

U3A WELSH CULTURE – 7th July 2017 – Ten-year Celebration

Our meeting this month took the form of an Eisteddfod when we revisited notable events of the last ten years. Each year was announced in Welsh by Elaine Comber before each item, the first of which was presented by Sandy Slater (previously Williams) telling us about Swansea Gaudy Pottery. Between each item a “Llantysilio” (our group’s answer to the Limerick poem), was read. These short poems had all been written by members of the group for different occasions.

In the second item Kate Jefferies told us about the “ex-pats” of Patagonia which was followed by an extract from “Under Milk Wood read by Terry Taylor, David Taylor, Ken Hart and James Hall. David James then spoke to us about Chartism, especially relating to the Newport Rising. The first half of the morning ended with Terry Taylor speaking briefly about Aberfan before playing us a piece from Karl Jenkins’ “Cantata Memoria” which was written for the 50th anniversary of the tragedy in October 2016.

After the break when we celebrated in true Welsh fashion with plenty to eat, Hazel Haslam told us of the setting up of the Cymbach Male Voice Choir and its success in recent years. This was followed by Sheila Owens showing us photographs of the holidays which the group had undertaken over the past ten years. Pat Hague spoke briefly of Wales’ contribution to the Great War and then we sang “Keep the home fires burning”. Sue Price spoke about The National Eisteddfod, the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen and our own eisteddfodau, before calling on Duncan McCrae to read his eisteddfod entry from a few years ago. Sue Wheeler recounted the day excursions we have enjoyed and then Terry Taylor played a recording of Max Boyce singing “The Scottish Trip” and we joined in the chorus.

It was then time for the presentation to Sandy Slater for her work running the group for the past ten years. She was presented with some flowers and a love spoon which had been made by David Comber and depicted a Welsh daffodil, an English rose and other features which reflected Sandy’s caring personality. She duly cut the cake which had been made especially for the event and we all had a piece to take home. We ended the morning’s celebrations by singing “We’ll keep a welcome in the hillsides”.



Celebratory Cake



Sandy Slater with her love spoon