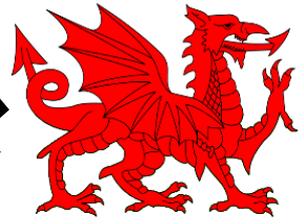


Post Maespedr



Rhif/No. 33

Tachwedd / November 2020

As we are currently unable to hold our regular meetings due to the Pandemic some members have been able to attend a get-together via the Internet. In October, 21 members had an on-line catch up chat. For the November meeting we had two presentations; one from Roy Roberts and one from Beverley & Tony Clifford. For those who missed the Zoom meeting and especially those members who are unable to connect to the Internet here are the two presentations for you to read.



A Career in the Media

Our November meeting included a talk by Roy Roberts, who lifted the lid on aspects of a media career spanning four decades. Roy began working as a reporter with the Western Mail in Cardiff as an indentured trainee, in effect an apprentice. He spoke about the excitement of working in a centre publishing two daily newspapers – the evening paper, the South Wales Echo, was printed on the same presses. He said, “The

newsroom overlooked the printing hall and twice a day the whole building shook as the presses roared.”

Roy said that at that time a paper like the Western Mail enjoyed a huge advantage over Fleet Street papers, whose Welsh editions ‘went to bed’ in London mid-evening and were later in getting to the shops in Wales. The Western Mail was still producing its last editions at 3.30 a.m. and so could include much later news and sports results. Now the changes in printing technology means that a paper like the Western Mail can be produced far away from its editorial base and delivered to its market, but with less late news.

Newspaper circulations have dropped substantially over the years, because of the growth of new media and particularly online news sites. Roy said that the circulation of the Western Mail as a newspaper had dropped to about one-tenth of the 120,000+ copies sold when he worked on it fifty years ago, but of course the paper now produced an online news site, *Wales Online*.

Roy moved to the BBC as a radio producer with *Good Morning Wales*, which was then a 25 minute ‘opt out’ from the Today programme. Listeners then had just four radio services to choose – now in the digital age most listeners can choose from 40 or 50 stations, and far more if they listen via the internet.

He was later a reporter on *Wales Today*, sometimes filming in black and white, which

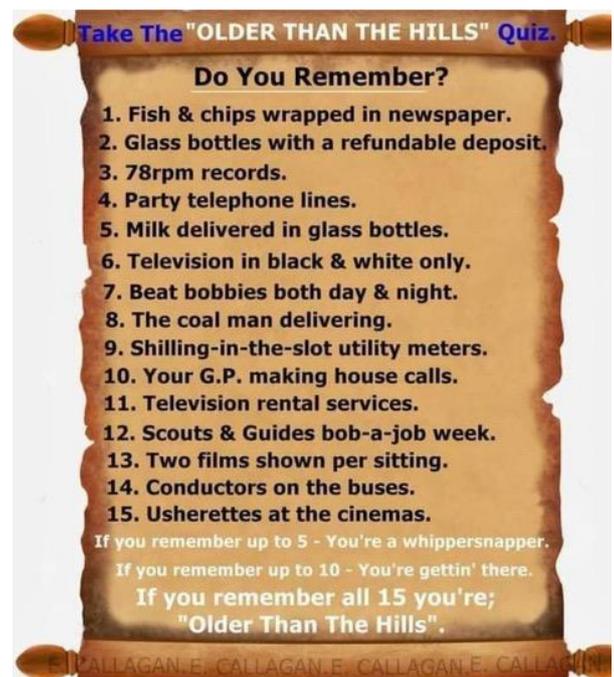
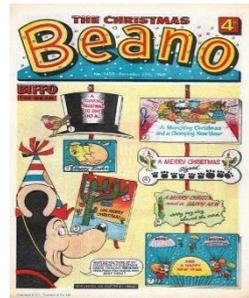
meant editing on a tiny screen about the size of a smartphone, and only seeing the final version on transmission. Because the film had to be transported back to Cardiff for processing, which took at least an hour, filming of news stories in some parts of mid and west Wales had to be completed well before lunch. Now news reports can be fed live from the scene of a story.

Roy spoke of some of the stories he had covered as a reporter and as an industrial correspondent. "I had great fun doing a story about mysterious UFOs ('flying saucers') sighted by school children in Broad Haven – that report was shown across the UK and is sometimes shown again on anniversaries of the sighting. Some of those children are still convinced now that they saw the real thing!" As industrial correspondent, Roy chronicled the sad decline of the coal and steel industry in Wales. But there was sometimes good news – such as the arrival of Japanese companies such as Sony and the Ford engine plant in Bridgend, although that plant is sadly now closing Roy later became editor of *Wales Today*, and then worked for the BBC in a number of regions in England, from the South West to the Midlands, before retiring to Hampshire.

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages." *Mama, look what I found*", the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's *Adams underwear!*"

Thank you, Ludmilla for this funny item.

Can you remember the things we grew up with? The youngsters of today will have no idea about these.



Thanks to Kevin & Mary for these contributions and also those on page 4.



Travels during a Pandemic

Here is a brief summary of Beverley and Tony's Zoom presentation about the trips to Italy and Spain 2020.

We visited Italy in July as soon as the official lockdown ended. We did everything we had planned to do and more, courtesy of British Airways, and Trenitalia, both companies being brilliant in the circumstances. Masks were obligatory on all public transport and we used hand sanitizer frequently. In Italy we visited Reggio and Tropea in Calabria before ending our trip in Minori which is just down the coast from the more famous Amalfi. We used trains and boats to get around and avoided buses because the seats were limited.

In restaurants QR codes were offered instead of menus. This enabled customers to take a photo of the menu on line. At that point Tony and I did not fully understand how to do this and so we would take a photo of the menu outside! We went to church twice and it was interesting to see how the pews were arranged with signs indicating where you could sit. Chanting and singing was allowed, unlike in the UK. Museums and tourist attractions were open as usual, except that masks had to be worn and temperatures checked. We were very pleased to have visited 'I Bronzi', the famous Riace Warrior statues, located in the National Museum in Reggio di Calabria, and the main reason why we went there.

In October we went out to Spain to check on the apartment there, our first visit since

January. There were very few tourists because all the big hotels were closed, except for the Riu Hotel in Los Alamos. It was strange to see so few people out and about, especially since half-term week is always busy and is a lovely time to visit. Most of our favourite places were open, however, as were the shops in the town. A number of the seafront 'chiringuitos', the beach-bars and restaurants, were closed. It was also odd to see the swimming pool in our apartment block cordoned off. Spain required detailed documentation which had to be prepared on line, 24 hrs in advance, for presentation on arrival in Malaga airport. A similar form was required for UK immigration on arrival in the UK and then, of course, we had to serve 14 days quarantine, which we have just completed. These requirements were tedious but both trips were, nevertheless, well worth the inconvenience.

HOME COVID TEST

- 1. Pour a large glass of red wine, try to smell it.**
- 2. If you can smell the wine then drink it & see if you can taste it.**
- 3. If you can taste & smell, it confirms that you don't have Covid.**

Last night I did the test 19 times. All were negative thank goodness.

Tonight I am going to do the test again, because this morning I woke with a headache and feel like I am coming down with something!

**** Breaking News ****

**A US vicar has died after injecting himself with disinfectant...
Donald Trump is being charged with bleach of the priest.**

Two 90year old men, Dai and Emrys have been friends all of their lives. When its clear that Emrys is dying, Dai visits him every day. One day Dai says, "Emrys, we both loved rugby all our lives, and we played rugby on Saturdays together for so many years. Please do me one favour, when you get to Heaven, somehow you must let me know if there's rugby there."

Emrys looks up at Dai from his death bed, "Dai, you've been my best friend for many years. If it's at all possible, I'll do this favour for you." Shortly after that, Emrys passes on.

At midnight a couple of nights later, Dai is awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to him, "Dai,...Dai"

"Who is it?" asks Dai sitting up suddenly.

"Dai ..it's me, Emrys".

"You're not Emrys. Emrys has died"

"I'm telling you, it's me Emrys" insists the voice.

"Emrys!. Where are you?"

"In Heaven" replies Emrys. "I have some really good news and some bad news."

"Tell me the good news first" says Dai.

"The good news" Emrys says, "is that there's rugby in Heaven. Better still, all of our old friends who died before us are here too.

Better than that, we're all young again.

Better still, it's always spring time and it never rains or snows. Best of all we can play rugby all we want, and we never get tired".

"That's fantastic" says Dai. "It's beyond my wildest dreams! So what's the bad news?"

"You're in the team for Tuesday"

Lockdown Advice

Reports are coming in that people are going crazy from being locked down at home.

I was just talking about this with the microwave and the toaster and we agreed that things are getting bad! I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine because she puts a different spin on everything! I certainly couldn't share with the fridge, because he's been acting cold.

In the end the iron straightened me out! She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out!

The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked it's opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip! You can just about guess what the curtains told me – they told me to pull myself together!

We will survive!!!

Apparently you can now visit friends... But you must stay in the car



PEANUTS

