

# The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, Inc.

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## DEUWCH, CANWN I'R ARGLWYDD

(Come, Sing to the Lord)

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The 41st Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, sponsored  
by The Hebron Welsh United Presbyterian Church of  
Chicago. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2, 3, 1972.

## CHICAGO OFFICERS

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September 20, 1972

Mr. Jack Meadows, Secretary,  
Southern Blvd.,  
Youngstown, Ohio.

Dear Jack,

Just a short note to say "Hello" and to let you know  
that Ethel and I hope that you are improving each day.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the past-tense  
write-up of the Gymanfa which I sent to Y Drych on September 7.  
It will probably appear in the October issue.

Also enclosed is a copy of the Commendation Award  
presented to John Roberts at the Friday program. It is not  
an exact copy of the original, but rather one that Ethel  
rejected because of typing errors, but the wording is correct.  
It was in a beautiful black and silver frame.

As far as I know now there is nothing in my files  
that should properly be sent to you.

Sometime later I will be cleaning out my files and  
if anything shows up that I think should be in your file I  
will send it along to you.

Ethel joins me in sending kindest regards to  
Catherine and you.

*Emlyn*

EL/1

Emlyn Lloyd, Immediate Past President

THE CHICAGO GYMANFA

1972

The 41st Annual Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu held in the famous Orchestra Hall in Chicago will be long remembered as a very happy and inspiring event by all who enjoyed its programs.

It will be remembered for the conducting by Miss Frances Williams of New York City, the musicianship of Estelle Roberts Schubert at the organ, Thomas Evans Buckhauser at the piano, and the excellent renditions by the soloists, Jean Williams Steinlein and Dr. Samuel M. Jones.

This Gymanfa, very well attended, will also be remembered for the wonderful congregational singing and the enthusiastic dignified religious atmosphere prevailing throughout the entire Gymanfa sessions resulting in a National Gymanfa Ganu in the best tradition of this great Welsh event.

The Palmer House Hotel was the setting for all week-end programs and events except the Sunday afternoon and evening singing sessions.

First events came on Friday and included a meeting of the National Board of Trustees in the afternoon, and a program and reception in the Grand Ballroom in the evening. The Chicago Sponsoring Committee presented a very interesting historical sketch depicting Chicago and the Welsh National Gymanfa, - Nostalgia - Reminiscence - Memories built around the Cymanfaoedd held in Chicago in 1933, 1961 and 1972, including a Children's Chorus, Soloists, and participation by members of the W. A. Y. organization.

This program also included remarks by Mrs. Richard C. Crossen, President of The Womens Welsh Club of America, a presentation to Ben Haddock, Honorary President of the 1972 Gymanfa and a Special Commendation Award to John G. Roberts of Cleveland, Ohio, expressing appreciation for his long and faithful service to the National Gymanfa Ganu Association, and for his continuing interest, service, advice, and counsel to the Association. The reception and tea following the program was most enjoyable.

The Annual Meeting of the W. N. G. G. A. was held on Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoon the Board of Trustees had a meeting at which the election of Officers was held. Elected to a two year term as President of the Association was Owen C. Roberts of Lachine, Quebec. Elected Vice-President was Gwynn Parri of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Re-elected as Treasurer was D. M. Edwards, Cleveland, Ohio, as Secretary Jack Meadows of Youngstown, Ohio and as Recording Secretary Miss Catherine Dodd of Cleveland, Ohio.

The Board accepted an invitation from the Welsh Society of Philadelphia and the Womens Welsh Club of Philadelphia to hold the 1976 Welsh National Gymanfa in Philadelphia.

On Saturday evening a Grand Concert was held in the Grand Ballroom of the hotel. Featured artists were Robert Bodycomb and Lola Marshall of Pittsburgh. In a fast moving performance of Welsh Airs, Solos, Popular Songs and excerpts from Broadway hits the artists held the large audience spellbound. Mrs. Estelle Roberts Schubert was the accompanist.

The large congregation assembled in the Grand Ballroom for the "Welsh" Worship Service on Sunday morning was most gratifying. The Rev. Thomas O. Williams of Utica, New York was the preacher, Ann Davies Thomas of Salt Lake City the organist, and Mrs. Megan Jones of Lisle, Illinois the soloist. The singing, the sermon, the solo, were all excellent, and this service seemed to set the high tone and the proper atmosphere for the remaining sessions of the day.

A special emissary from Wales was Mr. D. J. Evans, a school master from Carmarthen, representing the Wales Tourist Board, and the British Tourist Agency. Mr. Evans discussed arrangements for the 1974 Swansea Gymanfa with the Board of Trustees, spoke to the Annual Meeting and brought a message from Wales to the evening session of the Gymanfa. Mr. & Mrs. Evans expressed pleasure at being able to attend the National Gymanfa and we certainly enjoyed having them. There were others from Wales in attendance and also a visitor from Patagonia.

Future venues for the Gymanfa already committed are: 1973 - Toronto, Canada; 1974 - Swansea, Wales; 1975 - New York, N. Y. and for the Bi-Centennial year 1976 - Philadelphia, Pa. Plan to attend all of them.

SPECIAL SERVICE COMMENDATION

TO

JOHN GRIFFITH ROBERTS

THE WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU ASSOCIATION wish to express formally the profound respect and deep affection which we bear for you, and to publicly recognize the important contributions made by you to this Association, and especially to its religious and cultural value to all mankind.

In the years 1958, 1959, 1960, and again in 1967 and 1968 you were elected President of the Association, which office you at all times filled with Ability, Foresight and Dignity.

Your excellent judgment, vision, constant interest, and guidance has been instrumental in preserving and promoting the growth of Welsh Traditions and Culture as symbolized by the Gymanfa Ganu in the United States and Canada.

The ENDOWMENT FUND of the Association was established by the National Board of Trustees in 1961. You became the first Chairman and have served in this capacity since its inception.

For the energy, the faith, the devotion, and the leadership you have so freely given through the years, THE WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU ASSOCIATION is indeed grateful, and happy to say "Thank you John Roberts".

To anyone seeking, in the future, to analyze the significant factors in the growth and development of the National Gymanfa the name of John Roberts will loom large indeed.

We look forward to many more years of association with you as a leader and advisor in National Gymanfa affairs.

We wish both you and your good wife Ann, Good Health and Happiness, and may you both enjoy an abundance of all the good things of life for many years to come.

THE WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU ASSOCIATION

Emlyn Lloyd, President

ATTEST:

Jack Meadows  
National Secretary