

ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY JAPAN

CYMDEITHAS DEWI SANT SIAPAN
Monthly Newsletter



Our St. David's Day Postponed Reception at the FCCJ was held this month on Saturday 2nd. 44 Welsh and Japanese who lived, studied or are interested in Wales all gathered for an evening in-person event. The FCCJ club did a brilliant job of following our requests for a social vibe! And of course, a huge thank you to all of you who attended. We hope we will be able to see you again at events in the near future.



The new cook, Shimuzu San did a brilliant job of preparing a delicious Welsh dinner of Welsh Lamb cooked to perfection with all the trimmings and the beloved Welsh treat of Welsh cakes for dessert.



Delicious!



In a nod to the closeness of the event to Easter, each table had easter treats and a "Welsh x Japan" pin badge for each guest.

CDS President, Ursula Bartlett Imadegawa, welcomed the guests and gave a brief outline of the St David's Society, which celebrated its 41st anniversary this year, followed by information on several of our latest projects:

1. Sponsorship of several events introducing Welsh Universities to Japanese National and International schools via Zoom.
2. Donation of funds to Kita Kyushu for a schools Rugby Tournament Trophy.
3. Raffle to raise funds for Oita city which has recently entered an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Wales.

PHOTO BY MARTIN R. SMITH

A big thank you to **Koji Tokumasu** the Welsh Envoy, **Yoko Kobori** from the Welsh Government, **Martin O'Neill**, **British Embassy**, **Ishikawa-san**, **Barti Rum** importer, **Sarah Birchley** Global Welsh Rep, and members of the St David Society for donating prizes to be won in the raffle; and thank you to all of you who participated. Thanks to your generosity, **we were able to raise ¥45,000**, which will be used towards creating a rugby-related trophy gift for Oita to thank them for their support for Wales during the Rugby World Cup!

Some key moments from the night...

- Yoko Kobori from the Welsh Government gave us an informative presentation about their sponsored events introducing Welsh Food and Tourism.
- For entertainment and in a spirit of fun, Ann Jenkins introduced herself a bit & explained how she escaped being given another Welsh name and how she feels about her name.
- Paul Williams, our Society Troubadour, sang and at the end led us in singing our national anthem Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau (Land of my fathers)



- We played a mystery bag game to raise money for Ukraine, with a prize of a Welsh delicacy Bara Brith baked by Avril!
- Avril and little Keita made sure the raffle went well, and Bethany handed out the prizes.
- We were also lucky to have a greeting from Hadleigh Parks, a Welsh Rugby Player now playing in Japan for the Panasonic Wild Knights, thanks to Koji Tokumasu's guest Natsuko Takahashi and Halo Sports.



Some of the raffle winners...



The icing on the cake was that we were able to collect ¥45,000 for Oita City through the raffle, and ¥34,000 for Ukraine through the game, which we have donated to the International Red Cross.

Thank you,

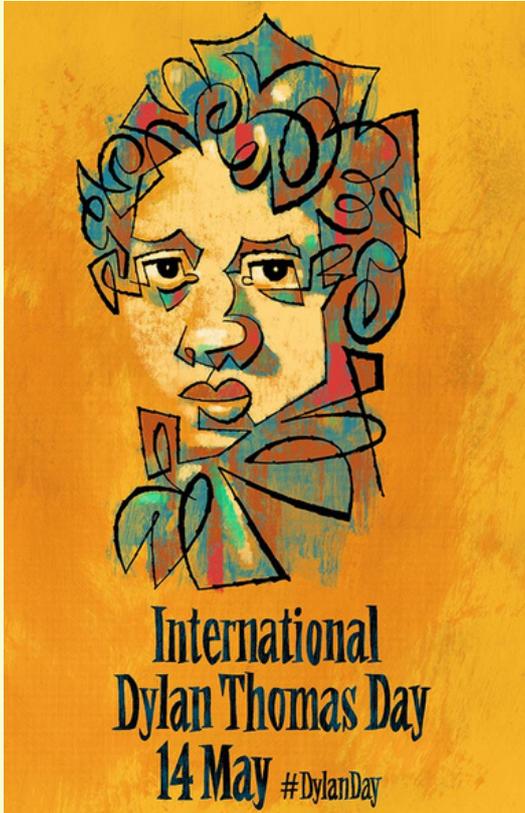
to **all our guests** for their generosity in giving, **our wonderful donors** for their donated prizes, **Saito-san, Shimuzu-san, Aoki-san (the tech man) and the wonderful staff of the FCCJ Club**, and the **St David's Society Committee**: Ursula Bartlett-Imadegawa, Avril York, Bethany Cummings and Christopher Barnett (he was the man signing you in).



Upcoming Event in May

■ Dylan Thomas Day Online Event

Saturday 14th May, starts 7pm, curtain up (start reading) 7:30pm



As a Celebration of Dylan Thomas Day, we are organising a **FREE online play reading** of UNDER MILK WOOD, with the help of one of our members, Ann Jenkins, who has experience in theatre and hosting online readings.

Dylan Day is an international day to celebrate the life and work of Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, held each year on 14th May, the anniversary of the date when Under Milk Wood was first read on stage at 92Y The Poetry Center, New York in 1953.

Sign up via the form below!

<https://forms.gle/P6V1Qs7F4b5tEV2V9>

Welsh News

- Identity: What does it mean to be Welsh?
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-60590685>
- Leeks: Welsh vegetable in bid for legal protected status
<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-wales-60661731>
- Theatre Clwyd: Redevelopment under way with interim venue
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-60757516>
- Elaine Morgan statue to be unveiled in Mountain Ash
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-60787095>
- Dyfed-Powys Police: Chief wants one Welsh force
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-60901593>



- Cardiff congestion charge triggers councillor row
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-60805246>
- Forever Delayed: Manics play Cardiff's Clwb Ifor Bach for first time
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-60946318>

Other mentions

This is the section where we can share additional updates and news from our members. If you ever have some Welsh-related news you would like us to share here in our newsletter or on our SNS, **please get in touch!**

- **Letter expressing appreciation towards the Mass celebrated in the Welsh language in London on 30th of March 2022**

Shared with us by Catherine Nagashima



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE

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HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS WAS MOST PLEASED TO BE INFORMED OF THE MASS TO BE CELEBRATED IN THE WELSH LANGUAGE TAKING PLACE IN LONDON ON 30TH OF MARCH 2022 AT THE CHURCH OF ST JAMES, SPANISH PLACE.

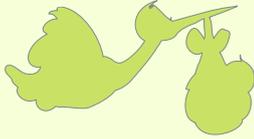
MINDFUL OF WALES' CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE AND OF ITS VENERABLE CHRISTIAN TRADITION NURTURED BY GREAT SAINTS SUCH AS BEUNO, WINIFRED AND CADOC, THE HOLY FATHER WISHES TO ENCOURAGE WELSH PEOPLE AND THOSE WHO WISH TO PRESERVE THIS PATRIMONY TO PRACTICE IT AND TO INSPIRE OTHERS TO STUDY, SPEAK AND PRAY IN THIS ANCIENT LANGUAGE.

HIS HOLINESS WISHES TO CONVEY HIS SPIRITUAL CLOSENESS AND PRAYERFUL BEST WISHES TO ALL THOSE TAKING PART IN THIS IMPORTANT ECCLESIAL EVENT. AS A PLEDGE OF HEAVENLY GRACES, THE HOLY FATHER INVOKES THE INTERCESSION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AND ST DAVID, PATRON OF WALES AND CORDIALLY IMPARTS HIS APOSTOLIC BLESSING.

ARCHBISHOP CLAUDIO GUGEROTTI
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

• **Birth Announcement**

Let's celebrate and welcome to the world **Yanna Lilliane**, St. David Society committee member **Avril's newly born granddaughter!**



• **MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) signed between Wales and Oita Prefecture**

Shared with us by Yoko Kobori

The Hon Mark Drakeford MS: First Minister of Wales has signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Oita Prefectural in Japan on St. David's Day March 1st 2022.

The MOU desires to strengthen the relationship that was established through the various activities surrounding the Rugby World Cup 2019 and contribute to the further development of favourable relations between both countries. This achievement was made possible through the hard work of the Local Representatives of the Welsh Office in Tokyo.



• **Barti Spiced Rum is now available to buy online!**

Shared with us by Hiroki Ishikawa

Check out here: <https://mintandco.base.shop>



**As always, thank you for reading!
We hope to see you at our next event.**

CDS Committee

Ursula, Bethany, Chris and Avril

