

# **Draig Werdd AGM 2022 - Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup> at 8pm on ZOOM**

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Due to Covid 19, we were unable to meet to hold an AGM in 2020, nor in 2021, and the members were not keen on having an online AGM.

Committee members :\_ Richard Morgan ( Cadeirydd – Chairman ), Geraint Waters ( Trysorydd - Treasurer ), Anne Buttimore ( Ysgrifennyddes - Secretary ), Gareth Llwyd Jones, Andrew Thomas, Angharad Williams ( Administrator, along with Geraint Waters on the Draig Werdd web page, and on Facebook), and Justin Smith.

### **January 15<sup>th</sup> 2020**

The above committee met and discussed the proposed *Wales Week Initiative World Wide* from Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> to Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2020, with the possibility of combining it with Draig Werdd's St. David's Day celebration, and to enquire as to whether Global Welsh would like to join in with the occasion.

Kathryn Hallett ( Welsh Government Office in Ireland ) would keep us informed about their plans for that week. Dan Langford from the Wales week initiative worldwide came over to Dublin for a meeting with Kathryn Hallett and members of the Welsh Government office in Dublin. Andrew Thomas represented the Draig Werdd committee at this meeting. All events would be held in the 360 tech. Dome which would be erected along the Quay, near to The Irish Emigration centre on Custom House Quay.

### **February 4<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Gareth Llwyd Jones reported to the committee on the possible sale of Bethel (The Welsh Chapel ) on Talbot street. At this point it had twice gone to Sale Agreed, but unfortunately neither sale was completed. Gareth Ll. Jones will update us on the Chapel later in the meeting.

### **WALES WEEK DUBLIN 2020**

#### **Wales week initiative of the Welsh Government in partnership with Wales week world wide.**

**March 9<sup>th</sup> to March 13<sup>th</sup>** held in the Dome near Epic on Custom House Quay Dublin. All information about the week, with links to all the activities planned was sent out to Draig Werdd members via email and Facebook. This included a link to Draig Werdd member Bethan Kilfoyle ( RTE ) in conversation with Sophie Howe,( Future Generations commissioner for Wales ). This was held from 13.00 to 14.00 on Tuesday March 10, 2020

## **Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>** Draig Werdd celebration for St David's Day 2020,

Welsh Diaspora evening, to celebrate St David's Day 2020. This was a free event held between 6pm and 8pm

Draig Werdd together with Global Wales Dublin hosted a social evening on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March as part of Wales Week Dublin, which took place in 'Dome Cymru' in the foyer of the CHQ building on Custom House Quay in Dublin. Those present were able to socialize over food and drink and were entertained by music on the harp from Draig Werdd member Ann Jones Walsh and by the Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir with their conductor Brian Murphy and accompanist John Shera. Poetry and Prose readings in Welsh and English were given by Geraint Waters, also some sample Welsh lessons were given by Richard Morgan. Global Welsh Dublin gave a talk about their plans for the future during the evening.

This was a very successful evening, and was advertised by email, and other social media to Draig Werdd members. All of the above committee members worked very well together with organising the event in providing food, drink, flowers, raffle prizes, and helping out with the preparation and running of the evening. Special thanks were sent to the Dublin Welsh Male Voice Choir and to the Harpist Ann Jones Walsh for creating such a fantastic atmosphere for the evening with their talent.

Rhiannon Evans ( External Relations Manager) from the Welsh Government / Ireland Office, wrote to the Draig Werdd Committee thanking them for having the annual St. David's Day celebration 2020 in the Dome as part of Wales Week Diaspora evening, and to Evan Aiken for launching the Global Welsh Connect Platform on that evening. She congratulated everyone concerned who helped make the evening successful, and looked forward to working with all again in the future.

## **Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup>**

**As part of the initiative of Wales in Ireland**, an evening was held at the EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum Custom House Quay from 18:30- 21:00 to celebrate St David's Day. This evening was hosted by the Welsh Minister for International Relations and Welsh, and Welsh Language, Eluned Morgan AM, to celebrate a taste of Wales and Welsh culture. A film was shown about the Other Voices festival on the shores of Cardigan in late 2019. Special guests that evening were Philip King, Radio 1 DJ Huw Stephens, and singer Kizzy Crawford. The Welsh Government office in Ireland issued invitations to attend the evening to members of the D.W. Committee, who very much enjoyed the event.

Due to the increased emergence of Covid 19, no more events were held that week.

Draig Werdd was not able to have or organize any other events for the rest of 2020. However, the committee met in the Autumn of 2020 online via zoom to discuss how members could possibly get together on line, and to keep up the camaraderie of all Welsh people in Ireland. Angharad Williams put up topical items of interest on Facebook, and some other committee members followed suit.

All the above committee discussed .St.David's Day 2021 etc;

Geraint Waters reported that he had had an email from Margaret O'Connor from Limerick who was doing a project on 'Ports of Ireland Past and Present', and she wanted to do an article on The Welsh Chapel. Gareth Llwyd Jones sent her a copy of the book about the chapel.

Geraint Waters advertised on Facebook and through email about starting a Welsh conversation hour via zoom. This was organized for Wednesday November 25th 2020 via zoom, which GW organized. This was successful, and it will be repeated in January 2021.

### **January 2021**

Another successful Welsh conversation evening was held via zoom hosted by Geraint Waters, and it was good to hear something about other members from different parts of Ireland.

### **February 2021**

A notice was sent via email and Facebook to advertise the proposed 2021 St. David's Day celebrations via Zoom, indicating the format of the evening. This would include initial informal chat, a kids art competition, a quiz, songs, readings etc; and ending with singing of The National Anthem.

### **March 1st 2021 St. David's Day Celebrations via zoom**

Because of the restrictions on travel and public gatherings due to lockdown, it wasn't possible to meet in person to celebrate St David's Day, so the occasion was marked online via zoom. The evening ran smoothly and successfully, and was greatly enjoyed by all those present online. It also had the benefit of giving people from all parts of Ireland the opportunity for the first time to join in with the St David's Day celebrations.

The evening started with social chat, and then Angharad and Justin announced that Greta from County Offaly ( who was online at the time ) had won the Art competition with the following drawing :-



The quiz on 'Wales and the Welsh' was won by Greg Owen. This was followed by a series of music videos - ('Can yn Ofer' and 'Mör o Gariad') and also readings by Richard Morgan. Gareth Llwyd Jones showed two videos of The Dublin Welsh Male voice choir. One- 'O Gymru' was from their performance at the St David Day celebrations in March 2020 at the Epic Museum in Dublin.

Roland Teifi the Welsh actor singer and song writer, who lives in Waterford with his Irish wife Roisin Clancy and family, was unfortunately unable to join the evening, but sent a 5 minute video 'NOL' to wish everyone "Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus"

We enjoyed some live singing over zoom from Catrin Prys-Williams in Dublin, and Nan Lloyd Guinan in Offaly. Nan led us in a performance of 'Moliannwn' and Catrin accompanied herself singing the song 'Carol Catrin', which had been written and dedicated to her by her relative Aneurin Prys-Williams.

The online session concluded after some more socializing, with a recording of the rousing performance of 'Hen Wlad fy Nhadau' by the crowd at the old Cardiff Arms Park prior to the New Zealand game in 1967. We all sang along, but muted!

## **July 2022**

Adam Price AM and leader of Plaid Cymru came to Dublin to address the Irish Association of Contemporary European Studies. Many Draig Werdd members attended the event either in person, or online.

Welsh Classes are held in Dublin ( over zoom during lockdown).given by Richard Morgan. Richard was also involved and contributed to the Online Welsh course Duolingo.

There have not been any other Draig Werdd face to face events since March 2020 due to Covid 19. However, some committee members, and others are active in putting up any news of Welsh interest on Facebook, in emails and up on the Draig Werdd web page.

Gradually as the country opened up, Welsh people have been able to meet up for various cultural and sporting events.

Anne Buttimore

October 2022

Ysgrifennyddes / Secretary