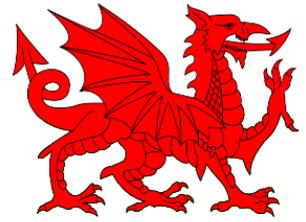


Post Maespedr



Rhif/No. 32

Gaeaf & Gwanwyn – Winter & Spring 2020

Y Barcud Coch / The Red Kite



Our first meeting of 2020 in January was listed as a Film Night and Chris brought along a DVD about the Red Kite of Wales. The film was presented by Iolo Williams. It was in three sections:

Back From The Brink This is the story of a battle that lasted for 100 years, fought by a few visionary bird lovers, to save the loveliest of British birds. In 1903, about ten breeding pairs of Red Kite remained in Britain, all of them clustered into the valleys around Rhandirmwyn in Mid Wales. A botany professor in Aberystwyth University, professor J H Salter realised that if nothing were done, the birds would soon be gone. So, he wrote to the British Ornithology Club in London, asking for help. 5 days later, the club formed a Kite Committee and this body, under various names and guises, has regularly met ever since to guard, plan, research and direct the campaign to save the "Red Kite of Wales".

A Kite Recorder's Year:

The body responsible for the welfare of the kite in Wales today is the Welsh Kite Trust. It was set up in 1996. In this section we learned how the Trust records information about the population of the Red Kite.

The Welsh Feeding Stations:

A visit to three of the leading Red Kite feeding stations in Wales. Bwlch Nant yr Arian, Devil's Bridge; Llanddeusant, Llangadog and Gigrin Farm, Rhyader.

In 1999, Bwlch Nant yr Arian became a red kite feeding station as part of a programme to protect the small number of red kites in the area at that time. Nowadays, the red kites are fed by the lake every day at 2pm in winter and at 3pm in summer. Llanddeusant opened in 2002 by a local partnership with support from the Brecon Beacons National Park, the Welsh Red Kite Trust and various other notable wildlife organisations and individuals.

Gigrin Farm became the Official Red Kite Feeding Station in the winter 1992/93 following a request from the RSPB who had witnessed the late Mr Powell feeding the kites when food was available. The RSPB had

To end with a comment from Iolo Williams about the Red Kite "It's a bird" he says, once seen, never forgotten, A wonderful bird, the National Bird of Wales"

Thank you to Chris for sharing this very informative DVD with us

The A.G.M

At the February meeting we started with the A.G.M.

Sue Hobday gave her Chairman's report of the year's activities. Roger Williams outlined the planned programme for the coming year.

Chris Stephen presented his Financial report. Sue Williams explained the changes to the catering teams - there will now be 3 teams instead of 4.

Finally Sue Hobday handed the chain of office to Roger Williams who will be the Chairman and Secretary for the coming year.

With the formal business completed we then tucked into a Fish and Chip Supper from Mother Kelly's in Petersfield. It was excellent and the service provided by Trevor was also excellent. Definitely worth repeating next year.

To round off the evening we had a change to the programme. Instead of the Quiz we had a request from Ann Weller to share her family tree research.

My Two DNA Stories

The first of my stories began with rumours in my family about the identity of my biological father. After both of my parents had passed away I decided to have my DNA tested. The process of doing the test is quite easy as you just have to spit into a small tube, add the stabiliser and give it a shake and send it off. The most difficult part is paying for it.

Just having my DNA tested was not going to tell me much so I persuaded my two younger sisters to do the test as well. On the morning that the results popped into our mailboxes I got a call from my younger sister at 8.30 am and she asked me if I was alright and not upset by the result. I assured her that I was fine. The results showed that my two sisters were "immediate family" to each other and I was "close family", in other words a half-sister.

So we finally had the truth! I have an unknown father and rather a lot of questions and a list of people who may be able to give me some answers.

My list of DNA matches from Ancestry gives me a list of thousands of people who are connected to me by DNA in various degrees. It is possible to send messages in the [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) program and very soon contacts were made with a number of people on my list. My son Stephen also did the test and he was soon communicating with a number of our matches. Responses came from Tina Barclay in California and Gill Knipe in Bury St Edmunds. They are both descended from John Lloyd and Laura Richards from Caernarvon in North Wales, I am also from Caernarvon. My two sisters of course do not match with these two ladies, confirming that we have a different biological father.

Gill Knipe had some research done which she shared with us. It began with her great, great grandfather Richard Pritchard Lloyd, one of John and Laura's children. Tina is also descended from Richard Pritchard Lloyd and this research takes the family line back and back through history.

The list of ancestors went back through the centuries and when I got to Hywel ap Dafydd 1460 Lord of Nannau, I had what I called my "Danny Dyer" moment. I immediately googled " Lord of Nannau" and discovered that they were the Princes of Powys in the early part of the Middle Ages.

The ancestral home of the princes of Powys was Nannau in the parish of Llanfachreth. Gill's research took the family line back to Ynyr Hen ap Meurig, Lord of Nannau, 1250. At this point my husband bought the book that charts the history of the house of Nannau up to the present day. In the front of the book was a separate chart showing the lines of descent of the Nanneys and Vaughan's who inherited the house in more recent times.

I looked for any names that I could recognise from Gill's research and found the Lords of Nannau. One notable name was that of Hywel Selyf ap Meurig, Lord of Nannau 1370. He could be my twentieth times great grandfather.

He was notable for two things; one for how he died and one for who he married. He died at the hands of his distant cousin Owain Glyndwr because he refused to join Owain's campaign to seize the throne of England from Henry V. Hywel's body was hidden in the trunk of an old oak tree on Hywel's estate and was not discovered for many years.

He married a girl called Mali and the chart in the book shows her extensive family line stretching back to the Queen of Sweden and the King of Denmark.

All the DNA evidence points to me being a part of this family but I still do not know exactly where I fit in. One day perhaps someone will have their DNA tested and provide me with the answer,

My second DNA story is a lot closer to home. I met Mattie Rees when Peter joined the Solent Male Voice Choir. In discussion we realised that both our families (my mother's side) lived in a relatively small area in Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire. We thought that in such a rural area they must have known each other at least. I persuaded Mattie to have her DNA tested. Some time later she came to see me and she had a small notebook in her hand and as she turned the pages she said "Kim OToole, managed by Stephen Weller." That was my sister's name and she had appeared on Mattie's list of DNA matches. We looked more closely and found our names on each other's lists. We share 20 centimorgans and are fifth cousins. Rural mid-Wales to Horndean!

By Anne Weller

Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant

This year our annual 1st March dinner was held at The French Horn in Alton. Twenty-eight members of the society were in attendance and enjoyed an evening of good food and good company. The *Grace* was read by Anne in English and Beverley in Welsh. Huw gave the toast to Wales and Roger the toast to the Society. Unfortunately we were unable to have our traditional sing-song to round off the evening as we just ran out of time!



The Picture Gallery



Thanks to Tony for the photos.