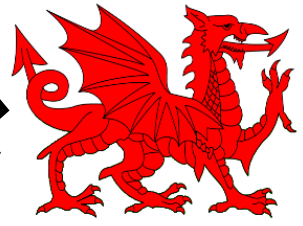


Post Maespedr



Rhif/No. 35

Gwanwyn a Haf / Spring & Summer 2021

Once Upon a Time...

... in a Zoom meeting in April we all sat comfortably to hear stories being told by a professional storyteller. Her name was Janet Goring who is also known as Bluebird.

Janet told us how her love of stories began in childhood through listening to the radio programme Listen with Mother. She used her imagination to recreate the stories in familiar settings near her home. As a Girl Guide, she especially loved the stories around the camp fire at the end of the day. Janet is still involved with the guides and organises events for hundreds at day events. Whilst working as an Occupational Therapist Janet found that she was able to use her story telling skills to help patients to make decisions.

Janet discovered The International School of Storytelling in East Sussex. After completing some courses, she became a graduate of The Heart and Craft of Storytelling.

As Bluebird she works with children, youths and adults in a variety of venues and settings. For example, she works with the Brownies, Schools, WI groups,

Alzheimer's Society and Museums to name but a few. Janet has often worked with the Royal Armouries Museum at Fort Nelson. She was asked to create three stories about Fort Nelson during WW1. She presented two of the stories herself and then trained the education staff to deliver the third story.

Telling stories is an age-old tradition as stories were told well before they were written down. Janet spoke about the use of storytelling in all cultures and how they have been passed down through the generations.

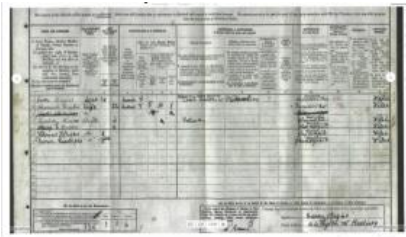
There are a number of different types of stories. There are Traditional Tales, Fables, Fairy tales, Legends and Myths. In between providing us with background information about her life and storytelling Janet told us four very different stories. She had us all captivated.

An excellent evening which perhaps we can repeat when restrictions are lifted and normal meetings can take place again.

Show and Tell

This was the May meeting on Zoom

Carwyn kicked the evening off by sharing a copy of a census sheet from 1911. This showed his grandfathers' family which at the time consisted of 2 adults and 5 children living in Bedlinog in South Wales. His grandfather was a miner, and all the family were Welsh speaking. From this information Carwyn has found out and written about his village and its inhabitants and how villager's lives have changed over the years.



Menna had a model of a coal dram which her father as a miner had made. A coal dram is the south Wales name for the truck that carried the coal on narrow tracks from the coal face to the lift. Four of these drams would go into a lift at once and take the coal to the surface to be transported. Her father at one time was a "journey man" in charge of these drams which could be joined together by chains up to about 20 at a time.



Tony Phillips then showed us 3 old toothpaste pots from his collection. One was a porcelain pot and lid; another was made of tin and the third was unusual because it was from Patagonia and was rectangular. Tony explained how the contents of many of these pots would today be considered very bad for us containing dioxide along with other ingredients.



From Tony Clifford we were shown pictures of an old phonograph/record player which he had inherited from his aunt in Liverpool. It was in a wooden structure with 2 cupboards below which stored the records. The phonograph had a deep lid and there was a hole where we assumed there had been a horn originally but this was missing. It dates to the 20's and was made by a firm called "Edison Bell" and Tony said that it worked very well still. One of the records was a collection of Irish Rebel songs!

Our next contributor was Chris Stephen and he had an interesting photograph which had been given to him by the outgoing scout master when Chris took over the pack. It was a photograph of the "James Caird" lifeboat. The voyage of the James Caird was a journey of 800miles from Elephant Island through the Southern Ocean to South Georgia, undertaken by Sir Ernest Shackleton and 5 companions to obtain a rescue for the rest of the crew of the stranded Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914-1917. Polar historians regard this as one of the greatest small -boat journeys ever completed as it was only 22.5 feet long and had to overcome the "Furious Fifties".



Bethan was our next member to offer up something interesting. Bethan showed us some of the many lustre jugs she has inherited and acquired. Lustre ware is a type of pottery or porcelain with a metallic glaze that gives the effect of iridescence.



Bethan also has a number of china tea sets which she still brings out occasionally.

Sue Williams ended the evening with an unplanned follow up to Bethan's china sets. In 2002 Roger and Sue went on a holiday to China and one of the things they brought back was a small teapot after witnessing the traditional Chinese tea ceremony. This is often held during formal occasions like a Chinese wedding. It is a very long-winded process with 10 stages before one can actually drink the tea and then it's to be done in 3 sips of differing sizes! This process would not work for the British workman or anyone else in Britain who loves their cup of tea!

Thanks to all the contributions which were very interesting and appreciated by the members. A good evening was had by all but would have been even better live and not on "Zoom"! Roll on the end of restrictions!

Reporter: Sue Williams

Favourite Places

For the June meeting on Zoom members had been asked to talk about their favourite place in Wales. We had a variety of wonderful locations to hear about ranging from castles and beaches to mountains and moorland.

Anne Weller started us off with her choice of Llangollen. She has wonderful memories of attending the International Eisteddfod every year for about ten years. She remembers the town filled with colourful national costumes and flags as well as hearing some outstanding performances from the choirs and famous singers such as Bryn Terfel and Jose Carreras.

Next came Sue Hobday with Llansteffan as her favourite place. It is a village on the Tywi estuary complete with a lovely beach, a spectacular castle and glorious views across the bay to Worm's Head.

Sue Williams chose Roath Park in Cardiff as her favourite place. The Park is divided into several different gardens and includes a large lake which has 4 islands for wildfowl habitats. The Scott memorial lighthouse on the lake is a Cardiff landmark.

Roger's favourite place is Denbeigh Moors which is situated between Snowdonia and the Clwydian Range. It includes two large reservoirs and the Clocaenog Forest.

Nant-Y-Moch Reservoir at the head of the Rheidol Valley is Chris's favourite place. It is in the Cambrian Mountains in northern Ceredigion near Pumlumon. It is the highest point between Snowdonia and the Brecon Beacons. St. David's Cathedral is Lynne's favourite place. It is of course in the city of St David's which is Britain's smallest city. The Cathedral houses the

relics of St David and St Justinian and also the tombs of Rhys ap Gruffydd and Geraldus Cambrensis. There is also a memorial to Edmund Tudor (father of Henry VII). The Cathedral and Bishop Joanna featured in Michael Ball's Wonderful Wales series on C5 recently. To round off the meeting all other members present were asked to name their favourite place. John Rees named Pendine Sands as his favourite. It is famous for the land speed races in 1900's. Edith's favourite place is The Mumbles on the western edge of Swansea Bay and marks the beginning of the Gower. Ian has fond memories of Singleton Park in Swansea from his time at the University. John Lewis has memories of Maesycwmmwr where he lived for a few years during the war. Peter selected Cardiff Arms Park where he attended the Male Voice Choir Concerts of 1,000 voices. Last but not least we had Morfydd's favourite place which is Abersoch.



The Summer BBQ

The weather forecast wasn't looking favourable again as the 2nd date for the July BBQ approached. Twenty members decided to take the risk and be optimistic and it paid off. A delicious BBQ combined with the treat of meeting face to face after a gap of 18 months was a real pleasure. As always a big thank you to Sue & Roger for their wonderful hospitality.