



Cymdeithas Cymry Sydney Sydney Welsh Society

02 July (Gorffenaaf) 2019

Sydney Welsh Summer School forms partnership with the Urdd



The Sydney Welsh Children's Playgroup (Grwp Chwarae Plant) is already planning its next Summer School here in Sydney in 2020. The first Welsh Summer School was an outstanding success and made the news in Australia and Wales.

Now they're taking it to the next level by forming a partnership with the Urdd Youth Movement in Wales and raising money for an Urdd youth member to fly over to Sydney to work with the kids for fun summer camp activities to help them learn Welsh.

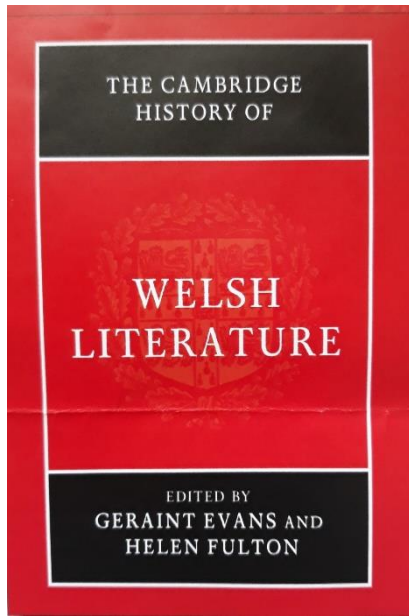
(The Urdd Gobaith Cymru is a youth movement based in Wales. It is commonly called the Urdd and it was established in 1922 to give children and young people opportunities to learn and socialise in the Welsh language).

The founder and biggest supporter of the Sydney playgroup Gwenfair Griffith said "This is a new, exciting partnership with the Urdd movement in Wales and we want to ensure it will be a successful one. To help achieve this we will need to buy resources, books, educational and craft activities to ensure the kids improve their Welsh language skills".

Welsh is one of 300 languages spoken across Sydney and there are numerous language communities across the city aiming at teaching kids their community languages - but this is the first Welsh one.

You can help ensure these Aussie-Welsh children learn their language and heritage on the other side of the world by donating to the cause. The group has set up a crowd-funding campaign here at <https://www.gofundme.com/ysgol-haf-sydney-2020?fbclid=IwAR3sW9XqmLGRReOR-43V2Gt6HAaTYrcylUzFp9WnYI5zluEITph18GukKLW4>. Or you can send a donation by direct credit to Grwp Chwarae Cymraeg at Westpac BSB 032-097 Account 428930.

History of Welsh Literature published



Two University of Wales academics have contributed to the biggest history of Welsh literature ever published. For the first time, fifteen centuries of Welsh writing are explored, including writing in both languages, in a new book *The Cambridge History of Welsh Literature*, which was published on Friday 24 May.

The Australian School of Celtic Learning hosted an evening with the contributors Professor Helen Fulton and her co-editor Geraint Evans, who were in Sydney to launch the book. They spoke at Sydney University about the book and what it means for Welsh literature and national identity. And what a lively event it was with spirited discussion, energetic questioning from the audience and good humour.

The book can be ordered by phoning 1800 005 210 and quoting the promotion code **WALES19*** for a 20% discount on the purchase price of \$180.

Check out the Society's New Web Site

Have you checked out the Society's new web site? After a long period of inactivity the Society's web site has been overhauled, updated and reinstated. You can now find out what's happening in Sydney's Welsh community, join a Welsh language class or access a list of language resources, or find links to other Welsh organisations.

Particularly useful is the calendar under the Events tab. Here you can scroll through each month which will show any events for that month. Click on the day and full details of the event will be displayed. So now you will see dates of Welsh Choir concerts, St Peters Welsh church services, Quiz Nights etc etc.

You can check out the new site at www.sydnewelshsociety.com

If you have any events that you would like to include in the Society's calendar drop us a line at sydneywelshsociety1@gmail.com

Cantorion Singing Competition

The finals of the annual Cantorion singing competition were held at The Baytree Retirement Village in Greenwich on 5 May. In addition to the competing choirs and soloists, the Cantorion choir also performed for residents and competitors alike. The Welsh Church prize winner was Melanie Jha. Congratulations Melanie!

Uluru/Ayres Rock meeting place for Welsh visitors

Uluru is one of Australia's most recognisable natural landmarks. The local Aboriginal people call the landmark *Uluru* in the Pitjantjatjara dialect. But it wasn't the Pitjantjatjara dialect that Cymdeithas members Huw and Kathleen Evans heard on a recent trip to the red centre. In the middle of the Northern Territory they were amazed to hear two Welsh ladies speaking the mother tongue. After introducing themselves, they were even more surprised to find out one of the ladies was Alys Zaerin's mother! Alys featured in the last newsletter as she is a Welsh Tutor who recently moved to Australia from London. What a pleasant and unexpected coincidence!

Brecon Beacons named one of the best spots for stargazing in the world.



The Brecon Beacons has been named one of the best spots in the world for stargazing. It fought off competition from places including New Zealand, Chile and Hawaii

Travel publisher Rough Guides – known for its “tell it like it is” attitude – named the [Brecon Beacons](#) in its list of “the world’s top stargazing spots”. The guide said: “Wales’s first Dark Sky Reserve has effectively minimised light pollution with the

involvement of local communities, creating conditions clear enough to view meteor showers, nebulas and, more rarely, the Northern Lights.

The national park has become well-known for its popularity with those who enjoy taking in the night sky. Brecon Beacons National Park's website says the park has "some of the highest quality dark skies in the whole of the UK, making it the perfect destination for stargazers".

It said: "We think that this is something worth shouting about, so in 2012, we became just the fifth destination in the world (and the first in Wales) to be accredited as an International Dark Sky Reserve".

"Through this highly prestigious status, we hope to preserve our magical night skies for future generations and help reduce carbon dioxide emissions in our Park.

Diary Dates

Aussie- Welsh Quiz Night

It's on again! Following the success of these events, the *Welsh Play Group* is organising another Aussie Welsh Quiz Night. It should be another fun-filled evening for a good cause - raising funds for the Children's Playgroup. So join us at The Oaks Hotel in Neutral Bay on Thursday 4 July at 8.00pm.

Cymanfa Ganu

Welsh hymn-singing festival at St Peters Church. Further details will be announced later.
Sunday 22 September, 2.30pm

Ian Williams, President

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News items sourced from Cymru Fyw web site.