



## From the President in a Season of Virtual Festivals

This is the season of virtual festivals and performance on various social media outlets. It is a tribute to the commitment and persistence of all involved to lighten the burden and loneliness that the epidemic has caused many people.

This week, which brings July to a close, several of us would have packed our bags for departure to the National Eisteddfod in Tregaron, in the rolling hills with their beautiful views of Cardiganshire. They have replaced the occasion with a sustained series of virtual presentations available to all at gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk.

On our return, we would have pointed ourselves towards Philadelphia for NAFOW over the Labor Day weekend. COVID-19 got in the way of our travel plans. But wait, this did not deter the organizers led by Megan Williams and the local organizing committee from coming up with an ambitious plan for a virtual NAFOW that can be enjoyed by all, including those who would not have been able to travel to Philadelphia – a slender silver lining to the COVID-19 cloud.

Many more details about these plans are given elsewhere in this issue of *Ninnau*.

A highlight of the foundation's annual activities is our joint banquet with the Welsh North American Association on the Friday evening of NAFOW. It is then that we present our most prestigious award the Heritage Medallion – y Medaliwn Treftadaeth – to individuals who have made major contributions to Welsh-North American life. This presentation is followed by a recital by the recipient of the Osborne Roberts Blue Riband presented to the champion soloist under the age of 25 at the previous year's national eisteddfod.

Edward Morus Jones was to receive the Heritage Medallion in Philadelphia with music to be performed by Dafydd Jones. Both Edward and Dafydd live in Wales. While Edward is a frequent visitor to Philadelphia to be with his wife Mary, this was to have been Dafydd's first visit to North America.

Happily, both have indicated their willingness to be with us at NAFOW in Ottawa next year. As a prelude they have been



A reminder of how important our Welsh events are to us; the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff, 2018

good enough to provide greetings in words and song for Philadelphia's virtual NAFOW.

As we report elsewhere in this section of *Ninnau*, our foundation has completed a successful year of scholarship and grant awards. We remain in touch with our 2019 scholarship recipients as each of them continues

undaunted with their plans to continue and complete their studies in Wales. And each has a compelling story to tell.

With gratitude, we thank a generous donor who donated a substantial gift to be shared among our scholars after reading their stories in the last issue of *Ninnau*. The students

expressed their gratitude for this material support. A priceless bonus to this generosity was their sense that someone cared for and admired them for how they are dealing with adversity as they pursue their studies.

Our director Gerri Baker Parry has undertaken an extensive upgrade of our website. Among its many attributes will be that it allows single, easy access to individual sections concerning activities in Wales and North America while maintaining the unity of purpose and goals on both sides of the Atlantic. Launch of the website is planned for the end of August, and in the next issue of *Ninnau*, we will give details of how to access its content, another way for us to remain in touch, particularly since the website will have a blog section.

I hope you will find it possible to enjoy the virtual festivals online to tide us over until more normal and less restrictive times arrive.

Philip Davies  
NAWF President

## Original NAWF Director Wilfred O. Greenway, “Welsh Colossus” 1920–2008

By James Thomas

Don't the whisper the “password”; sing it out loud – “Croeso i Efrog Newydd. Welcome to New York.” The first “Wales Week” in the city was celebrated in 1975 during the North American Festival of Wales (aka the 44th Annual Gymanfa Ganu). Celebrants renamed the Regent Room of the Hilton as the Welsh Inn, and 2,500 people attended.

Wilfred Greenway, chair of the local committee of the St. David's Society of New York, took charge (in his usual tactful way) as, according to *The New York Times*, the “enthusiastic and knowledgeable dispenser of Welsh lore, local and global.”

After five years of planning, it had finally come to life. In the tristate area, Will guessed, “there are 5,000 Welsh people within 50 miles of the Empire State Building, which is not exactly a St. Patrick's Day parade.” But he noted that, “people are glad to find there's a Welsh organization in New York.” And the festival had “everything,” even two octets. “One of them is a 10-voice octet ... typically Welsh.”

Years later in 2006, he was honored by NAWF with the Order of American Ivories at the annual dinner of the St. David's Society for achievements on behalf of Welsh-Americans. As Dr. Arturo Roberts of *Ninnau* emphasized in his presentation, Wil was committed to the principles of the Order – Cyfeillgarwch, Cariad a Gwirionedd – Friendship, Love and Truth.

At that time, as well as a past president of St. David's (1969–

71), Wil had also been a founding director of the North American Chamber of Commerce, a vice president of Cymru a'r Byd, and a vice president of the Pendyrus Male Voice Choir.

He was also a founding director (1975) and past president (1985–87) of the JFK Airport Chamber of Commerce, a director of the Queens [NYC!] Economic Development Corporation, and an active Freemason. He was master of Britannia Lodge #1166 (three times) and District Deputy Grand Master, Fourth District, Manhattan, Grand Lodge of New York.

For the National Welsh-American Foundation (NAWF), he was a founding director in 1980, served as president in 1984 to 1985, and acted in many different capacities after that for the foundation until his death. As Editor Peter Williams said in *The Eagle & the Dragon*, the NAWF newsletter, he “proudly served as our NAWF roving ambassador.”

He produced several prestigious NAWF events, including Heritage Medallion presentations in 1999 in New York with Paul Loveluck CBE and Will Rhys; in 2000 in Washington with Hywel Davies and Howard Patrick; and in 2001 in Philadelphia with Handel Cromwell Evans and Lord Gordon Parry. And he helped in combining the NAWF award ceremonies with the yearly NAFOW banquet, starting in 2004 in Buffalo with Ellis Jones.

And for many years, Wil was also the advertising director of *Ninnau* and wrote many articles,



Jean Ward Greenway and Wilfred O. Greenway at the 2006 St. David's banquet in New York.

often with the simple byline of *Ninnau* Correspondent. That was a measure of his modesty. He just got the job done and didn't worry about getting his name up front.

Wilfred Owen Greenway was born in Swansea, Wales, on 12 June 1920 but grew up in Abergavenny. He worked briefly for London, Midland, and Scottish Railway, as did his father, before he joined the Royal Engineers during World War II. After campaigns in North Africa and Italy, he retired after the war as a major. He was presented with the Oak Leaf Cluster by King George VI.

With his wife Kay, he moved to New York in 1947 with the British Overseas Airways Corporation to a distinguished career in the airline industry. He became Cargo Sales Manager and later, Export Cargo Manager for BOAC (later British Airways) in 1969 at JFK. He visited over 40 countries to assess their import/export systems, developing a global network of contacts.

After retirement in 1972, he set up as a consultant and finally, in 1984, his own company, Airport Consulting. In 2000, he received the airlines prestigious Bishop Wright Man of the Year

Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Air Transportation and Cargo Industry.

Wil was active to the end and always ready with a warm welcome, help, and good advice. He attended Catrin Brace's Wales Week in New York event “Wales on Wall Street” and met with Welsh Assembly minister Ieuan Wyn Jones, Welsh-Canadian business man Sir Terry Matthews, and NAWF Medallion recipient Sir Howard Stringer.

After his death on 7 March 2008, he was remembered at his church, the Welsh Congregation of New York. President David Morgan of the St. David's Society declared, “We will miss his wisdom and integrity.” As Dr. Philip Davies eulogized, Wil was “a colossus who bestrode Welsh American life for the 60 years that he lived in the United States” and was “one of the great visionaries” to “promote Welsh-American history and contemporary life.”

When his wife Kay suffered a stroke in 1988, Wil provided exemplary daily care for her until her death in 1997. He then later met and, in 2003, married Jean Ward, an international business and cultural consultant, who became his beloved second wife as well as his business partner. She carries on his memory and his work.



# 'On Being Welsh' – In 2013 Hefina Phillips Accepted the NAWF Heritage Medallion

*Editor's Note: Material and memories that never made the NAWF Eagle and Dragon will be printed occasionally. In accepting her award in 2013 at NAFOW, Hefina gave a highly personal and revealing account of the reasons for her passion in being Welsh and her wishes to share it with as many people as possible. Here is her speech:*

Presidents of the NAWF [NAWF] and WNAA, My Lord (Yr Arglwydd) Roger Roberts, ladies and gentlemen – boneddigion a boneddigesau.

Many of you here tonight may not know me and are possibly wondering why I have been given this very prestigious award. When asked "Tell me about yourself," my immediate answer is, "I am Welsh." On a recent trip to Greece with my 13-year-old granddaughter, I overheard her tell fellow travelers "Oh my Mamgu is so Welsh. She knows everyone in Wales!" Well, the second sentence isn't quite correct, but the first one is!

There is a saying in Welsh "Mae natur y cyw yn y cawl" – the nature of the chicken goes into the broth. Probably the closest English equivalent is that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. And if that is true, it would explain why I am so passionate about the country of my birth and, of course, my language.

The "cyw" and the "tree" in this respect was my father – a passionate Welsh nationalist at a time when it was illegal to belong to such an organization and well before it was accepted and even fashionable to be a nationalist. He was converted, if that's the correct word, by a man who later became one of my heroes, namely, Saunders Lewis. I would ascertain that Saunders Lewis has had an influence on my life even before I was born!

The English language was completely forbidden in our house. It was my generation that almost cost Wales its language and that gave rise to the emotional, unforgettable radio lecture "Tynged yr Iaith" ("The

Fate of the Language") given by Lewis in 1962. What role did my generation play in the near demise of the Welsh language?

Well, when I was a teenager, it was "really cool" to speak English. Even kids that spoke Welsh at home played in English on the street. My friends and I would natter away in English, but just as we turned the corner of our house, we immediately switched to Welsh – just in case my father was around. Woe betides us if he heard us speaking English.

Outside of our control was the fact that, regardless of our education (and most of my friends went on to post-secondary education), we probably would have to go to England to find work.

On Sunday at the gymanfa ganu of this festival, we will be singing the hymn "Penparc," written by J.T. Rees. Penparc was the farm behind our house in Cwmgiedd. Rees was born and raised on the farm opposite us, Llwynbedw. One of my close friends as I grew up was the daughter of that farm, Betty. One day my mother overheard Betty's mother, Catrina, speaking to her in English.

As you can well imagine Catrina's English was pretty ropey. "Pam ych chi'n siarad Saesneg gyda Betty, Catrina," my mother asked ("Why are you speaking English to Betty, Catrina?"). "Aiff Cymraeg ddim a hi dros y ffin," ("Welsh will not take her over the border.") was the reply. That will explain the general attitude in Wales when I was growing up. Thankfully, not in our house.

I am delighted to report that things have changed quite dramatically, thanks in large part to Saunders Lewis's lecture. Today when I go back to Wales, I speak Welsh 99 percent of the time. In fact when I took my 12 year old grandson Rhys to Wales in March of this year, he asked me in a rather perturbed tone of voice, "Can your friends speak English, Mamgu?" My answer: "I'm sure they can – I've just never heard them." I was especially proud of Rhys



*Hefina Phillips speaks at the 2013 NAWF Awards Banquet*

when he described Castell Carreg Cennen as a "splendid Welsh castle, Mamgu, none of your Norman rubbish!" Can I but hope that the apple really doesn't fall far from the tree?

My father's passion for the language has certainly been passed on to me. The best I can do to honor his memory and the work that he did for the survival of the language is to make sure that I continue in this vein.

So why, well may you ask, are you here in Toronto then, when you're so passionate about Wales and the Welsh language? Good question! As many of you understand, life sometimes gets in the way despite the best laid plans, and as a family, we moved here in early 1980. Little did I realize before this hugely emotional move that living in Toronto would make it relatively easy to keep up my Welsh and promote it.

The first incredible news was that there was a Welsh church in Toronto with a Welsh speaking minister – the Rev. Cerwyn Davies, and many Welsh speakers. There was a Welsh service

once a month. Was it surprising that every Sunday as we left the morning service at Dewi Sant that I would be in floods of tears as we drove home?

I soon found out about the Ontario Welsh Festival and the North American Festival of Wales, and it seemed no time at all before I got to know many (if not all) of the Welsh speakers in North America. Of course, I would be willing to run Welsh language classes! Of course, I would be willing to organize, participate in, and adjudicate in eisteddfodau at Dewi Sant. Helping out with the children of the Sunday school was especially rewarding, as they soaked up the traditions of Wales, performing, singing, and reciting, much of it in Welsh. Early on I was introduced to Cymdeithas Madog, the Institute for Welsh Studies, in North America, and have taught on more of their annual Welsh immersion courses than I care to enumerate.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Arturo and Olga Roberts for all that they have done to ensure

that everyone in North America can get to know about Welsh activities among the Diaspora. I love those emails from Arturo reminding me that the latest deadline is looming, so could I please get an article to *Ninnau* as soon as possible. Then comes the next email: "Oes lluniau?" (Are there photos?). What would we do without a North American-Welsh newspaper? Diolch o galon, Arturo ac Olga.

My latest passion is teaching Welsh at the Celtic Studies Program at the University of Toronto. The students are so brilliant and really keep me on my toes. They ask the most difficult of questions and often my reply is, "Hang on a minute. No one has ever asked me that before." I absolutely adore my classes and describe my students as my "drug of choice." How lucky can one person get? It is not difficult to understand that I love everything that I am involved with and consider myself to be the most fortunate person alive. I am constantly indebted to my guardian angels.

And now I am being rewarded for something that I just love doing. Somehow that doesn't feel quite right. Diolch yn fawr doesn't begin to express my gratitude to the NAWF [NAWF] for this prestigious award. I will wear the medallion with pride. But also please understand that I am able to work as hard as I do for the Welsh cause because of all the support I receive from my family, friends and colleagues. The people that one works with and associates with make it all possible. Diolch i bob un ohonoch.

And now an important piece of information. When God decided to create what is now the United Kingdom, he first made England, then Scotland, and Ireland. He stood back and observed the three countries and said to Himself "Hmm I've made a lot of mistakes here. There's an awful lot wrong with them. OK, I've learned from those mistakes and now I know how to do it right." And then He created Wales.

## Our Immediate Past President – Stacy Evans

Rev. Dr. Stacy Evans, now the immediate past president of the North America Wales Foundation, served two successful terms as president. During his tenure, several committees were activated and through the scholarship activities of the NAWF, new recipients were placed in universities in Wales.

Stacy, who grew up on a farm in southeast Ohio near the historic town of Marietta, has been a scholar all his life. As his high school salutatorian, he went first to Marietta College, then Kenyon College, where he was initiated into Phi Beta Kappa and graduated *magna cum laude*. During his senior year (political science major), he was the special assistant to the majority leader of the Ohio House of Representatives.

After Kenyon, he went on to New York's Union Theological Seminary, where he studied with a number of theologians, the best known of whom was Daniel Day Williams. He also studied church history with Robert Handy and David Lotz. His honors thesis on the influence of the Salzburger

Protestants on John Wesley while he was a missionary in the English colony of Georgia earned the accolade of distinction.

After seminary, Stacy studied at Lincoln College, Oxford, England. From this time, his various Christian experiences visiting theological colleges and religious communities have had an ongoing influence on his life and ministry. After Lincoln, he returned to his native Ohio, beginning his career in pastoral ministry and serving several churches over the course of 37 years.

After formal retirement, he served as pastor of two churches in his hometown and two more in the county in which he now resides. After that, he served interim pastorates in four churches (so far). He also gave the St. David's Day sermon for the Welsh Congregation of New York in 2015.

Stacy and his wife Cheryl are the parents of four grown children. One of his sons is now working as a career diplomat for the US State Department. They maintain their retirement resi-



*Dr. Stacy Evans presents the Heritage Medallion to Catrin Brace at the 2017 North American Festival of Wales in Rochester, New York.*

dence near Granville, Ohio, a town that has many Welsh connections.

Since his 30s, Stacy has been interested in his Welsh heritage and the language. His family had a major interest in music; in fact, his grandfather Evans (who was a coal miner) had a family band which he directed and in

which all five of his children had to play two instruments. An uncle became a music teacher and composer.

He became associated with the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at the University of Rio Grande where he first studied the Welsh language. For a number of years, he has been on the

Advisory Board for the Center.

He attended the 2006 Swansea National Eisteddfod and the 2009 Cymdeithas Madog week for Welsh study in Alberta, Canada.

In 2008, Stacy successfully applied for the position of Executive Director of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association (now the Welsh North American Association), guiding WNGGA through three North American Festivals of Wales (Pittsburgh, Portland, and Cleveland). He stepped down in 2012 and was followed by Dr. Megan Williams, the current the executive secretary.

Throughout his life, Stacy has maintained an active interest in Welsh music and affairs. He believes that his Welsh heritage is probably from North Wales. Anecdotal, after meeting a young man from Flintshire and telling him that his father's name was Richard Evans, the man said that he knew many Richard Evanses. Stacy loves the Welsh and feels that he is an integral part of this worldwide fellowship.

# Scholarship Committee Report, July 2020

By Hefina Phillips

This has been a very unusual year. In a way it has been easier to award scholarships and grants, but it has also been a year when, as a committee, we have been more concerned about our students than the norm.

Thanks to Covid-19, the academic year has not gone smoothly for last year's winners. Kelsey Weber, studying ceramics at Cardiff, had to return to Maine due to her student visa expiring. Andrew Edwards returned to Michigan. Rebecca Blok, Hope Kohtala, and Brooke Martin stayed in Bangor.

As a committee, we were very concerned about the students' financial upheavals and despite the market situation, we were able to award them an extra \$1,000 each to help them overcome their immediate financial problems. To report that they were grateful would be a huge understatement.

As a reminder, last year's winners are total stars in their

own rights, but I must give special mention to Brooke Martin, who is completing the first year of her PhD. Please read her article on her dissertation research on Welsh opera in this issue of *Ninnau*. The letters of recommendation from her head of department and her supervising prof are beyond amazing. She is also a fluent Welsh speaker and much of her research is being done through the language. She is outstanding.

Hope Kohtala and Rebecca Blok, both halfway through their masters' degrees, have decided to remain in Bangor and Rebecca is currently house-sitting on Anglesey for a friend. Quite a special group. Andrew Edwards has thrown himself into the deep end, so to speak, not only to his studies at Bangor University but also to local culture and pastimes. He is an enthusiastic Welshman, waiting to return.

For 2021, there were just two applications for scholarships and two for grants. Although it is not the norm to repeat, this year is so unusual that both

Brooke and Andrew have received scholarships again. We are able to do so, thank goodness, as it would be a tragedy if both/either had to drop out before graduating, due to lack of funds.

A grant was given to the Peniel Welsh Chapel Association in Wisconsin to help in their Exterior Renovation Project of this historically important building to the North American-Welsh community.

NAWF will also award Dr. Mari Morgan a grant towards the cost of publishing her PhD dissertation, based on two Welsh-American composers, Daniel Prothero and Joseph Parry. We look forward to seeing it in print.

An unusual year but with luck (and vaccines!) we will be back to normal by 2021. Keep well, wear your masks, and keep social distancing.



Brooke Martin at Bangor University

## Gwyn eu byd -- ond pa hyd?

*Editor's Note: Along with her scholarship report, Hefina added this email after reading the article "The Welsh Names of Everest" in the preceding issue.*

I suddenly remembered an interesting story about my ex-husband Bill Phillips who climbed as far as Base Camp back in 2001. The preparations

had been grueling as I remember and of course not everyone actually reached Base Camp due to breathing problems.

En route they were invited into the home of their Sherpa, and Bill was astonished to see on the wall a poster of a field filled with white flowers. The wording was as follows: Gwyn eu byd -- ond pa hyd? Gwyn

can mean "white" but here means "Blessed" from the Beatitudes. So it can be translated as "Blessed/White is our world- but for how long?" It transpired that the Sherpa had trained in Wales and had obviously made a strong connection.

## North America Wales Foundation 2020

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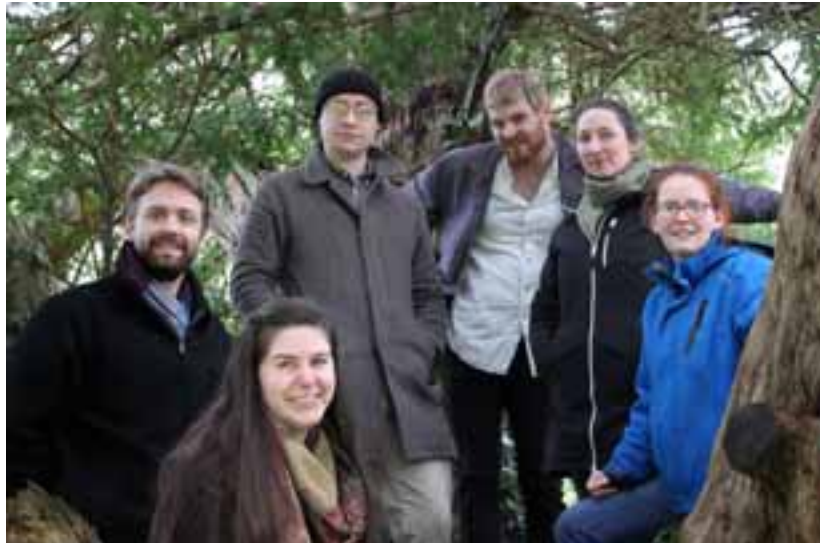
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## A note of thanks from Andrew Edwards and friends



Annwyl Phil,

Fysa chi'n fodlon rhannu'r neges hon efo pawb yn NAWF, os gwelwch yn dda?  
Dyma hi:

*Annwyl gyfeillion,*

Dwi mor ffodus i gyfrif fy hun ymysg y myfyrwyr sy wedi profi eich haelioni, dwi'n hynod ddiolchgar a balch iawn i wedi cael fy nerbyn fel aelod o deulu NAWF am y tair blynedd dwythya.

Gobeithio eich bod chi'n cadw'n ddiogel ac yn iach yn ystod y cyfnod rhyfedd yma a gobeithio bydda i'n cael cyfarfod bob un ohonoch yn y dyfodol. (hwyrach erbyn y 'Steddod flwyddyn nesa) Dwi'n atodi llun o lond dwrn o ffrindia hyfryd dwi 'di cael y fraint i'w dod i nabod yn ystod fy mlynnyddoedd yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys aelod arall teulu NAWF, sef Rebecca Fox Blok. Yn anfodus, torrodd y pandemig ar draws ein hamser ni a'n cynlluniau gwanwynol, ond roedd hi'n hynod werthfawr cael eich cefnogaeth yn ystod y misoedd llawn ofn.

Diolch yn fawr unwaith eto am yr ysgoloriaeth (olaf!), fydd yn help mawr imi drwy gydol fy mlwyddyn olaf ar y cwrs, gan nad oeddwn i'n gallu gweithio'n ôl yn y sba dros yr haf 'ma. Wir ichi, mae'n fendith a fydd yn sicrhau bydda i'n gallu cwblhau fy mlwyddyn olaf.

Diolch o waelod calon!

I'm so thankful to count myself a member of the NAWF family, as I truly have been made to feel as such over the scary and uncertain initial months of the Covid-pandemic, when I was far away from my home and family. I can't express my gratitude for your continued support and humbling generosity.

I hope you're all staying well and safe during these uncertain times and hopefully I'll be able to see all of you sometime in the future -- perhaps next year's Eisteddfod!

I've attached a picture of some of my lovely friends who I've been privileged to get to know and love during my stay in Wales, including another member of the NAWF family, Rebecca Fox Blok. Alas, the pandemic cut short our time together and plans for the spring, but it was incredibly appreciated having your support during the fearful months.

Thanks so much for the scholarship (final!), it will be such a help to me as I wasn't able to go back to work at the spa this summer like usual; truly it is a blessing as it allows me to go back to complete my final year.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

*Cofion cynnes,  
Kindest regards,*

*Andrew*