



Cymdeithas Cymry Sydney Sydney Welsh Society

05 April 2018

Warm greetings to members and supporters! We hope you have enjoyed Easter with family and friends.



St David's Day Concert

The annual St David's Day concert was held at Caernarfon Golf Club and Musical Director Viv Llewellyn led the choir and appreciative audience in an entertaining afternoon of song.

Guest performer was harpist Karen Hickmott who delighted the audience with her rendition of several Welsh classics including David of the White Rock, Ar Hyd y Nos and Myfanwy.

Guest speaker was Professor Jonathan Wooding, Chair of Celtic Studies, Sydney University who spoke of the life of Saint David and his relevance to our lives today.

Guest Harpist Karen Hickmott

Top Welsh pop group to visit Sydney

Still on the musical theme, but appealing more to our younger members, top Welsh band **Stereophonics** is heading to Australia for a handful of shows, including a Concert Hall performance at the Sydney Opera House, on 26 April. The band has an uncanny knack for making chart-topping albums with six of their 10 albums stretching back to 1997's *Word Gets Around* hitting No.1 on the UK charts. Last year's *Scream Above the Sounds* came close to being their seventh album to hit top spot, peaking at No.2.

Vocalist and guitarist Kelly Jones said the band's newer tracks were "big, anthemic songs that are rallying against those anxious feelings that have flooded through cities", while fellow founding member and bass player Richard Jones said the band was "always trying to move forward, to find new things we can do".

Tickets are available from www.livenation.com.au

Australian School of Celtic Learning

A new special interest group, the Australian School of Celtic Learning, opened their doors in Sydney in December 2017 and aim to provide affordable and accessible opportunities to learn about the Celtic cultures. They provide the latest research in Celtic learning and arrange programs, study days, evening courses, residential schools and overseas study tours.

They are currently running a seminar series which provide an overview of the Celtic languages which includes modern and medieval Welsh. Full details of this course and future programs can be found on their web site at www.celticlearning.com.au.

Scientists search for life on 'lost land' under Cardigan Bay

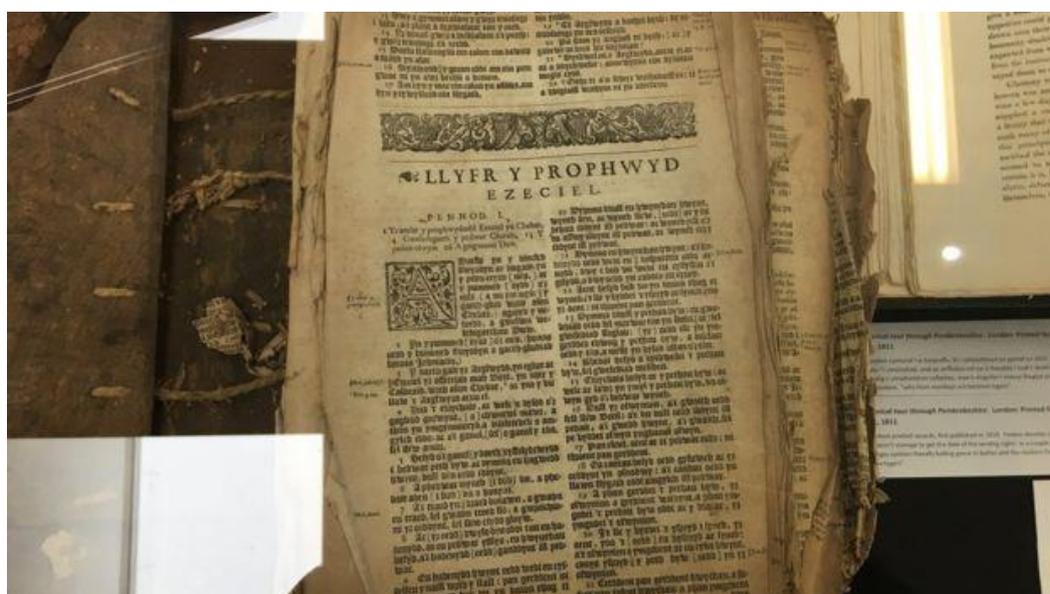
Oral traditions of "lost kingdoms" in Welsh mythology date to the 6th Century but is there any truth in them? The first written account of a mythical lost land known as Cantre'r Gwaelod comes from the 13th Century when the blame for the flood was placed on a well-maiden named Mererid for allowing her well to overflow.

More recently, a scientist from the University of Wales is part of a team aiming to determine whether there is a "lost land" under the Irish Sea. The team is taking sediment samples from 20 sites on the seabed between Cardigan Bay and Liverpool.

They will provide material that will really help to understand how Cardigan Bay changed as the sea flooded across the landscape during the time that people were coming back to Wales after the last Ice Age 18,000 years ago.

The team will be creating a virtual reconstruction of the lost lands from the data they gather, whilst ancient plant, animal, and, hopefully, human DNA taken from the drilled samples will be analysed to determine how life adapted to a post-Ice Age Britain.

Welsh bible survived the last invasion of the UK mainland



For almost four centuries the Llanwnda Bible has resided at St Gwyndaf's Church in the Pembrokeshire village of Llanwnda. Most notably it survived the last enemy invasion on British soil. The invaders - a force made up of French and Irish troops landed on the nearby shore in 1797 and immediately began pillaging local properties. Cold and hungry, the soldiers smashed up pews in St Gwyndaf's for firewood and tore pages out of a nearby bible to light it.

For more than 200 years, the surviving pages of the Llanwnda Bible - about 60% of the complete tome - remained at the church.

Two years ago, it was rescued from the damp conditions in the church and handed over to conservators at the University of Wales. It was placed inside the university's rare books strong room, where temperatures are kept at a constant 15°C and humidity levels stay at 60%, while it dried out. The two-year "sleep" has revitalised the leather-bound bible and next month, it will be moved to the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, for further preservation work.

When it goes back to the church later this year, it will be kept inside a temperature and humidity-controlled glass cabinet and it will be on display for everyone once again hopefully for many centuries to come.

Cleaning the beaches



On a cold Saturday morning in January with the wind whipping the rocky coastline, 150 volunteers including children, turned out to clear the beaches around the village of Porth Tre Castell in the west of Anglesey (Ynys Mon).

Over the past few decades sea currents which reach the bay carry more and more rubbish from all over the world. Pieces of plastic which have been washed in the sea in North America are reaching these shores in just a few years.

The North Wales Nature Trust has arranged to clear as much rubbish as possible from the beaches and bays close to Porth Tre Castell and north to the busy port of Caergybi (Holyhead). Local volunteers are helping to clear the beaches – 'it must be tackled at the local level – it's a huge problem' say the locals.