

Chiltern District Welsh Society

Winter Newsletter 2023



Summer Lunch 2nd July 2023

We have Ernest Morris to thank as our host again this year.

Also many thanks to Bryn Neal, Lloyd Jones and some very generous friends of Kay Day who lent us their gazebos for the event after we double booked with the Longshaws.

Sunday morning on 2nd July started with Ernest welcoming the gazebo team who set to work putting up the four tents, seven tables and forty chairs in record time. They then all rushed back home to get washed and dressed and return for 12:30.



In the meantime, Ann Evans, Kay Day and Ann Tennant laid the tables and prepared the food.

Numbers were a little down this year, with some last minute cancellations reducing our number to below 40.

At 1 o'clock, Ann Evans welcomed everyone to the event – our 23rd year and everyone found a place at the tables.

We were all a little worried that the wind would catch the tents and send them skywards.



bricks.

At one point the catering gazebo was caught by the wind and had to be weighed down with



want to take to the skies, but it remained dry, which was the main thing.

In the end there was more of a problem with the paper napkins and tablecloths which seemed to

Ann Tenant had prepared a really delicious and



substantial salad, with many of us returning for seconds, and there was a great choice of desserts.

In the absence of our chairman Gwyndaf, David Powell thanked the tent team, Kay Day for organising everything, Ernest Morris for once again being our host and Ann Tennant and her team of caterers for their efforts in making the day so successful. He then for help to help dismantle and put away the gazebos, tables and chairs.

We had a great many volunteers to help, and in no time the tables and chairs were cleared and put into Ernest's garage, and, after some puzzling we worked out how to get the gazebos down and back into their carriers.

Thanks to everyone for making another successful Summer Lunch!

Golf Day 25th August 2023



As always for this event the sun shone down on the hardy golfers who were keenly competing for this annual major golfing event.

This year Gwyndaf had organised a Texas Scramble, a very enjoyable format that involves all the players in every golf shot regardless of ability.



The results were very close apart from the winning team who achieved an impressive score worthy of winning the golf club Championship (had it been achieved by a single player!) Well done Pat and the two Robs.

Detailed scores are listed below

Teams & scores:

75 strokes – Pat Whitworth, Rob Brett & Rob Britton

80 – Margaret Broomby, John Whitworth & Gwyndaf John

81 – Pam Britton, Ralph Broomby & Eryl Morris

84 – Jane Morris, Colin Thomas & Alun McCarthy

Ladies nearest the pin: Jane Morris
Gents nearest the pin: Gwyndaf John

Gwyndaf presented the winning team with a number of much needed golf aids – a “shot saver” for more accurately lining up putts and other strokes, a “golf ball grabber” that fits on



the putter handle so that the player doesn't need to bend down to lift the ball from the hole, some clip-

on pencils and a pack of ball position markers. Rob Britton presented a bottle of wine to each of the nearest the pin winners.

Twenty members sat down for a lunch of seared salmon with beurre blanc sauce & veg followed by lemon tart with mixed berry compote and whipped cream.

Bill Jones brought along the Society's new banner, the first time it has appeared at one of our events, though it has been promoting the Society at external events.

An excellent day was enjoyed by all.

Colin Thomas

Oxford Trip 6th September 2023

On Wednesday 6th September, a select band of members set off for Oxford. We all went by car, using the Park & Ride at Thornhill.

We all arrived at Jesus College about 10am and were met by Simon Smith, the Conference and Events Manager.



Simon explained that Jesus is one of 38 colleges in Oxford and that there are very strict rules about what can be done with the building, particularly the exteriors.

The college dates back to 1571, during the reign of Elizabeth I, and her picture hangs in two places in the college. Hugh Price, lawyer, cleric and founder of the college, petitioned Elizabeth to 'establish a college for the spread and maintenance of the Christian church in its sincerest form'.



Going through from Turl Street through the porter's lodge we entered the Front Quadrangle. The oldest parts of the college are here and date back to the 16th century.

The chapel was added in 1619 and now serves as an location for meetings and events as well as being the chapel for the college.



The Hall was built about 1618, and features the first portrait of Elizabeth I. Looking round the walls there were many other portraits of famous students, staff and benefactors, including, founder Hugh Price, Harold Wilson, King Charles II and Lawrence of Arabia.

We then climbed the stairs to the Fellows Library, built in 1620 and rebuilt in 1679. The books used to be chained and are now slowly being digitised so that they can be consulted online.

The library has many early books in Welsh, including Bishop Morgan's translation of the bible into Welsh (around 1588). The oldest book dates from 1467, a version of De vita Christiana by Saint Augustine, but many of the oldest books are now held in the Bodleian Library. The library



contains benches at which the books can be read – they are called '15 minute' benches as

the design has intentionally made them so uncomfortable that scholars could only bear them for 15 minutes at a time.

We then walked through the Third Quadrangle and over to the most recent addition to the college – the Cheng Yu-tung building, which is very modern and contains up-to-date teaching rooms, student accommodation and a 'digital hub'.



The view from the top of the building is wonderful, and we stopped for a group picture.

It was then time for lunch, so we made our way back to the Hall, where a table had been reserved for us. The food was surprisingly good, but the benches were somewhat unforgiving!

After lunch we had a couple of hours to ourselves and some spent the time shopping, some doing more sightseeing and others stayed in the shadows to avoid the heat of the midday sun.



We all met up at Christ Church Cathedral for 3pm, where we were met by our guides Anne and Steve Handsley. Christ Church is unique in that it is the college chapel and also the cathedral for the city of

Oxford, and as such one of the smallest cathedrals in England. This means that the Dean of the church is also the head of the college.

Before the college was built, it was the site of the church of St Frideswide's Priory. In 1532,

Cardinal Wolsey chose the church for his proposed new college – Cardinal College, but Wolsey soon fell out of favour with the king, Henry VIII for failing to secure him a divorce,



and eventually the project was taken over by Henry in 1532, who renamed it Christ Church (*Ecclesia Christi Cathedralis Oxoniensis*).

More recent claims to fame include the use of parts of the building in the Harry Potter films.

There have been a good many alterations to the building over the years, but much of the building dates back to late Norman times.

Christ Church is famous for its stained glass windows, including the Becket Window from the 14th century, the Jonah Window by Abraham



Van Linge in the 17th Century, the St Michael Window by Clayton and Bell in the 19th century, and the famous pre-Raphaelite Frideswide Window by

Edward Burne-Jones, also from the 19th century.

The tour finished at about 4:30, and we set off to find the bus to the Park & Ride car park.

I think that everyone found the day instructive and enjoyable.

2024 Provisional Programme

Friday 19th January 2024 – Quiz Night

Colin Picton will set this year's quiz - Coleshill Village Hall 7 for 7:30 with a Fish & Chip Supper.

Friday 1st March 2024 – St David's Day Dinner

This is always our most popular event of the year. This year we will return to Gerrards Cross Golf Club and the entertainment will be provided by harpist, Lucy Howitt who has studied at The Royal Academy of Music. Lucy is currently at Exeter University, and originally went to Dr Challoner's.

Wednesday 20th March 2024 – Theatre Trip

A trip to the National Theatre to see Martin Sheen in a matinee showing of the new play Nye, about the life of Nye Bevan.

Thursday 25th April 2024 – Spring Walk

Gwyndaf and Janet John will lead us on a country walk in the Chilterns with lunch at a local pub.

Friday 10th May 2024 – AGM and entertainment

This year we will be back at Coleshill Village Hall, with a talk by Lloyd Jones about his time in The Special Branch.

Sunday 7th July 2024 – Summer Lunch

Ernest Morris has once again generously offered to host the event in his garden in Chesham Bois.

August date tbc – Golf Day.

At Oaklands Park Golf Club, Seer Green. If you don't play come and join us for lunch! Details to be confirmed.

September (date tbc) Autumn Walk

Possible guided walk around Windsor and/or Eton.

Sunday 8th December 2024 – Christmas Drinks

Date and venue to be confirmed.