

# The Old Dominicans' Association



## Newsletter

### Spring 2013

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### The Newsletter Editorial Team and Archivist

(See page 43 for contact details)

*Please note that the views expressed by our contributors are not necessarily the views of the Association*



**Mr. Cledwyn Jones in the 1940's**

*(See also Page 22.)*

## Chairman's Letter.



Successfully dodging the walk before the Rucksack Club's Winter lunch with what appeared (to me at least) a valid reason I thoroughly enjoyed the excellent meal and the pleasant company. Storm conditions outside, driving wind and rain, the snow not completely gone and as is well known lying snow can pull in further snow! Despite witnessing the arrival of those intrepid adventurers who had helped uphold the honour of the ODRC, soaking and freezing, there was no feeling of shame; that would come later but only for a fleeting moment! The main consideration was the hope that the weather would hold without deterioration so the homeward journey would be uneventful. Basking in the good conversation and the humour which appears without fail when the Rucksack Club meets I realised that the arrangements were such that it would be almost impossible to make a speech. Ah, my thoughtful committee, not getting back at the Chairman for not walking! But wait (my paranoia concerning the Committee is fairly well recognised) what had I missed? Worse what else could they ask me to do? Suddenly our guests were leaving and there were duties to be performed. They had enjoyed themselves and signed on as "Friends". Everyone seemed happy and there were several small groups slowly drifting towards the door. The gale howled outside and one could just about hear the pleas for Summer "to roll on". When was Summer? The consensus suggested some time in February and my diary does suggest that the 26<sup>th</sup> was a good day with a temperature in the upper sixties! It has not been very good generally! One of the pleasures of life is to walk barefooted along the Lavan Sands towards Beaumaris and then return walking before a slowly advancing tide! It did not happen this year. However I have successfully dodged having to swim down the Straits followed by the Committee in line! No physiotherapist! Thinking back I seemed to have dodged several outings. Always with good reason of course! Indeed Dickens could well have replaced "The Artful" by the Chairman, if he were still around. It has been cold! The Secretary and myself congratulated ourselves on some of our postponements but, perhaps we need not have been so quick! But we were wise and mature so we can live with it! To more serious matters! The recent debate regarding Friars and the Welsh language reminded me of my own time. The Secretary feels that the O:D:A: should have an opinion on such a fundamental matter. Please let us know your views. In 1950 the Caernarvonshire Education Committee decreed that all pupils should have at least one hour of Welsh every week. Woodcock, his father was Head Gardener at Bodorgan, refused to believe that any language could possess words which did not appear in the dictionary! To the end of his time at school "Mutation" remained a complete mystery to him! Although older one of his friends was Tom Jones, who has agreed to be our guest speaker in May. I have clear memories of his roles in the School Plays. I look forward to hearing his recollections at our dinner and hope that you will be able to join us, both at the General Meeting

and at the evening meal. Perhaps not looking forward to it but I will be interested to hear how you think we are doing!

**Warren**

## **Secretary's Report**



"Have you noticed how the older you get the faster the years seem to accelerate past?"

So ran a recent conversation with an old school friend meeting for the first time for several years. No doubt echoes of so many such conversations at ODA Members Dinners.

All the more valuable, then are such get-together's as since school friendships and consequent wide ranging discussion of family, career, health and welfare issues, become the emotional milestones very often, of our later lives.

Do I exaggerate the value of the bi-annual ODA members meetings? Perhaps, but I am sure that you follow my point. Once every two years our scattered membership have an opportunity to meet with old friends, express an opinion about the ODA Newsletter, kick out the committee, or launch an exciting new idea to recruit younger members into the Association.

Indeed we do need younger members, as Paul Smith points out in his letter. Where are the archive reports and articles about the Chess club or the girl's hockey teams' achievements? If any members reading this know of them please send in your articles so that we can make the Newsletter relevant to you.

It is not our newsletter, it is yours so it reflects what you send us, for your interest or boredom perhaps, the choice really is up to you.

I look forward to seeing (almost) all of you on Saturday May 11th!!

**Elfyn**

## **Reminder**

**The Bi-annual General Meeting and reunion will be held at  
the Carreg Bran Hotel, Llanfairpwllgwyngyll**

**On Saturday 11 May 2013 starting at 1400 hrs.**

**Details in the Newsletter Winter 2012,**

**Please send confirmation page 41 to Elfyn.**

**NB There is a change to the soup it will be Vegetable soup  
not Tomato soup.**

## Message from the Editor



Winter brought the recent snows. Several contributors in this edition mention memories. I wonder how many remember the winter of 1946/47? I can remember seeing a Crossville Double-Decker bus on the road to Caernarvon half submerged by the drifting snows. And there was the severe winter of 1962/63. Maybe winters were more severe then? As I write, it is the 80 th. Anniversary of the Battle of Stalingrad (thinking of severe winters). But what of The Dominican As Elfyn states “this is not our newsletter, but yours.”

We as an editorial group can only produce what is contributed by you the readers. So far, I agree, it has been very much about Boss, but this only reflects an active interest in that particular period of the school's history. So over to you, dear readers. Have a think. If talking about memories what about the person who made the most impression on you during your time at Friars? I know two members of staff who influenced me. One was Harry Lloyd who was an inspiration to achieve higher levels of performance. And the other one was J R Griffiths or Mochin, as he was known. This man was brilliant at Geography. He knew his beloved Snowdonia like the back of his hand. He knew where every glacial feature could be found. He, too, was an inspiration especially after E W Jones had thrown me out of his Latin class for thinking the “omit” (third person present tense) for some obscure Latin word. Bangor Boys didn't know such words meant leave out! He was furious as he threw my homework book back at me and said “Out”. Can you imagine wandering the corridors without a home? I thought carefully which subject I would prefer to take and it was Geography. I timidly knocked on JR's door and asked if I might join him. He said, “On one condition. You work” That was Year 4 and I covered the syllabus in 18 months and passed! He was supportive and enthusiastic. He made my life bearable. Later in Form Six I shared JR's expertise with Dennis Wood. Can you imagine a class today with just two pupils?

So come along! Put your thinking caps on and relate tales of the person who made the most impression on you.

It goes without saying that we look forward to sharing your company at the Bi-annual Reunion on May 11. See you there!

**Cliff**

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

**We need your subscriptions to continue producing the Newsletter in this format. Please turn to Page 41 for a tear out Bankers Standing Order form. Or send your cheque To the Treasurer, whose address is on page 2. Your kind co-operation will be much appreciated.**

# Where do you read yours?



Cliff Jones reads his on an Anatolian mountain top, Nemrut Dag which lies 40 km (25 mi) north of [Kahta](#), near [Adiyaman](#) in southeastern Turkey. In 62 BC, King [Antiochus I Theos of Commagene](#) built on the mountain top a tomb-sanctuary flanked by huge statues (8–9 m/26–30 ft high) of himself, two lions, two eagles and various [Greek](#), [Armenian](#), and [Iranian](#) gods, such as [Hercules-Vahagn](#), [Zeus-Aramazd](#) or Oromasdes (associated with the Iranian god [Ahura Mazda](#)), [Tyche](#), and [Apollo-Mithras](#). These statues were once seated, with names of each god inscribed on them. The heads of the statues have at some stage been removed from their bodies, and they are now scattered throughout the site.

The pattern of damage to the heads (notably to noses) suggests that they were deliberately damaged because of belief in [iconoclasm](#). The statues have not been restored to their original positions. The site also preserves stone slabs with bas-relief figures that are thought to have formed a large [frieze](#). These slabs display the ancestors of [Antiochus](#), who included both [Greek](#) and [Persians](#).

*Ed.*



## **From the Archives**

We have recently acquired a further ten publications of the school magazine "***The Dominican***" which can be viewed on the ODA web page. (*No.1 Summer 1908; No.4 Christmas 1909; No.5 Midsummer 1910; No. 7 Midsummer 1911; No.8 Christmas 1911; No.9 Midsummer 1912; No. 10 February 1913; No.68 Summer 1958; No. 78 Summer 1963; No.82 Spring 1967.*)

The Very first issue was published in the summer of 1908 and here is the first foreword by the Headmaster William Glynn Williams.

### **Foreword,**

*The Dominican of old, rising with the dawn at his Friary on the banks of the Adda, would don his black stole, sling his book-bag over his shoulder, and, staff in hand, trudge from house to house of the country-side, disseminating for a small fee, among the sons of the neighbouring squires and yeomen-farmers, the rudiments of a liberal education.*

*"The Dominican" of to-day, issuing forth from "Friars on the hill," clad in its black and yellow cover,—it is its own book-bag, and has no staff other than an editorial—craves an ever widening circulation among Friars boys, with a view to the dissemination, for a small fee, of what must conduce at any rate to a liberal education, both indirectly, by relieving the monotony, adding a zest to the interests, and stimulating the "esprit de corps" of school life, and directly, by occasionally, it is hoped, discovering and eliciting talent which might otherwise have lain latent for ever. The purpose of "The Dominican" is, roughly speaking, threefold; its primary object is to be a faithful record of all such School happenings as are thought worthy of being recorded. Secondly, it will set before a critical, but not a carping, public any literary efforts in prose or verse which Friars boys, always assured of the encouragement and sympathy of the Editor, may send in to him, and finally, by inviting and inserting contributions from "old boys" of every period, it will help to blend the old with the new, and maintain that continuity in the history of an ancient school which was so nearly snapt for all time by the Intermediate Education Act of 1889.*

*Nocte latent Fratres, Domini de nomine diedi;*

*"Foedere fraterno" tamen illinc utimur orto,*

*Quo liber hie vigeat, qui nomine gaudet eodem.*

**W. Glynn Williams.**

***As it was then, so is it now, in our Old Dominicans' Association  
Newsletter.***



## From the Archives (*continued*)

During a recent visit to the Gwynedd Archives at Caernarfon, I found a copy of the Will of Dr. Geoffrey Glyn, founder of Friars School, I copied the text from the archives record word for word, and include it below; Whilst my spelling and grammar was always the subject of red ink corrections at school, any errors below are not mine on this occasion!

### ***Copy of the Will of Dr. Geoffrey Glyn, July 8<sup>th</sup>. 1557***

*15 Monetary bequests totalling £144.11s 8d.*

*£20 to each of his sisters who survive him; a year's wages @ 20s. to Thomas ap Rowlands and all his servants at the time of his death.*

*Other bequests comprise: his grey gelding, his second saddle and bridle, his lydaye and a year's wages to Owen Glyn; his cloak, boots and spurs to Sir Richard Rowlands; his wood knife and cross-bow to his uncle John ap Rhys, and his best ring with the greatest turquoise in it to mistress Grace; his best saddle and bridle, the ring with a death's head enamelled on to Dr. Ellis; his bay gelding to the Bishop of Ely; and his grey colt and his standing gilt cup to the Bishop of Rochester.*

*He leaves the frier howes in Bangor and his lands in North Wales and elsewhere to Morris, Bishop of Rochester and William, Bishop of Bangor, to the use of a grammar school to be maintained at Bangor for the better eduacon of bringing vpp of poore men's children; £20 to be spent on 'edifying' the building, and £400 to the bishops to purchase lands reversions, or annual commodities to the yearly value of £200 to the use of ten scholars 'diligently to be brought vpp at the same Scole'.*

**Hefin Williams (ODA Archivist).**

### **Wise words from a former Headmaster**

As I was lying in bed pondering the problems of the world, I rapidly realized that I don't really give a rat's ass. It's the tortoise life for me!

1. If walking is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.
2. A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water, and is fat.
3. A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years.
4. A tortoise doesn't run and does nothing, yet it lives for 450 years.

And you tell me to exercise? I don't think so. I'm retired. God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Now that I'm older here's what I've discovered: I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.

## Correspondence

Dear Secretary

Having recently received the winter newsletter I am inspired to e-mail you with some ideas as the co-opted member for recruiting young members.

The inspiration came from comments made by you and others in that newsletter Dewi Cooke's article mentioned colours - I was fortunate enough to receive double colours - rugby and athletics – in fact I still have them!!

By mention of two teachers -Mrs Sciviter and "Bunny" or E P Jones who taught chemistry.

I am also aware that I am tasked with trying to encourage younger members. I have suggested previously adverts in the local newspapers and the use of social media in collaboration with current pupils but as I don't live nearby nor do I receive social media and local papers I don't know if the ODA has actually done that.

Please don't take this the wrong way Elfyn I aim to attempt to progress ODA not criticise but the format of the newsletter is interesting to me to a degree but is not of my era and so lacks something. I am sure this is the same for others of my era and of course since my era. The most modern contributor is Dewi Cooke 1955-61 and i didn't begin till 1966 - 46 years ago.

Given the above and my task I was wondering how we can update the newsletter and hopefully engage more with the younger old boys and of course girls of Friars. One of the things I was wondering about was the Hall of Fame mentioned. Given Dewi's comments re colours why not begin with a colours parade of names. Was colours only given for sporting activities I wonder? Is there a list of these somewhere in the school archives.

Then there is always the old school amalgamation of Friars, the girls grammar school and the secondary modern school Deiniol in 1971 to provide some interest not only to the current ODA members who may not have been part of that transition but also younger pupils who may remember it or wonder how it happened. I have a copy of the "New Dominican" school magazine which was first produced in the summer term of 1972 that is at the end of the first year of the co-educational comprehensive school.

I was in the first 6th at that transition time and remember well the front cover competition by pupils and vividly remember many of the reports and articles.

There is reference to so many school clubs including the ATC which has often been included in our ODA newsletters. It would be interesting to see how many of them still exist and what new ones there are for example computer club! Interestingly I note in the New Dominican that Phil Lunn was playing for the 1st X1 at that time who went on to play for Bangor City FC for a long time and who owned a local taxi firm. How many others can we discover and of course GIRLS! Lets get them interested too. What of the old teachers - I recall the welsh artist Gwylim Pritchard teaching us art for several years in both the grammar school and the comprehensive.

Regards

**Paul Smith 1966-73**

## Ivor Williams Revisited by Roy Thomas

Ivor Williams, headmaster of Friars School from 1935 to 1954, and known affectionately to successive generations of Old Dominicans as ‘Boss’, was born and brought up in Bangor, and was a pupil at Friars School (1899-1908). In 1908, he won a Welsh Classical Scholarship to Jesus College, Oxford, where, most of us have been led to believe, he achieved a double first in Greats, played in the Jesus College First XI Association Football team, and may even have been awarded an Oxford cricket blue.

On a recent visit to Oxford I was somewhat dismayed to discover that this account of Boss’ academic and sporting achievements is not entirely accurate. The main source of information about members of Jesus College is the college magazine. Unfortunately, the first issue of this magazine did not appear until October 1912, by which time Boss had already left Oxford. However, the October 1912 issue does contain the Honours Class List for 1912, which shows that Ivor Williams was awarded, not a First Class degree, but a Third. Class degree in Literae Humaniores. It also contains a review of the 1912 cricket season with short pen portraits of each of the players. Ivor Williams is not amongst them. One can be pretty certain, therefore, he never played cricket for the University! Nor, according to the college archivist, was he a member of the Jesus College soccer team in his first year (1908-9). At some point in the next couple of seasons, he must have made it into the side since he captained the college team in his final year in 1911-12. The photograph below, reproduced from the college magazine, shows Boss seated at the centre of the front row, and the accompanying review of the 1911-12 season stated that “the skilful captaincy and vigorous play of Ivor Williams will be missed”.

It was also reported in the October 1912 issue that Boss’ 1911-12 team had received an invitation from the Sporting Club of Prague (described by the magazine as “one of the strongest institutions of its kind on the Continent”), to undertake a short tour of Bohemia. The team duly embarked on 18 September 1912 on what must have been, in the days well before air or luxury coach travel, a rather daunting itinerary. The team arrived in Prague on Friday morning and lost their opening match, played on the Saturday afternoon before a crowd of over 3,000, against Slavia, a team which consisted of eleven internationals. The team won four of their remaining seven matches, played at different venues right across Bohemia. Some of the games were described in the college magazine as ‘very rough’. In one match the team had only nine players left on the field for most of the second half.

When I first heard of this quite remarkable tour, I was surprised that Boss never mentioned it at all during my time at Friars. However, there is a simple explanation for this. I was subsequently informed by the college archivist that only seven of those in the photograph made the tour. The college had to borrow two players from other colleges, and past players from previous seasons made up the rest of the party. For whatever reason, Boss was not one of those who went to Bohemia.

When I went up to Jesus College in 1956 the head porter was a gentleman by the name of Fred Reeley, who first started working for the college in September 1900. Like many college servants, Reeley had a phenomenal memory. He had a very clear recollection of Ivor Williams, and told me on one occasion “I’m afraid Mr Williams often arrived back

at college after the main door had been locked, somewhat the worse for wear.” Based on Reeley’s testimony, coupled with Boss’ periodic exhortations to sixth formers in the School Assembly to give up school milk and ‘to start drinking beer like men,’ one might suppose it would be safe to predict that, during his time at Jesus College, Boss spent his Saturday evenings propped up against the bar of the nearby Turl Tavern.

In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. During his first two years at Oxford, Boss spent most of his Saturday evenings at meetings of the University Welsh Society, Cymdeithas Dafydd ap Gwilym, engaged in learned discussion about the language, culture and history of Wales, and sustained by nothing stronger than tea and biscuits. The ‘Dafydd’, as it is commonly called, was formed in 1886. One of its founding members is an Old Dominican, Sir John-Morris Jones, who by the time Boss entered Jesus College was Professor of Welsh at Bangor, and one of the society’s three honorary presidents. A fourth, David Lloyd George, was recruited in 1909.

I knew that Boss was Welsh speaking since my father, who worked on the railway, told me that he invariably spoke Welsh with the railwaymen he befriended on his weekly outings to his favourite watering hole in Chester or the Conservative Club in Rhyl. However, I never once heard Boss speak a word of Welsh at school, and it would be no exaggeration to state that apart from the statutory Welsh language classes delivered by Sparks and his successor, Pric Bach, Boss’ tenure as headmaster was marked by a complete absence of any recognition that the language even existed. As Tom Jones pointed out in the illuminating set of portraits of the head teachers of Friars School which he produced for the 450 th. anniversary edition of the Newsletter, the position had been very different under the previous head. Under Bodfan Griffiths’ headship, the Welsh language began to flourish and he introduced an annual St David’s Day eisteddfod along with other Welsh drama and literary activities. All of these were swept aside by Ivor Williams and by 1947, in Tom’s words, “much of the Welsh language ambience of the school that had developed during Bodfan’s time had gone.”

The last thing I was expecting, therefore, when I consulted the minutes of Cymdeithas Dafydd ap Gwilym in the Bodleian Library was to find that Ivor had been associated in any way with the Dafydd. What I found, in fact, was quite astounding. As Welsh speaking readers will be able to confirm from the references to Boss taken from the minutes, and reproduced below, Ivor (or ‘Ifor’ as he was known within the confines of the Dafydd!) was one of the society’s most loyal and enthusiastic members.

Unfortunately, there is a gap in the minutes from the summer of 1910 to February 1914, so we only have information about Ivor’s contributions to the society’s deliberations during the first two years of his period in Oxford. During that time he delivered three papers at the meetings of the Dafydd, all of which were enthusiastically received by those present. One member commented that Ivor’s first paper, on Gerald of Wales, had been delivered in a spirit worthy of Gerald himself! The subject of Boss’ second paper was Owain Glyndwr. On this occasion, he began by describing the sad state of Wales at the time of Glyndwr and the suffering of its people at the hands of their English oppressors, before going on to outline the heroic attempts that were made to ‘throw off the foreign yoke.’ One of the members responded by stating that it was Glyndwr who had planted the spirit of patriotism in the hearts of the people of Wales. In his third paper Ivor gave ‘an accomplished and learned account of a famous Welshman who was

largely unknown to the members of the society'. John Williams, who was born in Conwy, was appointed Bishop of Lincoln (or, in Ivor's words, 'Esgob Coedlwydcoed'!) in 1621. He subsequently became Lord Chancellor, but was later imprisoned by Charles I before being released and consecrated as Archbishop of York. He eventually made his way back to north Wales where he initially supported the Crown in the civil war before switching to support the parliamentary side. He is buried in the cemetery at Llandegai church.

In a discussion of a paper on the poetry of Dafydd ap Gwilym, Boss is quoted as saying that despite all the Greek and Latin that he had read, he thought those languages were nowhere near as 'swynol' (charming) as Welsh, and, on another occasion, he asserted that no country can lay claim to a literature which bears comparison with the literature of Wales. At another meeting, he expressed high hopes for the University of Wales, an institution which in later life he would invariably dismiss as 'that degree factory'. In the summer term of 1910, Boss was appointed as Secretary of the Dafydd. The person appointed as Deputy Secretary, and who Ivor endearingly refers to in the minutes as 'Parry Bach', was none other than T H Parry Williams, one of the twentieth century's leading Welsh language poets and scholars, who, two years later, in 1912, won both the Crown and the Chair at the National Eisteddfod.

As Tom Jones remarked in the Newsletter in 2007, Boss remains something of an enigma. One of the questions posed by Tom is why did Ivor Williams 'seem always to devalue the Wales that had nurtured him, its language and, in particular its university'. The evidence, buried in the vaults of the Bodleian Library, of Boss' total commitment during his student days to the language and culture of Wales, adds a new twist to the enigma, and almost certainly makes it even more difficult to unravel.



*Jesus College Football Team 1911-1912 Boss centre as Captain*

## “Ifor” Williams

*Myfi sy'n fachgen ifanc ffôl  
Yn byw yn ôl fy ffansi  
Myfi'n bugeilio'r gwenith gwyn  
Ac arall yn ei fedi.*

Datganiad o'r hen bennill adnabyddus, 'Y Gwenith Gwyn' oedd cyfraniad Ivor Williams (Boss) at raglen adloniadol a gynhaliwyd gan Gymdeithas Dafydd ap Gwilym yn Rhydychen ar 12ed o Fehefin 1909.

Dengys Cofnodion y Gymdeithas, a gedwir yn Llyfrgell y Bodleian yn Rhydychen, y treuliai

Ivor y rhan fwyaf o nosweithiau Sadwrn yn ystod 1908-10 yng nghyfarfodydd y Dafydd ac y cyfrana'i'n gyson at weithgareddau'r Gymdeithas.

Y tro cyntaf iddo fynychu un o'r cyfarfodydd, a hynny fel ymwelydd, oedd ar 7 Tachwedd 1908. Yn ôl y Cofnodion, darllenwyd papur rhagorol y noson honno gan LG Owen ar 'Enwogion Penllyn.' Mi roedd LG Owen yn golgeidwad dawnus. Cafodd ei ddewis i chwarae dros y Brifysgol yn erbyn Caergrawnt yn nhymor 1909-10 a thymor 1910-11. Ar ddiwedd y cyfarfod cafwyd areithiau gan y tri ymwelydd oedd yn bresennol y noson honno: *"Cododd GD Jones ar ei draed a diolchodd yn gynnes am y fraint o fod yn bresennol. Roedd Ifor Williams yn llawn mor ddiolchgar ac yn ôl pob golwg yr oedd wedi mwynhau ei hun"* (Ifor sylwer nid Ivor. Y fersiwn Cymraeg o'i enw a geir bron yn ddi-ethriad yn y Cofnodion!)

Yr wythnos ganlynol, darllenwyd papur ar lolo Morgannwg. *"Diolchodd Ifor Williams am yr erthygl(!) ar lolo Morgannwg ond am fod materion pwysig gan y Gymdeithas i'w trin ni ddywedodd ychwaneg."*

Am 10.50 canwyd yr Hen Wlad ac yna *"arhosodd yr aelodau ar ôl am ychydig funudau a phenderfynwyd gwneud aelodau newyddion ar nos Sadwrn Tachwedd 28."*

Yn unol a'r penderfyniad hwn *"ar 28ed o Dachwedd 1908 fe ddebyniwyd Ifor Williams yn aelod o Gymdeithas Dafydd ap Gwilym."*

Cynhaliwyd dadl yng nghyfarfod agoriadol y tymor newydd ar 23 Ionawr 1909. Y mater o dan sylw oedd: Pa un ai fantais neu anfantais i Gymru fyddai colli'r iaith Gymraeg.

*"Siaradodd Hedog Jones yn gryf dros y fantais o golli'r Gymraeg tra ddadleuai Ifor Williams yn erbyn hynny gan dystio nad oes yr un wlad sydd a llenyddiaeth all ddal cymhariaeth a llenyddiaeth Gymraeg."*

Dafydd ap Gwilym oedd testun y papur a draddodwyd ar y 6ed o Chwefror.

*"Cydnabyddai Ifor Williams ei anwybodath o Dafydd ap Gwilym ond ei fod yn gwybod llawer ar ôl clywed y papur. Er cymaint yr oedd wedi ei ddarllen o Roeg a Lladin nid oedd yn meddwl eu bod mor swynol a'r Gymraeg."*

Yng nghyfarfod yr wythnos ganlynol cafwyd papur gan WG Owen, ar 'Gwylliaid Cochion Mawddwy', papur yn ôl y Cofnodion a gyhoeddwyd yn y wasg.

*“Diolchai Ifor Williams i’r darllenwr am ddwyn atgofion iddo. Soniai hefyd am rai Yspaenwyr a ddaethant i Sir Fôn.”*

( Mae’n bur debyg mai camgymeriad ar ran yr ysgrifennydd yw’r cyfeiriad at Yspaenwyr ac mai ysbeilwyr y soniai Ivor amdanynt. Gweler cyfrol Bobi Jones, ‘Crwydro Môn’, ble y ceir hanes am fôr-ysbeilwyr yn hudo llongau ar y creigaiau gyda fflaglau mewn llawer ardal ym Môn.)

Y tro cyntaf i Ivor ddarllen papur oedd ar 20 Chwefror. Testun ei bapur oedd Geraldus Cambrensis neu Gerallt Cymro.

*“Cafwyd ganddo bapur hynod ddiddorol ac addysgiadol. Dechreuodd trwy ddweud fod darllen hanes Gerallt yn symbyliad i ni fel cenedl. Yna olrhainiodd hanes ei fywyd a’i ymdrechion gyda’r Brenin a’r Pab. Ymddengys mai amcan mawr ei fywyd oedd ceisio annibyniaeth i’r Eglwys Gymreig.*

*Diolchai William Evans am yr ysbyrdiaeth yr oedd y papur wedi ei roi iddo. Teimlai mor ffôl yr ydym yn ceisio efelychu y Saeson pan mae genym hanes mor ogoneddus”.*

Ychwanegai aelod arall, Jacob Morgan, *“fod y papur wedi cael ei ddarllen mewn yspryd teilwng o Gerallt ei hun”.*

Collodd Ivor gyfarfod agoriadol tymor yr haf, ond mae’r cofnodion yn nodi i hanes gweinidog o’r enw Herber Evans (1836-1896), a draddodwyd yn yr ail gyfarfod, *“ddwyn teimladau cartrefol i fynwes Ifor Williams”*

Cynhaliwyd y cyfarfod ar 29 Mai, a hynny am y tro cyntaf, o dan nenbren Ivor yng Ngholeg yr Iesu. Dyma’r unig dro hefyd i’r Cofnodion ei enwi fel Ivor yn hytrach nag Ifor.

Cafwyd papur “hwylus a diddorol” ganddo yn y cyfarfod hwn ar Owain Glyndwr. *“Rhoddodd ger ein bron sefyllfa dorcalonnus Cymru yn amser Owain Glyndwr a’r goddefiadau truenus roedd yn gorfod i ddwyn o dan iau y Saeson.”*

Yna fe aeth ymlaen i olrhain yr ymdrechion a wnaed *“i daflu i ffwrdd yr iau estronol.”*

Derbyniodd Ivor ddiolchiadau gwresog gan bawb oedd yn bresennol. Mynegodd un o’r aelodau mai *“Glyndwr oedd y cyntaf i sefydlu y teimlad o wladgarwch ym mynwes y Cymry”* a theimlai William Evans *“yn dra ddiolchgar i’w gyfaill Ivor.”*

Soniwyd eisoes am ddatganiad Ivor o “Y Gwenith Gwyn” yng nghyfarfod olaf 1908-09. Penderfynwyd yn yr un cyfarfod i wneud Y Gwir Anrhydeddus D Lloyd George yn aelod anrhydeddus o’r Gymdeithas ac mae llythyr o 11 Downing Street yn diolch i’r Gymdeithas am yr anrhydedd i’w weld yn y Cofnodion.

Etholwyd saith o aelodau yn ystod Tymor Mihangel (tymor yr Hydref) 1909 yn cynnwys

G Wynne Griffith a fu’n weinidog nes ymlaen ar gapel Y Tabernacl ym Mangor, Goronwy Edwards a ddaeth yn Diwtor Hanes yng Ngholeg Iesu cyn cael ei benodi’n Athro Hanes ym Mhrifysgol Llundain, a T H Parry Williams, un o’n beirdd amlycaf ac un a wnaeth gyfraniad unigryw i ysgolheictod a llenyddiaeth Gymraeg.

Cafwyd noson o glebran am ragoriaethau Cymru yng nghyfarfod agoriadol y tymor. *“Cyfeiria i Ifor Williams at allu y Cymro i ddweud pethau trawiadol.”*



'Rhai o ddiffygion y Cymry' oedd teitl y papur a ddarllenwyd gan DJ Lloyd ar 23 Hydref. Awgrymodd y siaradwr mai Sais Addoliaeth oedd un o'n prif ddifygion. *"Cyfeiriodd Ifor Williams at ein culni ond edrychai ymlaen at amser gwell gan fod gennym Brifysgol erbyn hyn a chan fod ysgolion canolraddol yn cael eu hadeiladu ym mhob rhan o'r wlad"*

Cynhaliwyd y cyfarfod ar 30 Hydref o dan nenbren Ivor yng Ngholeg Iesu. Rhoddir cryn sylw yn y Cofnodion at "y paratodau helaeth a wnaed ar ein cyfer gan y gwestiwr – yn cynnwys teisennau, bananiaid(!), afalau ac ysmygau(!)" Ar Dachwedd 6 cafwyd papur ar Ben Bowen (1878-1903), bardd o Dreorci a ddechreuodd weithio yn y lofa yn ddeuddeg oed. Pum mlynedd yn ddiweddarach enillodd y Gadair yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Bu farw yn 1903 ac yntau yn dim ond 24 mlwydd oed.

*"Teimlai Ifor Williams fod bywyd Ben Bowen yn dadbrofi y syniad fod diffyg parhad yn un o'n nodweddion. Cyfeiriodd at amryw a ddechreusant yn isel a diolchai am deimlad cartrefol y Dafydd"*

John Penry (1563-93), y pamffledwr o Biwritan a fagwyd ar lethrau Mynydd Epynt, ac a ddienyddiwyd yn 1593 yn sgil cyfres o ymosodiadau ar y sefydliad esgobol, oedd testun y papur a draddodwyd yr wythnos ganlynol.

*"Diolchai Ifor Williams am iaith y papur(!). Yr oedd wedi astudio bywyd John Penry pan yn yr ysgol yn Ffriars ond yr oedd ei gôf wedi ei adael."*

'Archesgob Williams' oedd y testun a ddewiswyd gan Ivor ar gyfer papur a draddodwyd ganddo ar Dachwedd 20. Ganwyd John Williams yng Nghonwy yn 1582 ac fe'i addysgwyd yn Ysgol Rhuthun a Phrifysgol Caergrawnt. Yn 1621 cafodd ei apwyntio yn Esgob Lincoln (neu Caerlwydcoed fel y'i gelwyd gan Ivor!) Yn fuan wedyn fe ddaeth yn Arglwydd Ganghellor ac yn un o brif ymgynhorwyr y Brenin Iago. Ond nid oedd ei berthynas a'i fab, Siarl, gystal, ac yn 1637 fe'i taflwyd i'r carchar. Cafodd ei ryddhau yn 1640 ac yn y flwyddyn ganlynol fe'i cysegrwyd yn Archesgob Caerefrog. Yn 1641 fe ddychwelodd i ogledd Cymru a threfnodd i atgyweirio Castell Conwy ar ei gost ei hun a'i amddiffyn dros blaid y brenin. Erbyn 1646, fodd bynnag, mi roedd yn cynorthwyo cefnogwyr y Senedd.

Gellid tybio mai'r cysylltiadau a brô ei febyd oedd un o resymau Ivor dros ddewis bywyd John Williams yn destun ar gyfer y papur hwn. Mi roedd tad John Williams yn perthyn i deulu'r Penrhyn a chafodd John Williams ei hunan ei gladdu ym mynwent Eglwys Tegai yn Llandygai.

Unwaith eto dengys y Cofnodion i'r papur dderbyn canmoliaeth gwresog gan yr aelodau.

*"Cawsom bapur medrus a galluog am Gymro enwog oedd bron yn hollol ddieithr i aelodau'r Gymdeithas."*

Collodd Ivor sawl cyfarfod yn ystod Tymor Ilar (tymor y Gwanwyn) 1910. Ond mi roedd yn bresennol ar 19 Chwefror pan gafwyd papur *"godidog"* ar Delyneg Cymru gan TH Parry Williams, bardd, yn ôl y Cofnodion, oedd *"eisoes wedi ennill anrhydedd ac y byddai'n sicr cyn hir o ennill Cadair yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol."*

(Yn 1912, ac yntau'n dal yn fyfyrwr, fe enillodd y Gadair a'r Goron yn Eisteddfod Wrecsam.)

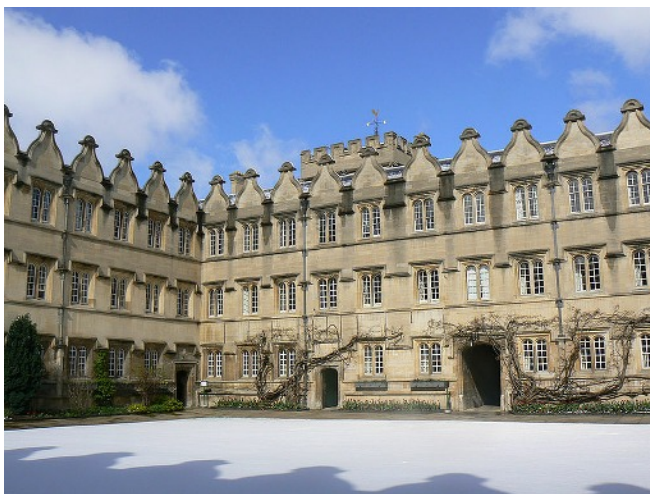
*“Roedd yn dda gan Ifor Williams i fod yn bresennol a llongyfarchai Parry Williams am ei fod mor fach ac mor fawr yr un pryd”* ( hynny mae'n debyg yn gyfeiriad at llysenew Parry Williams, sef, Parry Bach! )

Mi roedd Ifor yn bresennol hefyd yn y Cyfarfod Gwyl Ddewi pryd y cafwyd cyfraniad gan bob un o'r aelodau. Ar ddiwedd y cyfarfod hwn fe'i penodwyd yn ysgrifennydd y Gymdeithas ar gyfer y tymor canlynol gyda neb llai na TH Parry Williams yn ddirpwy iddo. Ivor felly oedd i fod yn gyfrifol am gadw cofnodion cyfarfodydd Tymor y Drindod ( tymor yr haf) 1910. Ond ysgrifennwyd cofnodion y cyfarfod agoriadol, pryd y cafwyd papur gan Goronwy Edwards ar Hanes Y Dafydd, gan y Dirpwy Ysgrifennydd. Ac mae nodyn wedi'i ychwanegu at gofnodion y cyfarfod ar 25 Mai yn datgan mai'r *“Cyn-Ysgrifennydd ddarllenodd cofnodion y cyfarfod blaenorol gan fod yr Ysgrifennydd ar dramp yn rhywle.”*

Hyn oll yn awgrymu o bosib fod brwdfrydedd Ivor yn dechrau pylu erbyn diwedd 1909-10. Mi fuasai'n ddiddorol gwybod be ddigwyddodd yn y flwyddyn ganlynol. A gafodd Ivor ei ethol yn Gaplan (cadeirydd) y Gymdeithas, a pha mor deyrngar oedd o i'r Dafydd yn ystod dwy flynedd olaf ei gyfnod yn Rhydychen? Chawn ni fyth wybod yr atebion i'r cwestiynau hyn gan fod bwlch yn y Cofnodion rhwng cyfarfodydd tymor yr haf 1910 a chyfnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 7 Chwefror 1914.

Ond y dirgelwch pennaf ydi beth a achosodd i'r Cymro ifanc gwlataf oedd, yn ystod ei ddyddiau coleg, mor bleidiol i'n hiaith a'n diwylliant droi cymaint yn erbyn y Gymraeg erbyn iddo gymryd yr awennau yn Ysgol Ffariars chwarter canrif yn ddiweddarach.

## The Welsh College Jesus College Oxford



Jesus College, the only Oxford College to date from the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, received its first royal charter on 27 June 1571, as 'Jesus College in the University of Oxford of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation'. Ten medieval and five early Tudor colleges already existed in Oxford, many of them with regional affiliations. There were also eight or nine survivals from the previously much larger number of academic halls, which offered student accommodation but little formal discipline or teaching, and no endowments or lifelong places for fellows. All of these have since disappeared or been transformed into colleges. Jesus College directly replaced one of these halls, White Hall, which had existed on part of the present College site since the 13th century, and closed down only after the appointment of its last Principal in 1570.

Although founded through the efforts of a mixed group of Oxford- and Cambridge-educated lawyers and clergy, Jesus College was intended for the education of future clergymen. The 1571 charter stated that it would be a 'college of learning in the sciences of philosophy, the moral arts, and knowledge of the Hebrew, Greek and Latin languages, with the eventual aim of professing sacred Theology'. Fledgling lawyers were already well catered for, especially at All Souls College and New Inn Hall, Oxford and the Inns of Court in London, whereas there was a clear need for the training of dedicated, learned clergy to promote the Elizabethan church settlement in the parishes of England, Ireland and Wales. the College received another important bequest in 1713. This came from a former member of the College, Edmond Meyricke, and comprised lands in North Wales and Carmarthen, with funds for the support of Bala Grammar School and for scholarships and exhibitions at Jesus for students from North Wales. More recent benefactions have included gifts of money for new buildings, books and equipment; funds for graduate scholarships, undergraduate travel abroad, and prizes; and bequests for general College purposes, the most recent of which, for £2m, has endowed three tutorial fellowships.

Because many other colleges have attracted Welsh students at various times, Jesus College is perhaps most accurately described as the 'major Welsh college' at Oxford. Its founding charter contains no provision that the majority of its students, or indeed any of them, should be Welsh. Yet, between 1571 and 1915, an almost unbroken succession of 24 Principals of Jesus came from Wales or were of Welsh descent (interrupted by only one non-Welshman, the Cornish-born Principal Francis Howell from Exeter College, during the late Commonwealth years, 1657-1660). Most College Fellows, until the University reforms of 1859 and later, were also Welsh. During the College's first twenty years, the student body was between one-third and one-half English; but by 1600 it had become much more uniformly Welsh, with only a sprinkling of English students, mainly from the border counties.

Benefactions from well-wishers or old members of the College, who were usually of Welsh descent, endowed a number of fellowships and scholarships, often stipulating that the recipients should be of the benefactors' own kin or belong to their particular parish, county, school, or region in Wales. Eligibility was established, in many cases, by pedigree rather than by academic merit alone.

Fellowships (or, from the late 19th century, scholarships) for Channel Islanders, which King Charles I established at Jesus, Exeter and Pembroke Colleges in 1635, and a steady trickle of local Oxford boys entering the College as undergraduates, provided the main geographical variation until the intake broadened after the 19th-century reforms.

Throughout the 17th and early 18th centuries the College had represented the whole Welsh social spectrum, from wealthy landowners' sons enjoying a high standard of comfort to poor boys financing their studies as servitors, with set duties to perform around the College. From the mid- to late 18th century onwards, sons of the richer Welsh gentry tended to go to more fashionable colleges, while many men from relatively humble backgrounds, such as hill farmers' or miners' sons, came to Jesus from the various Welsh endowed schools and (later) County Schools, in many cases gaining financial support from scholarships and exhibitions.

Although the mid-19th-century University reforms ended the specific restrictions attached to many fellowships and scholarships, the College continued to recruit generously from Welsh schools, and also from among graduates of the new university colleges of Wales. Most of these latter took a second BA degree when at Oxford. In recognition of its long-standing Welsh links, the reformed College offered competitive Welsh scholarships and exhibitions to those who had been born or educated in Wales, or could claim at least one Welsh-born parent. After changes in the admissions system, these were merged with the Meyricke scholarships and exhibitions, the outcome of an early 18th-century endowment which had originally favoured North Welshmen. Now awarded (like other scholarships and exhibitions) for promising undergraduate work, these are subject to the same general limitations as the former Welsh awards, with a knowledge of Welsh as an additional qualification. (Meyricke came from a cadet branch of an Anglesey family which prospered under the Tudors. His grandfather was archdeacon of Bangor under Elizabeth).

No evidence exists of the extent to which Welsh was spoken (if at all) in College, although the earliest domestic servants were Welsh and presumably kept up the language, at least among themselves. Official college records were mainly written in Latin; while the College statutes, effective from 1622, forbade public conversation, in class, hall and even the quadrangles, in any language but Latin, Greek or Hebrew. Perhaps in recognition of future clergymens' duties in purely Welsh-speaking areas, Welsh Bibles, grammars and 'other bookes' appeared as items of College expenditure in the 1630s. Yet, within a century of this, when the College purchased seven livings for former fellows (to add to the four Welsh and five English livings that it held through benefactions), these were all in England, within easy riding distance of Oxford. Chapel services in Welsh were held regularly only from the mid-nineteenth century onwards, when Welsh underwent its first serious scholarly revival. The University Professorship of Celtic, known as the Jesus Professorship, has been based in the College since its inception. The first elected Professor (1877-1915) was the distinguished Celtic scholar Sir John Rhys, a Jesus graduate from a humble North Welsh background, later (1895-1915) College Principal.



***Detail of St. David***

***From a stained glass window in the Chapel at Jesus College Oxford.***

*We thank Roy Thomas for sharing this most interesting insight into the life of Ivor Williams. We have now had, over the years, a great number of stories and facts about the man who from 1935 to 1954 guided the lives of untold numbers of Old Dominicans for better or for worst depending on ones point of view, but I feel that now is the time to say goodbye to him. Perhaps some of our readers would care to recall some memories of Ivor's successors for future editions.*

***Ed.***

## Cledwyn Jones

It all started with Uncle Idwal. The year was 1933 and Uncle Idwal, who was Cledwyn's father's cousin, was a pilot in the famous Alan Cobham Flying Circus. Cledwyn became an instant hero amongst his Talysarn school mates when the headmaster allowed them to view the acrobatics of the circus's talented pilot from their school yard.

His future was thus decided. He would make the Royal Air Force his career. His formative years were at Ysgol Talysarn, an all Welsh Council School, with English taught as a syllabus subject. The eleven plus class being taken by Hayden Jones, who was later to become headmaster of Garth School, Bangor. In 1934 Cledwyn passed his Eleven Plus and progressed to the local Grammar School at Penygroes. He was a gifted pupil who also excelled at sport, athletics Victor Ludorum and a regular in the schools First eleven.

When war broke out in September 1939 Cledwyn's ambition to join the RAF was still paramount. He had already joined the school's Air Training Corps as a cadet and took applied maths and physics, in the sixth form, which were allied to flying. 1940 his commanding officer received a letter asking for names of the most promising cadets for fast tracking into university, with a view to operational duties in the RAF.

Cledwyn was referred by the CO and duly accepted at Manchester University in October 1941, where he received a crash course in navigation, astronomy and Morse code. Within five months he was qualified as a Leading Air Craftsman, wearing a uniform with a white flash, which identified him as a student destined for flying duties.

All the new L.A.C's were bright boys, but this did not exclude them from basic training when they transferred to Brighton. Here they had to make beds and clean the wash hand basins and w.c and all the usual bull!

Walking along the promenade one evening, a German plane passed overhead and dropped an explosive on Brighton Railway station, a far cry from Talysarn, where the only connection with the war had been the sound of Luftwaffe bombers flying towards Liverpool.

From there he moved to Fairoakes in Surrey for flight training in a Tiger Moth. The trainees were expected to 'go solo' in under 10 hour's instruction. Cledwyn achieved this in 8 hours.

After a brief period in Manchester, Cledwyn travelled on a night train to Greenock in Scotland, where he joined a U.S troopship bound for Canada. Although the journey was spent in a hammock well below the water line, the food, after wartime rations in Britain, was excellent.

His destination was Halifax Nova Scotia, to a very large RAF camp, where the new arrivals were dispersed to various airfields in Canada and the USA. A two day train journey found Cledwyn in Oklahoma, where he commenced training on Harvards. According to Cledwyn these fine machines had to be treated with the utmost respect for, if mishandled, would stall and go into a vicious spin.

The commanding officer at the base was called Rocksburg, whom it transpired, had been a member of the Flying Circus and knew Uncle Idwal. Small world! After months of advance training Cledwyn achieved the much coveted 'wings' and was ready to return to the UK for active duty.

From 1941 until the end of 1944 Cledwyn served as a pilot in the R.A.F., first as an instructor and later in Halifax bombers.

His flying days came to an abrupt end when his plane crashed in May 1944 while returning from a mission. Unconscious, having suffered a head injury and burns, Cledwyn was admitted to Cosford Hospital for treatment and rehabilitation. Whilst there he was fortunate to benefit from the expertise of Archibald Macindoe, who pioneered new treatment for skin grafting and who later was awarded a knighthood for services in this field.

After many weeks in recovery, he was informed that his flying days were over and was given the option of a permanent ground job in the RAF, or admission to a well-known university of his choice to complete his degree. To the surprise of the great and good in the RAF, Cledwyn rejected Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester and London Universities in favour of Bangor, where he could return to his Welsh roots and speak his mother tongue.

His four years at Bangor were memorable, sweetened by a grant from the RAF of £90.00 per annum and residing in a comfortable room in Neuadd Reichel. He captained the University first eleven football team for two years and his Saturday mornings were spent at the students union's singsong sessions. Here he met Meredydd Evans and Robin Williams and together they formed the famous Triawd y Coleg, which broadcasted on the BBC for over seven years.

At the end of his four years, Cledwyn emerged with a good degree in Philosophy and a teaching certificate. He decided to apply for a post at his old grammar school but this proved to be a mistake, because as a local boy there was too much familiarity between himself and the parents.

The three years he spent at the school were nonetheless happy ones but upon learning that there was a vacancy at Friars School to teach Religious Education, he put in his application.

Present at the interview was Professor D.W.T. Jenkins, as chairman of the Governors and Ivor Williams, Throughout the interview the headmaster did not utter one word, which led Cledwyn to conclude that an R.E. teacher, as required by the H.M.I. would not be welcome at his grammar school. Quite casually, on the way out, having been offered the post, Prof Jenkins advised Cledwyn that he would also be responsible for music for the lower forms. Having no previous experience of teaching music and with a headmaster who regarded music as a subject for girls not boys his first day at Friars School in September 1952 was approached with considerable trepidation.

At his first assembly however Cledwyn was very impressed with the boys rendition of Blake's and Parry's Jerusalem and decided, there and then, that the focus of his music teaching would be towards religious works. He was further encouraged along these lines after a teatime session with Mr E. W. Jones, Classics, who was a member of the Bangor City Choir.





Within a short period of time Cledwyn formed the school choir, meeting three times a week after school dinner. The numbers were augmented when Mr. R. W. Jackson, Mr.E. Humphreys, Mr.E. W. Jones and Mr.W. Harper joined the ranks.

The first big event was a concert in the County Theatre in 1953 to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth

II. The theatre was packed and the audience was visibly moved by the choir's excellent performance.

Other memorable events were the concerts held in the P.J. Hall and at the school's 400 th. centenary service at the Cathedral.

Such was the choir's success that the H.M.I. reported after his inspection in 1960, that Friars School, under Cledwyn's tutelage, was at the forefront of vocal religious music in Wales.

To what extent Boss appreciated such accolade is, as the saying goes 'known only to God'. The relationship between the two men, unlike all the other staff with whom Cledwyn got on famously, was at times very strained, A truce was however eventually reached when Ivor Williams stopped Cledwyn in the corridor and said "Jones, enough of this nonsense, come into my office" where entente cordiale was achieved with two very large glasses of sherry.

Cledwyn thoroughly enjoyed his time at Friars school and was only tempted away when Bryn, his son was due to start at the school. His legacy however remains with the boys who were fortunate to be taught by him and this is still in evidence today in the regard and respect in which he is held by the Old Dominicans.

On a personal note, I feel honoured to have Cledwyn's continued friendship, spanning well over 60 years. Starting as a pupil and a sixth former, then in adulthood with forays in so many musical experiences as secular and non-secular choral tenors, a member of his Wythawd Tryfan, as an accompanist for his Gwyl Corawl rehearsals and latterly as members of the Bangor Probus Club. To me Cledwyn will always be a good friend, mentor and a thorough gentleman.

## **Barry Wynne 1951 to 1958**

## Members of 1557 Squadron at Lledr House Youth Hostel Dolwyddelen. Summer 1947.



*YHA Staff, Albert Roberts, David Ives, ??, Jeff Brown, T.V.Lewis, Gordon Lyon.  
Bill Lewis.  
Mr E P Jones (Bunny), YHA Staff, Flt. Lt. Ned Dark, J.A.Lewis, Allan Coulter.*



Photographs taken 1947. The hike started from a youth hostel in Betws y Coed then to Lledr House where another night was spent and then to a hostel at Cae Dafydd on the road to Beddgelert.

*Photos from Bill Lewis*

## **Recollections of Bill Lewis' National Service**

### **Some recollections of 3108XXX A/c Lewis W. H. R..**

Derek W. Pritchard (who now lives in Canada) and I left for Padgate at 8.15 a.m. on 10 September 1947. Our new world was full of odd things! For instance there was a BIG MAN in our billet when we arrived, he had one tape measure and he took two or three measurements and shouted a load of numbers out to his assistant who filled in a form on which he put a list of sizes/measurements, this was the order form for my uniform Jacket. Trousers. Hat. Boots (best and working). Shirts. Underpants and Shorts (PT) and vests which I, with the rest of the intake duly collected from the Stores, but I was little of stature so instead of having one Best Blue Uniform (A tunic with two side pockets in the 'skirt' of the thing) and one Working Blue Uniform (A battledress blouse top) both with trousers of course. I ended up with two best blues, cos I was too wee (I was 5ft.3 inches tall, that's in old money according to details on my Medical Grade Card issued on 31.7.1941) . After these all had been marked with my service number in the BLACKEST of BLACK stenciled figures, and the trousers made to fit, we were given sheets of brown paper and balls of string. We had to pack our civvy clothes and send them home. The Corporal i/c the billet wanted to be able to play an "Air on a G string" on the string of the parcel, if he couldn't, the parcel had to be re-packed.

That was at Padgate, we were eventually sent to R.A.F. West Kirby for our Square Bashing training, not much about the six weeks, I spent there, (only six weeks instead of the usual eight because I'd been in the A.T.C. before joining up) But I do remember that our Corporal Drill Instructor was a *gentleman from across de water whose* phrase when marching us was, "I want you to take a full pace of tirty inches, not twenty nine not tirty one, but tirty inches". I can still hear him and see him, in my memory - a little half pint of a man - not much bigger than myself, BUT he had two stripes and those gave him power, he'd most likely only been in about three months longer than the squad, BUT he had power. Another saying he had was "Are you cold airman?" to which the questioned airman naturally answered "No corp" "Then don't wrap the bleedin rifle round your neck", came the instruction. Life went on; and eventually I trained as a Clerk/Pay Accounts, and was posted to my permanent station, and from which I was demobbed in October 1949 - having served two years one month and four days. Who said I was counting the days until ?

But let me tell a story which could have had a terrible end. It was a couple of days before one of the Bank Holiday breaks, - tomorrow was pay day and airmen would be drawing their normal fortnight's pay together with extra for their leave, this extra was made up of pay for their days leave together with Ration Allowance for the days on which the R.A.F. didn't have to feed them. We in Pay Accounts had made the necessary request for the cash, this had been collected from the local bank in town by a Senior Accounts Officer

properly armed with a loaded revolver visible in its holster. Because there was such a great deal of cash on the premises, the duty clerk for that day was required to sleep in the Accounts section, and he was provided with the revolver. Pay staff were in and out of the section throughout the evening, all wanting to see the revolver — Oh dear. A/c. Bill. N. came in. He was in accounts staff and didn't believe that the revolver was loaded, it went off and the bullet pierced a steel cabinet drawer and through about a dozen files. We were all glad that nobody had come into the section while Bill N had the revolver in his hand he would certainly have been a "ded 'un". Bill N was that kind of bloke. The spent bullet had to be accounted for, there was an enquiry I remember but the outcome hasn't registered! I kept the bullet and on my demob I soldered it onto a brass ash tray.

Another memory.

For some reason which has long escaped my memory- I was on jankers; a mild form of punishment, I was instructed by the #S.W.O. to mix some white distemper type paint in a bucket and paint the stones around the fire hydrants etc., *BOVINE EXCRETUM* is the polite term for such actions. But the rules said "If it moves then polish it, if it doesn't move, then paint it".

I duly mixed the paint and was waiting for the rain to stop, it was chucking it down. In came the S.W.O. with words "Why aren't you painting the \*\*\*\*\* stones, airman?" to which I replied "Because it's raining .Sir", at this the said S.W.O. after going red in the face said "But you've got a \*\*\*\*\* gas cape haven't you?" I rest my case!!!!

*# S.W.O. (Station Warrant Officer) was the chiefest of the Non Commissioned Officers - a sad person who was in no man's land -. (There was only one of his kind on a station -poor sod!)*

*\*Gas capes were long, long raincoats which would fit over "full kit" and could be used as ground sheets.*

Another recollection, a rather sad and degrading occurrence to witness.

On the station there was a "School" for the want of a better word, where Boy Entrants were trained before being passed out as airmen.

One day the whole of the station personnel were paraded in one of the main hangars, we knew not why - ours was just to obey, the hangar was full to bursting. When the whole assembled crowd had been brought to attention an N.C.O. from the boy entrants was marched in bare headed and paraded in front of us all, charges were read

out, the lad had been found guilty of a crime and his punishment was made known to us all, he was to be ignominiously discharged from the R.A.F. his stripes which had already been made loose on his jacket were ceremonially ripped off and the poor lad was marched out to begin his sentence. This memory of this degrading incident has stayed with me all these years and I often wonder where the lad is now!

**W H R Lewis 1941-47**



*We received this picture of Tom Jones in a recording of Top of the Form from David Fielding and reprint this Article from The Dominican of Spring 1950*

## **TOP OF THE FORM.**

### **The First Round,**

The first contest was recorded on October 17 1949 when Friars met Gelligaer County School, Hengoed. South Wales. Mr. Lionel Gamlin and Miss Joan Clark were at Friars and Mr. Robert McDermot at Gelligaer.

The boys representing Friars were D, O. Bellis. P. D. Hughes, E. R. Jones and T. G. Jones. Mr. Robert McDermot Introduced us to the girls—Pat Morgan (the captain), Deny Stuart. Margaret Lewis and Wendy Lloyd.

At the end of the first round of questions the score was six points each. Friars then took the lead and at the end

of the round led by four points, the score being 14—10. In the third round the girls reduced the lead by two points, but in the fourth Friars held on grimly to win 22—20.

## **THE WELSH FINAL.**

On November 17 1949 our opponents were the Grove Park School for Girls. Wrexham. This time our Question Master was Mr. Robert McDermot, who was accompanied by an announcer of the Welsh Home Service.

Friars began the first round, the Questions being on well-known B.B.C. signature tunes. We did well with these and led with a score of 6 points to 4.

In the second round (about Wales) we lost ground, allowing the girls to take the lead by one point.

The Questions In the third round were concerning sport. Both teams received maximum points, and thus the girls were still ahead. Wrexham, however, increased their lead in the last two rounds, and gained a deserved victory. The final score was: Grove Park 33, Friars 27.

The Friars team must be congratulated on putting up a good fight, and while there were one or two lapses, there were some extraordinary revelations of knowledge and story-telling.

***Did'nt they do well***

## **TWENTY QUESTIONS A WELSH-AMERICAN QUIZ - PEOPLE.**

by Tom Bernard 1941-49

1. Nancy Davis - On marriage she became?
2. Laura Welch - On marriage she became?
3. Ann Davies - On marriage she became?
4. Mrs. Howell's daughter on marriage became?
5. She's the daughter-in-law of movie star Kirk Douglas?
6. Which two U.S. States have names that ultimately derive from a noble family of Welsh origin?
7. A state governor and recent candidate to become Vice President of the U.S. with a Welsh origin name.
8. An old Welsh-named Women's College (one of the elite "Seven Sisters").
9. An old Welsh-named Men's University (one of the elite Ivy League).
10. This country in the Americas has a name of Welsh origin.
11. This Welshman expelled the Spanish from Jamaica, became its governor and was knighted.
12. This Welshman fought in the Civil War (on both sides) and achieved fame as an international reporter.
13. He is the only president to claim to be of Welsh origin.
14. He was commander of the Confederate States of America, and of Welsh origin
15. This U.S. president had a Welsh language surname.
16. The U.S. admiral who defeated the Spanish navy in the Spanish-American war.
17. One of the most famous and best known architects in the USA.
18. This Welshman was by far the most successful pirate during the "Golden Age" of piracy.
19. This Welsh born person is celebrated more in the USA than any other.
20. A Bangor University graduate (UCNW) with 17 caps for Wales who became the Commissioner of the North American Soccer League.

Answers on Page 40.

Dr. Tom Bernard is President of the Welsh Society of West New England.  
He has made a study of all things Welsh in the United States.

# The Old Dominican Rucksack Club News

*Due to lack of space in the last Newsletter we had to restrict the walk reports of the last four walks and an article on the walk to Deganwy Castle. So we now include them below. Please note that the ODRS will again visit this site on March 22 2013* **Ed.**

## **A Brief history of the little known Welsh Castle on the Vadre above Deganwy, visited on 14 September 2012.**

### **A Description of Deganwy Castle by Frances Lynch 1995.**

The twin rocks of Degannwy have been the focus of settlement and warfare for more than a thousand years but, because they have been fought over so ferociously, little survives for the modern visitor to see. However, though the castle walls have been reduced to little more than rubble, the hilltop is still an evocative place.

During the post-Roman period the hill became a place of major political importance, the court of Maelgwyn Gwynedd, the foremost historical figure of the 6th century in north Wales, patron of St Cybi and St Seiriol, but reviled as a drunken tyrant by the chronicler Gildas. Excavations on the western summit in 1961-66 confirmed occupation in the 5th and 6th centuries.

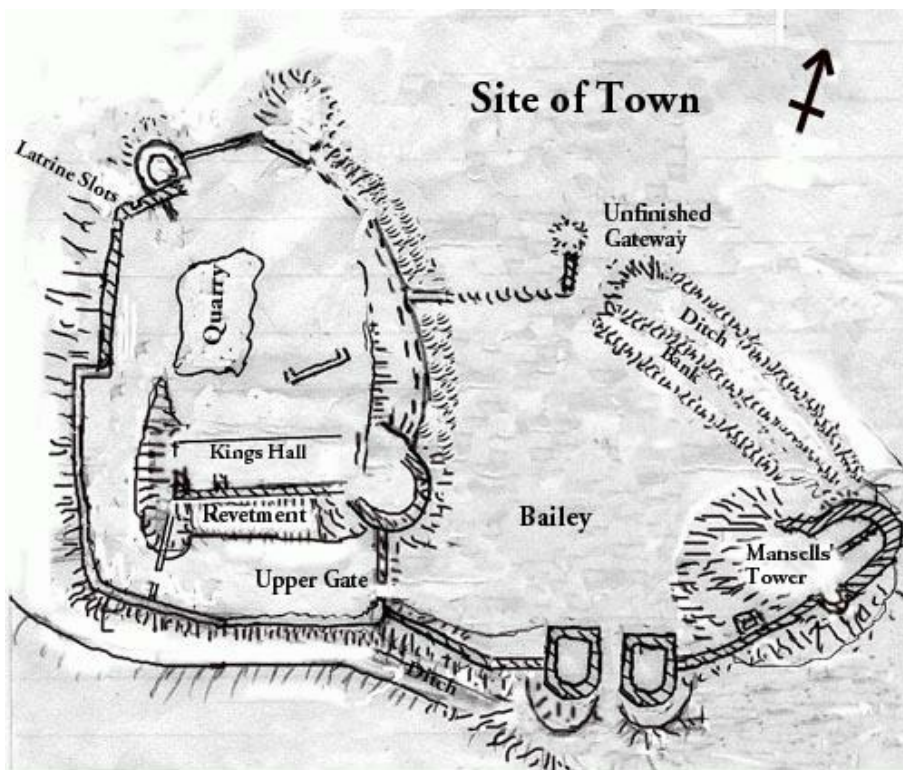
Documents show that the Norman Robert of Rhuddlan built a castle here in 1080, but nothing remains of it. It was later regained by the Welsh, and in 1191 [Giraldus Cambrensis](#) described it in the *Itinerarium Cambriae* as a "noble structure." However, it was soon to be destroyed as part of a scorched earth policy in the face of threats from King John.

When [Llywelyn ap Iorwerth](#) regained the castle in 1213 he rebuilt it in good style. Only a little of this castle survives today. In 1228 it is recorded that he imprisoned one of his sons here. After Llywelyn's death in 1240 his sons were not strong enough to resist the English advance and demolished the castle in anticipation of its loss. When the English arrived in 1245 they were forced to shiver in tents, so effective had been the Welsh destruction.

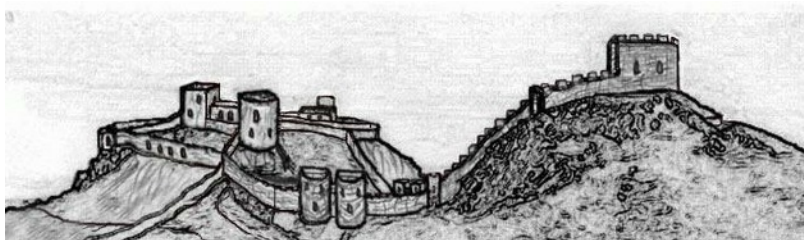
The campaign of Henry III saw the construction of walls and towers, the ruins of which survive today. The castle, with towers on each hilltop and a bailey on the saddle between, had an associated borough which received a charter in 1252. It was under construction from 1245-54 but was never completely finished. As Henry became more embroiled with his own troubles, the power of the Welsh prince [Llywelyn ap Gruffydd](#) was growing. In 1263, after a long siege, he captured this outpost of English power and systematically demolished it. When Henry's son, [Edward](#), advanced across this territory in 1283 he camped at the ruins of Degannwy, but recognizing the greater strategic value of a riverside site and also the political impact of a castle across the river Conwy,



which up until then had been the frontier of the essential Gwynedd, he founded his new castle at Conwy. Degannwy was abandoned. The ruins visible today belong mainly to Henry III's castle. The defences of the bailey - earth banks and ditches on the north side, the base of two D-shaped gatehouse towers, and the curtain wall hastily built by Edward I on the south - can still be recognized. The mass of fallen masonry near the base of the gatehouse is a relic of the demolition of 1263.



*Reconstructive Drawing & Site Plan of Degannwy Castle  
by John Northall*



## September 28 2012 walk.

Penrhyn Quay, Bangor is a familiar sight to all Old Dominicans, though the old slate quay is now much changed from the early days when it was a hive of activity during the hey day of the slate industry in Bethesda. Where once the rail lines brought down the rough slate and more lines took wagons on to the main rail connection or along to Pen Lon for dressing only the old track beds remain. The slate barges now being replaced by pleasure yachts alongside the harbour wall. This was our venue for a nostalgic walk this day, first going along the quay to see one of its special places. A toilet, no less, and a circular stone one built in the 19th Century so that the men could relax and enjoy their ablutions in company of their workmates. Unfortunately, we were unable to put it to the test but we certainly admired the concept involved.

As this was to be a walk and talk event, we spent the next almost five hours doing just that. Along the old "lein bach" to the bridge over Afon Cegin at Bishops Mill, though not without incident since Hefin vanished into the trees searching for a lost reservoir without success.

Arriving at the White Bridge we were amused by several vehicles attempting to ford the swollen river during lunch.

Hefin regaled us with lurid tales of local characters as we made our way towards Glashinfryn village and the ruined mill of Coed Hywel.

Our party then strolled back towards Bangor passing the scene of many an exhausted Friars lad doing the Senior Cross Country course which came across fields to meet the road near Minffordd. John Aneurin waxed lyrical about his valiant efforts here. Perhaps this invokes memories of such valour in you?

Finally, we climbed up the medieval road to Bishops Mill back over Bangor Mountain now long overgrown over our old football pitches back to the quay again with memories re ignited and kinship rekindled.

**Elfyn**



*In Port  
Penrhyn at  
the start of  
the walk.*

## 26th October 2012 walk.

Pentraeth, Anglesey was our venue for this gentle beach and woodland walk on a lovely Autumn day.

Along with two lady guests, eight members and friends met in the village car park and spent some time reading the information boards detailing the turbulent history of the area.

Following an ancient drovers track down to the shoreline of Red Wharf Bay, we met the Anglesey Coast path now designated a section of the All Wales Coast Path.

Walking in a North easterly direction along the often muddy path to Wern y Wylan we found a sheltered spot in the Lwydiarth Forest for lunch.

This area is an ornithologists delight and we saw an array of wading birds along the way.

Finally we circled back to the Panton Arms and a welcome tea break in Pentraeth Cafe with not a Chinese takeaway in sight!



*They spent some time reading the information boards and probably trying to find out where they were going*

*They found a sheltered spot in the Lwydiarth Forest for lunch.*

*But why was the Chairman on his own, was it something in his sandwiches ?*



**Elfyn**

### **9th November 2012 walk.**

Six of us, plus the dog, had a very wet walk, from Pont y Pant, through the woods to Llyn Elsi, then down back to Betws y Coed, without any views of the distant hills. However, the autumn colours of the trees were spectacular, in particular the oaks.

The forestry people had done a good job on clearing the paths so it was not quite as wet as it could have been. About 5.5 miles long, the walk was not too far in the wet.

**Ken**



*The wet ones on Pont y Pant, at the start of the walk.  
And they had only just got off the Bus from Betws-y-Coed.*

### **23rd November 2012 walk,**

A welcome respite from November gales and Beaumaris dawned dry and clear. Fourteen members and friends met in Cae Mair for a longish tramp through the nearby Meigan Woods to visit the 16th Century mill and waterfall in fine spate. Passing Henllys Hall and golf course (once owned by a Friars lad, namely Eifion Williams (Eifion Auntie Mags)

Passing Llanfaes Church we followed country lanes to Llangoed then along a woodland path to meet at the remains of the Mote and Bailey castle of Aberlleiniog for lunch with the spectacular vista of the Menai Straits and Snowdonia before us.



When we reached the shoreline the way back to Beaumaris was a straightforward walk along of the seashore. However our Chairman decided to go for a paddle in a flooded field at this point. Missing posters will appear next week.

A point of some interest on the return journey was the site of the Saunders Roe assembly and engineering plant which many readers will remember, located on the shore of Fryers Bay. Sadly, now in ruins.

Perhaps some may even recall seeing American Catalina Flying Boats lined up in the Straits awaiting modification to RAF standards during the war. Many a Friar's lad went on to work there after his school days as apprentices, fitters etc.

Your comments/observations/recollections on the Saunders Roe factory, please.

Elfyn

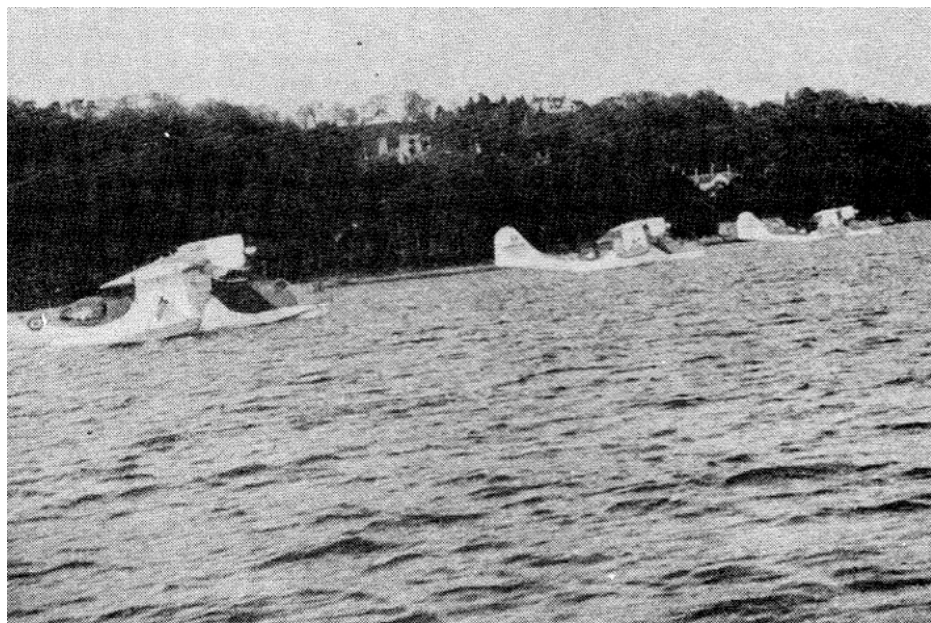


*Photography session, who has the best picture?*

*In the sunshine.*

*Down by the shore*





Catalina's moored in the Straits (*Photo Winifred Brown*)



Catalina Mk.IVa JZ246 on the slipway.

## January 25th 2013 ODRC Xmas Lunch and walk,

Unpredictable! Exciting? Perhaps, on reflection, neither description would adequately fit the weather conditions of the walk and lunch programmed for the 18th January this year.

The day coincided with the heaviest snowfall predicted to hit Wales this Winter. The event was rescheduled for the following week on January 25th, a new experience for members who were already somewhat confused at Xmas lunch taking place in mid January!

We met in Y Caban, Brynrefail at 10am and this time the weather promised to be kinder for walking the full circuit of Llyn Padarn. The forecast promised only Force 8 gales and heavy and prolonged rain, sleet and snow showers for the area from mid morning onwards.

Ten brave (or foolhardy) souls set out to do a clockwise walk around the lake passing through Gallt y Foel along an ice covered road then track through Padarn Country Park. The view, between thunderous clouds and gusts was magnificent. A white out on Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa) and Moel Eilio a huge white pyramid across the lake.

A herd of over fifty feral goats roam these sessile oakwoods and we could see their tracks with a strong Billy goat smell in their wake (or was it one of us?).

Emerging from the woods near the old quarry mortuary, we hurried past though Hefin showed an unhealthy interest in the slab within!

The old quarry hospital is now closed for the winter but we were pleased to note that as part of the Welsh Slate museum it had recently been saved from closure as part of government cuts. It is an invaluable addition (and free) to our local and national heritage.

The wind and driving rain picked up as we left the woods and passed Vivian Quarry where a diving school operates year round but not today.

A flock of hungry ducks pursued us along the lakeside at Llanberis and a discussion ensued as to their identities "Are those goosanders?"

"No, mergansers, I think". All this in a gale and driving rain!

Back along the old Llanberis/Caernarfon railway line, the gusts increased to the point where each step became a "ten league" stride as we were blown back to Y Caban.

By 1pm our numbers were swelled by a further ten members and guests for a hearty lunch, though not for a very wet Jim, the mascot.

Warren welcomed the Friends and guests, in the convivial surroundings of Y Caban, we almost forgot our sodden clothing both outer and inner. Is there something peculiarly British about being thoroughly happy in triumph over adversity or is it perhaps a trait associated specifically to ODA members on a soggy day in midwinter? Topic for discussion I think.

**Elfyn**

*PS The Caban is now a superb local restaurant and part of a complex run by the local community of Brynrefail. The building once housed Brynrefail Grammar, then secondary school and has now been completely renovated.*





*Are these woods the  
best place to be  
today??*

*Never mind, warm  
food awaits at*

*Y Caban*

*Photos - B Roberts &  
J A Jones*



# Obituaries

**We regret having to report the death of the**

**Following Old Dominicans**

**Our sincere condolences go to their family's.**

## **DEWI WYN JAMES      1941 – 2012**



Dewi was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1941. He initially attended St. Paul's Infant's School then Cae Top before attending Friars in 1952 - 1958.

On leaving Friars he attended Riversdale College, Liverpool and became a radio officer in the Merchant Navy. During his sea faring career he travelled the world a few times. After leaving the sea to raise his family Dewi worked for the War Office at Bletchley Park.

Hiraeth for Wales brought Dewi back to Bangor to join the family firm. He later became an electronics lecturer with a major retail company in Leeds and moved to live in the Glan Conwy area.

Due to ill health Dewi took early retirement, suffering from kidney failure, cardiac arrest and skin cancer. After the kindness of a donor, Dewi received a kidney transplant which greatly improved his quality of life and enabled him to do voluntary work in St David's Hospice in Llandudno and with the Stroke Association in the Conwy area.

Dewi was small in stature but a big man in many other ways; his sense of humour and wit were known by Doctors, nurses, patients at the renal unit and all his friends and family. You never left Dewi's company without laughing.

Dewi died very suddenly but peacefully at Ysbyty Gwynedd on the 27th November 2012 in the presence of his immediate family. Dewi leaves his widow, son, daughter, 2 step-daughters, 7 grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

## **Ifor William Bowen,**

We have just been informed of the sad passing of Ifor William Bowen, 1940-45. Of Sarn Faint, Penmynydd Road, Llanfairpwllgwyngyll. After a long illness. Ifor, who with his brother Evan Wyn 1941-48 who died in 2008 were two of the last pupils to be boarders in school. Ifor left school to run the family farm at Sarn Faint in 1945.

## **New Members**

**A very warm welcome is extended to the following who joined the Association in 2012.**

Eric Francis Owen (1953-58)

Colin Jones (1952-58)

Trevor T Evans (1979-84).

**We also extend a very warm welcome to following, who have joined as Friends of the Old Dominicans:.**

Roy & Maureen Bentley - Llandegfan.

J Alun Cooke - Gaerwen.

Mrs. Linda Edwards - Beaumaris.

R. Goronwy & Sylvia Jones - Amlwch Port.

Mrs. Mair Martin - Llanfairfechan.

Bryn Roberts - Llanfairfechan.

Mrs. Avis Renolds - Llan Ffestiniog.

## **TWENTY QUESTIONS A WELSH-AMERICAN QUIZ - PEOPLE.**

by Tom Bernard.

### **ANSWERS;-**

1. Mrs. Ronald Reagan & First Lady of the U.S.
2. Mrs. George W. Bush & First Lady of the U.S.
3. Became wife of presidential candidate Mitt Romney.
4. Mrs. William J. Clinton & First Lady of the U.S.
5. Catherine Zeta-Jones, famous Welsh actress and wife of movie star Michael Douglas, their Children being Carys and Dylan.
6. Virginia and West Virginia, called after Elizabeth Tudor, (Elizabeth I), "The Virgin Queen".
7. Sarah Palin, Governor of Alaska, whose surname comes from " ap heilyn" (cup bearer).
8. Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.
9. Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, named in honour of major benefactor Elihu Yale of Wrexham, In Wrexham where he is buried. There is also a Yale College.
10. Bolivia, called after Simon Bolivar, "The Great Liberator". "Bolivar" from "ab Oliver".
11. Sir Henry Morgan from LLanrumney, near Cardiff.
12. Henry Morton Stanley (born John Rowlands) of Denbigh found the missing Dr. Livingstone in Africa. "Dr. Livingstone I presume".
13. Thomas Jefferson of Virginia.
14. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi.
15. Chester Arthur.
16. Admiral George Dewey (from Dewi).
17. Frank Lloyd Wright.
18. Bartholomew Roberts from Casnewydd-bach, near Fishguard. Known as "Black Bart".
19. Saint Patrick.
20. Phil Woosnam from Caersws. He scored 68 goals while playing in English League football. To add a personal note he was on the "Peritus" team (combined colleges), on which were two Representatives of Friars - John Cowell and yours truly!

**Did you get them all right?**

**CYMDEITHAS Y CYN-DDOMINICANIAID  
THE OLD DOMINICANS ASSOCIATION  
STANDING ORDER INSTRUCTION**

TO BANK:- ..... (BANK)  
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BANK.....HSBC

BRANCH: .....274, STRYD FAWR, BANGOR, GWYNEDD, LL57  
IRU,

SORT CODE; ..... 40 - 09 - 03

ACCOUNT No.: .....71565907

ACCOUNT NAME:.....THE OLD DOMINICANS  
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It is understood that this Standing Order will cancel any previous Standing  
Order to the Old Dominicans Association.

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**If you have enjoyed reading what we have produced in  
this Newsletter  
please send along your own contribution!**

**No later than the end of June 2013 for the Summer Edition**

**Recollections of your National Service, Interesting experiences in your  
lives, “A year to remember”, Short news items particularly welcome.  
And please include any interesting photographs such as  
“Where do you read your Newsletter?”.**

**Don't forget to let us know if you change your address.**

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**Check out**

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Also the School Web page at  
<http://www.friars.gwynedd.sch.uk>**

