



Cymdeithas Cymry Sydney Sydney Welsh Society

03 April (Ebrill) 2019

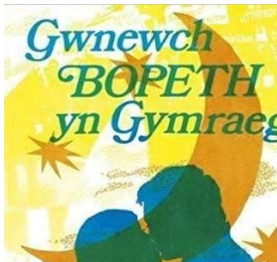
Warm greetings to members and supporters.

Welsh Tutor sets up shop in Sydney



Alys Zaerin a highly experienced Welsh Tutor has recently moved to Sydney and is available for teaching Welsh to enthusiastic learners or for improving your Welsh. She has many years of experience in tutoring Welsh in a variety of settings in London and abroad.

Alys has a fascinating background born to a Welsh mother and Iranian father. Even though she was not brought up in Wales, she and her brother spoke Welsh to their mother in the home. I'll let Alys tell you about herself in her own words:



I was born and brought up by a Welsh mother and an Iranian father in London, UK. I speak Welsh as a first language, thanks to my mum and to the Welsh community in London. It's what my mum, brother and I all speak at home. I taught Welsh in a variety of settings for 7 years in London. I moved to Sydney in 2019 and intend to continue to motivate and enable those who want to speak the language of Hen Wlad fy Nhadau. As you can see, speaking Welsh outside of Wales is a bit of a special interest of mine... I also have Welsh speaking relatives in Patagonia!

It constantly surprises and delights me to see how passionate Welsh speakers and learners are about their language. I know of learners who live outside Sydney who have no local help or motivation but continue to learn the language self-taught for years. They're an inspiration to us all.

For those of you who would like to know more and benefit from Alys' experience please contact her at cymraegsydney@gmail.com.

The Welshman who recorded Captain Cook's death.

When Captain James Cook was killed in Hawaii in 1779, the only person to document his death was a Welshman called David Samwell who accompanied Cook on his last voyage. Samwell, who was known as Dafydd Ddu Feddyg (David the Black Doctor), was the ship's doctor on that fateful last voyage of Cook.

Samwell was a colourful character – doctor, adventurer and poet, knowledgeable in Welsh and English literature. He was president of the Gwyneddigion Society which was a London-based Welsh literary and cultural society.

He recorded the events leading to Cook's death in his book '*A narrative of the death of Captain James Cook*'. Although it is still uncertain as to what exactly happened, it's believed that Cook tried to capture one of the native leaders (in order to get them to return a boat which they had stolen) and was killed in the resulting skirmish.

Samwell's account has become the standard source and foundation for almost everything that has been written since about the death of Cook.

The National Library of Wales (Llyfrgell Genedlaethol) holds two copies of his book and recently purchased a very scarce French translation from 1786 (one of only three known copies) for their archives.

Welsh flag voted the best in the world



It seems the rest of the world has now realised what we already knew

Wales has beaten countries around the world to be named as having the world's "coolest" flag. We already knew it was amazing but it seems thousands of other people now agree.

Most other nations have bands of colours or shapes symbolising their country, while Wales is represented by a massive fire-breathing dragon. It's synonymous with Welsh culture and identity.

Now the Welsh flag has been acknowledged as one of the coolest in the world in a massive global survey. *Ranker*, a worldwide digital polling website, asked people to cast their vote on "The Coolest National Flags."

These flags are ranked from best to worst by the number of votes from the site's 49 million monthly visitors. Voters are advised that when voting on the best flag, they need to consider the design which should be "simple and memorable" plus "worthy of the nation it represents". The poll, which has had 242,000 votes, has listed the Welsh flag (as of 31 March) as the coolest national flag in the world.

Wales win the Six Nations - World Cup next?



	TEAMS	POINTS
1 →	NEW ZEALAND	92.54
2 →	WALES	89.96
3 →	IRELAND	88.69
4 →	ENGLAND	86.27
5 →	SOUTH AFRICA	84.58
6 →	AUSTRALIA	82.40
7 →	SCOTLAND	80.17
8 →	FRANCE +	79.42
9 →	FIJI	77.95
10 →	ARGENTINA	77.05

WORLD RUGBY RANKINGS



Coach Warren Gatland believes newly crowned Six Nations champions Wales can lift the World Cup in November. Wales convincingly beat Ireland in Cardiff to claim the Grand Slam and a first Six Nations triumph since 2013, moving up to second in the World Rugby rankings in the process behind World Cup holders New Zealand.

It was a national record 14th straight win. At a ceremony in Cardiff to celebrate the Six Nations triumph Gatland said he believed that Wales could bring home the World Cup. “We’ve got a very special group of players at the moment” he said.

Wales are in Australia’s pool in Japan along with Fiji, Georgia and Uruguay. So the World Cup will be especially exciting for Australia’s Welsh rugby fans and perhaps Wales’ best chance to date to win their first ever World Cup.

DREAMING THE NIGHT FIELD: A LEGEND OF WALES

Adverse Camber Productions – one of the UK’s most celebrated storytelling companies, is bringing ‘Dreaming the Night Field: A Legend of Wales’ to Sydney.



‘Embrace the magic of an ancient story from Wales, bristling with life, filled with animals, people and constellations caught in stories of making and undoing. Featuring exquisite songs and newly composed music on harp and accordion, this spell-binding fusion of storytelling, music and theatre, brings ancient voices and living landscapes to life on stage in an exhilarating must-see performance.’

The performance will be held at the Riverside Theatre Parramatta on Sunday 28 April 2019 at 3pm. Further details at <https://riversideparramatta.com.au/>.

Diary Dates

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST PETER’S CHURCH

Commemorative service with all choirs and congregations of the church and guest speaker, General David Hurley, the current Governor of NSW and Governor-General elect.

Sunday 30 June, 10 am

CYMANFA GANU

Welsh hymn-singing festival at St Peters Church.

Sunday 22 September, 2.30pm

Ian Williams, President

email: refine@bigpond.net.au

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