

ARWYR ALBANY

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF CWRS CYMRAEG
CWRS YR YMERODRAETH 22-29 GORFFENAF, 2007

EDITORIAL

Our title Arwyr Albany (Albany's Heroes) was chosen to pay tribute to all those who have labored long and hard to bring this year's Cwrs Cymraeg to Albany, the capital city of New York State. The Board of Directors of Cymdeithas Madog, the organizers, the head of curriculum, the tutors, and of course, the students---all real heroes. It has taken a lot of hard work, dedication, "blood, sweat, toil and (maybe) tears but above all, a great and enduring love of the language of Wales to bring the Cwrs to Sage College. We send a hearty "Diolch yn fawr iawn" to you all. You have been an inspiration.

GET TO KNOW YOUR TUTORS!

Meredith Roberts is a member of the Board of Directors, Cymdeithas Madog. Born in Farmington, Maine and a graduate of Williams College, Massachusetts, she has been a Special Education teacher for 3 years. Meredith's great grandfather worked in the slate quarries at Bethesda, North Wales and came to Maine to work at Brownville. Her father, also a quarryman, is the author of "New Lives in the Valley." Meredith spent her junior year at Bangor, Gwynedd, on a Fullbright scholarship, living in Bethesda, where she learned the language of heaven, and where she worked with many schoolchildren. She continued her studies with grants from the Welsh Society of New York and NWAf. She is married to "the most wonderful man in the world." (whom no doubt she has instructed in all three verses of "Calon Lân")

Steve Morris our fearless leader, is a bona fide "Swansea Jack," coming to us from that lovely, ugly town by the sea where he lives with his beautiful family at Ty Coch. One of his daughters has the great privilege of working at Brain's Brewery, Cardiff, but Steve does not admit to

having free samples brought home. He is a lecturer of Welsh at the Dept of Continuing Education, University of Swansea. He is in his seventh year with Cwrs Cymraeg and his second stint as head tutor. He sings off key with Côr y Gweilch (Ospreys), and horror of horrors, supports Chelsea Football Club.

Hefina Phillips is a native of Cwm Giedd, Swansea Valley. She studied Welsh at Cardiff University and then went to Swansea to work as a teacher before travelling to many exotic places such as England (!!!), Scotland, Switzerland, Canada, the USA, and Cwm Twrch, Swansea Valley. In 1981, she came to Canada and then spent four years in Atlanta, Georgia where she was president of the Welsh Society before moving back to Canada to become heavily involved at Capel Dewi Sant, Toronto, including preaching the Gospel. Hefina began at Cwrs Cymraeg as a tutor in 1983 at St. Paul, MN and has missed only two Cyrsiau since then. (Maurice Chevalier used to sing about Hefina in his song "Thank Hefin for little girls," but he got the spelling wrong).



Elwyn Hughes, of the big smile, (and funny legs) lives in Llanfairpwllgwyngyll...(you know the

rest). He is a native of Rhuthin, Sir Dinbych, a little town in the shadow of Moel Fammau, and graduated from the University of Birmingham where he studied French, learned to talk Brummy, and later, at the University of Quebec. Failing as genuine Canuck, not being proficient as an ice hockey goalie, he returned to Wales to teach at the University of Bangor. He was a tutor at Cwrs Cymraeg, Buffalo in 1991 and returned this year to Albany. (Don't listen to what he says about maybe not returning: at the time, he was intoxicated with the beauty of the curriculum or he was thinking about Tanzania, where he was once seen ogling giraffes).

Chris Reynolds, a man not ashamed to show his legs to the girls as he takes their photographs, is a native of the Valleys, Cwm Cynon, to be exact, a place of wondrous beauty and warm beer. He studied at the University of Aberystwyth, where he graduated in Welsh and Breton and continued his research into warm beer. After working with the National Eisteddfod of Wales staff, helping with the learner's pavilion in Neath and Colwyn Bay. Chris began to study Welsh at the Bodwigiad Arms Tavern in Hirwaun, where else?) Formerly with the Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Consortium (there's posh) as Development Officer, he is now with the South West Wales Welsh for Adults Centre (there's posh again). This is his first time as tutor at Cwrs Cymraeg, Cymdeithas Madog

Kevin Rottet comes to us all the way from Detroit, Michigan where, no doubt, he was born and raised by loving parents. After graduating from Central Michigan University, he continued his studies in French and Linguistics at Ann Arbor University and dreamed of growing a moustache. He then obtained his Ph.D at Indiana University, where he is Associate Professor in the Dept of French and Italian. He was a student at Cwrs Cymraeg in 1995, continuing each year until 2001 and became a tutor for the first time in 2002. He likes to paddle his own canoe while singing love songs in Breton and Swahili..

Annette Evans, from the mighty metropolis of Trefor, nestled snugly under Yr Eifel in the Llyn Peninsula, Gwynedd, is proud of her students in Level Two. She spent her early years in

Abersoch, mainly gazing at the sea and avoiding English tourists. She studied at Carmarthen Trinity College and then took further degrees at Bangor, in Welsh and Education. A great thrill was to be able to return to her former high school as a teacher. Another great thrill was becoming an educational advisor for Gwynedd and Anglesey, then becoming Inspector of Schools for Caernarfon. The thrills continued when she married Deian Evans in 1981. The blissful couple came to Toronto in 2004 where Deian is the Minister at the Welsh Church, and where Annette teaches Welsh at the Celtic Dept, University of Toronto. She tutored at Cwrs Cymraeg for the first time at Rio Grande in 2005.

Diana Manzanilla lends her California beauty as a tutor to Cwrs Cymraeg only six years after starting Level One as a student. She is a graduate of San Jose University where she studied Interior Design. After working at a public library for a dozen years, she now devotes her time hoping to achieve world-wide success as a seller of fine jewelry. Diana became interested in learning Welsh after seeing the movie "Hedd Wyn." She has taught the language at various venues in Wales, including Newport and Caerleon. The lucky few have heard her play the guitar and sing songs of yearning and unrequited love.

<p style="text-align: center;">AN INTERVIEW WITH DIANA MANZANILLA BY REBECCA REDMILE</p>

When asked about her impressions of Cwrs Cymraeg as a student, returning as a tutor and the differences between teaching Welsh in Wales and in North America, this is what Diana told Arwyr Albany:

The first Welsh course I ever took was at the Cwrs Cymraeg in Atlanta, 2001. My impressions were like those of a young girl in love. I was looking forward to discovering every nuance. I couldn't have been happier. Steve Morris was the tutor and his warmth and light-heartedness was the perfect atmosphere for me to learn Welsh in. I studied hard and got into level two. In Wales they try not to put stress on you, like here, people are

lighthearted and it takes the pressure off you. I just made up my mind that first class to go to Wales. The only thing better than a south Walian accent is a west Wales accent ... oh my God! It sounded like the rolling hills of Wales. When I first started learning Welsh I didn't want to focus on what they were saying because I didn't want to lose the music. The course in Atlanta was an eye-opener, because I had no background in Welsh. I just loved the language. I remember I missed most of the twmpath and showed up for the last song. The quiz night was fun, ... hanging out in the pub, ... all the things you come to think of as part of Welsh culture, I learned a lot.



I was reading an article about Ioan Gruffudd, at work one day, because Horatio Hornblower was popular. He made the comment that nobody can understand him in North America. I thought "what's Welsh?" I didn't know Wales had

its own language because the Prince of Wales was English. I went downstairs in the library where I worked to see what we had in the catalogue; and the only thing we had was Hedd Wyn. I didn't know about the cynghanedd but I loved to listen to the language even though I didn't understand a word they were saying. And so then I looked around for a course to take. And I didn't find anything. I'm from the Bay area and UC Berkeley teaches it but only for the Celtic Studies courses and only every couple of years. So I decided to come to Atlanta GA. I had never travelled anywhere! It was a lot of money to come. ... the singing won me over, always singing in the pub and singing every evening after the evening activities. Last time I was in Cardiff a male choir descended upon the Bay where it's very posh. People gave us some strange looks, but the music is o much a part of Welsh life.

Most of the people on this course really want to be here. In Wales people's work pays for them to go, or they live there so they don't feel the urgency to learn the language. Obviously one main difference is the curriculum. Cwrs Cymraeg is pretty intense, it's more like an Wlpan course, more intensive. I taught Dosbarth Nos which has been replaced by Cwrs Mynediad and Cwrs Sylfaen and those are meant to be taught over two years, a very relaxed pace one night a week. The good thing about that is that people have a chance to acclimate to the language. Another good thing is, you can build a relationship to the people in your class but here we have only a week. I'm using a lot of the same techniques that we used there, games, role playing and dialogues, but I also like to have my students write scenarios. I think things like doing weather newscasts are fun, "Fory yng Nhasnewydd bydd hi'n bwrw glaw. Ym Mangor mae'n wyntog..." You can practice all sorts of mutations with those. The only thing I find to be a real challenge here is that in Wales you're teaching either North or South Walian, but the curriculum here has both, which they try to fit in. No-one in South Wales would say: "How do the Gogs pronounce that?" I think it could be confusing to hear both.

I considered it an honour when they asked me to teach. I still think it's best to get the tutors from Wales, but I remember all the people from the board from 2001. Everyone is so nice to work with as a teacher and having worked with them as a student I remember how friendly everyone was. I had to remind myself when I knew I was going to be here with people who grew up speaking Welsh: "If you're a good teacher you're a good teacher." I can't let not having a Welsh degree get in my way.

When I was in school at Lampeter there was a girl from Sweden who had seen a programme from Wales one time and decided to learn it. She had come to Lampeter to take the course there. She had sought out this amazing linguist while she was at university and he taught her, too. There were other people there from Japan who had heard the language once and become fascinated with it. Let your love for the language keep you going."

Overheard in Lefel 3:

Yn Ne Cymru, “haf” ydy ‘summer’ ond yn y Gogledd, “ha” maen nhw’n ddweud – because the summers are shorter there??!!!!

ASK AUNTIE FINA FFE: THE CWRS CYMRAEG AGONY AUNT COLUMN....

Dear Auntie Fina Ffe,

There is this teacher on our cwrs. He’s constantly running to this map of Wales hanging on our classroom wall. He draws an emphatic east to west line across the middle of Wales with his hand. Is Wales on the verge of a civil war? Is there a Mason/Dixon (or perhaps a Morgan/Davis) line there? Is that what he keeps pointing out? Let me know because I don’t want to travel there if trouble is brewing.

Signed: Heddy Chwr

Dear Heddy Chwr,

He’s just a fanatical Gog. The only thing brewing in Wales is ale. Go! Enjoy!

Auntie Fina Ffe

Dear Auntie Fina Ffe,

Every year I’ve had to leave my cats Izzy and Cariad home while I’m on the cwrs. They are taken care of. However, when I return home the cats snub me. They spend three or four days pretending I don’t exist. Then, they slowly warm up to me again. How can I keep them from being so snobby when I return home?

Signed: Miss Ingmy Kitties

Dear Miss Ingmy Kitties,

Just bring an extra carry-on bag next time and put the kitties in it. They won’t be so stuck up if they get to go on vacation too.

Auntie Fina Ffe

Dear Auntie Fina Ffe,

There’s this elderly woman who attends the same cwrs I do most years. She constantly talks about her grandchildren, you know, the cute things they do and say and how brilliant they are, as any grandmother does, but every time someone asks to see pictures she has none to show and claims to have forgotten to bring them. Do you think the grandchildren she speaks of could be figments of her imagination and, if so, is it dangerous to be around her?

Signed: Afraid of Delusional “Grandmother”

Dear Afraid,

This woman is obviously imagining her grandchildren as any real grandmother would carry an extra purse with nothing but pictures of her grandchildren in it to bore others with. I’d stay away from her as you never know what direction a delusional person will take next. She might imagine she’s a foreign language teacher and teach people all sorts of crazy sounding things to say in another language.

Dear Fina Ffe,

As you know, I am esteemed investigative reporter for this paper. My problem is my assignment. I am a renowned muckraker but so far I have found this Cwrs to be muckless. Nothing seems to be going wrong! The room keys all work; the a/c works; the elevators haven’t gotten stuck; and there are not even long lines of unruly teens to battle at mealtimes. The local organizers are setting the bar very high for next year, if I do say so. Do you think I should sabotage something? Will Cymdeithas Madog go my bail if I get caught?

Cofion cynnes: Deep Throat

Dear Deep,

I can’t help you with muck in Albany, but I know where you can find ducks. However, since this is a Welsh course, I suggest you mind your mutations. As for sabotage, I am sure the bookshop sells superglue. But don’t waste your one phone call on a Board member. I am sure you’ll enjoy jail as much as Paris.

AQUA DUCKS TOUR A SMASHING SUCCESS BY IAR FACH YR HAF-PEINT

Those who joined the Aqua Duck tour, this year's field trip, were afforded a rare treat: a wet/dry tour of historic downtown Albany and the equally famous Hudson River. We were escorted into a bizarre machine, part bus, part boat and part lorry, driven by our captain/driver Steve, who holds licenses for both marine and land navigation. Despite his captaincy we were informed that Steve is not certified to perform marriages, but Aqua Ducks does have qualified personnel on staff to perform this service should the need arise. This and many other fascinating pieces of information were provided by our tour guide, Paul, who peppered us with facts and anecdotes about the capital of New York and its denizens, each story punctuated by his unique hearty laugh.



We learned of “Rocky’s Folly,” a vast area of central Albany that Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller ordered demolished to improve the view from the governor’s mansion to his downtown office. Thousands of people were displaced and hundreds of residences and businesses were destroyed. The rubble from the demolition was dumped into the Hudson River creating hundreds of acres of new land for the city. This land is now occupied by the superhighways that skirt the east side of the city. The demolition site is now Empire State Plaza with its glittering towers, avant garde architecture and other symbols of power. The Governor’s view was never perfect though. One building, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, escaped the wrecking ball, saved at the last minute by Albany’s concerned citizenry.

This and many other stories entertained us on the trip. As well, some of the passengers provided their own bits of information to enrich the experience. By the end of the tour it became clear that much of what our guide knew about Albany he had learned from passengers like us. Before summer’s end Aqua Ducks will be offering Certificates of Achievement in Albany History and Lore to all those who complete the tour.

While the information was interesting, from this reporter’s viewpoint, the most exciting part of the trip was the moment when the Aqua Duck plunged into the Hudson River. The driver stopped at the top of a long ramp; made a series of esoteric technical adjustments to the machine and then, accompanied by a dramatic countdown with more hearty laughter from our guide, he drove full-speed down the ramp and smashed into the water. A great wave broke over the vessel and we were afloat.

At the start of the trip we were issued musical instruments of limited tonal range called “Duck Calls” with which we were able to communicate in a rudimentary fashion with people on the outside. When a likely group of pedestrians was spied we began a chorus of toots on our instruments sounding vaguely like duck quacks. When successful, this elicited seemingly friendly smiles and waves from our targets. (Continued on page 9)

☞☞ MORE OVERHEARD:

On Thursday, Kevin taught us about the future tense. But after going over “bydda i”, he told us there was a short future in Welsh. Do you think he is trying to tell us something??!!

☞☞ OVERHEARD IN THE CAFFI:

I was so drunk last night I said things even I wouldn’t say.

IDIOM Y DYDD – IDIOM OF THE DAY

Here’s a quick resumé of this courses’s idioms (for those of you who weren’t paying attention in the morning!!):

GWELL HWYR NA HWYRACH

... *Better late than never*

UN WENNOL NI WNA WANWYN

... Ddylech chi ddim seilio gobaith ar dystiolaeth wan / One swallow doesn't make a spring

MAN GWYN, MAN DRAW

... Mae rhywle neu ryw sefyllfa sy'n wahanol i'r un rydych chi ynddi hi yn edrych yn well / The grass is greener on the other side

GAN BWYLL MAE MYND YMHELL

... Gwnewch dipyn bach ar y tro ac fe ewch chi'n bell / Slowly, slowly is the way to go far

CEFFYL DA YW EWYLLYS

... Bydd dyfalbarhad yn mynd â chi'n bell / Perseverance will take you far 'The will is a good horse'

TEG EDRYCH TUAG ADREF

... Mae mynd adref bob amser yn braf / Going home is always pleasant

**THREE GENERATIONS OF JONES
ATTEND CWRS CYMRAEG**



Some of the course students who had attended earlier courses may remember Ken and Megan Jones. In every year they attended, one of the highlights of the Noson Lawen was hearing Megan (a member of the Lyric Opera Chorus of Chicago for eighteen years) perform a duet with another partner (usually Jack Lewis).

While it has been a while since Ken and Megan have been back, their legacy lives on in the presence this year of their daughter Jan Jones Batty and her son Paul, currently living in Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

While attending their first Cwrs Cymraeg, both Jan (a student in Diana's class) and Paul (learning

from Annette) have been enjoying themselves this week. Paul is a student of languages having done work in Swedish, Finnish, German and Rumanian and has been teaching himself Welsh. (Did we mention that he is only fourteen?).

Jan heard Welsh spoken some at home and was exposed to the music but was never able to really start understanding it until starting this year's course.

From its humble beginning in the late seventies, Cwrs Cymraeg has grown to the point where it is now starting to be able to bring Welsh to a third generation of North American students.



**HWYL A DIOLCH LOCAL
ORGANISERS**

The local organization, St. David's Welsh Society of the Capital District, gets a huge round of thanks from the participants of the 2007 Cwrs Cymraeg; especially their president, Leslie Neumann who has worked tirelessly over many months overseeing the details of this huge undertaking. Leslie is a brilliant graphic designer who designed the strikingly beautiful and clever Apple and Dragon Claw that graces course material and t-shirts this year. Leslie is also the woman with the lovely smile who fielded every crisis and smoothed the choppy waters of the week. You pick which one you love more.

Pam Slotsky was Leslie's Gal Friday, always ready to make a copy, find the keys or show the way to the Fountain. She captains a Montessori school in the Capital District and shepherds young children toward a soft landing in the complex world of the 21st Century. Special thanks, Pam (Lai?). Lastly Robert Jones (who introduced our editor-in-chief to Welsh) was the

arch-druid of technology for the cwrs and readily sacrificed hours of sleep in order to assure that visitors to the Fountain had a proper good time. Robert teaches Languages at Fulton Montgomery Community College in Johnstown NY and is active in community Welsh instruction. Diolch yn fawr!!!

ALABAMA WELSH CONNECTION

In 1170 AD, Prince Madog landed at Mobile Bay, Alabama. Some time after landing at Mobile Bay, Alabama Prince Madog and a few hundred Welshmen travelled up the present day Alabama River and then up the Coosa River to Lookout Mountain in Northeast Alabama. Prince Madog and his men dug the Welsh caves in what is today Desoto State Park near Fort Payne, AL from stone and quarried more stone for fortification of the caves to defend themselves from tribes of the Cherokee Nation who were not very receptive to the intrusion of their land by the Prince and his men. Eventually, it is believed that Prince Madog and his men were forced to move over into an area which is presently in N.W. Georgia.

Marla Gehman

BOOK REVIEWS

Wales seems to be a source of inspiration for several novelists these days. Two recent examples offer completely contrasting styles and historical persons.

The first (and better) is The Welsh Girl by Peter Ho Davies. This has a rather complex plot as it moves between the interrogation in Wales of Rudolf Hess by a half-Jewish, ex-German major in the British army and the life of Esther, the eponymous heroine, daughter of a sheep farmer in North Wales. The author is himself the son of a Welsh father and Chinese mother so is naturally fascinated by the idea of belonging. In the novel, the idea is made explicit when Esther explains that the sheep have a sense of identity and never stray from their own territory. Esther's sense of her Welsh identity is tested by the English soldiers in a nearby camp, by some English comedians who frequent the pub where she works and by the German prisoners of war who are billeted in the camp towards the end of the war. The antithesis of her rootedness is the major's loss of a homeland. In a scene near the end (perhaps best appreciated if you're Welsh), he

goes into the pub and realises the landlord has no intention of serving him. He summons him with an imperious 'My good man'. The barman replies insolently 'We don't have to serve your kind here'. 'What kind is that?', he snaps. 'English', comes the reply which makes the major collapse with hysterical laughter.

The second novel is by Edith Felber and called Queen of Shadows and is set during the reign of Edward II. The main character, Gwenith, has managed to escape the murderous raids against the Welsh and succeeds in becoming lady-in-waiting to Edward's queen, Isabella of France, mainly in order to wreak revenge on the king. There's a lot of historical background and a consistent evocation of medieval atmosphere. I'm afraid I haven't finished the novel though I suspect (despite what Steve says about Welsh stories never having a happy ending) that Gwenith will achieve her end. No king represented as behaving in a scandalous way with his male favourites in front of the whole court is going to die a natural death.

Diolch i Vivien Bosley – gynt o Sgeti, Abertawe

☺ DIOLCH YN FAWR ☺

We would like to say a big DIOLCH YN FAWR to all the following...

- The local committee, Leslie Neumann, - Pam Slotsky and Robert Jones;
- Will and Jodie of Sage College;
- The Cymdeithas Madog Board of Directors, namely: Sarah Campbell, Sarah Stevenson, Bill Roberts, Margaret Scharf, Rebecca Redmile, Jenny Hubbard Young, Andrew Welsh, Hefina Phillips, Meredith Roberts, Melvyn Jones and Shirley McKee;
- The tutors: Diana Manzanilla, Annette Evans, Kevin Rottet, Chris Reynolds, Elwyn Hughes, Hefina Phillips, Steve Morris;
- The editorial team and staff of ARWYR ALBANY: Jim Strickland (editor in chief), Pedr Williams, Rebecca Redmile, Mona Everett, Chris Reynolds (photos), John Kudlaty, Steve Morris and all who contributed.

CHWILOTAIR Y CWRS

A	B	C	A	N	U	P	A	P	U	R	DD
Y	M	E	R	O	D	R	A	E	TH	W	I
C	W	I	S	S	M	H	L	N	T	O	RH
C	W	S	G	O	A	W	B	T	I	CH	P
O	FF	T	I	N	D	Y	A	O	W	LL	N
FF	I	E	T	L	O	L	N	S	T	Y	B
I	L	DD	LL	A	G	M	Y	T	O	D	NG
S	M	F	T	W	M	P	A	TH	R	A	T
A	F	O	N	E	F	R	O	G	W	W	DD
E	A	D	U	N	I	A	D	F	RH	E	FF
C	W	R	S	C	Y	M	R	A	E	G	H

Mae 19 o eiriau / ymadroddion "ar goll" yn y pês. Maen nhw i gyd yn ymwneud â'r cwrs eleni. Pob Lwc!!

There are 19 words / expressions "lost" in the puzzle. They all relate to this year's course. Good luck!!

CWRS CYMRAEG 2008

We are pleased to announce that Cwrs Cymraeg 2008 will bring us back to Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa! Board members will be taking early deposits (\$100 US payable to Cwrs Cymraeg 2008). Hope to see you there!

LLONGYFARCHIADAU! / CONGRATULATIONS!

The Board of Directors of Cymdeithas Madog is pleased to announce our new Board Members for 2007 – 2008: Croeso mawr to Annette Evans, Ceri Jones and Karen Alice Jones – Llongyfarchiadau mawr i chi!

LATE BREAKING NEWS:

*This year's winner of the Eisteddfod chair /
Enillydd y Gadair eleni:*

Mary Williams Norton Llongyfarchiadau mawr i
chi, Mary!

