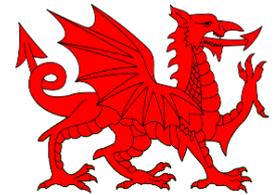


PostMaespedr



Rhif/No. 25

Gaeaf/Gwanwyn – Winter/Spring 2018

A Trip to the Cinema

At the first meeting of the new year we had our very own film night. For the viewing we were able to test the newly installed equipment in the hall, the surround sound speakers and the projector.



The film "Their Finest" was set during the Blitz in 1940. It starred Bill Nighy as a fading matinee idol hoping for one last star turn and Gemma Arterton plays a young scriptwriter brought in to work on a film about the Dunkirk evacuation. The film had a Welsh connection as the production was financially supported by the Welsh Government's Media Investment Budget. Some scenes were shot in Pembrokeshire and much of the filming took place at the Guildhall and Grand Theatre in Swansea.

The film was based on the 2009 novel *Their Finest Hour and a Half* by Lissa Evans.

The A.G.M and Quiz

At the February meeting we held the Annual General Meeting. Our long serving Chairman Tony Phillips handed over the chain of office to Morfydd Muir. A huge thank you to Tony for his hard work on behalf of the society during his time in office.



A big thank you also to Carwyn Hughes who stepped down from the committee after nearly 20 years of service. The other members of the committee remain in post and we are delighted to welcome Richard Evans on to the committee. A proposal was made by the committee to present Hazel Williams and Joy Lewis with life membership as recognition of their loyal service to the society. With the business completed it was time to exercise our brains with a quiz. There was a picture round requiring identification of Welsh people, places and produce followed by a round of 25 questions on Wales.



It was a very close finish with very few points between the teams but the ultimate victors were Anne & Peter, John & Mattie & Richard. As they proved to be the Smarties of the society they were presented with appropriate prizes of Smarties by Sue Hobday the Quizmaster.



The winning team.



Lifeboats and Lifeguards

The guest speaker at the March meeting was our very own Kevin Jones. He gave us a very interesting talk on how the RNLI has changed since its formation. Kevin used a mixture of short films and photographs to illustrate his presentation.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) is the largest charity that saves lives at sea around the coasts of the UK and RoI as well as on some inland waterways.

Founded in 1824 as the *National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck*, the RNLI was granted a Royal Charter in 1860. It is a charity in the UK and in the Republic of Ireland. The RNLI is principally funded by legacies and donations, and most of the members of its lifeboat crews are unpaid volunteers. 92% of the total income comes from donations

The RNLI has 237 lifeboat stations and operates 349 lifeboats. Crews rescued on average 22 people a day in 2017. RNLI Lifeguards operate on more than 200 beaches. They are paid by local authorities, while the RNLI provides equipment and training. There are Lifeboat stations on the River Thames in Central London. The Institution also operates Flood Rescue Teams nationally and internationally. Considerable effort is put into training and education by the Institution, particularly for young people; more than 6,000 children a week are spoken to by education volunteers about sea and beach safety, and over 800 children a week receive training. The Institution has saved some 140,000 lives since its foundation, at a cost of more than 600 lives lost in service. Lifeboat crews are composed almost entirely of volunteers, numbering 4,600, including over 300 women. Many changes have taken place between 1824 and today especially in the design of the boats. In 1895 rescues were carried out in open rowing boats. Today there are different types such as All Weather, Inshore Inflatables and Hovercrafts. Lifejackets have also evolved from cork, kapok and synthetic foam to today's light and non-cumbersome designs. The Institution has operated an International Flood Rescue Team since the 2000 Mozambique floods. The UK based team consists of six strategically placed teams each with

two boats, support transport and equipment. The RNLI's international Flood Rescue Team is composed of volunteer lifeboat crew with a range of additional skills prepared to travel to emergencies overseas at short notice. Training is vital in order to save lives and this takes place at the RNLI College in Poole.

The RNLI builds and maintains all its own inshore boats at a facility in East Cowes, IoW. The All-weather Lifeboats are built in Poole and tours are available that take you behind the scenes of the lifeboat-building factory. Tours take place from RNLI College on a Wednesday at 4.30pm and Saturday at 10am. The tour lasts approximately 1 hour and costs just £5 per person. Book your place by contacting the College Reception Team on 0300 300 7654 or at reception@rnli.org.uk



A belated St David's Celebration

For the first time in the life of the society we were unable to meet for the annual dinner on 1st March. The weather was to blame as winter had returned with vengeance and brought snow. Travelling would have been hazardous particularly for the members living north of Petersfield. So, we held our very special St David's Day on the 29th March which was Maundy Thursday. We had a very good turn out with 33 members and 3 guests attending. We had opted for a Carvery this year so round tables were more user-friendly.

The tables were named after the four major Welsh Rugby teams.

After our 3 courses we had our usual home-spun entertainment. Morfydd, Sue H and Carwyn did a "turn" and then we had our traditional sing-song with Ellen on the keyboard.



The Scarlets



The Ospreys



The Cardiff Blues



The Dragons



Photographs by Chris Stephen