

If you have anything you would like to see included
in future editions, please contact us.

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The Welsh Psychiatric Society
Y Gymdeithas Seiciatregol Gymreig
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Spring Newsletter 2007



New space age bridge at Swansea Marina

President

Professor Bill Fraser CBE, FMedSci

Vice-Presidents

Professor Mike Owen FRCPsych, FMedSci
Dr Mike Shooter FRCPsych



*Llandudno beach - Autumn 2007
taken by one of our Breton colleagues*

Brenda Maddox is a first class biographer who has already written about D H Lawrence, W B Yeats and Mrs James Joyce. This book on Ernest Jones is easy to read and after getting started I found it difficult to put down. This is unusual for me and I read it quickly. It gave me great pleasure, particularly as I was familiar with some of the material and it brought back happy memories.

For us in Swansea we were fortunate that Sam Macmillan our erstwhile colleague made certain that the centenary of Dr Ernest Jones' birth was celebrated in style. A blue circular plaque, which I ordered from the Pool Pottery Company, was placed on the house where he was born. Tom Davies, our foremost medical historian wrote a bilingual monograph about Ernest Jones and on the day a distinguished psychoanalyst unveiled the plaque. We had a lovely reception in a GP's home in Gowerton and we all had the pleasure of meeting Ernest Jones' widow and his family. There was a downside. On the same day Huw our son developed appendicitis and was operated on at the end of the day.

A distinctive Welsh characteristic is that we want to know about the author as well. Brenda Maddox brings added interest. She considers that she has a real feel for her subject as her husband Sir John Maddox is from Gorseinon, an adjacent village to Gowerton. Sir John has had an impressive career as a writer, broadcaster and editor of Nature. In addition, their daughter Bronwen is the foreign editor of The Times.



The Society's Coat of Arms

Meddyg gorau - meddyg enaid
The best physician - a physician for the soul

Gareth Hughes a long-standing member of the Society and a former chairman and secretary designed this and it was adopted in the early nineteen eighties. By 1984 it was in wide use on the Society's stationary, ties and the Chairman's badge of office.

The design is based upon the colours of the Welsh Flag and incorporates the Dragon on the crest. The staff and the encircling snake represent Aesculapius, the Greek God of Healing. The butterflies with their light and ephemeral qualities represent the human soul or psyche.

When the Society was re-launched it adopted the old Welsh proverb, Meddyg gorau - meddyg enaid, the best physician - a physician for the soul, as its motto. Gareth has now re-worked his design to incorporate this very fitting motto. The Society is very grateful to Dr Hughes.

CONFERENCES

Llandudno 10th November 2006



The usual Llandudno Autumn venue of the Welsh Psychiatric Society was livened on 10 November 2006 by the arrival of two dozen Bretons for a joint meeting of the Welsh Psychiatric Society and the Societe de Neuropsychiatrie de l'Ouest.

Earlier on the Friday, the one-day conference of the WPS took place in the Imperial Hotel. Entitled "Current Controversies in Psychiatry". The morning opened with an international aura. Professor Bruno Millet of Rennes University gave an impressive presentation about the development of Deep Brain Stimulation in neuropsychiatric patients. A short video of its efficacy in Parkinson's disease was miraculous. Dr Marianne van den Bree from the Netherlands, now Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychological Medicine in Cardiff focused on risk factors in adolescent substance use. She gave an elegant paper, which explored the relationship between genetic and environmental factors. Local input came from Professor Ian Russell of Bangor covering trials of complex interventions and he told us about the evaluation of the use of Folic Acid Augmentation in the treatment of depression. A further

Sir Isambard Owen was born in Chepstow. He was named after the illustrious nineteenth century engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel who was his godfather. At the time Sir Isambard's father was Chief Engineer when The Great Western Railway was being built.

Gethin Morgan, Emeritus Professor of Mental Health at Bristol University, described Sir Isambard's work in Bristol. Over the years many of us have had contact, advice and support from Professor Morgan. In addition he has always maintained a keen interest in Wales and affection for his roots in Gwent.

BOOK REVIEW

Freud's Wizard: The Enigma of Dr Ernest Jones By Brenda Maddox

368 pp John Murray £25.00

This new book is a must read for members of the society for several reasons. Ernest Jones was a close colleague, friend and biographer of Freud, who introduced psychoanalytical ideas into the English-speaking world and established psychoanalysis in Britain. He is the most well known Welsh doctor with an impressive international reputation. In addition he is one of the three iconic images on our homepage.

Jones was born and brought up in Gowerton, a small industrial village on the outskirts of Swansea. After an impressive student career he failed to become a medical specialist in London because of several sexual scandals and today he would have been struck off. Nevertheless because of his sheer determination, charm, charisma, boundless energy, and prodigious ability he was able to overcome all his difficulties. As a German linguist he became interested in Freud's ideas and saw it as his mission in life to promote these revolutionary ideas throughout the Western world.

on the College's objective to promote best clinical practice in the treatment of mental illness at a primary care level. We extend to him our warm congratulations and best wishes for a successful term of office.

New fellows of The Royal College have recently been announced. Members of the Welsh Division of the College have done extremely well and we wish to congratulate them. These are the names of our twelve Welsh colleagues on the 2007 list; Daniel Antebi, Jonathan Bisson, Gillian Davies, Huw Davies, Mary Ellis, Giles Harborne, Helen Holmes, Carl Hooper, Ray Jacques, Keith Lloyd, Tony Roberts, John Talbot, Roger Thomas, Tegwyn Williams, Mark Winston.

international Celtic contribution was from Professor Robin McCreadie of Dumfries speaking on lifestyle physical health and schizophrenia.

Professor Keith Lloyd's successful one-day conference format was followed in the afternoon and the morning speakers led workshops on their topics. The business meeting of the WPS preceded this.

Unfortunately, only a few intrepid Bretons managed to join us in time for the evening meal, the main body having been detained in various airports. They did arrive looking rather tired; nevertheless several demonstrated their stamina by assisting in an exploration of local pubs.

The joint meeting proper was on Saturday morning. Dr Don Williams welcomed all in three languages. Phil Jones, Research Fellow, Swansea, started proceedings with a presentation on "Declining suicide rates for men in England and Wales are mirrored by a rise in deaths of undetermined intent". Dr David Travers, Lecturer from Rennes, presented "Insight in schizophrenia – preliminary results from a French study". This was followed by Dr Regina Hunnerkopf, Postdoctoral Researcher, Swansea, on "Biomarkers and proteomics in psychiatric research" and Dr Nemat Jaafari, Senior Lecturer, Poitiers "Is it possible to live after the insertion of an implantable cardiac defibrillator? Which quality of life? Which medicopsychologic problems?" The final presentation was on "Current discussions about mental health legislation and their ethical implications" by Dr Peter Lepping, Senior Lecturer, Wrexham. The morning ended with a joint forum comparing and contrasting the development of psychiatric practice in Wales and Brittany.

In the afternoon session several matters were discussed. In November the next joint Welsh Breton meeting will take place in St Malo, hopefully Wales will be well represented. Breton–Welsh collaboration in academic work was discussed. There was unanimous support that exchange experience for trainees should be established. Naturally funding would not be easy, however several potential sources were considered, such as the Welsh Assembly

NEWS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

History of Medicine Society of Wales

This long established group has waxed and waned, however it is now thriving, thanks largely to a very effective secretary - Dr Margaret Jones. It holds four meetings a year in different parts of Wales but this year there is an extra meeting, a dinner in Aberystwyth in June. This is to celebrate the centenary of the National Library of Wales.

The annual programme largely reflects the interests of the Society's president. Currently Neil MacIntyre, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the Royal Free and University College Medical School London, holds this office. The last meeting was on March 24th this year at Chepstow.

This was devoted to the life and work of Sir Isambard Owen (1850-1927), who became dean of St George's Medical School, London. Later he was vice-chancellor of Durham and then Bristol University. In addition he was highly inventive, imaginative and influential in establishing the building blocks of Welsh identity; the National Library, the National Museum, the University of Wales and the Welsh National School of Medicine.

Government, the European Union and the Erasmus Foundation. The idea that the WPS should set up a separate fund for promoting this idea was also mooted.

The finale of the joint meeting was dinner at the Quay Hotel, Deganwy, with views to floodlit Conway Castle. The menu and venue were carefully selected (and vetted by Alison Lewis' secretary to Professor Lloyd who made a special advance trip to make sure facilities were acceptable) to give our Breton colleagues a feast of Welsh sensations in multiple modalities. They told us the plan succeeded admirably and they will attempt to outdo us in St Malo in November 2007.

Karl Rice

Swansea Friday 20th April 2007

At this stage you will have received all the details about this meeting. The theme is Mental Illness and Primary Care. It should be interesting and stimulating. The Society is evolving and attracting members from a wider cross section of mental health and related professionals. We hope that this will be reflected in the delegates at this meeting. The presence of family doctors, for instance, would lead to a more informed and balanced discussion about issues at the interface between community-based services and those provided by hospitals. In the afternoon there is a poster session and we hope that there will be a good response to this innovation.

We hope that you have found the programme attractive and are planning to attend. There is still plenty of time to register. The deadline is Friday 13 April 2007. This can be done by completing the form or downloading it from our website www.wps.swan.ac.uk. Naturally if you have any queries Alison Lewis on 01792 602355 will be very happy to deal with them or at a.lewis@swansea.ac.uk.

Joint Meeting in St Malo

The Autumn 2007 meeting will be in Brittany at a joint meeting with the Societe de Neuro-Psychiatrie de l'Ouest. Plans are well underway for this meeting and hopefully there will be a good Welsh turnout. More details will soon be available.

UPDATES FROM THE SOCIETY

WPS Archive

Another box of documents, containing 10 files, has been received from Huw Bevan-Jones. These files contain invaluable information about the creation of our unique link with Brittany. The National Library of Wales are anxious to receive all of our documents, however before the documents can be transferred to Aberystwyth the papers will be needed by Bapuji Rao and Karl Rice who are preparing a history of the Society and an account of our special link with Brittany.

Newsletter

As readers will see this is evolving and soon we hope to move towards a more systematic approach to news-gathering. However we are beginning to establish helpful contacts in various parts of the country. Additional feedback and ideas would be well received.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Dr Roger Banks, consultant in Learning Disabilities in North East Wales and based at the Conway and Denbighshire Trust, has been elected as Vice-President of the Royal college of Psychiatrists with a remit to take a lead