



Rhif/No. 28

Gaeaf & Gwanwyn/ Winter & Spring 2019

All Aboard!

At the first meeting of the New Year we went on a train journey. Or rather we watched a film of a journey from Crewe to Holyhead. It was a railway enthusiast's dream as the commentary included details about the signal boxes and stations passed on route.

There were scenic views of the North Wales coastline and the castles of Conwy and Caernarfon. We crossed Telford's Britannia bridge onto Anglesey for the final leg of the journey to Holyhead.

Stuart Rees



In early January we heard that Stuart Rees had passed away. He had been a member of the society since 2006 and was our Chairman in 2012 and 2013.

Stuart was born in Cardiff but grew up in Caerphilly where his family owned a grocery shop by the castle. He attended the local schools in Caerphilly and began his working life as an Industrial Chemist. However, he then decided to enter the teaching profession and trained in Leicester.

He began his teaching career in Hampshire in 1974; teaching the primary age group for 15 years and then as an inspector/advisor in ICT. Stuart had been a wheelchair user since 1979 when he damaged his spinal cord during a rugby match. He returned to work 18 months after his injury and in his own words "led a full and active life" from then on.

Stuart listed his many interests as: sailing (tall ships as well as small dinghies), skiing, flying, gliding, skydiving and basically any activity that gave him an adrenalin kick. After retiring he became involved with several organisations such as U3A and of course our society, to name but two. Stuart had demonstrated enormous courage as he faced life's daily challenges. He was always cheerful and outgoing and never complained about his situation. A truly remarkable person.

Nine members attended "a celebration of his life" at The Oaks, Havant on 24th January.

The A.G.M & Quiz

The February meeting was our Annual General Meeting. As Morfydd was in hospital following her accident, Tony represented her and presented the Chairman's Report. Chris produced the Financial Report and Roger outlined the proposed programme for the coming year.

The Committee members remained unchanged with Sue Hobday becoming Chair for the year. The Committee had agreed to create life-membership to two ladies who have been loyal members for much of the life of the society: Morfydd and Gwen.

There was a short discussion about the 50th Anniversary Celebrations in June 2020 and members were asked for suggestions or preferences.

Then with the business over it was time to exercise the brain cells. Sue Hobday had prepared a quiz about Wales with a picture round of All things Welsh.



It was a close competition but the Smarties of the society were Hazel, Richard, Ian, Beverley and Tony. Congratulations to the winners.

Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant

The St. David's Day Dinner on 1st March was held at the Waterlooville Golf Club. As last year we had chosen a three-course carvery which was enjoyed by all. After we had dined we had the entertainment. Sue Hobday welcomed some members we hadn't seen for some time: Ludmilla & Roy. There was also a mention for members unable to attend: Joy due to her knee operation, Morfydd due to her fractured hip and... last minute casualty Irwen with a broken arm! We wished all three a speedy recovery.

The three tables were named after Welsh Rugby Legends: Gareth Edwards, JPR Williams & Phil Bennett. Sue H read poems by Max Boyce, one about Phil Bennett and a more recent one about Geraint Thomas. Roy Roberts read a poem by Dylan Thomas and Sue Williams read a poem about daffodils and one about Wales. Ludmilla remembered how Wales had been described to her by a friend before moving there. We then had our traditional sing song. With Ellen on the keyboard we sang some of our favourite Hymns and Arias.



More photos of the evening can be seen on the website.

Hazelmere Museum

One of our members spotted an article in the local newspaper about an event organised by Hazelmere Museum. It was about a special St David's Day Dinner being held at the Georgian Hotel.

"A wonderful evening of entertainment" was planned, including music played by a harpist, a solo singer and poetry readings (by a professional actor).

The ticket price included the four course meal, wine and welcome drink, plus music and entertainment with a Welsh theme.

Tickets cost £49 each.

Dress code : Black tie or Welsh Dress.
