



Gair y Ddraig

The Word of the Dragon

HYDREF, 2025
OCTOBER, 2025

CALGARY
WELSH SOCIETY
FOUNDED: 1906

THE CWS BOARD

PRESIDENT: CRAIG HENDERSON

VICE-PRESIDENT: ELAINE WESTLAKE

TREASURER: JOHN HOPKINS

SECRETARY: MORYN SHAH

PAST-PRESIDENT: MARGARET FREEDMAN

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

JEAN KUHN: MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

MICHELE HENDERSON

DAVID MATTHEWS: Newsletter Facebook

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT, CRAIG HENDERSON

Annwyl Ffrindiau, Dear Calgary Welsh Society Friends

I hope this message finds you enjoying our glorious late summer weather. As the new president of the Calgary Welsh Society, I'd like to share a few words about myself, my wife Michèle, and my mother-in-law, Glenys (Davies) Goossens, who passed away last summer. We have all been members of the Calgary Welsh Society for several years, and our daughters, Sarah and Amanda, have recently joined. Although my direct Welsh ancestry is limited, I have a strong interest in Calgary's Welsh heritage and am eager to promote it through our society.

Some of our members, including my family, spent time in Wales this year, and several attended the recent North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) in Ottawa. By all accounts, the Ottawa NAFOW was highly successful, and I hope we will all be able to share our experiences with members of the society.

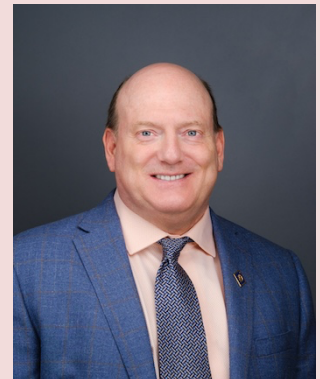
I wanted to provide an update on some of our society events. My Term as your president began with our AGM held in May, which an entertaining Noson Lawen followed. Unfortunately, we were unable to host our annual summer picnic this year, but we are working on bringing the event back next year with changes to make the picnic more accessible to our members.

Our next event will be a Noson Lawen to be held at Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church on November 1st. I hope to meet many of you in person at the event. Our Christmas luncheon has been booked for December. Keep an eye out for event details in our newsletter.

Please let us know of any changes to your email address or phone number so we can continue letting you know about our upcoming events.

I am pleased to introduce your society's board for 2025. In addition to myself, your executive includes Elaine Westlake as Vice-President and Margaret Freedman as Past-President. It also includes John Hopkins as Treasurer, and Moryn Shah as Secretary. All four have been invaluable in helping me to transition into the role of society president. In addition to these four society officers, your board includes three directors at large: Michèle Henderson, Jean Kuhn and David Matthews. I am greatly looking forward to working with the board to continue growing a healthy and vibrant Calgary Welsh Society.

Sincerely, Craig Henderson



“And the BAFTA goes to” THE JURY: MURDER TRIAL CARYS LEWIS, DIRECTOR

Carys Lewis is the daughter of our former Calgary Welsh Society president, current member and a very proud dad, Alun Lewis.

To win a BAFTA is the British equivalent of the Oscars. An amazing achievement for anyone and certain something for our Welsh Society to be proud of. Some of you may remember Carys performing at a few of our society’s meetings in the past.

Television critic [Lucy Mangan](#) gave the series 4 out of 5 stars.^[3]

Carys’s recent directing credits include; DEATH IN PARADISE (BBC One), THE JURY: MURDER TRIAL (CHANNEL 4), FATHER BROWN (BBC), VANDULLZ (BBC Comedy), CASUALTY (BBC) and HOLLYOAKS (CHANNEL 4).

Carys is currently developing two features; MITTY GOES WEST (Film Cymru Wales, S4C, Creative Wales) and BLUE MOTHER (BFI Network, Film Cymru Wales).

As an advocate for equal representation of women in front of and behind the camera, Carys is the founder of FEM SCRIPT LAB, a writing lab for female and non-binary screenwriters in Toronto, and has launched the sister branch of the lab in the UK.

Carys is a proud graduate of George Brown Theatre School. She splits her time between Canada and the UK.



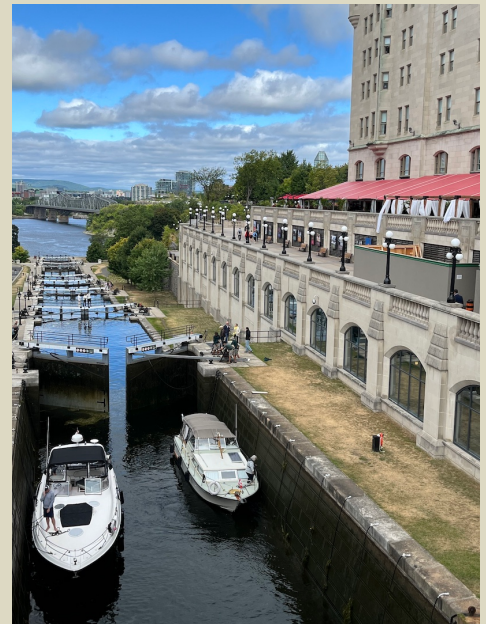
SCENES FROM OTTAWA AND PICTURES FROM NAFOW OTTAWA, 2025



Phil completing the city name on Sparks Street.



Sparks St was the designated area for NAFOW's out-door street festival 'WelshFest Day'! Sadly, the weather didn't co-operate and torrential rain was the order for the afternoon. Despite this, the performances went on, and those strong people, used to Welsh weather, enjoyed performances by *The Welsh of the West End*, the award winning folk group *Pedair* and the New Orleans-inspired *Band Pres Llaregugub*.





The fine ladies of the Calgary Welsh Society as well as Phil and Ed!!



***Cor Y Penrhyn* and musical director, Owain Arwel Davies. Led the Gymanfa Ganu and much of the evening entertainment at the hotel.**



On the left, longtime member, Hefina Philips, who taught many Welsh Language Classes in past NAFOWs.

On the right, David Matthews and Elaine Westlake, gave a seminar on the life of Brian Lewis and his book: *A Boy's Childhood in Wartime Wales*.



HANDIBUS GIFT TO CITY FROM LATE CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY MEMBERS, MORFUDD AND BILL JONES *Submitted by the Coulsons*



On Monday, May 12, 2025, at around 6:20pm there was a TV news program on Global TV about the Late Morfudd and the Late Bill Jones MA (Cantab). Both were very active in the Calgary Welsh Society and Committee Members before passing away. The program was about the couple donating over one hundred thousand dollars from their estate to buy a 'handy' bus for the Calgary Transit. The TV program indicated they were both from Wales and wanted to give back something to the Calgary community. It should be noted that outside of her Welsh friends and in her work as an Emergency Room (ER) Nurse, Morfudd was better known as Sarah. Apparently, most Canadians could not pronounce Morfudd.

NOSON LAWEN NOV. 1, 2025

CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY (CWS) is pleased to invite our members and friends for a fun afternoon of socializing, entertainment and delicious snacks. In true 'NOSON LAWEN TRADITION' we'd love you to share your songs, stories, poems, jokes etc. If you'd prefer to be an appreciative audience member that's great too!

WHEN: NOVEMBER 1/25 at 2:00 pm

**WHERE: EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
3020 51 St SW Calgary T3E 6R2**

Refreshments provided by the society. **We'd appreciate if volunteers bring Welsh treats (Welsh Cakes, Teisen Lap, Bara Brith) to share.**

DIOLCH YN FAWR! THANKS SO MUCH!

NORTH AMERICAN WELSH FOUNDATION HERITAGE MEDALLION PRESENTED TO MEMBER OF CALGARY WELSH SOCIETY

Submitted by John Hopkins

The North American Wales Foundation Heritage Medallion was established in 1987 to honour individuals and/or organizations for service to the Welsh North American Community. Medallion recipients bring recognition to Wales and Welsh North America.

On Friday evening, August 29th at the NAFOW 2025 Gala Banquet, Calgary Welsh Society's very own **David Matthews** was presented with the North American Wales Foundation's **Heritage Medal** for all he has done to promote Welsh Heritage. All NAFOW attendees from Calgary were invited to sit at the front tables to witness this important presentation.

This year's recipient, **David Matthews** has distinguished himself through his contributions, both locally in Calgary and internationally to North American Welsh life. David served as co-chair with Elaine Westlake in bringing the 2016 North American Festival of Wales to Calgary for the first time. He has been a member on the Board of the Calgary Welsh Society, serving as Director-at large, newsletter editor and Facebook/website manager for the Society for many years. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Welsh North American Association ("WNAA"), serving as their President from 2019 to 2022. He has been instrumental in bringing choirs, Cor Godrer Aran, The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir and Cor Cymry Gogledd America, to the Calgary community. His mission and passion has been not only to bring Welsh culture to Calgary but also to remember and publicize through pictorial displays the rich history of Welsh immigration to Calgary and Alberta.

We are all very proud of this well-deserved recognition for our own **David Matthews**.



ABOVE: Participants of the Ceremonial Walk-In at the Friday banquet. On the far right is Megan Williams, the WNAA's most treasured and hard-working secretary.
RIGHT: David receiving the plaque and medallion.



AN UNFORGETTABLE VISIT TO OTTAWA *Moryn Shah*

I was lucky enough to travel to Ottawa to participate in the North American Festival of Wales, or NAFOW for short.

Such an amazing event that had a strong backbone of organization to it. The seminars were varied from language instruction, stories from the past and many more. I attended two language sessions, another on Steam Trains, a A Boy's Childhood Story of Wartime Wales, an excellent session on Writing, and a film 'Shoulder to shoulder'.

I watched the Eisteddfod competition on English Recitation and on Welsh Recitation and more.

The choir and all the singers were amazing. I loved listening to all especially the sessions in the church. The complete event had so much value to all who attended, I loved all and I take away more pride in Wales and a few more Welsh words than I arrived with and a definite strong attachment. And I will remember the laughter we had with the comedian.

I am proud of our society member, David Matthews on his Welsh Heritage Award, He has gone above and beyond in his life and volunteer work. Congratulations David.

I was lucky enough to spend an extra few days in Ottawa, two of those days were in the company of four members from Calgary. We visited Parliament and took a hop on, hop off bus to view the sights of Ottawa, then enjoyed Sparks Street. On the day by myself, I visited the Canadian Senate then went for a boat cruise and enjoyed a delightful supper in the Market area, all was very absorbing and very interesting.

I respectfully thank the Calgary Welsh Society for making his trip possible and to help support my heritage. I did not know there were such events prior to this.

Gratefully appreciated

