

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 2012

PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 14 MAY 2013

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Nine lectures were held during the course of the calendar year 2012. These included the annual June Gruffydd Memorial lecture held jointly with the Montgomeryshire Society and the annual lecture in Welsh supported by Cymdeithas y Gwyneddigion and Fforwm Cymry Llundain. All lectures took place in London apart from the one delivered at the National Eisteddfod held this year in the Vale of Glamorgan.

6 February 2012 (jointly with the Montgomeryshire Society)

Rocks and Geology: The Welsh Connexion

Dr John Rickus

In the chair: Berwyn Evans, President of the Montgomeryshire Society

6 March 2012 (in association with Wales in London)

Cartographies of Culture: Mapping Welsh writing in English

Dr Damian Walford Davies, Department of English and Creative Writing, Aberystwyth University

In the chair: Jenkin Thomas

17 April 2012

The Story of Welsh Quilts

Jen Jones, The Welsh Quilt Centre

In the chair: Cerdiwen Roberts

8 May 2012

The Crisis of the Media in Wales

Martin Shipton, Chief Reporter of the *Western Mail*

In the chair: Gwenda Sippings

13 June 2012

Cyrraith, carchar a chastell: hynt a hanes llawysrif gyrrreithiol

Dr Sara Elin Roberts

In the chair: Dr Adrian Morgan

6 August 2012 at the National Eisteddfod

Olion traed rhyddid: George Cadogan Morgan a chwympy bastille

Dr Mary-Ann Constantine, University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies

In the chair: Professor Prys Morgan

18 September 2012

The Welsh Missions to India

Dr Nigel Jenkins, Swansea University

In the chair: Elinor Talfan Delaney

16 October 2012

Reflections on Early Medieval Wales

Professor Thomas Charles-Edwards, Jesus College, Oxford

In the chair: Professor Helen Fulton

29 November 2012 (in association with Wales in London)

Hwl and hiraeth: Richard Burton and Wales

Professor Chris Williams, Swansea University

In the chair: Dr Carol Bell

The Council wishes to thank both those who accepted its invitation to deliver lectures – particularly Martin Shipton who stepped in at very short notice - and those who chaired the meetings. The quality of these contributions to the programme has been acknowledged while attendance has been good. The Council would wish to thank the staff of the Medical Society of London in whose premises the London lectures were held, and to acknowledge assistance provided at the National Eisteddfod. While no other meetings were held in Wales during the year these will continue to be considered for inclusion in future programmes should there be sufficient enthusiasm and adequate administrative support at the local level.

The 2011 edition of the *Transactions* was published in 2013 and a copy was sent to each of the individuals and institutions in the UK and Overseas listed on the database. A surplus of about fifty copies has been projected and these have been archived and barcoded by the Welsh Books Council with no charge for storage. Printed again by Y Lolfa, the *Transactions* volume, the electronic version and articles are available from Y Lolfa via the website. The Council wishes to thank all the contributors and to put on record the work undertaken by the Honorary Editor and the Honorary Publications Officer. Work on the digitisation of the *Transactions* has continued. In considering future editions of the *Transactions*, Council has acknowledged that while it is important to ensure that, in order to reduce the necessity to commission articles not related to the lecture programme, care should be taken to identify topics whose contents can easily be translated into articles for the *Transactions*, it is often unrealistic to expect written material to emanate from lectures containing a considerable pictorial element and that, in these cases it would be appropriate for a précis or for an abstract summary to appear in the *Transactions* and, if possible, for suitable illustrations to be posted on the web-site.

The Council is grateful to all those members who represented the Society on the various public bodies in Wales during the course of the year.

As will be noted from the report of the Honorary Treasurer, the Society's finances are in good health, with a surplus of over £9,000 being achieved at year -end. This figure is higher than might have been expected owing to gift aid being claimed for a period of three years. The financial reserves of the Society remain adequate and Council has embarked on a policy of holding less on deposit and more on longer-term investments. In terms of the latter Council believes that some part of its assets should be devoted to the development of long term and continual improvements in Welsh life, possibly in education, which will, in turn, improve the Society's profile and increase membership. In acknowledging the importance of continuing to invest in the website and in anticipating that expenses in 2013 are likely to be higher, Council remains committed to a policy of ensuring that large items of expenditure continue to be subject to detailed scrutiny and linked to a viable business case or plan before commitments are made, and acknowledges that it is essential for the level of subscription income to be maintained.

Membership is currently just over eight hundred of which nearly seven hundred are United Kingdom residents. Although inevitably there has been some loss through death and resignation it is encouraging that over thirty new members have been recruited during the course of the year, the majority of whom did so through the website. The number of individual members paying subscriptions by direct debit has been significant and efforts continue to encourage others to follow suit. The advantages of communication by email, both in terms of cost and of efficiency, continue to be emphasised. The importance of attracting younger members is acknowledged and Council is currently considering further marketing strategies with a continued emphasis on the importance of networking both with individuals and with other organisations in London and in Wales.

The part played by the website in advertising the Society's activities is becoming increasingly self-evident. The entire programme is placed on it at the beginning of the season and before each lecture an opportunity is taken to publish a synopsis and a short curriculum vitae of the speaker. Recently, with the agreement of individual speakers, some lectures have been recorded and converted into a podcast that can be accessed by all members, thus providing an opportunity for those unable to attend to listen to what has taken place.

The Council's confidence in the significance of the website was reinforced when a Mr Roger Pope of Pewsey in Wiltshire used it as means of seeking further information on the Society and of contacting the President. At an auction in Chicago he had acquired a solid silver medal designed by John Flaxman in 1821 and given by the then Cymmrodorion of London as a prize for a winning essay on *Gwlatgarwch* to Evan Evans 'Ieuan Glad Geirionydd' at the time studying for the Church in Berriew, Montgomeryshire. Mr Pope, many of whose family had migrated to Tonyrefail during the coal boom, offered the medal to the Society and this has been accepted. It will be used as a badge of office for the President, to be worn on all ceremonial occasions. Mr Pope has been formally thanked for his enormous generosity and has accepted an invitation to become an honorary member of the Society.

In response to comments from some members that not all documentation circulated is in both Welsh and English, Council has acknowledged that while a bilingual policy for the Society is not mandatory, the Society should remain committed to publishing, wherever possible, all papers in

both languages. It recognises, however, that individual members of the Council currently carry out translation services on a good will basis and that it might be necessary to make specific provision for this in future and to devote sufficient resources to make this possible.

The Council has widened the terms of reference of the Committee set up to consider future recipients of the Society's Medal to include a review of the appointment of Vice-Presidents and the extent to which they take into account the changing face of Wales both politically and culturally. In terms of general governance the executive committee has continued to operate on an *ad hoc* basis while steps are being taken to encourage a greater involvement by individual members of Council in executive functions, with a particular emphasis on marketing and on improved liaison with other organisations. At the Council's meeting in October the current officers were appointed to serve for another three years. It was agreed that the role of the honorary treasurer should be expanded to include the responsibilities of the membership secretary and that, in recognition of the increasing importance of the website as a major shop window of the Society's activities, to appoint Adrian Morgan as the Council officer with responsibility for its maintenance and content. Although there has been a welcome degree of continuity in the terms of office of current office holders, the importance of succession planning has not been underestimated and will continue to be a factor in seeking future appointments to the Council.

It was with great pleasure that the Council learned during the course of the year that HRH the Prince of Wales had agreed to continue to serve as Patron of the Society for a further five years until November 2017.

The Council was saddened to learn of the death of Lord Hooson, a Vice-President of the Society and active supporter of the Society for many years.

It would also like to place on record its appreciation of the long and distinguished service given by Dr David Hilling and His Honour David Owen-Jones both of whom decided not to seek re-election to membership of the Council.

At the Annual General Meeting for 2011 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: Dr Elizabeth Allen, Ann Arnold, Ifor ap Dafydd, Elinor Talfan Delaney, Arwyn Lloyd Hughes, Peter Jeffreys, Ceridwen Roberts.

The Council wishes to extend its thanks to E Glyn Hughes who, following his retirement, has stepped down from serving as the Independent Examiner of the Accounts after many years service, and to welcome his successor, Professor Richard Lewis, who has held a chair in accounting at Aberystwyth University and subsequently served as a Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Open University.

Peter Jeffreys
Honorary Secretary
April 2013