



Draig Werdd

The Welsh Society in Ireland



Newsletter – Winter 2008/9

We would like to open our winter newsletter by wishing everyone a successful and happy new year in 2009, whatever the financial climate outside. With the holiday season now over, we can turn our attention to events over the coming months, both for the society and for the country in general.

As Welsh people, of course, we have our own celebrations to look forward to over the coming weeks, beginning with St. Dwynwen's day on January 25th. If you are not familiar with this event, St. Dwynwen's day is the Welsh equivalent of Valentine's Day, St. Dwynwen being the Welsh patron saint of lovers, and it's become increasingly popular in Wales over recent years to send a card on this day to that special person in your lives. If you'd like to join in this year, then you can send a St. Dwynwen's day ecard yourself by going to <http://www.learnons4c.co.uk/cards.php?oc=1>

Following that, of course, we will be celebrating our national day on March 1st, St. David's Day. To mark the occasion in Ireland, Draig Werdd will be holding its annual St. David's dinner on Saturday March 7th at the Montclare Hotel in Dublin. This year we are delighted to welcome Roy Noble as guest speaker. Roy is one of Wales' leading radio and TV personalities and a hugely entertaining and amusing speaker, so this promises to be a memorable occasion. More details of the event and information on how to obtain tickets will be published shortly.

Looking at other Welsh societies around the world, it seems that a dinner is the most common way of celebrating St. David's day. But should we be looking at other ways of celebration our national day at this stage, perhaps? A musical evening of some description? Or a party cruise from Dublin to Holyhead, perhaps? If you have any ideas of different way in which we could celebrate St. David's Day in Ireland in future years, please send an email to info@draigwerdd.com.

In the meantime, we hope to see as many of you as possible at this year's function in Dublin on March 7th. Hwyl.

Cylchlythyr – Gaeaf 2008/9

Hoffem ddechrau ein cylchlythyr y gaeaf trwy ddyddymuno blwyddyn newydd dda a llwyddiannus i bawb yn 2009, beth bynnag yw'r sefyllfa ariannol yn gyffredinol. Gyda'r gwyliau'r Nadolig nawr drosto, gallwn edrych ymlaen at weithgareddau dros y misoedd sydd i ddod, yn ein cymdeithas ac yn y wlad yn gyffredinol.

Fel Cymry, wrth gwrs, gallwn edrych ymlaen at nifer o ddathliadau sydd yn perthyn i ni yn unig dros yr wythnosau i ddod, gan ddechrau gyda dydd Santes Dwynwen ar Ionawr 25. Os nad ydych yn gyfarwydd gyda'r achlysur hwn, dydd Santes Dwynwen yw'r fersiwn Cymreig o ddydd Gŵyl San Ffolant, gan mai Santes Dwynwen yw nawddsant cariadon Cymru. Mae hi wedi dod yn fwy boblogaidd yn ddiweddar i anfon cerdyn ar y dydd hwn i'r person arbennig yn eich bywydau, ac os hoffech ymuno â'r arferiad hwn, gallwch anfon e-gerdyn Santes Dwynwen trwy ymweld â'r wefan <http://www.learnons4c.co.uk/cards.php?oc=1>

Yn dilyn hynny, werth gwrs, byddwn yn dathlu ein dydd cenedlaethol ar 1 Mawrth, Dydd Gŵyl Dewi. I nodi'r achlysur yn Iwerddon, bydd Draig Werdd yn cynnal ein cinio blynyddol ar nos Sadwrn 7 Mawrth yng Ngwesty'r Montclare yn Nulyn. Eleni yr ydym yn falch dros ben i groesawu Roy Noble i'n plith fel siaradwr gwadd. Mae Roy yn hollol gyfarwydd i ni fel un o'r personoliaethau blaenllaw ym myd radio a'r teledu yng Nghymru ac yn siaradwr adloniadol a digri, a mae hwn yn addo bod yn achlysur cofiadwy dros ben. Bydd mwy o fanylion am yr achlysur a gwybodaeth am sut i archebu tocynnau ar gael yn fuan.

Wrth edrych o gwmpas ar gymdeithasau Cymreig eraill yn y byd, mae'n debyg fod cynnal cinio yw'r ffordd mwyaf gyffredin o ddathlu Dydd Gŵyl Dewi. Oni ddylwyn ni chwilio erbyn hyn am ffordd arall o ddathlu ein dydd cenedlaethol, efallai? Noson lawen o ryw fath? Neu barti ar daith dros y môr o Ddulyn i Gaerdybi efallai? Os oes sylwadau gennych o ffurfiau gwahanol o ddathlu Dydd Gŵyl Dewi yn Iwerddon yn y dyfodol, gyrrwch neges e-bost i info@draigwerdd.com.

Yn y cyfamser, hoffwn ni weld cymaint ohonoch ag sy'n bosib yn y cinio eleni yn Nulyn ar 7 Mawrth. Tan hynny, hwyl.

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:

- **[Fast North-South Welsh trains get the whistle](#)**
08/10/2008 A new fast train service between North and South Wales has been announced today by Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones.
- **[Welsh-Irish electricity link plan](#)**
09/10/2008 Work on an undersea power link between Wales and the Irish Republic will begin if it wins planning approval
- **[Voters won't thank us for putting referendum before economic worries – Welsh Secretary](#)**
10/10/2008 Plans for a referendum on extra powers for the Assembly should take a back seat while politicians deal with the economic crisis, Welsh Secretary Paul Murphy said yesterday.
- **[Most Welsh want to stay part of UK](#)**
14/10/2008 Most Welsh people want Wales to remain part of the UK but to have its own elected Parliament with full law-making and taxation powers, says a new survey.
- **[\\$10m deal puts singer Katherine in record books](#)**
20/10/2008 Welsh singer Katherine Jenkins has signed the biggest album deal in classical music history, making her one of Wales' wealthiest female show business stars.
- **[Y Strade: Y bennod olaf](#)**
24/10/2008 Dros ganrif a chwarter o rygbi yn dod i ben ar Barc y Strade wrth i'r y gêm olaf gael ei chynnal yn y stadiwm.
- **[Windfarm could provide tenth of Wales energy](#)**
24/10/2008 An off-shore windfarm that could generate a tenth of the electricity used in Wales should be given the go-ahead as soon as possible, according to a leading environmental organisation.
- **[Choir bid for festive number one](#)**
01/11/2008 Last Choir Standing winners, Only Men Aloud!, are vying to be this year's Christmas number one, with a double A-side single featuring two covers.
- **[Senedd is expensive, yes. But final iconic result is worth it](#)**
05/11/2008 The spiralling costs of building the Senedd should not devalue its status as an iconic Welsh landmark, a committee of AMs will claim today
- **[Iaith: Gwersi i Estonia?](#)**
06/11/2008 Mae 22 ymwelydd o Estonia yn ymweld â Chymru er mwyn dysgu sut mae rhaglenni iaith yn cael eu gweithredu yna.
- **[Tref am eithrio'r Gymraeg](#)**
10/11/2008 Tref yn Sir Benfro eisiau eithrio o gynllun sy'n golygu bod rhaid iddyn nhw gyfieithu dogfennau i'r Gymraeg
- **[Row at council over use of the word British](#)**
11/11/2008 A council is advising staff not to use the term "British" for fear of upsetting those who consider themselves Welsh, it has emerged.
- **[Fresh row over assembly's powers](#)**
13/11/2008 Conflict between the two parties in government at the assembly is predicted as a row over new Welsh powers escalates.
- **[Stop being anti-Welsh, Rhodri urges his party](#)**
17/11/2008 Labour will never win a majority in Wales again unless the party reverses the public's perception that it is anti-Welsh, Rhodri Morgan has warned.
- **[Hoover: 60 years of manufacturing in Merthyr poised to end](#)**
19/11/2008 Hoover last night blamed rising costs and fierce overseas competition, as it admitted 60 years of manufacturing in South Wales could soon come to an end.
- **[Wales tourism figures rise](#)**
20/11/2008 The credit crunch has failed to stop tourists spending in Wales with takings in the first six months this year rising dramatically, official figures indicate today.
- **[Tolkien inspired by Welsh language](#)**
24/11/2008 A major new work describes how the Welsh language fired the imagination behind The Lord of the Rings saga.
- **[Income tax changes for Wales?](#)**
24/11/2008 The prospect of the Assembly Government being able to vary taxes has increased because of political developments in Scotland, says the director of Wales' leading think tank.
- **[Williams wins top rugby accolade](#)**
24/11/2008 Wales winger Shane Williams wins the IRB international Player of the Year award.
- **[Prifwyl yn 'wynebu argyfwng'](#)**
24/11/2008 Swyddogion yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn rhubbuddio ei bod hi'n wynebu argyfwng ariannol difrifol.
- **[Labour MPs banned from pro-referendum group](#)**
26/11/2008 Labour AMs have been instructed not to join a cross-party group aimed at preparing the ground for a Yes vote in the promised referendum on full lawmaking powers for the National Assembly.
- **[Tourism experts use Welsh language to promote principality](#)**
28/11/2008 Welsh words and phrases will be strategically located at tourist attractions across the country to remind visitors they are in Wales, under a new scheme unveiled yesterday.
- **[Google: Cymru'n 'Brydain Fach'](#)**
02/12/2008 Fe ddaeth cwmni mapiau arlein o hyd i gyfieithiad o "Gymru" ar gyfer y safle - ond cyfieithiad Gwyddelig, nid Cymraeg oedd e.
- **[Councils 'failing' schooling in Welsh](#)**
05/12/2008 Welsh-medium education is being let down as councils fail to keep up with parental demand, an investigation has found.
- **[Gay referee's 'coming out' ordeal](#)**
05/12/2008 International rugby referee Nigel Owens talks in his new book about being gay and how it drove him to try to commit suicide.
- **[Cyngor: 'Ie' i ysgol Gymraeg](#)**
05/12/2008 Trydedd ysgol uwchradd Cymraeg i agor yng Nghaerdydd yn ôl y cyngor wrth i dair ysgol uwchradd Saesneg gau.
- **[2011 census form to include Welsh tick-box](#)**
12/12/2008 A Welsh tick-box will be included in the 2011 census, the Office for National Statistics confirmed yesterday.
- **[Brown blocks Wigley's rise to the Lords, claims Plaid](#)**
12/12/2008 Plaid Cymru honorary president Dafydd Wigley has been blocked from taking a seat in the House of Lords by Gordon Brown, it was claimed last night.
- **[Jazz festival calls in receivers](#)**
17/12/2008 The Brecon Jazz festival goes into receivership two months after suspending payments to creditors.
- **[St David's Day grows to two days](#)**
18/12/2008 St David's Day in Anglesey is becoming so popular that it is growing to two days next year.
- **[VAT boosts Wales rugby](#)**
31/12/2008 The Welsh Rugby Union is using the Government change in VAT legislation to deliver a financial and operational boost to community rugby clubs across Wales.
- **[New medal could mark devolution anniversary](#)**
08/01/2009 A prestigious medal could be introduced by the Welsh Assembly to honour those who bring glory to Wales

Disclaimer: Draig Werdd cannot guarantee the accuracy of any information or news item contained in this newsletter.