

Anrhydeddus
Gymdeithas
Y Cymmrodorion
Sefydlwyd 1751

The Honourable Society
Of Cymmrodorion

Founded 1751

NODDWR/PATRON: EI UCHELDER BRENHINOL TYWYSOG CYMRU/ HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2013
PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ON 13 MAY 2014

Ten lectures were held during the course of the calendar year 2013. These included the annual June Gruffydd Memorial lecture held jointly with the Montgomeryshire Society and the annual lecture in Welsh supported by Cymdeithas y Gwy Gwyneddigion and Fforwm Cymru Llundain. All lectures took place in London apart from the one delivered at the National Eisteddfod held in Denbigh.

Tuesday 15 January 2013

Profits in their own country; entrepreneurial activity in the lower Rhondda during the coal boom

Professor Richard Griffiths

In the chair: Professor John Elliott

Tuesday 5 February 2013 (jointly with the Montgomeryshire Society)

The old Welsh landed gentry and their world: does extinction beckon?

Thomas Lloyd, Wales Herald of Arms Extraordinary

In the chair: Gwenda Sippings

Tuesday 12 March 2013

The Welshness of Goronwy Rees

Jenny Rees

In the chair: Peter Jeffreys

Tuesday 16 April 2013

Origins, values and benefits of four cultural projects in Wales- Artes Mundi, National Botanic Garden of Wales, Aberglasney and Plas Llanelly House

William Wilkins, Director Artes Mundi

In the chair: Professor Stuart Cole

Tuesday 14 May 2013

Be nature our law and fair woman our book 'cared doeth yr encilion': the wit and wisdom of two William Joneses?

Professor Michael Franklin, Swansea University

In the chair: Jenkin Thomas

Wednesday 12 June 2013 (in association with the London Welsh Association)

Cymru a'r byd yn y 19 fed ganrie: y gwyddoniadur Cymreig

Professor Robert Evans, Regius professor of History, University of Oxford

In the chair: Professor Prys Morgan

Monday 6 August 2013 at the National Eisteddfod

Fron-Goch: Prifysgol Rhuddid Iwerddon

Lyn Ebenezer

In the chair: Professor Prys Morgan

Tuesday 24 September 2013

Lord Howard de Walden: Wales's forgotten hero

Professor Hazel Walford Davies, Aberystwyth University

In the chair: Ceridwen Roberts

Tuesday 22 October 2013

The Wye Tour and its artists

Julian Mitchell

In the chair: Professor Prys Morgan

Tuesday 19 November 2013

How Welsh was Mrs Piozzi? Issues of being Welsh in the eighteenth century

D. Morgan Evans

In the chair: Arwyn Lloyd Hughes

The Council wishes to thank both those who accepted its invitation to deliver lectures and those who chaired the meetings. The quality of these contributions to the programme has been acknowledged while attendance has been good - even very good - on all occasions. The Council would wish to thank the staff of the Medical Society of London in whose premises all but one of its London lectures were held and those of the London Welsh Centre in whose premises the annual lecture in Welsh took place. It is also grateful for assistance provided at the National Eisteddfod in Denbigh and would wish to thank all those members of the Society who have represented the Society on the various public bodies in Wales during 2013.

The 2012 edition of the Transactions was published and a copy sent to each of the individuals and institutions in the United Kingdom and overseas listed on the database. The Council wishes to thank all the contributors and to put on record its appreciation of the work undertaken by the Honorary Editor. While acknowledging, once again, the difficulty

sometimes experienced of translating lectures with a significant pictorial element into written articles, the Council has agreed there should be regular liaison between those devising the programme and the Honorary Editor to ensure a reasonable balance is achieved in future editions, between material emanating from the lecture programme and commissioned articles.

Dr Brynley F Roberts having indicated his wish to stand down from the role of Honorary Editor of the Dictionary of Welsh biography (DWB), the Council would wish to record its appreciation of the considerable contribution he has made to its success over many years. In acknowledging the near impossibility of identifying a successor who might carry out single-handedly the responsibilities of the post on a voluntary basis, the Council has responded positively to a proposal made by the University of Wales' Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS) and the National Library of Wales (NLW) that as part of a long-term project Professor Dafydd Johnston and Dr Aled Gruffydd Jones should become joint editors with NLW continuing to host the Welsh Biography Online website and with CAWCS staff being responsible for content and editorial standards. External funding will be sought but, initially, the Society, may be expected to contribute towards NLW's digitisation costs in order to enable the development of the website to move forward during 2014. The Society will continue to be closely associated with the branding of the publication.

As indicated in the report of the Honorary Treasurer, the Society's finances are in good health with income continuing to exceed expenditure. Particularly gratifying has been the increase in income arising from Gift Aid and savings achieved through the increased use of email and through the payment of membership subscriptions by Direct Debit. As always, income obtained through subscriptions remains essential and while it is pleasing that there has been a slight increase in membership during the year, with recruitment mainly effected through the website, the importance of further recruitment and of the role of existing members in facilitating this, cannot be underestimated.

It is pleasing, too, that there has been a considerable increase in the number of members – of all ages - accessing the website. With the current system having been in place for over three years, Council has acknowledged the case for resources to be identified to ensure that regular updates can be made and to this end has requested that a business case should be made, in accordance with the current financial processes of the Society, to examine expenditure on improvements and on running costs against the financial benefits that might accrue.

In acknowledging that the financial reserves remain adequate but that the rate of return on investments is low, Council is investigating the possibility of devoting some part of its assets to the development of long term and continual improvements in education in Wales.

A highlight of the year was the presentation in September of the Society's Medal by Sir John Meurig Thomas FRS to Sir Martin Evans FRS, the joint winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 2007. A former Professor of Mammalian Genetics and Director of the School of Biosciences at Cardiff University, Sir Martin subsequently became President of the University in 2009 and then Chancellor in 2012. The presentation was made at the Royal Society and was attended by members of the Society, by representatives of Welsh organisations in London and by professional colleagues of Sir Martin.

The Council having received a list of memorials in the maintenance of which the Society had a direct interest, agreed to authorise a payment towards the cost of refurbishment of the memorial to Goronwy Owen at St Mary's Northolt. It was also advised that the memorial to Morisiaid Mon on Anglesey might require attention in a few years' time.

Cordial relationships have been maintained with other Welsh organisations in London such as Wales in London and the Montgomeryshire Society, with both of which the Society holds a joint event each year; with the London Welsh Centre, notably on the Society's involvement in the annual Welsh literature festival held in October and on the possibility of shared accommodation facilities; and with the relatively recently established Welsh Government Offices in Victoria Street where an offer to host some small meetings has been followed up.

The Council was saddened to learn of the deaths of the Marquess of Anglesey, a long serving Vice-President of the Society, and of Dr Gwenda Vaughan Thompson whose appointment as a Vice-President followed many years' service as a Council member and whose commitment to the Society was reinforced by a legacy, the receipt of which has been gratefully acknowledged.

The Council would also like to place on record its appreciation of the distinguished service given by Clive Jones-Davies, Rev Dr D Ben Rees and Cecil Roberts, all of whom decided not to seek re-election to the membership of the Council.

At the Annual General Meeting in 2013 Professor Prys Morgan was re-elected President and all current Vice-Presidents were re-elected.

The following Council members were elected for a period of three years:

Kenneth Kyffin, Dr Rhian Davies, Dr Adrian Morgan, Dr Sara Elin Roberts and Jenkin Thomas. During the course of the year Professor Gruffydd Aled Williams was co-opted into membership of the Council for one year.

Peter Jeffreys

Honorary Secretary

April 2014