



Draig Werdd

The Welsh Society in Ireland



Newsletter – Autumn 2011

If you're a Facebook user, did you know that there's a Draig Werdd Facebook group in existence? If you haven't already done so, go to <http://www.facebook.com/groups/47152789708> to join the group, where you'll see posts from other members and news of Draig Werdd activities and where you'll also be able to take part in one of the many lively discussion threads that take place there.

One of the recent discussions on our Facebook group was triggered by the description of Welsh as a "moribund monkey language" in a recent book review in the Daily Mail – there is a link to the article on the Facebook page if you wish to read it. While this is the sort of comment you'd expect from such a publication, the unremitting anti-Welshness and denigrating language of the article will be regarded by many people as offensive, as illustrated by the reaction on our Facebook site. However, the response of such political luminaries as the ex-Tory Chris Bryant, now Labour MP for the Rhondda, and the ex-Liberal MP-cum-funnyman Lembit Opik, as well as ex-Countdown presenter Carol Vorderman (what's it got to do with her?) is that we should laugh it off as a joke – see the news item link below. Interesting that none of these is a Welsh speaker. Interesting also to wonder what their response and that of the liberal left in England would have been if it was another culture that was attacked and ridiculed in this way – Jewish, African, Arab, you name it. Would they have seen the joke then? A good illustration of the way in which Welsh culture and the language are viewed and valued by our neighbours, perhaps.

If you'd like to add your view to the discussion, join us on Facebook. Or alternatively, why not come to our annual meeting and social evening and have your say on the running of the society and more. The meeting will be taking place this year on Thursday evening, 20th October, upstairs in Scruffy Murphy's, off Lower Mount St., Dublin 2, starting at 7.30pm. There will be light refreshments provided during the evening, and the meeting will be followed by a showing of the film "Separado", featuring Gruff Rhys from the Welsh music group Super Furry Animals. The film gives an individualistic portrayal of Gruff's attempts to trace his family's history after their emigration to join the Welsh colony in Patagonia, and of his search for his uncle Rene Griffiths. An interesting and amusing journey through a unique part of Welsh history – come along and be entertained and informed!

Cylchlythyr – Hydref 2011

Os ydych chi'n defnyddio Facebook, oeddech chi'n ymwybodol o fodolaeth grŵp Facebook Draig Werdd? Os nad ydych chi wedi gwneud hynny yn barod, allwch i ymuno a'r grŵp trwy fynd i <http://www.facebook.com/groups/47152789708>, lle gwelwch chi negeseuon o aelodau eraill a hefyd newyddion am weithgareddau'r Ddraig Werdd, a lle gallwch chi ymuno ag un o'r trafodaethau bywiog sydd yn cymryd lle yna.

Fe ddechreuodd un o'r trafodaethau diweddar ar ein grŵp Facebook ar ôl disgrifiad o'r iaith Gymraeg fel "iaith mwnci farwaidd" mewn adolygiad llyfr yn y Daily Mail yn ddiweddar – mae 'na gyswllt i'r erthygl ar ein tudalen Facebook os ydych chi am ei darllen. Er bod hwn yn sylwad o'r math y byddech chi'n llwyr ddisgwyl o bapur newydd felly, gall y gwrth Cymreictod eithafol a'r iaith sarhaus yr erthygl gael ei dderbyn yn ymosodol gan nifer fawr o bobl, fel y gwelwyd ar ein gwefan Facebook. Er hynny, atebiad nifer o "sêr" y byd gwleidyddol, fel y cyn-Geidwadwr Chris Bryant, yn awr yn AS Llafur dros y Rhondda, a'r cyn AS Rhyddfrydol â'r "digrifwr" Lembit Opik, yn ogystal â'r cyn gyflwynwraig Countdown Carol Vorderman (beth yw ei diddordeb hi yn y peth?) yw y dylen ni dderbyn y sylwad fel jôc – gweler yr eitem newyddion isod. Mae'n ddiddorol bod neb o'r rhain yn Gymry Cymraeg. Yn ddiddorol hefyd i ystyried beth fyddai eu ymateb, ac ymateb y chwith rhyfrydol yn Lloegr, pe basai diwylliant arall wedi cael ei ymosod a'i gwawdio yn y ffordd hon – Iddewaidd, Affricanaidd, Arabaidd efallai. A fydd nhw wedi gweld y jôc pryd hynny, tybed? Enghraifft dda o sut mae ein diwylliant a'r iaith Gymraeg yn cael ei ystyried a'i werthfawrogi gan ein cymdigion, efallai.

Os hoffech chi gyfrannu i'r drafodaeth, ymunwch â ni ar Facebook. Neu beth am ddoed i'n cyfarfod blynyddol a'r noson gymdeithasol i ddweud eich barn am sut mae'r gymdeithas yn cael ei rhedeg a mwy. Bydd y cyfarfod yn cymryd lle eleni ar nos Iau, 20 Hydref, lan llofft yn Scruffy Murphy's, wrth Lower Mount Street, Dulyn 2, yn dechrau am 7.30yh. Bydd bwyd ysgafn yn cael ei ddarparu yn ystod y noson, ac yn dilyn y cyfarfod bydd y ffilm "Separado" yn cael ei ddangos, gyda Gruff Rhys o'r grŵp cerddoriaeth Cymreig Super Furry Animals. Mae'r ffilm yn cynnig portread unigryw o ymgais Gruff i ddarganfod hanes ei deulu ar ôl iddyn nhw ymfudo i'r Wladfa, ac am ei ymchwiliad am ei ewythr Rene Griffiths. Taith ddiddorol a ddigrifol trwy ran unigrwy o hanes Cymru – dewch i gael eich hadlonni a'ch hysbysu ar y cyd!

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:

- **[Canu clodydd corau o Gymru](#)**
11/04/2011 Mae dau gôr o Gymru'n dathlu ar ôl penwythnos o gystadlu ar y teledu. Côr Cywair o Gastell Newydd Emlyn enillodd Côr Cymru S4C a Chôr Ysgol Gynradd Pen Barras, Sir Ddinbych, enillodd Gystadleuaeth Gorawl Songs of Praise y BBC
- **[Tale of Welsh bards' massacre taught to generations... in Hungary](#)**
13/04/2011 A poem to a legendary massacre of Welsh bards has long formed an unlikely classroom staple for generations of schoolchildren – in Hungary.
- **[SNP victory offers Wales the chance to ensure it gets a fairer deal](#)**
09/05/2011 The victory of the SNP in Scotland means that the future of the United Kingdom is up for debate.
- **[MPs call for guarantees over S4C's independent future](#)**
11/05/2011 The independence of S4C must be protected in law through a long-term funding formula that will guarantee its future, a cross-party group of MPs will declare today.
- **[Carwyn Jones 'aware of the arithmetic' as he prepares for oath of office](#)**
12/05/2011 Carwyn Jones will today swear an oath of office and formally take the reins of government for a second term after being formally nominated as First Minister.
- **[St David's Day could become a bank holiday](#)**
13/05/2011 St. David's Day could become a public holiday under government plans looking at whether to move the May Day bank holiday, it was announced yesterday
- **[Welsh Government 'could be forced' to take on tax-raising powers](#)**
23/05/2011 The Welsh Government may be forced by Westminster to take on powers to vary income tax rates for people working in Wales despite opposition in Cardiff Bay, a leading economist has claimed.
- **[Tolkien a'i gariad at y Gymraeg](#)**
25/05/2011 Cymraeg oedd yr ysbrydoliaeth am un o ieithoedd yr ellyllon yng ngrwaith enwocaf JRR Tolkien, The Lord of the Rings, yn ôl llyfr newydd gan ddarlithydd o Brifysgol Caerdydd.
- **[Queen's praise for National Assembly](#)**
08/06/2011 The Queen heaped praise on the National Assembly yesterday as she formally opened its fourth session – the first as a full law-making parliament in all but name.
- **[Rugby referee Owens and poet Clarke to be inducted into Gorsedd of Bards](#)**
09/06/2011 International rugby referee Nigel Owens and National Poet of Wales Gillian Clarke will be honoured by the Gorsedd of Bards at this year's National Eisteddfod.
- **[Carwyn Jones urged to stand up for Wales as new funding deal agreed for Scotland](#)**
14/06/2011 Labour was yesterday accused of not standing up for Wales, as the UK Government announced plans to give sweeping new powers to the Scottish Parliament as part of a financial package worth up to £12bn
- **[Pupils' school name contest turns to political fiasco](#)**
08/07/2011 A row over a controversial decision to reject a suggestion by youngsters to name a new school after a pioneering Welsh politician has taken a new twist.
- **[Hunangofiant yw Llyfr y Flwyddyn](#)**
08/07/2011 £10,000 i'r awdur Ned Thomas am ei gyfrol 'Bydoedd' a wobrwyyd yn Llyfr y Flwyddyn 2011 mewn seremoni nos Iau.
- **[Assembly politicians round on David Cameron over 'disappointingly vague' address in Senedd](#)**
13/07/2011 Prime Minister David Cameron addressed the National Assembly for the first time, but failed to set out plans for a new commission to examine how Wales is funded.
- **[Three Welsh universities confirm plans to merge to become University of Wales](#)**
13/07/2011 Three universities have reaffirmed their commitment to merge to become the University of Wales. The governing bodies of Swansea Metropolitan, Trinity Saint David and the University of Wales met to discuss future collaboration.
- **[Row breaks out as Labour backs proposals to elect all AMs by first-past-the-post](#)**
14/07/2011 A huge row has blown up after Labour proposed changing the National Assembly's electoral system so all AMs were elected on a "first-past-the-post" basis.
- **[Canolfan iaith newydd i Geredigion](#)**
14/07/2011 Mae Cyngor Sir Ceredigion wedi penderfynu newid eu darpariaeth ar gyfer disgyblion sydd wedi symud i fyw i'r sir trwy greu canolfan iaith newydd yn Felin-fach.
- **[Davies named Tory assembly leader](#)**
15/07/2011 The Conservatives elect Andrew RT Davies as their leader in the Welsh assembly, and he urges his party to offer a "real alternative" to Labour.
- **[Ieuan Wyn Jones to step down as Plaid Cymru leader next spring](#)**
21/07/2011 Ieuan Wyn Jones will step down as Plaid Cymru leader next spring, he announced yesterday, firing the starting gun on a lengthy campaign to succeed him.
- **[Rhys Iorwerth yn cipio'r Gadair](#)**
06/08/2011 Rhys Iorwerth o Gaerdydd sydd wedi ennill Cadair Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Wrecsam a'r Fro.
- **['Pride' of Eisteddfod organisers](#)**
07/08/2011 Organisers of the National Eisteddfod say they will look back on the Wrexham event with "pride and happy memories". Total attendances across the week were 149,692, more than 9% higher than last year in Ebbw Vale.
- **[MP blasts 'monkey language' attack on Welsh](#)**
16/08/2011 A Plaid Cymru MP has written angrily to the Home Secretary about a book review in a national newspaper that describes Welsh as an "appalling and moribund monkey language"
- **[Scottish independence: 'It's a real threat. We have to put the case for Britain'](#)**
16/08/2011 The break-up of the United Kingdom is a real possibility and it would be foolish to take for granted a No vote in the planned referendum on Scottish independence, according to two Members of Scottish Parliament on a fact-finding mission to Wales
- **[Total out of work soars in 'very, very sick' economy](#)**
18/08/2011 Hopes of a strong recovery in the near future vanished yesterday as new figures showed unemployment rising in Wales and a government minister warned the economy was "very, very sick".
- **[RS Thomas fan writes first Welsh book for Japanese learners](#)**
26/08/2011 Japanese speakers can now learn Welsh for the first time thanks to a lecturer from Tokyo with a passion for the poet RS Thomas.
- **[Plaid MP Jonathan Edwards accused of overreacting to Welsh language jibe](#)**
29/08/2011 Former Countdown presenter Carol Vorderman joined several Welsh politicians who accused a Plaid MP of "overreacting" to a writer who mocked the Welsh language.
- **[Stena Line to stop Holyhead fast ferry service to Ireland](#)**
31/08/2011 A fast ferry service between Wales and Ireland will stop next month.
- **[Has Welsh theatre found its voice?](#)**
01/09/2011 Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru brilliantly dramatises Wales's tussle of identities.