



Draig Werdd

The Welsh Society in Ireland



Newsletter – Summer 2008

Welcome to another of our quarterly newsletters, with links to news items from the last 3 months about Wales, as usual. A number of these deal with the recent local council elections, which produced an interesting set of results. Follow the links below to obtain more information about these, if you need to.

These results have shown us, if we needed showing, that the country is slowly changing and becoming more diverse in its make-up and political opinions. The days of the Labour “donkey” vote in the old industrial areas may be virtually over – Labour controls only 2 of the 22 councils in Wales outright – a development highlighted by the former Secretary of State for Wales (and ex-Young Liberal, as it happens), Peter Hain, in one of our links.

By the same token, Plaid Cymru lost overall control of Gwynedd council, where they had been the governing party for the last couple of decades. This time, it was due to the entry into the election of “Llais Gwynedd” (“Voice of Gwynedd”), which was set up to oppose the Plaid Cymru policy of closing small rural schools in the county.

Of the 22 local councils, 18 have no overall control and are run by coalitions of various groupings, with the capital, Cardiff, being controlled by a coalition of Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru. A situation which is not so easy to categorise, perhaps, but which is undoubtedly an improvement on the monolithic Labour councils of former days in Wales, with all the arrogance and corruption that accompanied them. Perhaps this is another indication of the changes introduced in the political life of Wales by the establishment of the National Assembly in Cardiff, and the long-overdue maturing of political opinion that it has brought in its wake.

Meanwhile, Draig Werdd will be spending the summer relaxing as usual, but we look forward to a new season of events in the autumn, including a possible tour of Ireland by Max Boyce. And don't forget to let us know about other upcoming events by emailing info@draigwerdd.org, so that we can keep members informed and organise group visits where we can. Pob hwyl!

Cylchlythyr – Haf 2008

Croeso unwaith eto i un o'n cylchlythyrau chwarterol, gyda dolennau i eitemau newyddion dros y 3 mis diwethaf o Gymru, fel arfer. Mae nifer o rhain yn delio gyda'r etholiadau lleol diweddar, a greodd casgliad diddorol o ganlyniadau. Dilynwch y dolennau isod i gael mwy o wybodaeth amdanynt, os oes angen gennych.

Mae'r canlyniadau hyn wedi ein dangos, os oedd angen, bod y wlad yn newid yn araf deg ac yn dod yn fwy amrywiol yn ei natur a'i barnau gwleidyddol. Mae'n bosib bod yr hen ddyddiau o'r bleidlais “asyn” y blaid Lafur wedi dod i ben, bron – mae Llafur yn rheoli yn llwyr mewn dim ond 2 o'r 22 gyngor yng Nghymru – datblygiad ac amlwygwyd gan gyn-Ysgrifennydd Cymru (a'r cyn-Rhyddfrydwr Ifanc, fel mae'n digwydd) Peter Hain, mewn un o'n dolennau.

Ar yr un pryd, colodd Plaid Cymru rheolaeth llwyr ar gyngor Gwynedd, lle oeddynt wedi rheoli dros y ddau ddegawd diwethaf. Y tro hwn, mynediad “Llais Gwynedd” i'r ymgyrch, grwp a sefydlwyd i wrthwynebu polisi Plaid Cymru o gau ysgolion gwledig bychan y sir, oedd yn gyfrifol.

O'r 22 gyngor lleol, mae 18 heb unrhyw rheolaeth llwyr, ac yn cael eu rheoli gan glymbleidiau o liwiau gwahanol, gyda'r brifddinas, Caerydd, o dan reolaeth clymblaid y Rhyddfrydwyr Democratiaidd a Phlaid Cymru. Safle sydd ddim mor hawdd i'w disgrifio, efallai, ond un sydd heb amheuaeth yn welliant dros yr hen gynghorau monolithig Llafur yr hen ddyddiau yng Nghymru, gyda'r balchder a'r llygredd a ddaeth gyda nhw. Efallai bod hwn yn arwydd arall o'r newidiadau bywyd gwleidyddol yng Nghymru sydd wedi eu cyflwyno trwy sefydliad y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yng Nghaerdydd, a'r aeddfedu hir ymaros o farn wleidyddol a ddaeth yn ei sgil.

Yn y cyfamser, bydd Draig Werdd yn ymlacio dros yr haf, fel arfer, ond byddwn yn edrych ymlaen at dymor newydd o weithgareddau gyda'r hydref, gan gynnwys taith Iwerddon gan Max Boyce, o bosib. A pheidiwch ac anghofio i'n hysbysebu am weithgareddau eraill yn y dyfodol, trwy ebostio info@draigwerdd.org, er mwyn i ni rhannu'r wybodaeth gyda'r aelodaeth ac i drefnu ymweliadau grwpiau lle'n bosib. Pob 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:

- **[Would Wales welcome a Welsh banknote?](#)**
08/04/2008 The reintroduction of Welsh banknotes would provide a national morale boost and help kick-start the expansion of a home-grown financial sector, according to a Plaid Cymru parliamentary candidate.
- **[National Museum art gallery row](#)**
10/04/2008 The National Museum in Cardiff is set to be transformed into Wales' first national art gallery under controversial new plans
- **[Wales' law-making process 'a mess' - Archbishop](#)**
10/04/2008 The Archbishop of Wales has declared the National Assembly's law-making process "a mess" and in urgent need of reform.
- **[Eisteddfod: O blaid codi tâl](#)**
14/04/2008 Fe wnaeth Cyngor yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol gymeradwyo penderfyniad Bwrdd Rheoli'r Eisteddfod i godi tâl ar fynychwyr y brifwyl ar y dydd Sul.
- **[England cashes in on free prescriptions](#)**
16/04/2008 Three million people have registered with GPs in Wales – 100,000 more than the country's official population.
- **[Learning Welsh will give children a foreign language lift, says Clegg](#)**
16/04/2008 Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg is confident that children growing up in a bilingual Wales will find it easier to learn future languages.
- **[So where's the Amazon? It's in a continent called Ospreyia, quips Rhodri](#)**
17/04/2008 Amazon's gigantic new Swansea Bay distribution centre was opened yesterday and hailed as "a shot in the arm" for the Welsh economy.
- **[Microsoft backs Welsh language](#)**
17/04/2008 Computing giant Microsoft yesterday launched a Welsh language digital literacy initiative.
- **[Oedfa Prifwyl: Ffrae'n dod i ben](#)**
23/04/2008 Ffrae'n dod i ben - addolwyr yn cael mynd i'r oedfa ar Faes y Brifwyl ar Awst 3 yn rhad ac am ddim.
- **[English border village votes to become Welsh](#)**
24/04/2008 A leafy English village is so taken with the benefits which the Welsh have – including free prescriptions and free hospital car parking – it is holding a referendum on becoming part of Wales.
- **[Wales urged to lead way in plastic bag war](#)**
25/04/2008 Wales has been urged to lead the United Kingdom in the elimination of plastic bags.
- **['There's no going back on devolution. It's how far and how fast it moves forward'](#)**
30/04/2008 Sir Jon Shortridge, one of the founding fathers of Welsh devolution, has described a referendum on law-making powers for Wales as the "biggest prize" for the nation.
- **[Llais: Methu cydweithio â Plaid](#)**
06/05/2008 Llais Gwynedd yn dweud na fydden nhw'n gallu cydweithio gyda Phlaid Cymru ar Gyngor Gwynedd.
- **[Ron Davies in line for council Cabinet post](#)**
07/05/2008 Ron Davies is on course to be appointed to his first Cabinet position since resigning from Tony Blair's government 10 years ago.
- **[Give creaking Welsh law-making system time, says Rhodri](#)**
09/05/2008 Wales' new system of making its own laws "creaks a bit", Rhodri Morgan admitted yesterday – but insisted it needed to be given time to work.
- **[Train travel takes off on route that links nation](#)**
12/05/2008 The number of people taking the train between North-West Wales and Cardiff has soared by more than a quarter since the air service between those places was launched a year ago.
- **[Wales 'is leaving Labour behind'](#)**
12/05/2008 Former Welsh Secretary Peter Hain has warned Labour it risks being left behind by a "new, modern Wales".
- **[Jack Straw: English parliament would split Union](#)**
14/05/2008 Setting up an English parliament would be a disaster as Wales and Scotland would demand independence, Justice Secretary Jack Straw said yesterday.
- **['Colli' ieithoedd lleiafrifol](#)**
14/05/2008 Galw am strategaeth i warchod ieithoedd lleiafrifol ym Mhrydain rhag 'colli eu gwerth a chael eu colli
- **[Gwyl Geltaidd: Sylw i Gymru](#)**
15/05/2008 Cerddoriaeth, celfyddyd a diwylliant Cymru fydd yn cael y sylw mawr yng Ngŵyl Ryng-Geltaidd Lorient yn Awst.
- **[Senedd image of Thatcher 'an insult to Wales'](#)**
16/05/2008 Plans to install a huge image of Margaret Thatcher inside the Senedd building were yesterday condemned as an "insult to the people of Wales".
- **[Labour activists start to question agreement](#)**
20/05/2008 Some Welsh Labour activists are expressing concern about the future of their party's One Wales coalition agreement with Plaid Cymru, accusing Plaid of "ganging up" against Labour following the recent council elections.
- **[Addysg: Plaid yn cadeirio o hyd](#)**
23/05/2008 Ar ôl etholiadau lleol mis Mai mae Plaid Cymru yng Ngwynedd yn dal i gadeirio'r Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc.
- **[Fears of 'Eisteddfod fatigue' in capital](#)**
30/05/2008 Cracks are beginning to appear in the plan to hold the Urdd Eisteddfod in Cardiff every four years.
- **[Labour-Plaid argue about £½m EU translation bill](#)**
04/06/2008 A Labour MEP yesterday said the £500,000-plus cost of establishing Welsh as an official EU language could not be justified.
- **[Eisteddfod tribute to legend Gravell](#)**
09/06/2008 Welsh rugby legend Ray Gravell will be remembered at the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff, with many of the icon's favourite artist performing in a tribute concert.
- **['Slum of the future' fear for Bay](#)**
09/06/2008 Cardiff Bay could become a "slum of the future" because of overdevelopment, a leading academic has warned.
- **[BBC criticised for sidelining Wales](#)**
12/06/2008 Wales has been largely ignored by the BBC national news since the onset of devolution, according to a damning report by the corporation's governing body.
- **[Nifer gwylwyr S4C yn gostwng](#)**
12/06/2008 Mae nifer gwylwyr S4C wedi gostwng, yn ôl adroddiad blynyddol Awdurdod y Sianel.
- **[Irish have got their eyes set on a Gaelic football mission](#)**
16/06/2008 Children in Wales are being given the chance to learn Gaelic football as part of an Irish-government backed scheme to promote its national game.
- **[Scrum-half dies after neck injury](#)**
17/06/2008 A Neath rugby player has died in hospital after suffering an injury to his neck during a match on 20 April.

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