



## South East Wales Unitarian News

[www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk) [www.ukunitarians.org.uk/sewus/](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/sewus/)



June 2013

### FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June** – One-day workshop on Unitarian Approaches to Prayer in Worship, facilitated by Revs Margaret Kirk and Lindy Latham. 10.30am – 4pm at Unitarian Meeting, Brunswick Square, Bristol BS2 8PE. Please bring your own lunch. Booking advisable – 01845 574 542 or 0117 9607 906

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July : Annual District Rally** – 11am bilingual service at Capel Brondeifi, Lampeter with lunch in vestry (Catering by 'Y Pantri', Lampeter); afternoon visit to Cae Hir Gardens at Cribyn.

**Coach (Edwards):** Pontypridd (Cardiff membs) 8.30am; Cefncoed 8.45am; Hirwaun (Aberdare membs) 9am; Skewen (Nottage, Swansea, Trebanos membs) 9.30am. **Costs:** Coach £10; Lunch (veg option available) £12; Entry to Cae Hir Gdns £4.50; Cream Tea at Cae Hir (Optional MUST be booked in advance) £4.

**Final numbers to Keith Lewis-Jones by 14<sup>th</sup> July.**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August** – Copy deadline for the next issue of South East Wales Unitarian News

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August** – Gellionnen Folk Service at 11am. Speaker – Rev Alun Wyn Dafis

### DISTRICT AGM 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the South East Wales Unitarian Society was held at Gellionnen, Trebanos on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am.

We were welcomed by retiring District President Phil Griffiths who guided us through a review of the work of the Society during 2012, as presented in the *Annual Report* \*.

Julie Nedin (Trebanos) was then installed as District President for 2013-15. She thanked Phil and others who were standing down from their posts, and welcomed their successors – including Vice-President Tony Foster of Aberdare.

Following the business session Julie then conducted a short service on the theme 'connections'. The meeting concluded with a shared lunch.

Our thanks to Gellionnen and Graig congregations for their hospitality

(For further details see *'From The President'* below.)

\*The *Annual Report* plus a list of post-holders is available on the SEWUS website at [www.ukunitarians.org.uk/sewus/](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/sewus/)



Retiring President Phil Griffiths with incoming President Julie Nedin  
Photo: Keith Lewis-Jones

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU ...Informal interviews with local Unitarians

The Interview in this issue of South East Wales News is with Colin Morgan of Capel y Graig, Trebanos.

In relating the story of his long association with Capel y Graig, Colin has painted a colourful picture of local Unitarianism. His interview also chronicles the significant changes which have taken place in society both in terms of material wealth and social values during his lifetime.

Colin began, "My long love affair with Unitarianism dates back to 1932 when I was christened at the Graig Chapel, in the arms of the minister DG Rees who was to be followed by five other Unitarian Ministers over a period of more than 80 years, who all influenced my faith and enriched my spiritual life.

"Following a competitive entrance examination, I attended a three-year course at the Pontardawe Mining and Technical School and, at 16, began a five-year apprenticeship in Mechanical Engineering with the Mond Nickel Company."

"During my training, and up to the age of 26, I studied on a part time basis at Swansea Technical College, Swansea University, Bradford University and Cambridge University. Eventually I graduated and qualified as a Chartered Engineer and became a full member of The Institute of Mechanical Engineers. At home and abroad I held a number of senior positions, including at BP Petro-Chemical Industries".

Over the years Colin has been involved in a variety of voluntary activities. These include being the founder chairman of The Tawe Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers, Chairman of Trebanos Mixed Choir and a Governor of the Pontardawe Comprehensive School. During the 1980s Colin managed a major renovations programme for the St Madoc Christian Youth Camp on the Gower. St Madoc's having been bequeathed to children (of all denominations) by the Swansea Unitarian, William Burr.

Colin has been married to Dol for 20 years. They have known each other from early school days. Dol is an Anglican with very strong Unitarian roots, her great-grandparents, over decades, being faithful members of Gellionnen. Dol is a very clever seamstress and makes beautiful clothes and delicious Welsh cakes and sponges. Sadly, Colin's first wife Jean died of Cancer. Jean and Colin had a daughter, Ania Jane, who now lives in London with her husband Iain and their three children.

**NB** I wish it to be noted that it was not possible within the word space allowed to relate Colin's interesting experience of working in Poland during the 1960s

*Ella Lewis-Jones*

***I understand that almost from birth you have been a Unitarian. Can you explain how this came about?***

My family had worshipped at The Graig and Gellionnen and contributed to the life of the village, for five generations so that it was only natural that I was brought up a Unitarian. At the age of four, along with the late Eirion Phillips, I became a member of the Graig Sunday School. In the decades that followed I participated in most of the activities held at the chapel.

***What do you owe your parents?***

The easy answer is to say "everything". As the years have rolled on I realise more and more, the sacrifices made by my parents and my love for them grows. I wish now that I had told my mother and father more frequently, that I loved them.

***What trait do you most deplore in yourself?***

I am impatient and bad tempered with people who are totally indifferent to humane problems. My father too recognised this as one of my weaknesses and he would give me advice by quoting Goethe: *Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you will help them to become what they are capable of being.*

***Is it better to give or to receive?***

A very good question, which I have difficulty in answering. I would have preferred you to enquire, "Is it better to share?" And I would have replied by quoting my mother who often reminded my sister Gwyneth and I saying "The Orange is at its best and sweetest when it is shared".

During the 1930s when attending the Graig Sunday School with over one hundred other pupils, we all invariably held different views and opinions on life, religion and politics, but there was one common denominator, *we were all poor.*

When you are poor in material things, what can you give? At that time giving and sharing was a way of life, we shared our joys and sorrows and gave our time to those in need. Most of the adult members of the congregation were known to us children by their Christian names, prefaced by Uncle or Aunt and they all gave generously to our chapel and its young members. By their actions they underlined a great truth – *the most precious thing you can give a child is your time.*

***What book would you recommend to others and what is the reason for this?***

I would recommend two books (particularly for teenagers). These books were introduced by the Rev. Islwyn Prichard for members of the Graig Sunday School. The first was by Dr Eustace Chesser, *Grow up and live.* This book dealt frankly with many of the problems experienced by young people which at that time were considered taboo. News of our new book spread rapidly throughout the village and the Sunday school was inundated with requests for membership! The second book was written by Margaret Barr entitled *The Great Unity* and describes the religions of the world.

***What has been your biggest contribution to society?***

I do not really know the answer for I am still well, active and enjoying life, but I am reminded of the words of Pope John Paul .... *Concern yourself not with what you have failed in, but what is still possible for you to do.*

By choice, I would wish to advocate and practice the tenets of Ralph Waldo Emerson in responding to the question *what is success?*

- To laugh often and much;
- To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;
- To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;
- To appreciate beauty;
- To find the best in others;
- To leave the world a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;
- To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.

***What are the qualities you most admire in other people?***

Perhaps because of my Unitarian upbringing, I admire those people who have voiced their dissatisfaction with injustice and because of their endeavours to bring about change, they too, and their families have suffered. Great men have never been secretive – they have always shared their thoughts with others and I rejoice that so much good is manifested when TRUTH is made public, which has been the case recently with, for example, the abuse of children and the elderly. Some members of our churches and chapels too are secretive, and some people deliberately hide the truth to *avoid rocking the boat* as they say, but any boat that suppresses truth deserves to sink.

It is important that we voice our fears, thoughts, prayers and aspirations and I admire the late Dr Elwyn Davies for reminding us that: - *“Every man is free to his opinion and every opinion to its expression: - Test everything, but hold fast to what is good”.*

***What is the most valuable lesson life has taught you?***

During my lifetime and after much travelling, I have concluded that there is no community that is wholly good or bad and that it is by loving and forgiving that we make our lives meaningful.

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ANNUAL MEETINGS 2013**

This year's GA at Nottingham was very busy, informative and inspiring. The Constitution Committee, after deliberation rejected proxy voting. I voted on behalf of SE Wales and supported all motions. **All motions were carried** – they were as follows:-

**Motion 1.** That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, recognising the worth and dignity of all people and their freedom to believe as their consciences dictate, believes that:

- 1) Any individual who faces an intolerable existence because of a debilitating and/or incurable physical condition should have the right to seek support for the termination of their life in a painless and dignified manner; and
- 2) legislation should respect their choice and allow them compassionate assistance in achieving such a death without fear of the prosecution of anyone involved.

**Motion 2.** This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches urges fellow Unitarians and all people of goodwill to promote a greater awareness and understanding of the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part and recognising the dignity and worth of all living creatures, cultivate an ethic of compassion and mercy to the billions of sentient beings who share this planet with us and to act in ways that promote our common welfare.

**Motion 3.** This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches:

- 1) Affirms the common call of faith traditions for peace among the nations
- 2) Acknowledges those congregations which presently participate in inter-faith & inter church events contemplating and praying for World Peace
- 3) Designates the 3rd Sunday in October each year as a special Unitarian day for World Peace when Unitarian & Free Christian Churches host an 'Interfaith Service for World Peace'
- 4) Requests that the Facilitation Services Action Group together with the Unitarian Peace Fellowship produce worship material for this occasion.

**Motion 4.** This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches asks the UK Government to establish without delay a Royal Commission or interdepartmental public inquiry to -

- 1) examine the present UK drug-related health and crime situations and compare those in other countries
- 2) examine and review the efficacy of current UK legislation in relation to drugs both those which are illegal and those which are legal
- 3) review options for alternatives to the current criminal justice-based approach, drawing on the experience of other countries, including the appropriateness of the medicalisation and decriminalisation of drug substances and the treatment of addictions.

*Dilys Evans (Official SEWUS delegate)*

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK – O DDESG YR YSGRIFENNYDD

It was a pleasure to attend the recent AGM of the South East Wales District, and to enjoy the hospitality that was provided by the Gellionnen congregation.

I would like to congratulate Julie Nedin as she starts her term as District President, and to thank outgoing President Phil Griffiths for his co-operation on various matters during his term as President.

From a Welsh Department point of view, I am pleased to welcome Diana Bianchi and Keith Lewis-Jones, along with Julie Nedin, to the Welsh Department Committee. It was heartening to see a close contest between three nominees (Diana, Keith and Lis Dyson-Jones) for the two elected positions on the Welsh Department committee, and I would like to thank all three candidates for putting their names forward. The fact that there was a contest indicates that there has been a new interest in the work of the Welsh Department Committee, and that the Department Committee is perhaps seen a place to get things done on behalf of our denomination across Wales. I look forward to working closely with Julie, Keith and Diana in the forthcoming weeks and months.

Since your District AGM, I was pleased to have assisted in the facilitation of your District Rally on July 28<sup>th</sup>, at Brondeifi Chapel in Lampeter. I mentioned at the AGM that Brondeifi, as the largest Unitarian congregation in Ceredigion, has connections across Wales. I'm sure that your visit to Brondeifi will be a success. I have had the pleasure of their hospitality and I can vouch for the fact that their home cooking is as good as any restaurant in the county! I hope that your visit will lead to the discovery of new friendships and connections that will strengthen our movement across both districts.

I remain in direct contact with Trebanos, Swansea and Nottage about various matters relating to governance in those congregations. Whilst I am not necessarily an expert on every matter that arises, I am certainly able to suggest ideas, and to make various enquiries on your behalf. They say that *"a problem shared, is a problem halved"*, and I hope that as congregations you all feel able to contact me on any issue, large or small.

Enjoy the good weather (while it lasts!) and I'll look forward to seeing some of you in Brondeifi, if not before then.

*Mwynhewch y tywydd braf!*

Gyda phob hwyl - with best wishes,

*Carwyn Tywyn*

Ysgrifennydd y Gyfadran Gymreig / Welsh Department Secretary

[ctywyn@unitarian.org.uk](mailto:ctywyn@unitarian.org.uk) 07973 851590

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to thank everyone who attended the District AGM and service on 12<sup>th</sup> May held at Gellionnen chapel in Trebanos.

We managed to combine business and devotion with a relaxed lunch where we grasped a rare chance to share experiences from our local chapels – Gellionnen was filled with lively chat at this point! There's no doubt that we are all facing challenges, but I was particularly inspired by the dedication of members who are working with children, and with the spirit in our meeting place. The atmosphere was lovely and I felt uplifted – I hope you did too.

On that day we took the opportunity to thank officers who were standing down: Philip Griffiths as President, Sarah Boyce as Secretary, Hilda Dumbleton as minute secretary and, after over 10 years in the role, Anne Jones and Ken Morgan as Welsh Dept representatives – we owe a debt to them all.

In the service that followed the AGM I introduced a theme for my next two years as President – 'connections'. We heard a member of each District congregation present read short metaphors written by Rev Andrew Hill, describing Unitarian community. One of these likens Unitarian community to a stew pot, 'the quality of the stew depends on the quality of the cooking.' This speaks to me of the importance of working together in a way that doesn't lose individuality, we are rich in our diversity, but understanding the value of being bound together, thus finding strength to face our challenges.

Such is life that as soon as we start focussing on the connections to each other we are shocked into looking up and seeing events which remind us of other important connections.

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May a 24-year-old soldier, Lee Rigby, was brutally murdered on a London street in an attack which his assailants insisted was, "in the name of Muslims." Our hearts go out to his family and friends, their pain and despair is unimaginable to us.

I want to quote one of the Muslim residents who witnessed the attack and immediately condemned the murder. Lucky Awale said: *"This [attack] is not right. It's not Muslim. We do not accept it."*

Immediate condemnation came from all Faith, civic and political groups, but there are forces who have taken advantage of the situation. The numbers of aggressive abuse to individual Muslims and attacks on mosques has risen considerably during the days following the murder. I have already been involved in a conversation where the view was expressed that 'these people will be treated like kings'. I'm pleased that I found enough courage to say that Islamic leaders and believers on their way to and from Friday prayers were at the forefront of condemning the act.

We need to be alert and prepared to stand up for tolerance and against prejudice, we can do this in our every day lives. In the meantime we as a movement need to be aware of the value of connection to other faith groups, and of the urgent need to provide **all** our young people with positive role models and purpose in life which prevents radicalisation. We have a long way to go as a nation and we can and should play our part.

*Julie Nedin*

## **ABERDARE**

In the previous S E Wales newsletter we informed you of the wonderful celebration of Myra Gordon's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sadly, we now have to report that Myra, after only one night in hospital, passed away very suddenly. True to form, Myra ensured that her wake was a joyous occasion and celebration of the life of a popular, valued member of Highland Place.

Anne Jones has made good progress with her knee replacement and Christine Roberts expects to have her second hip replacement very soon. After a short stay at Prince Charles Hospital Marian Whippey is now home and is hoping that her fractured hip will knit with rest and care.

Congratulations to our young organist Jacob on passing Grade 8 with distinction on the piano. Congratulations also to Eric. Firstly for his involvement in the GA in various roles, and secondly for the invitation to become a director on the *Inquirer*. Finally, congratulations to Dyfan Jones. Dyfan has been commissioned to arrange the music for a theatre production on the life of Dorothy Squires. The company will be touring the country very soon.

Women's League has enjoyed two talks recently. Jennifer George, a retired Head of English, traced the history of the theatre from the cave man through to miracle plays and church performances, the theatre in Shakespeare's time and later. Jennifer, with copious illustrations, showed what today's theatre owes to the past.

The Rev Peter Hewis gave a slide presentation of Brinsley Animal Rescue, a centre run by his daughter, Bethan, and her partner Jonathon in Nottinghamshire. Rescued animals include pigs, ponies, rabbits, goats, Boris the blind bull, birds and hedgehogs. Whenever possible all animals and birds are released into the wild or to caring homes. Bethan and Jon both have full-time jobs in addition to their rescue work and caring.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Lis Dyson-Jones told members about her recent trip to India and illustrated her talk with slides. On 29<sup>th</sup> May a tea and quiz are being held in aid of Amnesty International, specifically in support of women in Africa.

*Dilys Evans*

## **CARDIFF UNITARIANS / UNDOIDIAID CAERDYDD**

Dewi Owen, Diana Bianchi, Sarah and Caroline Boyce travelled together to Nottingham for the 2013 General Assembly Meetings. A summary by Diana, our delegate at the meetings was made at a service held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Interesting debates at Nottingham were on subjects such as Assisted Dying and the liberalisation of the War on Drugs. These debates seemed to attract the interest of the young Unitarians there. In an age of communication we perhaps need to engage more in open discussion of the complex questions of our time. This is one way Unitarianism can be a pathfinder through the maze of modern ethics that we face. Our 12 Steps to a Compassionate Life programme is an experiment that we are attempting in Cardiff to find a way forward through the use of ancient teachings in a modern world.

Interesting examples of good practice were highlighted at Nottingham that we can apply to our South Wales congregations. We as a congregation intend to explore this avenue in the coming months.

Unfortunately Margaret Evans was not able to attend the GA meetings. Lis Dyson-Jones the outgoing National President mentioned Margaret to the gathered assembly at the GA and cards were signed by many old friends to wish her well. We applaud Lis for all her service to the Unitarian movement as National President and for all her other work.

Keith Lewis-Jones, Dr Carwyn Tywyn and Dewi Owen worked in a team to deliver training in May on Twitter, Blogs and Facebook to the Cardiff Congregation. It was felt to be useful because this is the medium many people now use to find information to participate in groups.

Cardiff members were pleased to attend the District AGM in the old chapel of Gellionen on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May. This building was built high on a hill away from the establishment because of historic persecution of our denomination. This reminded us of our radical roots while we were there for the meeting, service and lunch. Our outgoing President Philip Griffiths stated the value of Unitarianism and how he was ready to support the new President in her role. We were able to welcome our incoming SEWUS District President Julie Nedin and wish her well in the year ahead.

Gwynn Pritchard represents our Church on the SEWUS Executive. Sarah Boyce has stepped down as District Secretary and this post is now filled by Keith Lewis-Jones, Aberdare. Diana Bianchi is now a member of the Welsh Department. Dewi Owen, Development Officer is welcomed as an observer at SEWUS meetings.

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May Diana led the 12 Steps Circle Service on Compassion in which we perused the subject of mindfulness, with a moving meditation at the end. This was then followed by the Church AGM chaired by Gwynn Pritchard at which reports were given by the Secretary and Treasurer, followed by the Development Officer. Discussion of the Interfaith Service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June also took place – the service will be led by the Reverend Eric Jones in conjunction with a Jewish and a Muslim speaker. As well as visitors from Aberdare and Cefncoed we will also be inviting Cardiff members and friends. It was proposed that the forming of a Worship and Development group will be discussed at the next Committee meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

Dewi Owen now represents Cardiff Unitarians on the South Cardiff Multi faith forum that consists of the Anglican Church, Cardiff Synagogue, Catholic Church, British Muslim Council and *now* the Cardiff Unitarians. The group exists so that people are aware of the varying religions in their area and can support each other in their work in the community.

We welcome back Pat Simpson from Australia after a visit for a family wedding and travel, and send best wishes to all who have been unwell recently, including Lynne's sister, Olwen.

We are looking forward to the service at Sain Ffagan at Penrhiw Chapel, then the Interfaith Service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June and the District Rally at the end of July.

Cardiff Unitarians wish all our friends in the South East Wales congregations well for the summer months.

*Dewi Owen, Cardiff Development Officer*

## **CEFNCOED**

### **Women's League**

At the District Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March our suggestion regarding the League Rally on 19<sup>th</sup> June – to go to Barry and on to Cold Knap in the afternoon for tea at Romillys – won favour, and Barbara Chivers of Highland Place and I were together entrusted with arranging it. Unfortunately we have now decided to cancel the trip through lack of support.

Each spring Margaret Griffiths (Phil's wife) organises a Coffee Morning in aid of Multiple Sclerosis. As usual, league members supported Margaret's efforts again this year and many of us were lucky to win raffle prizes.

At the end of April it was decided to move our meetings to the Vestry's ground floor flat. Our meetings during May have been held in the kitchen which is not really suitable and we wondered if we were being confined there for sexist reasons—*a woman's place, and all that*. However, Ken informs us that Philip has been negotiating a price for new carpeting in the sitting-room, so we'll be meeting in there from now on. Before that happens it will be a case of 'all hands on deck' in order to get the place all nice and clean.

*Vera Tomsett*

### **Charity Walk**

Despite her 89 years, one of our members, Margaret Edwards, is a very active individual and anyone who knows her would not be surprised to hear of her having pulled off some impressive feat or other. However, on this occasion the story involves, not Margaret, but her daughter-in-law Carmel who recently represented Merthyr's Prince Charles Hospital on a 25-mile charity walk across London by night in aid of cancer research. Margaret is justifiably very proud of Carmel's achievement.

### **Hitting the Big Five-O**

There was great revelry at Cefncoed on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May when S4C's Donna Borja-Edwards (*Britt Monk* of

*Pobol Y Cwm*) celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in fine style with a gathering of friends from across the years – one of *three* location-based parties organised by Donna. Among those present at the Cefn event were some of Donna's former teachers and many old school and chapel friends, including a group of fellow 50-year-old ladies who proudly displayed a much treasured framed-photograph of themselves in younger days as happy teenage girls enjoying their annual Unitarian holiday at Llanmadog Youth Camp.

### **District Banner**

During the two years of Phil Griffiths's presidency Hen Dŷ Cwrdd has been the home of the District Banner. On 12<sup>th</sup> May, accompanied by members of Hen Dŷ Cwrdd congregation, it was handed over to Trebanos congregation in recognition of Julie Nedin's installation as District President.

### **In our thoughts**

We are pleased to report that Mrs Nancy England is making good progress after her recent fall. We send our best wishes to Thelma Davies, whose husband Meirion is not well at present, and to all members who are unable to attend services.

*Ken Morgan*

### **NOTTAGE**

Sadly, Annette and David Marsh have resigned from their duties at Nottage. Annette's continued poor health, and family problems have led them to believe this is the best step for Nottage. We are very grateful for all they have done for us in the past, and wish them a healthy and happy future.

As a result the congregation has had to appoint some new officers.

At the head of our team is Gwladys Howell. Gwladys joined our congregation when she was 20, and married her much missed husband Les. She has been a faithful member, and has a ready smile and much encouragement for all. At the "tender" age of 91 she is our much loved President!

The post of Chairlady has been filled by Jean Thomas. Jean and her two brothers were much involved in Sunday School, and for many years she was a Sunday School teacher. She was married at Nottage, and now she and her son Jonathan attend as often as they can. Jean's comment when she accepted the post was "now I wear 3 hats" – she is also very active with the Beavers and cubs – and very good you look in them all Jean!

The post of Secretary has "boomeranged" back to me! Alastair Rosenberg has thankfully remained in post as Treasurer. He has been "examining" the NHS at close quarters recently! Alistair had a burst appendix and so needed surgery, but is now home and thankfully "on the mend". We wish him a speedy recovery.

And so, it's onward we go!

Grateful thanks to all who have filled our pulpit, especially Julianne Morgan, she has kept us under her wing for many years and has kept us "together" as a congregation. Bless you Julianne!

*Avril Protheroe*

### **SWANSEA**

*We send our best wishes to Swansea correspondent Pam Taylor who is currently a patient at Singleton Hospital.*

### **TREBANOS**

#### **GELLIONNEN**

This year we have donated £100 to Shelter Cymru. We have also purchased an electronic piano at a bargain price and it is with us just in time for the marriage of Valerie and Anthony. Sandra Beynon has completed her training as a registrar—just in time for the wedding!

We were well pleased with the attendance for Julie Nedin's Easter Service where chocolate eggs were shared and there were seven children present. Younger ones allowed us to put up their drawings at the end of the service.

It was good to welcome fellow Unitarians to the SEWUS AGM and service, and of course we were proud to receive the district banner when our own Julie Nedin was installed as president of the district.

So far this year our visiting service-takers have been Eric Jones, Phillip Griffiths, Hilda Dumbleton and Ella Lewis-Jones. What would we do without the pulpit plan? Our visitors are much appreciated and we can always look forward to a thoughtful, challenging/questioning address.

Primroses in the far corner of the graveyard are now almost gone to be replaced by bluebells of dazzling colour. The gorse has been burned back across the hillside and we look forward to the reappearance of bloom, butterfly and bee.

*Marian Littlepage*

## **WICK**

Helen Lewis, our intrepid organist, is off on her travels again. She has been to the States with her choir performing concerts to Welsh Societies in Philadelphia and New York. Then back to Wales for a brief visit before following the Lions Rugby tour in Australia. She will be home with us for our annual Flower Communion Service (later this year!) in July. We will celebrate a grand reunion.

Elin Jones travelled to Swansea with the Carers group for an outing which developed into a lengthy walk from Oystermouth to the Swansea Marina, luckily the weather was good and all hikers finished. Elin enjoyed the experience and may undertake further walks.

This July Phylis Rose our oldest member will celebrate her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. She is a wonderful lady with many stories of our chapel in the 20s and 30s. Brought up on a farm near the chapel all her family attended and used to welcome the ministers and lay ministers to tea after service. She tells me that the children were told to “hold back” and wait until the visitors had finished before they had their tea. Phylis lives in her flat with just her enormous cat for company plus of course her many visitors and carers. We wish her a wonderful day.

*Julianne Morgan*

## **WHAT IS UKunitarianTV ?**

For a while the NUF (National Unitarian Fellowship) and the UCCN (the Unitarian publicity group) have been experimenting with videos to help share the Unitarian message. *UKunitarianTV* created a year ago, builds on this work and can now provide a film-making service for many congregations and groups in the movement.

Walking into a Church for the first time is a big step – people do not know what they are going to find! Creating video to show them what we stand for and how we worship is one way to break down this barrier. It helps convince them that we are not “*God for vegetarians*” – which is what my friend thought we were! We know people do their research on the internet these days and having good video about us there is what we need to recruit the next generation. We know of British Unitarians who started coming after watching American Unitarian worship on the internet. Our films also get worship to those who cannot get to churches.

It is now very easy to include video on the internet and social media web sites such as *YouTube* and *Facebook* and this gives us an enormous audience. *UKunitarianTV* is using these new opportunities to make information about our movement far more available. We put a new set of programmes out each month on [www.ukunitarian.tv](http://www.ukunitarian.tv) and on YouTube where our videos have been watched more than 15,000 times in the last year. If you would like to get involved or would like more information please contact James Barry on [jbarry@kyla.co.uk](mailto:jbarry@kyla.co.uk)



Kevin Lowe, John and Joan Wilkinson and James Barry

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## **ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION**

Copy-deadline for the next issue of the *South East Wales Unitarian News* is **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2013**.

Items for publication should be sent by to:-

Ken Morgan, 25c Holford Street, Cefn Coed y Cymer, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 2RW. Tel: 01685 379016.

Copy may also be e-mailed to [kenneth.morgan25@tesco.net](mailto:kenneth.morgan25@tesco.net) or to [Philip@philipgriffiths.co.uk](mailto:Philip@philipgriffiths.co.uk)

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