



Cymdeithas Cymry Sydney Sydney Welsh Society

21 Ionawr 2019

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi i gyd

Warm greetings and a Happy New Year to members and supporters! We hope you are well and have enjoyed a happy and relaxing Christmas with friends and family.

Greetings from the Nottingham Welsh Society



L-R Eirwen Taylor, Di and Stephen Matthews from the Nottingham Welsh Society, Ian Williams and Emyr Evans

The Society recently hosted members of the Nottingham Welsh Society who were visiting Sydney for an international Charles Dickens conference (Did you know that two of Charles Dickens' sons migrated to and lived in Australia?)

Di and Stephen Matthews delivered greetings and well wishes from the Nottingham Welsh Society which was

founded in 1904 and has been holding events since that time.

They continue to offer an active events program to this day but, like the Sydney Society, would like to see a much greater representation among younger people.

Members of both Societies enjoyed a lively evening together and exchanged a range of views on issues affecting Wales and contemporary society today.

Putting Welsh speakers in touch

The Society was delighted to recently put two Welsh speaking members in touch with each other. Long term Cymdeithas member Gretta Jones and supporter Rhiannon Cohen both live very close to each other in Gosford on the Central Coast but each was unaware of the other.

From the Society's records, we knew that they were now retired, they were fluent Welsh speakers and they both hailed from North Wales. After putting them in touch, the pair have enjoyed outings together and hope to continue in the future. What a lovely heart-warming meeting for two Welsh ladies!

How did New South Wales get its name?

It was named by Captain James Cook during his survey of the land, then known as New Holland, during 1770. He initially named it "New Wales", after the country of Wales, but when he transcribed it into the official copy of his journal for the Admiralty, he renamed it "**New South Wales**".

Cook wrote in his journal: *"I now once more hoisted English Coulers [sic] and in the Name of His Majesty King George the Third, took possession of the whole Eastern Coast from the above Latitude 38°S down to this place by the name of New South Wales."*

Unfortunately no record exists of why he chose to name it after Wales, or why he subsequently amended its name. He kept all his naming conventions to himself.

However, the origin of the name is the subject of much debate: was the territory similar to South Wales, did it remind Cook of Wales as a whole or was it named New South Wales because it was in the Southern Hemisphere? Some researchers suggest the State's coastline must have reminded Cook of the coast of Wales and this prompted him to name it after Wales.

As we know, Cook became the first European to map the coast in 1770 and the First Fleet of British convicts followed to establish a penal colony at Sydney in 1788. Thus the modern Australian nation was born.

(Thanks to Di Mathews for the idea for this story as she asked the question at our get-together with the Nottingham Welsh Society and no one could tell her why NSW was so named!)

'Say it in Welsh' – those annoying reversing beepers

In Column 8 during November there was some discussion on the horribly annoying warning sound of those reversing beepers on trucks and commercial vehicles. Suggestions on more tuneful beepers included various classical pieces but Sarah Mitchell of Concord had the last word and thinks "We should give Wales a try. The first reversing warning is given in English with a Welsh lilt. The second is in native Welsh. It is ever so lovely". Not sure how an Aussie accent and warning would sound!!

Welsh high street named the best in Britain

It beat 36 other high streets from across the UK



A Welsh high street has been crowned the UK's best.

Located in a bustling rural town to the east of the Brecon Beacons, Crickhowell's high street was named both Wales' best high street and the overall UK winner.

Crickhowell demonstrated a strong community-based approach to revitalising its high street, the awards said, and won £15,000 for the local community. The awards were presented at Lancaster House in London in November.

In 2016, the Crickhowell community spent 10 months raising money to buy a local pub to prevent it being turned into a supermarket. More than 250 people rallied together to raise £500,000 and buy their building back.

Chloe Masefield, owner of zero-waste shop Natural Weigh in Crickhowell, said: "It's an amazing achievement for the town. To be recognised as a small town with such a fantastic high street across the whole of the UK is fantastic. This award is great motivation for the town moving forward and recognises the fantastic work that goes in every day."

The National Archives and Billy Hughes

In our last newsletter on Australia's Welsh PM Billy Hughes, we accessed the National archives in Canberra. These archives stated that the first radio message from Britain to Australia was sent from London to Sydney. After several months of correspondence with the PM's Department we have now managed to have this corrected to show that the first message was actually sent from Caernarfon in Wales to Sydney. Imagine this has been incorrectly stated on our National Archive for possibly up to 100 years!

Cofion cynnes

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News items sourced from Cymru Fyw, Sydney Morning Herald and Wikipedia web sites.