



# Draig Werdd

## The Welsh Society in Ireland



### Newsletter – Spring 2009

With the changing of the clocks, the winter now seems finally to be over so we can look ahead to the longer and sunnier days to come. And to some of the upcoming activities from Draig Werdd in Ireland.

We are hoping once again to organise a hill walk in the Wicklow mountains within the next few weeks, to give members the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful scenery and fresh air to be had only a short distance outside Dublin, and in a terrain which is so reminiscent of parts of Wales. And with some clear weather, we may also be able to see some of the Welsh mountains in the distance this time! Details will be put on the website and circulated via email nearer the time, so keep an eye out for these.

Also beginning shortly will be the Dublin Welsh tag rugby team's summer activities. They are always on the look out for new rugby talent(!), male or female, so if you're interested, send an email to [info@draigwerdd.org](mailto:info@draigwerdd.org) and we'll get back to you.

Before leaving the winter's activities behind, we'd like to mention the St. David's dinner which took place on March 7<sup>th</sup> last, featuring guest speaker Roy Noble. We had a wonderful evening in his and each other's company, with the highest number of members present that we've had in recent years. If you'd like to see some photos of the event and the participants, go to our website [www.draigwerdd.org](http://www.draigwerdd.org) and follow the link from the home page.

Another topic that has aroused some interest within the society recently has been the fate of the old Welsh chapel in Talbot Street, Dublin. The chapel was closed in 1944, but the building is still in existence, and some of its chapel features are still identifiable. At present it is used as an internet cafe, with the outside walls covered in graffiti-like paintwork. The committee has been considering making an application for listed status for the structure on the society's behalf, to prevent any more changes being made to a building which represents part of the Welsh heritage in Ireland. If you would like to contribute to this process, then please email [info@draigwerdd.org](mailto:info@draigwerdd.org). Information on the chapel and its history can be found by going to <http://www.draigwerdd.org/Features.htm>.

### Cylchlythyr – Gwanwyn 2009

Gyda'r clochau newydd wedi eu symud ymlaen, mae'n debyg fod y gaeaf drosto o'r diwedd, a felly gallwn ni edrych ymlaen at ddyddiau hirach a chynhesach. Ac i rai o weithgareddau'r Ddraig Werdd sydd i ddod.

Yr ydym yn gobeithio trefnu taith gerdded unwaith eto ym mynyddoedd Wicklow yn ystod yr wythnosau nesaf, i roi'r cyfle i aelodau i fwynhau'r golygfeydd bendigedig a'r awyr iach sydd ar gael o gwmpas Dilyn, mewn amgylchedd sydd yn nodweddiadol hefyd o rannau o Gymru. A gyda tywydd clir, efallai bydd hi'n bosib gweld rhai o fynyddoedd Cymru yn y pellter y tro hwn! Bydd y manylion lan ar y wefan ac yn cael eu dosbarthu trwy ebost cyn bo hir, felly cadwch olwg ar eich blychiau ebost.

Yn dechrau yn fuan hefyd bydd gweithgareddau'r haf tîm rygbi tag Cymry Dilyn. Mae nhw'n wastad yn chwilio am dalent rygbi(!) newydd, bechgyn a merched, felly os oes diddordeb gennych, gyrrwch neges e-bost at [info@draigwerdd.org](mailto:info@draigwerdd.org) a byddwn yn cysylltu yn ôl atoch.

Cyn symud ymlaen o ddiwyddiadau'r gaeaf, hoffem sôn am ein cinio Gwyl Dewi, a ddiwyddodd ar 7 Mawrth diwethaf, gyda'r siaradwr gwadd Roy Noble. Cawsom noson fendigedig a byth gofiadwy yn ei gwmni ef, ac yng nhwmni ein gilydd, gyda'r nifer fwyaf o aelodau yn bresennol ers rhai blynyddoedd. Os hoffech weld nifer o'r bobl a oedd yna, ewch i'n gwefan [www.draigwerdd.org](http://www.draigwerdd.org) a dilynwch y ddolen o'r dudalen gartref.

Pwnc arall sydd wedi codi tipyn o sylw yn ddiweddar yw tynged yr hen gapel Cymreig yn Talbot Street, Dilyn. Caewyd y capel ym 1944, ond mae'r adeilad yn dal i fodoli, a mae'n bosib o hyd i adnabod rhai o nodweddion y capel. Defnyddir ym mhresennol fel caffi'r rhyngrwyd, gyda'r muriau allanol wedi eu peintio gyda ffigurau sydd yn edrych yn debyg i graffiti. Mae'r pwyllgor wedi bod yn ystyried anfon cais ar ran y gymdeithas i gael yr adeilad ei rhestru gan y cyngor, i geisio rhwystro newidiadau pellach i'r adeilad, sydd yn cynrychioli rhan o'r etifeddiaeth Gymreig yn Iwerddon. Os hoffech gyfrannu i'r ymgyrch hon, anfonwch neges e-bost at [info@draigwerdd.org](mailto:info@draigwerdd.org). Am fwy o wybodaeth am y capel a'i hanes, ewch i <http://www.draigwerdd.org/Newyddion.htm>.

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:*

- **[Welsh politicians attack David Cameron's plan to reduce Westminster MPs](#)**  
14/01/2009 A Conservative Government would drastically slash the number of Welsh MPs, David Cameron said yesterday.
- **[Cynulliad: Cyfle i'r cyhoedd](#)**  
14/01/2009 Cyfle i fynegi barn am ddyfodol y cynulliad wrth i gyfarfod cyhoeddus cynta'r Confensiwn gael ei gynnal.
- **[All Wales Convention holds first public meeting](#)**  
15/01/2009 The All Wales Convention held its first public meeting last night to gauge the mood of the nation about a referendum on full lawmaking powers for the National Assembly.
- **[Sarkozy sorry for gaffe over Welsh soldiers' wartime role](#)**  
19/01/2009 The President of France has apologised for leaving Welsh soldiers out of a speech praising soldiers who helped liberate his country in two world wars.
- **[Morgan still to quit in autumn](#)**  
19/01/2008 Rhodri Morgan says the recession will not affect his plans to step down as First Minister and Welsh Labour leader later this year.
- **[Orchestra moves into new home](#)**  
22/01/2009 A new home for the BBC National Orchestra of Wales is opening in Cardiff Bay to give more intimate concerts for music fans.
- **[Wales giving back £77m to Europe](#)**  
23/01/2009 More than £77m of aid for Wales' poorest areas will be returned to the European Commission because it was not spent in time.
- **[Swansea to Cork ferry may return](#)**  
23/01/2009 The global economic slowdown could have a silver lining for Wales, as it seems to have paved the way for a return of the Swansea to Cork ferry service.
- **[Corus mothballs Llanwern steel plant as 1,000 jobs axed](#)**  
27/01/2009 Steel giant Corus yesterday wielded the axe on more than 1,000 Welsh workers, as it reeled from collapsing worldwide demand.
- **[Study shows non-Welsh speakers can feel alienated in Welsh-speaking areas](#)**  
27/01/2009 People in heavily Welsh-speaking areas who do not speak the language often feel more "English", according to new research.
- **['Cymru Rydd': Iaith yn ffactor](#)**  
28/01/2009 Mae siaradwyr Cymraeg yn fwy tebygol o gefnogi annibyniaeth wleidyddol na'r rhai sydd ddim yn siarad Cymraeg, yn ôl ymchwil newydd gan Brifysgol Caerdydd.
- **[Iaith: Cais am fwy o bwerau](#)**  
02/02/2009 Llywodraeth y Cynulliad yn dechrau'r broses o drosglwyddo'r hawl i ddeddfu ynglŷn â'r Gymraeg o San Steffan i Fae Caerdydd.
- **[Battle lines are drawn on historic day for language](#)**  
03/02/2009 Deep tensions shot to the surface yesterday as the Assembly Government outlined the powers it will seek from Westminster over the Welsh language.
- **[Welsh hero medal proposal dropped](#)**  
11/02/2009 A proposal to award a medal annually to a person bringing credit to Wales has been abandoned by the Welsh assembly due to the "current economic climate".
- **[Welsh move to ban free plastic bags](#)**  
12/02/2009 Free plastic bags in Wales could be banned under plans for new laws announced yesterday.
- **[Fifth of pupils taught in Welsh](#)**  
13/02/2009 More and more state school children in the UK are being taught in Welsh, Gaelic and Irish. In Wales, 20% of schoolchildren are now being taught entirely in the Welsh language - up from 16% in the 1990s.
- **[London Welsh centre under threat](#)**  
19/02/2009 The focal point for Welsh social and cultural life in London for more than 70 years could close due to falling support, officials have warned.
- **[UN warning over Welsh language](#)**  
20/02/2009 The Welsh language faces extinction by the end of the century unless it is given help to survive, the United Nations warned yesterday.
- **[Launch for Pembrokeshire's St David's Day banners](#)**  
20/02/2009 Banners celebrating each county in Wales will be on display during future St David's Day parades in the Welsh capital if the vision of a group who gathered in the Senedd yesterday becomes a reality.
- **[Majority now want a Parliament for Wales](#)**  
27/02/2009 More than half the people of Wales would vote Yes for a law-making Welsh Parliament, according to a new opinion poll.
- **[Thousands turn out for St David's Day parade](#)**  
02/03/2009 Pilgrims from across Wales gathered in the capital yesterday to celebrate St David's Day.
- **[Iaith: 47% o blaid mwy o ddeddfu](#)**  
02/03/2009 Mae bron hanner y rhai gafodd eu holi wedi dweud eu bod nhw'n cefnogi mwy o ddeddfu yn achos yr iaith Gymraeg.
- **[Spectre of the Taffia could still threaten hopes of a law-making Assembly](#)**  
05/03/2009 Fears of a Welsh-speaking Taffia or "crachach" was poised to take control of Wales drove people to vote against devolution in 1979, one of the nation's leading academics said last night.
- **[Plaid wants independent Wales in 20 years](#)**  
10/03/2009 Plaid Cymru has set the target of getting a majority of the Welsh population to support independence within 20 years.
- **[Cofeb barhaol i Iolo Morganwg?](#)**  
10/03/2009 Lansio ymgrych i godi ymwybddiaeth, ac arian, ar gyfer cofeb i Iolo Morganwg ym Mryn Y Briallu, Llundain.
- **[Alabama fights to reinstate plaque celebrating Welsh 'Columbus'](#)**  
18/03/2009 A group of Welsh Americans are hoping their campaign to reinstate a plaque celebrating the arrival of Prince Madoc ap Owain in the US will overcome its final political hurdle.
- **[Anger from Plaid and Lib Dems, as student top-up fees given go-ahead](#)**  
19/03/2009 Welsh students will pay top-up fees to attend Welsh universities from next year, the Assembly Government announced yesterday.
- **[Dim mwyafrif i bwerau cynulliad](#)**  
24/03/2009 Arolwg newydd yn dangos mai 48% fyddai'n pleidleisio dros gael pwerau deddfu llawn i'r Cynulliad.
- **[Plaid MP's £165k bill tops table](#)**  
31/03/2009 Plaid Cymru's Hywel Williams was revealed as North Wales' most expensive MP last night for the second year running after claiming £165,765 in allowances last year.

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