

## **DRAIG WERDD**

AGM Venue - Doyle's pub College Street Dublin 2 at 8pm on November 22nd 2018

12 people attended, and there were apologies from Gareth Ll Jones and Nathan Jones

### Adroddiad y Cadeirydd / Chairman's report

Richard Morgan ( Chairman ) welcomed everyone, and thanked them for coming to the AGM.

He talked about the Welsh classes he was giving on Tuesday evenings at Gael Linn. He has now been doing this for 4 years. At the moment three people are attending, with the probability of moving them up to the Intermediate level.

### Adroddiad y Trysorydd / Treasurer's Report

Geraint Waters produced a financial statement which he stated covered two years. There had been a loss of €172 at the formal St David's Day dinner in 2017 held at the Hampton Hotel. It was an excellent venue and evening. The speaker Huw Llywelyn Davies was very well received and mixed well. The society paid for his costs of €520 ( flights and accommodation ), also 2 dinners €56. Ann Walsh entertained us on the harp, before and after the most enjoyable dinner. 38 people came which included the speaker and his wife. The dinner cost €28 a head. However, initially the support for the dinner was poor, and it was nearly cancelled.

The bank balance is €3121 which includes €2722 in donations for the plaque fund for the Welsh chapel. There were no friends receipts in the last year. The website registration for 2 years costs €176.

### Adroddiad yr Ysgrifenyddes / Secretary's Report

Anne Buttimore reported that the previous secretary had been unable to access the minutes from 2016, so they could not be adopted. There has not been an AGM for 2 years.

### Cinio Dydd Gwyl Dewi / St. David's Day Dinner

2017 was a formal dinner with Huw Llywelyn Davies as speaker. There was no get together in 2018 because of the snow. However RM GW and GLIJ (who sang with the The Dublin Welsh choir) were invited by Kathryn Hallett to an event at The British Embassy on April 19th to belatedly celebrate. The St. David's Day event in Ballsbridge which Kathryn Hallett had proposed earlier was cancelled.

2019 will be an informal event. March 1st falls on a Friday in 2019, and there are no Rugby fixtures that weekend. Will discuss later.

### Capel Cymraeg / Welsh Chapel

GW and G LIJ have been very active in pursuing the attempt to erect the plaque on the Welsh Chapel in Talbot Street. The problem is the state and quality of the wall of the Chapel, and the fact that the Chapel is covered in graffiti. The Council has offered to help the tenants financially with upgrading the exterior, but nothing has been done and the owner is difficult to contact. The protected houses committee gave the Chapel protected status after the graffiti was put up. However the Chapel was put up for sale a few months ago and there is now a Sale Agreed on it, but progress is slow, and Lisneys wonder whether anyone in Wales would be interested in buying it, if the current deal falls through. ? contact Jill Evans MEP.

### Dyfodol y Gyndiethas / The future of the Society

There has been concern in the committee about the lack of support to events held by Draig Werdd, and especially to the formal dinner of 2017.

A very lively discussion was held on the possibility of closing the formal side of the society with its officers on the committee, and this would involve closing down the Bank Account. Andrew Thomas was not in favour of this and put his name up for going on to the committee. It was also felt that nothing can be done whilst there is no resolution to putting up the Chapel plaque. But the society needs to rejuvenate. Eventually could there be just an informal side of the society? At the moment 200 people are contacted by email and there are about 300 people on Facebook, and they contact each other to meet up to go to sporting events. Robin Smith said that our social profile was not good, and being on Instagram and Twitter might attract more people. GW and RM were thanked for maintaining the web site and Fb. pages.

Suggestions for celebrating St. David's Day 2019 were as follows:-

An informal evening at a restaurant ? early bird with no speaker so that people could chat, and to have some entertainment and communal singing. Delyth Parkes wondered about joining it to a Dublin Welsh choir function. However apparently not many in the choir are Welsh. An informal evening in a pub was suggested with or without a speaker. The possibility of getting a suitable speaker from Ireland to cut down on costs? Robin Smith said that you need a focus to bring in people ( eg. Scottish people celebrate Burns night with a meal and readings). Dewi Evans said that UCD was not a suitable venue for the event. Máire Ní Annracháin mentioned that she went to a successful Book Launch on a

boat on the Liffey and the novelty might bring in more people. It was generally said that it should be a low cost and low risk event, but commitment was always the problem.

Other comments and suggestions about the society.

Delyth Parkes had enjoyed the walks, with Welsh cakes in a pub afterwards, but these were not always supported well. MNíA wondered whether the society was limited to Welsh people, could it be also for Irish people interested in Wales, and she suggested possibly having a Book club meeting every 6 months to read books about Wales. These could be organised through social media. MNíA also wondered about whether TG4 would put on a Welsh course. She would enquire.

A committee was elected for another year, and things will be evaluated after that.

Chairman Richard Morgan proposed by Greg Owen and seconded by Janice Williams  
Johnston

Secretary Anne Buttimore proposed by Geraint Waters and seconded by Delyth Parkes

Treasurer Geraint Waters proposed by Andrew Thomas and seconded by Anne Buttimore

Other committee members, Gareth Ll. Jones and Andrew Thomas

#### UFA / AOB

Robin Smith wondered whether there was any follow up of the people who came to learn Welsh in the last 4 years. It was decided that as a project we should all do some research on how other societies generally attract new members. Also to enquire about suitable venues for the St David's Day get together in 2019.

All attendees paid Geraint Waters €10 for this year's subscription to 'Y Ddraig Werdd.'

There was no other business, therefore RM declared the meeting closed.

Anne Buttimore

22/11/2018

(Ysgrifennyddes/Secretary)