

Chiltern District Welsh Society

Winter Newsletter 2024



Committee Members Needed

Next year the Society will celebrate its 25th Anniversary.

Since Ann Evans first created it, the Society has held many events each year and has provided a gathering point for those with a Welsh background or an interest in the Welsh culture.

To do this, the Society relies upon the services of its committee to plan and organise our meetings and events.

Our committee is now down to five members (plus our President) and that is worrying.

Other Welsh Societies have foundered and disappeared when their committees could not recruit new members and all the responsibility fell on one or two shoulders.

The Society really needs to recruit new committee members.

Please consider volunteering as a new committee member – or, if we lose another committee member, we may well cease to function.

Summer Lunch 7th July

This year the lunch was held at the home of Ralph and Margaret Broomby in Chesham Bois. It is



worth highlighting that the drama started on the previous day – a thunder and lightning event with hindrance from the accompanied monsoon- when the volunteers were erecting the marquees. They are to be applauded – the end result looked very professional.

And so to the Sunday of the Lunch. At noon the elements decided to make their contribution – another downpour.

Come one o'clock some 40 determined guests had arrived – looking dressed for a January

walk in the Chilterns – vests included – or so I was told by many of the ladies.



Fortunately, the sun then decided to shine on the proceedings.

It all turned out to be a warm and friendly



event with an excellent lunch – courtesy of Ann Tennant's able helpers, Karen and Keira – the puddings and cheeses were of outstanding standard.



In addition, a challenging photographic quiz had been assembled by Ralph and this provided much debate and entertainment.

It is a tribute to the members that they did not let a minor flood impact conversation and the general enjoyment of the afternoon.

Da iawn I bawb (Well done to all); a credit to the camaraderie and enthusiasm that has been created over more than 20 years of the Society's establishment.

It was sad to reflect on the recently deceased members – Jonathan Pegler, Peter Lawrence, Nina Ford and Barrie Reece. Over the years, all have added to the riches of the Society.

The event concluded with sunshine and warm hugs.

Gwyn Owen

2024 Golf Day

It was our good fortune to enjoy a dry and mild day for our Annual Golf event at Oakland Park Golf Club. A perfect day for golf, though the same adjective would not accurately describe the golf played.



Three teams of three competed in a "Texas Scramble". In this special format a team sets off with each player taking a shot. One of the shots is chosen and it is from the location of that chosen ball that each player's next shot is

played. The team proceeds in this way until a ball is holed. Another detail is that the team must select at least 5 shots from the tee played by each team member.

Each team included a member of Oakland Golf Club, who was familiar with the course. Rob Britton led the first team to tee off, accompanied by Rob Brett and Ray Brown. The latter was a last minute replacement for the injured Brian Evans, but was an eminently well-qualified substitute as his wife is Welsh. Despite sharing



the same initials this team did not always share the same opinion when trying to choose their "best" shot, perhaps a consequence of putting two retired legal eagles in the same team.



The second team consisted of Pam Britton

accompanied by Gwyndaf John and John Whitworth, and the third saw Colin Thomas partnered by Pat Whitworth and Alun McCarthy.

The "best shot" format ensures that players of all standards contribute to the team result, with wayward shots forgotten – mostly! The team members bond together in their collective effort, and it is good fun.

By the end we were all thankful for and appreciative of our playing partners' efforts, as one example shows. From the first tee John hit his drive off into the rough on the right, Gwyndaf's ball soared high and was lost in the shrubbery to the left. Fortunately, for the first but not the last time during the round, Pam stepped up and struck her drive sweetly down the middle of the fairway.

The end result was very close indeed. Though there were no birdies recorded, there were plenty of pars on all the scorecards. In the end Pam, John and Gwyndaf scraped home as the winners. They took 81 strokes, just one stroke



less than the two Robs' and Ray. Another three behind were Colin, Pat and Alun.



After the golf the players were joined by other members of the Society for a splendid two course lunch.

Among those attending were Elan and Robin Preston-Whyte who had travelled over from



Egham. A later than usual start to the golf meant a late sitting for the meal, so thanks are due to all the non-playing guests for their patience.

Prizes were awarded to the winning team, and Gwyndaf and Rob were thanked for arranging the event.

Gwyndaf John

Windsor Walk

On Thursday 19th September, a group of 15 members met at 10:00am on Windsor Bridge for a walk around Windsor and Eton.



David & Gwyndaf had done their homework and planned a walk that was to take in sights of Windsor that many of us had not seen before. The walk was loosely based on The Queen's Walkway and a series of 63 of the town's attractions, but we were to cover only the sights in the centre of the town.



Starting at the bridge, we went past the memorial to King George V, designed by Lutyens and the Old Bank House, that used to be a brewery and is now part of St George's school, as well as the Theatre.

We then passed the Curfew Tower, which was built during the reign of King John between 1227 and 1230 and has walls 13 foot thick and 100 foot high. This is where the bodies of traitors were hung from the battlements.

Going up the hill and stepping over the clock in the pavement (an advertising gimmick for Dyson's, the clockmakers) we passed the Queen Victoria statue, erected in 1887, to mark her golden jubilee.

Behind the statue is the King Henry VIII gateway of Windsor Castle, built in 1511. Above the gate's arch is a heraldic plaque depicting



the arms of Henry with the pomegranate emblem of his wife, Catherine of Aragon,

We saw many unusual attractions including: the death warrant for Charles I, a game of hopscotch based on monarchs

connected with Windsor and the parish church of St John the Baptist which held an 18th century picture of the last supper as well as a wonderful carved altar rail by Grinling



Gibbons and the royal pew with two grand wooden thrones.

We then walked back to the Guildhall, which was completed in 1690. Looking up we saw the plaques to Queen Anne and her consort Prince George of Denmark. The Guildhall houses a museum of Windsor, which, unfortunately, we did not have time to visit, and is now used for wedding ceremonies including those of the then Prince Charles and Camila Parker Bowles in 2005, and also the civil partnership of Sir Elton John with David Furnish later the same year.

As we stood beside the Guildhall, we managed to see the changing of the guard, with the band of the Irish Guards playing and the pipers wearing the Irish kilt.



These were closely followed by the Welsh Guards, wearing bearskins with the leek badge of green and white.



Later, Bill Jones discovered that there was a video taken of the whole event which was posted on YouTube. If you look very carefully in the video you'll see our group at about 5 minutes in!

From the Guildhall, we walked along Park Street and onto the Long Walk. This is the ceremonial route to the castle and stretches for over 2.5 miles through Home Park to a grand statue of a mounted figure of George III in the distance.

From here we turned back towards the town, passing the Victoria Barracks just too late to see the returning guards (though we could hear them).



By the time we had seen the Queen's train, the Jubilee Fountains and the river, we were

feeling quite tired and decided that we should retire for a well-earned lunch at Cote Windsor and leave our walk through Eton for another day.

2025 Provisional Programme

17th January – Quiz Night

Colin Picton has agreed to act as quiz master again for our annual quiz.

We will meet at Coleshill Village Hall at 7:00 for 7:30 and break for a fish and chip supper at about 8:30pm. Remember to bring your thinking caps!

1st March - St David's Day Dinner

The St David's Day Dinner is always the high spot of the year and will be held at Gerrards Cross Golf Club.

Our speaker this year will be our local MP, Sarah Green. Sarah was born in Corwen, Clwyd and grew up there. She studied at Aberystwyth University, where she was the chair of IR Cymru (the Welsh Young Liberals).

In 2021 she became the Liberal MP for Chesham and Amersham and is Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for International Trade and, more importantly, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Wales.

Sarah speaks fluent Welsh.

Friday 28th March 2025 – Spring Walk

Provisionally a walk along the Thames (to be confirmed).

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

9th May 2025 – AGM with entertainment

Coleshill Village Hall details to be confirmed

Sunday 29th June - Summer Lunch

Our thanks to Alan and Diane Longshaw, who have volunteered to host the event.

August date tbc – Golf Day.

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

September (date tbc) Autumn Walk

Probably Amersham date to be confirmed

Sunday 7th December – Christmas Drinks

Date and venue to be confirmed.