



Post Maes Pedr



NO /RHIF 9

IONAWR/JANUARY 2013

Natter, Nosh and Noggin

There was something different about our Christmas celebration this year – the Salvation Army band was missing! They had been booked to perform elsewhere! Panic! How would we sing our favourite carols without the band?

We need not have worried. Morfydd had it all under control. Instead of the band we were entertained and accompanied by 4 very talented young ladies. Angharad (Morfydd's grand-daughter) and her 3 friends Katherine, Izzy and Ellie had agreed to perform for us and they were superb.



Morfydd presented the Christmas story and provided information (and jokes) as the story unfolded. Carols were sung and our musicians entertained us. Carwyn and Margaret read poems, Tony gave a talk and Sue read a passage from the Bible in Welsh.



As well as playing their musical instruments, the young ladies also sang for us. Angharad stunned us with her beautiful singing voice when she sang a solo. Towards the end of the evening Angharad and Izzy volunteered to sing a duet which again was wonderful.



A big thank you to Morfydd for preparing and presenting such a lovely programme that reminded us of what Christmas is all about. Also a big thank you to Angharad and her friends for their wonderful performance.



The three wise men?

We had as always laid on a magnificent spread and all enjoyed the "Nosh and Noggin" part of the evening with a lot of "Natter" going on too!

We are very pleased to welcome 2 new members to the society. They are Philip and Jean Thomas and we all hope they will enjoy being members of our great society.



This month our Spotlight star is



Huw Oakley

R.H.O.

Ym mha cwr cyhyrog o Gymru lân yn gymwys y gafodd y crwt hwn ei eni? Is it exactly that you have to be in the knowing? Well, see, I was born in Aberdare, so I'm one of Wales' country bumpkins, a bilingual Valleys' boy.

"Huw" must have been a name that both my parents liked. No-one else has the same name, nor for that matter the same initials, which encapsulate the Gospel instruction to love your every neighbour. As there are English hymns that begin with the word "Give!", so are there Welsh ones that open with "Rho!", and my parents knew what they were doing. Both were able of mind and body, both embraced their education, both broke through to become university graduates, both began their career in Wales, but promotion and progression took them over Offa's Dyke and we went into exile.

Their son was a steady student, who was never top of his class, but discovered an abiding interest in languages, in the ways in which different nationalities expressed their personal, private and innermost selves, their very souls. Learning to read and speak other languages was what I wanted to do at university. It was Edinburgh University that wrote first to offer me a place and a whole new world dawned. I squeezed through the first two years' studies and then went off to a college in Madrid for a vital, pivotal third year, during which 170 bright young Spaniards, gathered into the college from every corner of Spain, made absolutely sure that I would go back to Edinburgh in fluent command of Castilian Spanish. Once the studying was over, it was time to get a job, and a very nice one too!

My professional career as a schoolmaster began in a unique boarding school, a privately endowed foundation for Jewish pupils, who hailed from across the world, although there were also a tiny number of Christian day pupils, who had their homes in near-by villages, and care was very respectfully taken to include Religious Instruction

on their time-table.....with me as their teacher! Life was comfortable, cocooned, very rewarding and would always be extremely hard to abandon, whenever I wanted to get married and settle down to normal family life. That day dawned! An opportunity for promotion arose at Midhurst Grammar School and we found a home in Petworth. Ellen resigned her post in Scotland and we married during the October half-term holiday. We were to be blessed with two sons and at school I was given the additional responsibility of Careers Education. This meant that I had some contact with every single pupil attending the school. Years later I was then able to retire from teaching a year or two early in order to be in half-time employment running a full Work Experience programme for the school.

In retirement I have done more gardening, I have developed a habit of regular attendance every August at The National Eisteddfod of Wales and tried not to keep adding more books than I can ever read to my "Welsh" shelves, I have seen several operas and a good number of steam-trains, I have pursued an interest in the origins and meaning of place-names, I have broken the strangle-hold on when we can or cannot go away on holidays, and I have begun to get used to playing the part of "Silly Taid" to our two grand-daughters. Blessed as we are with good health, Ellen and I are never short of interests to pursue, but then perpetual discovery everlastingly provides many and greater joys than mere wealth ever can. The proverbial form of that sentiment is much more succinct: "Gwell dysg na golud."

January Birthdays

*Penblwydd Hapus i/
Happy Birthday to*



*Rene
Carwyn
& Kay*

1st March 2013

Cinio Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant
St David's Day Dinner
at
The Hampshire Hog
Horndean

7pm for 7.30