



Post Maes Pedr



NO /RHIF 8 DOUBLE ISSUE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL NADOLIG 2012



Cheese & Wine

At the October meeting our taste buds were put to the test. Margaret and Tony were our hosts for the evening and had planned a selection of cheeses and wines for us to taste.

Margaret was in charge of the cheeses and she had provided 5 different varieties for us to taste. These were Caerphilly, Cornish Brie, Red Leicester, Blackstick and Colliers Cheddar. As each variety was tasted Margaret gave us the background information for each one. We were asked to mark them out of 5 for taste.

Tony had selected 10 white wines for us to taste. We were served with 2 varieties at a time and asked to describe the taste of each one. Tony encouraged us to name the grape, variety of wine and country of origin. Again we marked them out of 5. Tony then revealed the identity of each wine and gave us the information on each one.

The obvious expert in our midst was Mr John Lewis. He appears to have a very good knowledge about the wines of the world.

A big thank you to Tony and Margaret for preparing and presenting a very interesting and tasty evening.

Reminder

Don't forget to e-mail (or give) your "Images of Wales" to Tony. He will need these for the January meeting.

You will be asked to say a few words about your chosen image when it appears on screen.

e-mail : tony@whiteways.net

Invitation

Portsmouth Welsh Society have invited us to join them for their St David's Day celebration. It will be held at lunchtime on Saturday 2nd March at Porchester Community Centre. Cost will be £16 each. They will need a response from us by the middle of January. If you would like to attend please let Sue Hobday know.

We have also been invited to join them for a Quiz and Fish & Chip lunch on Friday 16th June.



*November Birthday
belated greetings to
Morfydd*



This month our Spotlight star is



Menna Hughes

Some years ago during the Christmas season Nurse Evans (an off duty midwife) was enjoying a film at the local cinema in Bargoed. The film was interrupted with a message on screen reading "Call the Midwife". Nurse Evans left the cinema immediately and went to attend the expectant mother. Sometime later on 28th December Menna arrived in the world.

As Menna grew up she attended the Infant and Junior schools in Bargoed and after passing the 11+ went to the Grammar school. During her last year at school she celebrated her birthday with a party. One of the guests brought his brother who was home on leave from the RAF. His name was Carwyn Hughes. At a dance the following summer they met again but were soon to be parted when they started their college courses. Menna was studying at the Teacher Training College in Wrexham and Carwyn was in Swansea University and then Leeds. During this time they became engaged and as well as planning for the wedding they also made plans to start their teaching careers in Hampshire. Both were appointed to schools in the Havant/Waterlooville area. At the end of the first term during the Christmas holidays they were married. Menna was teaching at Padnell Junior School in Cowplain until the arrival of Meredydd and then a few years later, Sian. When the children were of school age Menna returned to teaching. She taught Science and French at Padnell Middle School as well as the whole range of subjects in the Primary Curriculum. During the last few years of teaching Menna had started running in her spare time, for exercise and

also as a stress reliever. She became a real enthusiast, even celebrating her Silver Wedding Anniversary by taking part (with Carwyn) in the Hyde Park Race. A year later Menna competed in the London marathon. Menna is a very keen linguist and studies language programs on the internet. After retiring she enrolled on a college course to study A level French. As well as French she can speak Italian and Spanish. Menna is also brushing up her written and spoken Welsh at every opportunity. Having been a member of the local Hispanic Society and Italian Society Menna recognised the need to join a Welsh Society. Soon after joining our society she was voted onto the committee, and then she was the elected Chair for two years, followed by a few years of being the Secretary. In her spare time as well as learning languages, Menna also enjoys reading a wide range of literature. She enjoys travelling and is a frequent visitor to France as she is a founder member of the Clanfield Twinning Association. Last year Menna and Carwyn celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They had a very special holiday with the whole family including their children and four Grandchildren.

December Birthdays

*Penblwydd Hapus i/
Happy Birthday to*

*Menna
& Tony*



**Get Well Wishes
to Rene**

**Rene has been in QA
Hospital for several
weeks. We all send our
best wishes to her and
hope that she is now on
the mend.**



**Get Well Wishes
to Joy**

**Joy has been unable to
attend several of our
recent meetings due to
her extremely painful
sciatica. We hope that
she will receive
treatment to relieve the
pain and enable her to
join us again very soon.**

**Nadolig Llawen a
Blwyddyn Newydd Dda
i bob un**



**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
to everyone**



Hounds for Heroes



At the November meeting we were delighted to welcome our guest speaker named Michael White. He was representing the charity Hounds for Heroes. Michael introduced himself and informed us of his Welsh connection. He had been based in Carmarthen for a few years while working for the Ministry of Agriculture. During his time in Wales he had played hockey for Swansea and also for Wales.

Michael then explained to us how the Hounds for Heroes charity had come into existence. The founder of the charity is local man Allen Parton. Allen was severely injured in a car accident while serving in the forces during the Gulf war. The accident left him disabled, unable to walk, talk or even recognise his wife and family. Life was very problematic for them all. Allen's wife was a volunteer for the Canine Partners charity and one day took Allen with her to their HQ. During that visit Allen met a dog named Endal and immediately the pair bonded and their partnership was formed. Endal transformed Allen's life as he was able to regain a great deal of independence and gained a sense of achievement.

The partnership started in 1997 and they became well known locally and nationally. They featured in news items in the newspapers, on television, in photo shoots

for the British Legion and a book was also written about Endal.

It was on a photo shoot for the British Legion in 2009 that Allen had the idea for setting up Hounds for Heroes. He realised how Endal had helped him and he wanted to provide specially trained assistance dogs for disabled service personnel. In 2010 the charity was set up. It was launched with a squadron of 5 puppies which had been very carefully selected from 170 litters. The puppies will by Allen's choice be male Yellow Labradors or Golden Retrievers. These breeds are very trainable and have a very good temperament. They will have military names such as Monty, Flanders or Yomper. It is estimated that each puppy will cost £20,000 in his lifetime.

Once the puppies have been selected they are placed with their "puppy parents" for 14 months. During this time they receive basic training once a week at the HQ in Ramsdean. Intensive training begins at 6 months of age. The dogs are then matched with a recipient as he will need to be trained for that person's specific needs. Dogs will only go to people who can cope with a dog and be able to manage the dog's daily needs. There will be no cost to the recipient at all. The charity relies on donations and fund raising activities. The aim of the charity is to have a squadron of puppies trained every 6 months. Therefore they need to be constantly raising money to ensure the charity fulfils its aims.

We would like to make Hounds for Heroes our Christmas Charity. There will be a collection plate at the Natter Nosh and Noggin. Please give generously!



For more information the web site is www.houndsforheroes.com