



Cymdeithas Cymry Sydney Sydney Welsh Society

04 July 2018

Warm greetings to members and supporters! We hope you are well and avoiding the coughs and colds of the winter season which has finally reached Sydney.



Aussie Welsh Quiz Night

The Welsh Play Group held another fun night at the Oaks Hotel in June with a great bunch of friendly people. The Welsh Society table didn't take out the first prize as hoped. We could have used a few more sharp minds on our table - we were seriously undermanned compared to some of the other tables.

Gwenfair Griffiths was delighted that the event raised more than \$300 which will be used to purchase additional children's materials for the playgroup.

Teasing the brains at 'The Oaks'

Team Wales celebrate record-breaking performance

Team Wales athletes are celebrating a record-breaking performance at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. The team, made up of around 200 athletes, won 36 medals, including 10 Golds (*If you knew this we needed you at the Quiz Night!!*), the best ever return for Wales.

Team Wales also won 12 silver and 14 bronze medals, finishing seventh in the medal table, ahead of Scotland in 8th and Nigeria 9th.

The medals came in 11 sports, reflecting Wales' growing strength across the board in sports where Wales has traditionally found it hard to compete. Athletics, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, lawn bowls, shooting, squash, swimming, table tennis, weightlifting and wrestling all enjoyed podium success. A few of the sports have athletes who train and compete full time, but most actually train around their jobs or student education.

Committee member *Ifor Rees* travelled to Queensland with his daughter to watch the Games and enjoyed the spectacle, especially meeting many of the Welsh athletes.



Ivor Rees at the Welsh supporters meeting point on the Gold Coast

“We met several Welsh competitors including the gold medal lawn bowlers, netballers and many Welsh team officials. We watched Wales play lawn bowls and enjoyed many games of ‘7 a side’ rugby - both male and female” said Ifor.

The Welsh team set up a meeting point for supporters and officials at Kurrawa Surf Club, where they set up a stunning display of Wales / Cymru against a backdrop of blue sky and clear ocean.

Dylan Thomas: *Under Milk Wood*

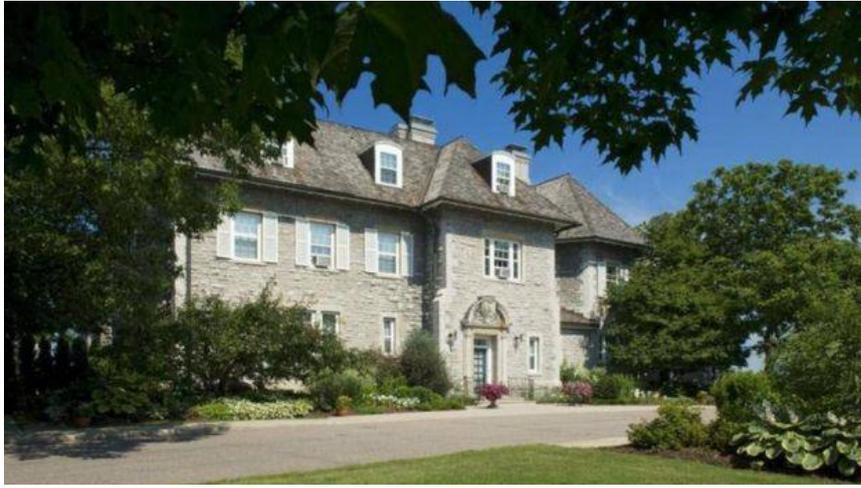
WEA Sydney is running a class to study Dylan Thomas’ *Under Milk Wood* and other works over four meetings in the city commencing Monday 9 July. All you Dylan Thomas aficionados can get further details or enrol at www.weasydney.com.au

Local Welsh names in danger of disappearing (News from Wales)

Welsh presenter Tudur Owen has warned that Wales’ most descriptive and resourceful place names are in danger of disappearing. He says this is happening partly because people have trouble pronouncing the Welsh names and so replace them with English names. However, he says we should be proud of these Welsh names and not adopt English names.

The custom is to get rid of the Welsh name ‘one place at a time’ and replace it with an unimaginative English name – eg Cwm Cneifion (renamed ‘The Nameless Cwm’), and Foel Fawr (renamed ‘Jam Pot Hill’).

He was speaking from Porth Trecastell in the west of Anglesey (Ynys Mon) which I mentioned in my last newsletter in connection with beach and shoreline clean-ups. As it happens, Porth Trecastell is also known as Cable Bay in English.



'Gorffwysfa'

*The official residence of
the Prime Minister of
Canada*

Author Mike Parker has drawn attention to this issue in Canada where the official residence of the Prime Minister at 24 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario was originally called the Welsh name 'Gorffwysfa' (resting place) but the name has disappeared slowly and is now only known as 24 Sussex Drive.

In a spirited attempt to counteract this trend the Rhondda Cynon Taf Council has instigated a campaign to discover and safeguard the original Welsh names of streets and districts in the county. The valleys have a long and rich heritage and the Council is keen to develop and commemorate this heritage. The Council has contacted historical societies and similar community organisations seeking their help in rediscovering and resurrecting the old Welsh names.

As well as that, the Council has declared that every new housing development in the County must have a Welsh name. Well done, Cynon Taf!

Welsh MP pushing for plastic bottles tax

We are only now getting rid of plastic bags at the major supermarkets here in Sydney but Swansea MP Geraint Davies is taking the fight even further to plastic bottle manufacturers. He wants plastics producers instead of Councils to pay for recycling plastic bottles by taxing them at the rate of 15 pence (about 20 cents) to cover the cost of recycling.

And he wants to establish a 'plastics agency' after Brexit to establish reduction targets with the aim of ensuring that all plastics would be recyclable across Britain within seven years.

Davies said that the rest of the world would follow the UK's lead if his bill was passed. The British government says there are 150 million tonnes of plastic in the world's oceans with plastics killing 1 million birds and 100,000 sea mammals every year.

Cofion cynnes

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News items sourced from Cymru Fyw and Team Wales web sites.