

ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY JAPAN

CYMDEITHAS DEWI SANT SIAPAN
Monthly Newsletter

Hello all!

How are you enjoying this rainy season? Wishing you all a wonderful summer and looking forward to meeting you all in the Autumn.

Recent activities

Our St David's event which we held in April was mentioned in the very last hard copy version of the British Chamber of Commerce Acumen magazine!



The St. David's Welsh Society of Japan celebrated its 41st anniversary on 2 April with a gala at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan that raised funds for Ukraine and a rugby initiative in Oita City.

1 Cardiff native Morgan Paul Williams performed Welsh and other music.

2 President Ursula Bartlett Imadegawa welcomed and thanked guests and VIPs.

3 Yoko Kobori, senior Wales affairs officer at the Welsh Government office in Japan, spoke on food, travel and tourism.

4 Guests sang the Welsh national anthem, "Land of My Fathers".

A message from the St. David's Society president was also published expressing thanks for the many years of support.



THANK YOU

From Wales for years of support

BY URSULA BARTLETT-IMADEGAWA
PRESIDENT OF THE ST DAVID'S WELSH SOCIETY OF JAPAN

Like many of us Brits here in Tokyo, the move of the *BCCJ ACUMEN* magazine—the most effective voice for British expatriates sharing events of interest—to a digital format creates a mixed reaction. I loved entering the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan foyer and reaching for the latest *BCCJ ACUMEN* magazine. I enjoyed reading about events and issues that related to us Brits—especially

if it happened to contain information about the Welsh St David's Society. The ability of its publisher Simon Farrell to capture the mood of the expat scene in Tokyo and share it with us is legendary, as is the magazine's ability to keep us all informed of significant events. It will be sadly missed by all and especially by us Welsh as we appreciated the support and promotion Simon gave us. *BCCJ ACUMEN* will be sadly missed. 🇬🇧

PHOTO

Ursula attended the Queens Birthday Reception which was held at the British Embassy, creating an impromptu Welsh Zone of influence!



Koji Takumasu (Welsh Envoy), Robin Walker (Welsh Government Representative), and Lawrence Chivers (British Honorary Consul in Kita Kyushu) with the St. David's Society President, Ursula.



Koji Takumasu the Welsh Envoy to Japan with our Welsh Rugby Hero Phil Bennet

Recent and upcoming events

To celebrate Dylan Thomas Day, we hosted a play reading (online) of Under Milk Wood organised and run by our member Ann Jenkins with the support of Anna McMenamin-Imai, Linda Kadota, Chrisitne Ishii & Bessie Okada were also enlisted as Zoom assistants. Diolch and thank you to all 47 who attended and the many who read!

It was a very successful event resulting in several new members, two of whom volunteered their original works for future play reading events. As it was such a fun event, we hope to host more of these events to showcase Welsh culture after the summer break, hopefully in person. Please let us know if you are interested!

UPCOMING: Join us on the **National Welsh Rarebit Day** (it is real - we haven't made it up!) on September 3rd. Mark it on your diaries & we'll send out details later.

Other updates

Another new development is an initiative to join with other Tokyo International societies, such as the St Andrews Society and British expats in Japan (those of you who joined us for the very enjoyable Christmas party will recall the fun of that combined event!) It's important for us to support each other.

Welsh News

- Obituary: Legendary Wales and British and Irish Lions fly-half Phil Bennett
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/rugby-union/59951331>
- World Cup 2022: Celebrations as Wales qualifies after 64 year wait
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-61697975>

- Former party leader Dafydd Wigley says the time is coming "to call an end to things"
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-61750588>
- Star Wars: Millennium Falcon Pembrokeshire exhibition to open
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-61507729>
- Royal Ballet: William Bracewell is first Welsh principal dancer
<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-wales-61587082>
- Ukraine war: Mother and six sons get keys to Chepstow home
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-61535188>
- **Gareth Bale joins children in sending peace message**
<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-wales-61488175>

At dawn on 28 June 1922, a signal on behalf of the children of Wales was sent from an Oxfordshire radio station.

It was the first Peace and Goodwill message, sent from Wales and was heard and repeated at the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

A similar message has been shared every year since, reaching 84 million people in 2021, and this unique gesture has now chalked up its centenary. It'll be translated into 100 languages this year as footballers Gareth Bale and Aaron Ramsey lend their support.

Others who have helped spread the message in the past include Hollywood actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, who is from Swansea, and former US first lady Hillary Clinton, who has Welsh roots.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UK FOR THE FANTASTIC JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS!

- Queen's Jubilee: Senedd tributes ahead of celebrations
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-61565023>
- Cardiff's Jubilee celebration is fantastic for trade, businesses say
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-61640931>

I guess we missed a big Welsh party!!!



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!**

- **Anorac Film Screening at Cinema Amigo (Kanagawa)**
Shared with us by Yuko Nagauchi (founder of Boreda Kikaku)

Documentary film on Welsh language music scene.
Film info: <https://filmhubwales.org/en/films/anorac/>

Date: **9th of July 15:00**

Venue: Cinema Amigo

Fee: ¥1000 (+ drink order)

Language: Welsh with English and Japanese subtitles

Reservation: <https://cinema-amigo.com/2022/06/5015/>

Seats are limited, better to book seats in advance



As always, thank you for reading!

We hope you have a brilliant summer vacation, and hopefully like me, many of you will be able to finally visit Wales after the Covid break!

And keep your suggestions for new events coming in as we are listening!

Stay safe and see you all in the Autumn,

CDS Committee

Ursula, Bethany, Chris and Avril

