008. Dafydd Wigley, one of the leading figures in Welsh politics over the last 30 years, and a significant contributor to devolution in Wales and the establishment of the National Assembly of Wales will be our guest speaker in our celebration dinner. This promises to be a memorable occasion so make a note of the date in your diary, as given below. Detailed information will be circulated in the new year, or can be obtained from our website: [www.draigwerdd.org](http://www.draigwerdd.org) or [www.welshsociety.ie](http://www.welshsociety.ie).

In the meantime, we wish all members a happy Christmas and successful new year!

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008:**

Join us in our annual dinner to celebrate St. David's Day at the Montclare Hotel, Merrion Square, Dublin 2, with guest speaker Dafydd Wigley. More information in the new year.

### Cylchlythyr – Gaeaf 2007

Ers ymddangosiad ein cylchlythyr diwethaf, mae Cymru wedi colli un o'n cymeriadau mwyaf boblogaidd ac ysbrydoledig trwy farwolaeth sydyn Ray Gravell. Ar ôl chwarae rygbi dros Lanelli, Cymru a'r Llewod, yr oedd Ray wedi symud yn llwyddiannus i mewn i fyd darlledu ac actio ac oedd wedi dod yn un o'r personoliaethau mwyaf boblogaidd trwy Gymru gyfan. 'Roedd gan Ray y ddawn anghyffredin i gyfathrebu ei gariad tuag at Gymru a'r iaith Gymraeg mewn ffordd gynhwysol, a oedd yn dieithrio neb ac oedd hefyd wedi ennill iddo fe glamp o ffrindiau o gwmpas y byd, gyda miloedd ohonynt yn bresennol yn ei angladd ym Mharc y Strade. Gellir ddarllen mwy am yr angladd a rhai o'r teyrngedau iddo mewn nifer o'r dolennau newyddion isod.

'Roedd gan Ray hefyd gariad neilltuol tuag at Iwerddon, ac ymwelodd â'i ffrindiau niferus yna yn gyson. Hwyrach bydd rhai ohonoch chi yn cofio ei ymweliad fel siaradwr gwadd mewn cinio Gwyl Dewi yn Nulyn ar ddechrau'r 90au, lle siarodd yn ei ddull angerddol arferol am ei fywyd a'i wlad, i gynulleidfa oedd yn cynnwys nifer o'i wrthwynebwyr cynharach o'r maes rygbi rhyngwladol. 'Roedden ni wedi gobeithio gwahodd Ray yn ôl i'n plith unwaith eto i ddathlu ein dydd cenedlaethol yn y dyfodol agos – yn anffodus ni fydd hwn yn awr yn bosib, ond bydd côf y cawr o Fynydd y Garreg yn parhau i'n codi ni fel cenedl pan fydd yr ysbrydion yn isel.

Yr ydym yn ffodus, serch hynny, i gael Cymro ysbrydoledig a chyfareddol arall fel gwestai yn ein cinio Gwyl Dewi yn 2008. Mae'n fraint i ni groesawu Dafydd Wigley, un o'r cymeriadau blaenllaw ym myd gwleidyddiaeth yng Nghymru dros y 30 mlynedd diwethaf, ac un o'r cyfrannwyr pwysicaf tuag at ddatganoli ac i sefydliad Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, fel siaradwr gwadd yn ein cinio dathliadol. Mae hwn yn addo bod yn achlysur cofiadwy, felly nodwch y dyddiad, fel a roddir yn isod. Darperir gwybodaeth manwl yn y flwyddyn newydd, a fydd yn bosib darllen yr holl fanylion ar ein gwefan: [www.draigwerdd.org](http://www.draigwerdd.org) neu [www.welshsociety.ie](http://www.welshsociety.ie).

Yn y cyfamser, hoffem ddymuno Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda a llwyddiannus i gyd ohonoch chi!

#### DYDDIADAU I'W NODI

**Nos Wener 29<sup>ain</sup> Chwefror 2008:**

Ymunwch gyda ni yn ein cinio blynyddol i ddathlu Dydd Gwyl Dewi yng Ngwesty'r Montclare, Merrion Square, Dublin 2, gyda'r siaradwr gwadd Dafydd Wigley. Mwy o wybodaeth yn y flwyddyn newydd.

You may be interested in the following items of news from Wales and Ireland:

*Mae'n bosib bydd yr eitemau dilynol o newyddion o Gymru ac Iwerddon o ddi-ddordeb i chwi:*

- **[Decade of devolution binds Wales](#)**  
18/09/2007 Devolution is the glue which united a divided Wales and allowed the nation to grow up, First Minister Rhodri Morgan said yesterday.
- **[Enwau tai yn corddi cynghorydd](#)**  
20/09/2007 Cynghorydd yn honni bod dim digon yn cael ei wneud i warchod enwau Cymraeg ar dai yng Ngwynedd.
- **['Dim arwyddion Cymraeg'](#)**  
25/09/2007 Cyngor yn gosod arwyddion uniaith Saesneg yn lle rhai dwyieithog ar gylchdro am 'resymau iechyd a diogelwch.'
- **[Assembly row over transfer of powers](#)**  
26/09/2007 Rhodri Morgan admitted for the first time yesterday there were likely to be problems getting lawmaking powers transferred to the National Assembly under new arrangements.
- **[Bourne calls for devolution to evolve organically](#)**  
02/10/2007 Wales' constitutional settlement is "untenable" and greater powers need to be devolved to Cardiff Bay, the Conservatives' leader in the Assembly Nick Bourne said last night.
- **[New transport plan to be unveiled](#)**  
02/10/2007 A faster north-south rail link and improving the A470 are expected to be included in assembly government transport plans.
- **[Poor teaching hits Welsh learning](#)**  
05/10/2007 Welsh is being taught so badly in English medium schools that very few pupils are bilingual, according to a damning report published yesterday.
- **[Rhif 10 arlein yn Gymraeg](#)**  
07/10/2007 Mae Rhif 10 Stryd Downing wedi lansio fersiwn Cymraeg o'i wefan.
- **[Support for plan to refloat Cork ferry](#)**  
08/10/2007 The loss of a ferry service from Wales to Cork has cost some Irish businesses up to 50% of their incomes, it has been claimed.
- **[Curtain rises on theatre with no home](#)**  
09/10/2007 Detailed plans for an English-language national theatre in Wales were unveiled yesterday.
- **[Galw am adfer gwasanaeth fferi](#)**  
12/10/2007 Cynghorydd sir yn honni bod y diwydiant ymwelwyr yn diodde ar ôl cau gwasanaeth fferi rhwng Abertawe a Chorc.
- **[S4C yn cynnal 2,250 o swyddi](#)**  
12/10/2007 Mae S4C yn cynnal dros 2,250 o swyddi yng Nghymru, yn ôl adroddiad newydd sy'n edrych ar effaith economaidd y sianel dros gyfnod o bum mlynedd.
- **[Medieval church is rebuilt at St Fagans](#)**  
15/10/2007 The medieval church of St. Teilo's in Pontarddulais which was dismantled and rebuilt stone-by-stone 50 miles away in St. Fagans is to be opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- **[Capital's push as 'premier' city](#)**  
16/10/2007 Cardiff council unveils a strategy to allow the city to compete with other small European capitals by 2012.
- **[Fears over interference in Welsh lawmaking](#)**  
18/10/2007 A constitutional row blew up last night as it was confirmed Rhodri Morgan and other Assembly Ministers will not be able to announce new legal proposals without having them vetted by Whitehall first.
- **['Dim lle' i blant Cymraeg](#)**  
23/10/2007 Plant yn gorfod cael addysg gynradd Saesneg yn Abertawe oherwydd diffyg lle mewn ysgolion Cymraeg, medd rhai.
- **[Welsh revival may be reaction to globalisation](#)**  
25/10/2007 The revival in Welsh identity and the rise in the number of Welsh- speakers may be down to a reaction against globalisation, a leading academic will claim today.
- **[Welsh life museum set for re-vamp](#)**  
25/10/2007 National Museum Wales officials unveil a 10-year plan to transform one of its most popular attractions.
- **[Rhieni Gwynedd i ymladd etholiad?](#)**  
26/10/2007 Rhieni sy'n ymgyrchu yn erbyn cau ysgolion yng Ngwynedd yn ystyried sefyll fel ymgeiswyr yn etholiadau'r cyngor.
- **[S4C i fod yn sianel ddwyieithog?](#)**  
30/10/2007 Mae Rhodri Glyn Thomas, Gweinidog Treftadaeth Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, wedi awgrymu y gallai S4C fod yn sianel ddwyieithog yn y dyfodol.
- **[Ray Gravell, 56, dies on holiday in Spain](#)**  
01/11/2007 Former Wales and British Lions rugby star Ray Gravell has died unexpectedly while on holiday in Spain with his wife and children.
- **[Colli'r cawr o Fynydd y Garreg](#)**  
01/11/2007 Yn 56 oed bu farw'r cyflwynydd, y sylwebydd, yr actor a'r seren rygbi rhyngwladol Ray Gravell o Fynydd y Garreg ger Cydweli.
- **['Nostalgia' warning over rural school closures](#)**  
07/11/2007 Academic results and the Welsh language improve when small schools close and pupils are moved to bigger settings, a controversial study says.
- **['English question' puts the wind up Westminster](#)**  
09/11/2007 THE Cabinet is stepping up its attempts to promote the benefits of the Union amid fears the Tories are successfully exploiting English resentment over devolution.
- **['Parch at Grav': Cân ar y brig](#)**  
10/11/2007 Mae un o ganeuon enwog Dafydd Iwan, Yma o Hyd, wedi cyrraedd brig siartiau caneuon gwerin Prydain - wedi ymgyrch er cof am Ray Gravell fu farw yr wythnos ddiwethaf.
- **[Welsh Monopoly aims to get families talking](#)**  
14/11/2007 Monopoly has become the latest board game to enjoy a Welsh-language makeover, in a bid to boost the native tongue.
- **[Thousands bid farewell to 'Grav'](#)**  
15/11/2007 Thousands of mourners have paid their final tributes to rugby international, broadcaster and actor Ray Gravell at his funeral at Llanelli's Stradey Park.
- **[Welsh roads are the worst in EU](#)**  
16/11/2007 Wales' road network is "embarrassing", lags behind the rest of Europe and is in clear need of major investment, a motoring organisation said yesterday.
- **[Eisteddfod loses sponsorship to Olympics](#)**  
19/11/2007 An Eisteddfod sponsorship deal stretching back more than quarter of a century is being severed because funds are being redirected to the 2012 London Olympics.
- **[Experts study links between Ireland and Wales](#)**  
22/11/2007 Experts from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, and Cardiff University, will examine the Irish-Welsh link as part of an international research network. The two-year project will bring together academics from America, Australia and Europe, as well as organisations from Wales and Ireland.
- **[Gwyliau i staff ar Fawrth 1?](#)**  
22/11/2007 Ceredigion yw'r sir ddiweddar a yng Nghymru sy'n ystyried rhoi gwyliau i staff ar Ddydd Gwyl Dewi.
- **[Welsh dragon call for Union flag](#)**  
27/11/2007 Ministers are urged to combine the Dragon flag and the Union Jack to reflect Wales' status in the UK.
- **[Golwg yn llygadu'r we](#)**  
04/12/2007 Cylchgrawn Golwg yn dweud ei fod am gael cymorth arian cyhoeddus i sefydlu safle dyddiol Cymraeg ar y we.
- **[Morgan a Salmond yn 'closio'](#)**  
08/12/2007 Mae Prif Weinidog Cymru wedi dweud ei fod yn anelu at gytuno â Phrif Weinidog yr Alban o ran cydweithio â Llywodraeth Prydain.

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