



HANES PLAID

Plaid Cymru History Society Newsletter Edition 4

Spring 2023

Centenary Celebration Soon!



A year after foundation - Plaid Cymru's Summer School, Machynlleth, August 1926, thought to be the first photograph taken of party members

Plaid Cymru is soon to celebrate its hundredth birthday!

Although there is debate about when exactly Plaid Cymru was set up, the chief focus will be on the historic meeting when six people came together in Pwllheli in August 1925 to set up a national movement.

The historian D.Hywel Davies records that the meeting was long awaited: two nationalist groups joined forces after some urging by HR Jones, Deiniolen.

The party has already discussed how to mark our National Centenary. It has asked the History Society to contribute some ideas - but there is room for more suggestions.

So do you have any views on how we should celebrate this significant birthday? We need to organise a range of activities in all parts of the country during the run-up to August 2025.

You are welcome to make suggestions through the Plaid History Society - please see the contact panel for our email address.



Penyberth and the Law



The heroes of Penyberth - Lewis Valentine, Saunders Lewis and DJ Williams

The story of the burning of the Bombing School in the early hours of 8 September 1936 has been told in detail - and been the subject of poetry and song.

But soon there will be an opportunity to hear more about one particular aspect of the Penyberth battle - its implications for the courts and the legal system. When the National Eisteddfod visits Boduan, Llyn later this year - close to the place where three Plaid Cymru leaders made their stand against the Westminster government - the Plaid Cymru History Society will arrange a special session on the Maes - at **10:30am, Thursday, 10 August** in the Societies stand (Pabell y Cymdeithasau 2).

The guest lecturer is a leading authority on the subject - the former Chief Legal Adviser to the National Assembly for Wales, Keith Bush, now Senior Fellow in Welsh Law at the Wales Governance Centre in Cardiff University.

Welsh Hero Honoured



The story of one of our country's great heroes is told in a major study published by the Plaid Cymru History Society.

James Kitchener Davies (1902-1952) - or 'Kitch' - was a celebrated poet, dramatist and nationalist. Born and brought up near Tregaron he made his home in the Rhondda Fawr. 'Kitch' worked tirelessly for Plaid Cymru, with street meetings a speciality, including one rumbustuous gathering addressed by Gwynfor Evans in Tonypany in 1938 where Kitch was the target of a brickbat!

The study has been written by Professor M. Wynn Thomas, and is based on a lecture he gave in last year's National Eisteddfod in Tregaron.

"Without doubt it was Kitch, more than anyone, who prepared the way for establishing Welsh-medium schools in the Rhondda", he says in the article.

He goes on to trace his childhood, and the impact of losing his mother at the age of six, an event which left a legacy of bitterness and anger that the young child could not express at the time.

Wynn Thomas, who was brought up in the Rhondda Valley, holds the Emyr Humphreys Chair of Welsh Writing in English in Swansea University and is Chairman of the Welsh Books Council.



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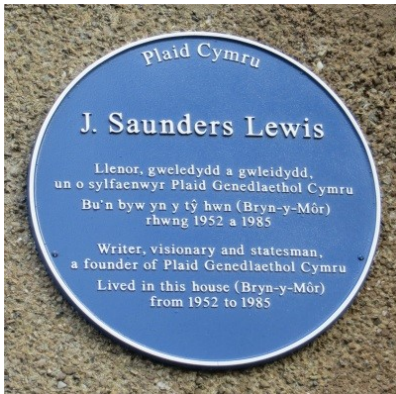
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A prolific author, his work includes the biography 'Kitchener Davies', published by the University of Wales Press in 2002.

The new study can be read in both Welsh and English on Plaid Cymru History Society's website, hanesplaidcymru.org.

What About A Blue Plaque?



How about celebrating the history of our national movement in your home area with a blue plaque - like this one (many thanks to Cangen Penarth)? It's not that difficult - contact Plaid History (details below) for more information.

Fighting Poverty in the Thirties

Valuable information has come to light about the 'Thursday Clubs' set up by Plaid Cymru during the depression before the Second World War.

The idea behind the scheme was that people in work would help those less fortunate by giving up one meal a week,

and contribute sixpence towards feeding families in need.

Documents given to the History Society by Siôn ap Glyn shed more light on how the Clubs operated - more on the Plaid History website.

Plaid History Website

It's worth keeping a close eye on the Society's website - which is full of interesting items on the activities of our national movement and is updated regularly. Go to:

www.hanesplaidcymru.org - there's also a Facebook page [@hanesplaidcymru](https://www.facebook.com/hanesplaidcymru).

Many Thanks...

...to Alan Jobbins, Eglwys Newydd, who has retired from his post as Treasurer of the Plaid Cymru History Society following a period of illness. Alan inspired the founding of the Society twelve years ago.

Best wishes to Alan and Catherine - and to our new Treasurer, Stephen Thomas.



Project 2023



National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

Despite delay caused by the Covid pandemic, members of the Plaid Cymru History Association will be pressing ahead during the year with an important project to update a record of the party's publications - and make them available worldwide.

The project, to be carried out in cooperation with the World Microfilms company, will market digitalised versions of Plaid Cymru's publications available to academics and others interested in the history of our national movement.

The work involves selecting specific items from the party's extensive annals and sending them for copying. Please let us know if you live near Aberystwyth and would be willing to help.

Join Plaid History

You are very welcome to join the Plaid Cymru History Association - membership is open both to individuals and to party branches.

A strong membership helps us identify and safeguard important records, and promote activities to celebrate the contribution made by Plaid members past and present.

Ideally we would like to see a number of Plaid History cells, making use of the resources of the National Library and each of Wales' county archives.

How to join? Go to the Plaid History website (www.hanesplaidcymru.org), follow 'Menu' at the top and then 'Membership'.

Contact Us

Have you got historical items you would like to hand over for safekeeping to the Plaid Cymru History Society? You can contact Plaid History's Secretary Eluned Bush by emailing history@hanesplaidcymru.org