

Cardiff Celebrates Roald Dahl's 100th Birthday

By Lise Hull

On 17 and 18 September, thousands of people swarmed Cardiff city center for the start of the Roald Dahl City of The Unexpected celebrations. Castle Street was jam-packed as people gathered at the end of a procession that had seen a giant peach travelling through the streets of the Welsh capital. The two-day event, a collaboration between National Theatre Wales and the Wales Millennium Centre, has been months in the planning and involved a cast of thousands. The action unfolded when a giant peach was hoisted from a construction site by a crane. As well as the procession, onlookers also saw foxes scaling the castle, giant frogs embedded in the historic building's walls come to life and witches casting a spell on shoppers.

The Roald Dahl 100 celebrations coincide with "Wales: Year of Adventure" in 2016. Born in Llandaff, Cardiff on 13 September 1916, Roald Dahl himself was no stranger to adventure, whether as a child getting up to well-documented mischief in the local sweetshop or as a young pilot during World War II. In his writing for children, Roald Dahl took his characters and readers on a series of unforgettable adventures, including James's transatlantic flight in a giant peach, Charlie's journey through Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory and Sophie's travels with The BFG.

Interestingly, Dahl also



Aaron Hywel Owen Griffiths dressed up as Willy Wonka for Roald Dahl Day at Gwaelod y Garth School, Cardiff.

devised a treatment for his sick son, which would go on to help thousands of children to this day. Still known in the medical profession as the Wade-Dahl-Till valve, it was used to relieve hydrocephalus, a condition that can leave patients with enormously swollen heads due to an accumulation of fluid in the skull. Dahl began work on the valve after five-month-old son Theo developed the condition after being struck by a New York taxi in December 1960.

During 2016, in addition to

City of the Unexpected, the Wales Programme will include a citywide performance celebrating all things Dahl, produced by National Theatre Wales, and Wales Millennium Centre, and a program of outreach events by Literature Wales taking the wonders of Roald Dahl and his characters far and wide. Roald Dahl's work will also be celebrated through an exhibition of illustrations by Quentin Blake and World Book Day.

Cwrs Cymraeg Follows Prince Madog to Alabama

By Maegan Langer

We've heard the legend of Madog ab Owain Gwynedd, the twelfth-century Welsh prince who sailed to America long before Columbus. What is perhaps less well known is he's believed to have landed in the area of Mobile, Alabama. This July, Cymdeithas Madog decided it was time to follow in his footsteps!

Cwrs Dinas y Roked-The Rocket City Course, our fortieth annual week-long Welsh course, took place at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Local organizers Robert and Meagan Davis went all out to make it an extraordinary week for everyone right from the start. Not only did they provide dozens of home-baked Welsh cakes for the opening reception, they topped it off with a visit from the Sugar Belle Cupcake Truck just for



Cwrs Cymraeg 2016 Class Photo, taken by Ted Davis

Cwrs Cymraeg!

As usual, we dove right into intense Welsh learning on Monday morning. We welcomed quite a few locals and first-timers this year, resulting in a large class of level-one students. We also welcomed a new tutor, Cris Dafis. Cris works with the Coleg Cymraeg

Cenedlaethol at Cardiff Metropolitan University and teaches the Welsh Degree course at Swansea University and the University of South Wales in Treforest. He also writes a weekly column for the Welsh magazine, *Golwg*.

We work hard at Cwrs

(Continued on page 3)



Rochester last hosted the National Gymnafa ganu in 1953.

Return to Rochester After 64 Years!

By Richard P. Donohoe

On September 5 and 6, 1953, 2000 Welsh folks from across the continent and around the world converged on Rochester for the 22nd Welsh National **Gymanfa Ganu**. In the program, Lynn Watkins, president of the sponsoring committee, wrote:

"There is a certain sense of challenge in bringing the *Gymanfa Ganu* to Rochester one of the truly great musical centers in America. To the Eastman Theater of the University of Rochester, have come the greatest of musical artists, the finest of choral groups. The Eastman School of Music of the University is one of the outstanding schools of its kind in the country. Rochester knows its music thoroughly. You will meet this challenge of Rochester's musical tradition, my fellow Welshmen, at this coming *Gymanfa Ganu*...You will carry on the precious, priceless heritage of your race—the heritage of music in song. Reach deep into your Cymric souls and sing with the harmony and the *hwyl* of the unconquered and unconquerable people you are."

On August 31–September 3, 2017, the 85th Welsh National *Gymanfa Ganu* returns to Rochester, after sixty-four years, as the centerpiece of the expanded **North American Festival of Wales**.

Rochester is New York's third largest city and the center of a metropolitan area comprising six Upstate counties, with a regional population exceeding 1,000,000.

Rochester was one of America's first boomtowns. It rose to prominence as the site of

flour mills along the Genesee River and then as a major hub of manufacturing. Several of the region's universities, notably the University of Rochester and The Rochester Institute of Technology, have renowned research programs. In addition, Rochester is the site of many important inventions and innovations in consumer products. The Rochester area was the birthplace of such corporations as Kodak, Bausch & Lomb, and Xerox that conduct extensive research and manufacturing in the fields of industrial and consumer products.

Like Buffalo, Rochester is close to Welsh-American populations in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and Welsh-Canadian populations in Ontario.

The Welsh were hardly noticeable as a community early on. There was no Welsh church or Welsh organization. A small number of Welsh-born residents were scattered throughout Monroe County. Several Rochesterians of colonial-period Welsh heritage, however, loom larger than life: Rush Rhees, the president who transformed the University of Rochester into a modern university, and Lewis Henry Morgan whose work on Iroquoian kinship earned him the title "Father of American Anthropology."

By 1900, there were only fifty-nine Welsh-born residents in Rochester, but over the next two decades their numbers increased modestly as more Welsh immigrants and descendants of Welsh immigrants came to participate in the Rochester economy. After World War I, the Welsh industrial economy took a nosedive,

(Continued on page 3)

NINNAU™

The North American Welsh Newspaper®
Papur Cymry Gogledd America™
Incorporating Y Drych™

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Answering the need for a stronger link between the many Welsh communities of North America. Y Drych means "the mirror."
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Our Editorial Policy is intended to accomplish the following: Endeavor to maintain the North American Welsh informed of local and general news and events of interest; Publicize individual contributions to community life; Provide a forum for discussion and individual expression; Educate the Welsh people in their traditions; Serve as a link between North American Welsh people and organizations; Serve as a link between the North American Welsh people and Wales.

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Letters to the Editor.

Letters should be concise and deal with one subject. Typed letters are preferred, but handwritten letters are acceptable, provided that names are printed legibly. They must be signed with name and address. Send your letter by e-mail or regular mail.

Our email address is:
ninnaupublications@gmail.com

Calgary Welsh Society Volunteers Shine!

To the Editor:

Llongyfarchiadau to the Welsh North American Association for an outstanding North American Festival of Wales in Calgary! Every part of the festival was truly first class, from the opening ceremony to the gymanfa in Knox United Church. But I have to say that having the many volunteers from the Calgary Welsh Society on site helping to run the festi-

val was a true highlight. Their smiling faces, red bandanas and cowboy hats amped up the fun, but the dedication of the volunteers helped things run more efficiently. Their enthusiasm was certainly infectious! Diolch yn fawr iawn to Elaine Westlake and Dave Matthews and their entire committee for a job well done!

Jeanne Jones Jindra
Gallipolis, OH

The Ontario Welsh Festival's Gold Award Needs Your Input

Dear Ninnau Readers,

Since The Gold Award's inception in 2011 -the 50th anniversary of the Ontario Welsh Festival (OGGA)-a person who has contributed greatly to the Welsh community in Ontario has been honoured during the Festival weekend.

Who would you like to see honoured? Is there someone that you think deserves to be recognized? The Board asks you to make your recommenda-

tion(s) as soon as possible, because this is YOUR award. We depend on you to bring names to our attention. If possible could you add a short bio of your choice? Send your recommendation to Julie Wenz, president of the Festival (juliewenz@yahoo.ca)

Even if you don't live in Ontario you might be familiar enough with the Welsh community/events that your suggestions would be of great help.

For more information about

the Award, check our website www.ontariowelshfestival.ca This includes the list of past honourees.

Looking forward to hearing from you very soon.

Hefina Phillips
On behalf of the Ontario
Gymanfa Ganu Association

From The Editor

It is hard to believe that this is the last edition of 2016. I often find myself wondering where the time goes. As it is only October as I write this, I feel it is too soon to reflect on the year as a whole but will reflect on a theme that I have felt over the last few months, community.

Over the summer, I received a letter from a Ninnau reader, saying that he, as a proud Welsh American, was sad to say he had experienced a feeling of discrimination while visiting Wales because of the current American political situation in the United States.

I am not in a position to com-

ment on the political state in the US right now. But what I immediately felt was how sad. We, as Welsh in North America, have a strong sense of pride of who we are, and specifically a sense of pride of where we came from. Above all else, it is our love for Wales that binds us together, and nothing should change that. This is what we should be recognized for throughout North America and in Wales.

While in Calgary, for this year's North American Festival of Wales, I witnessed so many examples of the strong sense of community that exists. There was a group of Welsh ex-pats who had lived together in the North-West Territory, reunited at the festival to celebrate an award given to one of their own. The Calgary Welsh Society did

an exemplary job in working together and sharing us what their local Welsh community is capable of. These small examples of community gave us of us who were there, an even stronger feeling of warmth, or friendship, of community and of celebration in our connection to each other, through Wales.

Ninnau is at the center of this community and I hope that as you read this, you feel a connection to some of the articles, authors, people and above all, the reoccurring theme of maintaining our passion for Welsh culture.

This is the first time in Ninnau's history that a 36 page edition has been printed, now if that isn't a sign of the strength of our community, I don't know what is, enjoy!

Erratum

Please note the photo below published on p1 in the Sept-Oct issue of Ninnau is of Nerys Jones, not Nerys Evans



Nerys Jones

ROCHESTER, NY! 2017 North American Festival of Wales Hotel Reservations August 31-Sept 3, 2017

The headquarters hotel is the Hyatt Regency
Address: 125 East Main St. Rochester, NY 14604
Rate: \$119 for single, double, triple or quad occupancy.
King or Double/Double rooms
Reservations call: 1-585-546-1234
or visit website: <http://www.nafow.org> and click on the Accommodation link

Give group name: North American Festival of Wales 2016.

General Festival questions can be directed to
Dr. Megan Williams, 607-279-7402 or IHQ@thewnaa.org

Returning to Rochester (continued from p1)

and many workers left Wales for better prospects.

Many of them must have come to Rochester because, by the 1920s there was a sufficient number of Welsh residents with a sufficient level of Welsh identification to create what is believed to be Rochester's first Welsh organization, the Welsh Cambrian Society, organized in 1922. Within three weeks of its founding, the fledgling society held its first St. David's Day Banquet on March 1 at the Osborn House, a popular meeting, convention, and travelers' hotel in downtown Rochester. In later years the banquet was held at Sibley's Tea Room and the Monroe YMCA with 100 to 200 members in attendance.

By 1939 the Society claimed 400 members and a Junior Welsh Society. The young people studied the Welsh language and sang Welsh folk songs. Another group, the Cambrian Glee Singers, made its first public appearance in 1923.

Twenty years later, the 22nd Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu was held in Rochester and, in the 1970s, the St. David's Society of Rochester was formed at Nazareth College under the leadership of Dr. Richard Loomis. As the members of the Cambrian Society aged and their children moved away or assimilated into the greater American community,



Hochstein School of Music will be a venue for the 2017 Grand Concert.

the Welsh Cambrian Society appears to have dissolved and been forgotten, and there is no current contact for the St. David's Society.

The host committee for the 2017 North American Festival of Wales in Rochester is made up of representatives of active Upstate Welsh societies, chaired by the president of the Welsh Society of the Southern Tier.

WERE YOU THERE?

The gymanfa held in 1953 was sixty-three years ago. Many people living today would have been children, teenagers, even college students or graduates at that time. If you were there or have any recollections of that great event, we would like to hear from you and honor you at the festival next year. Contact WNAA at IHQ@thewnaa.org or call 607-279-7402.

Cwrs Cymraeg (continued from p1)

Cymraeg, but we play hard too! We got to kick back and rest our brains with a fun cultural activity each evening. Monday was the twmpath dawn—always a great ice-breaker. Any remaining shyness among the attendees is quickly expelled during the folk dance. I think that's why we do it so early in the week! On Tuesday, we gathered at Below the Radar, a pub in downtown Huntsville, for another epic Quiz Night. Several teams battled it out for the chance to claim fortune, glory, and some dysgu Cymraeg swag. The ultimate prize went to the "Blue Trews."

Cwrs Cymraeg attendees spent Wednesday afternoon at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, where we saw a real Saturn V rocket. The field trip

also coincided with the anniversary of Neil Armstrong's first walk on the moon.

For Welsh film night, we watched three episodes of *Cara Fi*, a delightful Welsh sitcom. Interestingly, the scripts are written in English first and course tutor Angharad Devonald serves as their translator. She's even written one of the episodes herself.

Friday was the annual eisteddfod, where some of the first-time attendees took home prizes. The theme for the higher-level entries was "Teithio" or "Travel." Unlike last year, when no entry was deemed worthy to be awarded the Cymdeithas Madog Eisteddfod Chair, Timothy Doughty won for his piece, "Y Ffordd i'r Dwyrain – The Road East." After the

eisteddfod, we got to hear a few words from Welsh playwright, Hywel John. Hywel was in the area doing research for a play he's writing about the Wales Window for Alabama.

Before we knew it, it was time for the noson lawen. Students and tutors gathered Saturday evening to entertain each other with a fun skit from each class, solo songs and recitations, and a lovely harp performance by first time-attendee Grace English, to name a few. The course choir performed an original arrangement of *Gwahoddiad* by choir director Timothy Doughty after only a week of rehearsing. And in what must be a first for Cwrs Cymraeg, student Andrew Carl Finch performed *Men of Harlech* and *Sosban Fach* on a theremin!

The last morning of the course is often bittersweet. People are tired, their minds overflowing with mutations and verb tenses, yet they find it hard to leave. They want to keep going. Longtime course tutor John Otley sent us on our way with a moving homily at the Sunday morning service based on St. David's plea to "do the little things."

Cwrs Cymraeg 2016 was truly exceptional. Special thanks to Robert and Meagan Davis, lead tutor Meleri Davies, and Cymdeithas Madog's volunteer Board of Directors. We're already looking forward to next year! Cwrs y Seintiau (The Saints' Course) will be at Siena College in Albany, New York, July 16-23, 2017.

Registration and scholarship information is available at www.madog.org.

Ninnau New Owners Introduce Themselves



Mary Roberts Timmer (left), with Megan Williams and Philip Davies. Mary won the copy of the print of Elvis Rock.

By Megan Williams

The Ninnau reception at last year's North American Festival of Wales in Columbia, OH, was one to remember. It celebrated forty years of the paper's continuous publication and honored Arturo and Olga Roberts, founders of Ninnau.

This year's reception was a little quieter but still a celebration of the community that is Ninnau. Those invited to attend were contributors, friends and subscribers; a quiet time to have a glass of wine and unwind on a Saturday afternoon during a very busy festival. At this year's reception, Megan Williams, now Ninnau's editor and publisher, welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for all the ways that they help to make Ninnau what it is. Megan also took a minute to express thanks and gratitude to Arturo and Olga and said she would send them warm wishes from all at the festival.

It was at the Ninnau reception that the winner of the print of Elvis Rock was drawn. Megan pulled a name from a bowl and the winner, who answered the question of the rock's location correctly, was Mary Roberts Timmer from Morristown, NJ. Mary was delighted to win a copy of the print and once

again, Ninnau thanked Wynne Melville Jones for the very generous donation.

Then Megan introduced the three new owners of Ninnau. While Arturo and Olga remain part-owners, in order to secure Ninnau's future, a majority of shares were sold. The three new owners are well known to those in the Welsh community; David Allen, Hywel Davies and Philip Davies.

The three took a minute to express their gratitude to those involved with Ninnau and also explain why they decided to take a financial interest in the paper. They explained that it was simply because of their love for promoting and preserving Welsh culture in North America, something at the heart of Ninnau. The paper is the tie that binds the Welsh community together through printed news, something that has happened since the founding of Y Drych (now part of Ninnau) in 1851. The new team, alongside Arturo and Olga, encourage those involved to stay involved, to help spread the word and to continue, when possible, to give to Friends of Ninnau, or in any way that can help benefit the future of Ninnau.



A reception full of Ninnau contributors, subscribers and friends.



CYMDEITHAS MADOG

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WELSH SOCIETY OF CENTRAL OHIO

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March: St. David's Day; July: Family Picnic
October: Gymanfa Ganu
or attend one of our

Informal Social Gatherings

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EMAIL: info@WelshSocietyOfCentralOhio.org
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The Recovering Genealogist

By Darris Williams

I've been watching for mail deliveries more lately. Several books have come to my attention that seemed worth ordering. My justification has been that it is part of my preparation for teaching the week-long Welsh family history course at the British Institute. So far my reading is not keeping up with the book purchases. Lucky for me I spend three hours each work day on public transport. Reading has always been an important part of my life. Now I focus on topics related to Wales.

The author George Ewart Evans caught my attention because of his approach to history through oral history. He was born in Abercynon and wrote about topics related to the common people. Most of his writing appears to relate to East Anglia in England, such as his first book, *Ask the Fellows who Cut the Hay*. In *From Mouths of Men*, Evans included a chapter on "Miners and Mining." He was introduced to collecting oral evidence in the early 1930s. This sounds like a hidden gold mine for family historians. I don't expect to find a lot of names, dates and places although the few that are mentioned will be valuable. Learning the stories of how our families lived in the recent and distant past is a little like a journey to a foreign land.

Some of the most touching accounts I have read come from two books edited by Margaret Llewelyn Davies. She was a member of the "Cooperative Women's Guild" for many years and was its general secretary from 1899 to 1921. The National Insurance Act 1911 provided maternity benefits with credit for this going to the Guild. The book titled "Life as We Have Known" includes the experience of Mrs. F. H. Smith who grew up in Cardiff but

moved to the Rhondda to work and later marry. She relates details of life for a coal miner's wife that I had never dreamed of. Mrs. Smith closed her letter by saying, "We feel sometimes that we are not living but just existing somehow."

My wife really liked the title of the other book edited by Margaret Llewelyn Davies, *No One But a Woman Knows*. This book details the struggles of working women before 1915 through letters from working women. The stories are stunning. The details of the lives of working women may completely change the way I see information in old records as a family historian. The amount of material written by contemporaries of our great grandparents and even further back is surprising to me. The insights I gain provide better context for a family historian but more important to me, I catch a glimpse of the lives of my forbears.

Last week a neighbor invited me over to talk about family history. She has a Jones family and he has a Williams family to investigate. Both families are included in some of the major online family trees like what you find on FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com or MyHeritage.com. The problem they run into is what we all experience, common names and very little documentation. In many cases the solution is to find your relative in more records. One of the basic rules in family history is to find your relative in every available census.

Census records for all of Wales began in 1841. A census was done every tenth year after that with the exception of 1941 when the government was busy with higher priorities. This means that you may expect to find your Welsh great-great-grandparents in early census records, possibly an additional generation back if you are

lucky. My great-grandfather's grandmother Margaret Edwards, nee Thomas, was living with his family at the time of the 1851 census. Margaret, like so many people, had migrated from Cardiganshire to Glamorgan, this census was critical in learning where she was born. We had it wrong!

In many cases it may be best to start a search for ancestors in census records. The census should list all occupants of a household who were in the home on a specific night. This is a significant resource for any country, but for Wales it is critical. Each person listed in the census from 1851 forward is identified with their relationship to the head of the household. Their ages, occupations and birthplaces are included also. These details make it a little easier to sort out which John Jones or Evan Evans is really yours. This is the fun part of Welsh family history to me. Understanding the whole family is what makes successful research possible. Sometimes a clue that exists with just one person is the key to discovering the story for the rest of the family.

Other records that often link several family members together are probate documents and tombstone inscriptions. These and many other records can be used to learn the story of a family member and the rest of the family group.

My neighbor's ancestor was born in 1844 at Merthyr Tydfil. Her parents were Evan Jones and Catherine Griffiths. Lucky for us their first daughter was named Lucretia Jones. The census for Wales is indexed online at several websites. It was fairly quick and easy to find the Evan and Catherine Jones family with daughter Lucretia. A bonus for the family in this particular census is that Evan's unmarried older brother, David Jones, and David Griffiths, a cousin-in-law lived with Evan and Catherine's family.

By following the family to the next census in 1861, the family story starts to come into focus. By now Catherine Evans has nine children. Lucretia was sixteen years old and identified with the occupation of mine cleaner, the same as her three younger sisters. The youngest was only ten years old and apparently working at the mine with her older sisters! I look forward to sharing the information I've learned with my neighbor. The accounts shared by women in the Co-operative Women's Guild will help tell the story of this Jones family that had been lost.

Keep up to date!

You can check our Calendar between issues or to look for additional information by going to

www.ninnau.com

Friends of NINNAU & Y DRYCH

At the time of the merger between NINNAU and Y Drych a Merger Fund was set up to help finance the operation. The Merger was well received and completed some time ago. We continue to receive donations as part of 'Friends of Ninnau'. These donations have become an important part of our operation and to those who give, we are truly thankful. Friends of Ninnau helps to keep the paper going. Please see gifts from friends received through October 1, 2016.

Diolch o galon.

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Williams, Owen; Zion Grove, PA

Penblwydd Hapus 85

Ellis J. Jones is celebrating his 85th Birthday in November. Ellis is a native of the Welsh settlement of Cambria, Minnesota. As a child, he was involved in community singing competitions reminiscent of the Eisteddfodau held in Wales. While attending Gustavus Adolphus College, he sang in the Gustavus Male chorus. He became a member of the Gustavus faculty in the Department of Economics and Management in 1958 and he retired from that position in 1998. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, church choir membership, participation in a local Barbershop Quartet, and work with a national professional organization, Ellis was highly involved in the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu Association.

Over the years, Ellis has done much for the Welsh North American Association as well. He served as President of the WNGGA from 1992 to 1994, as Executive Secretary of the organization from 1998 to 2003 and as a local venue chairperson for the 1999 NAFOW held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Under his tenure, the Hwyl was established as a newsletter for members of the North American Welsh Association. In 2004, Ellis received from the National Welsh - American Foundation the Heritage Medallion for distinguished service to the Welsh-American Community. Ellis is a member of the Legacy Society.



Ellis and his late wife, Janet, have two children, Karen Wojahn and David Jones, both of Minnesota, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Pictured above are Ellis and his extended family.



(Cymdeithas Olrhain Achau Cymry America)

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National Eisteddfod North America Represented in Y Fenni

By Philip Davies

Y Fenni, site of the National Eisteddfod, and Calgary, home to this year's North American Festival of Wales are separated by seven time zones. They differ physically in many ways. However the bond of Welsh culture and heritage bound to them to each other this summer. A number of us were fortunate enough to participate in and enjoy both of these flagships of Welsh cultural activities.

Nestled on the banks of the Usk river that flows through Abergavenny, the site was a sylvan setting for this year's Eisteddfod. For the second year five of our North American Welsh organizations banded together to give Wales a taste of Welsh North America. Ninnau; Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project; Canolfan Madog; Rio Grande University; National

Welsh American Foundation (NWAFF) and Welsh North American Association (WNAA) were each represented. We (David and Janet Allen; Philip and Meril Davies) arrived on Friday afternoon to set up the booth for Cymry Gogledd Amerig. To find our booth we looked for the iconic Pink Pavilion, which had been a landmark on the Maes for the past decade only to realize that it was no more. It had been replaced by an unremarkable box-like Pavilion. Named the Evolution, it however brought far better interior facilities than its predecessor and by the end of the week was meeting with universal praise. We made sure that the booth was easily recognized by the display of large US and Canadian flags.

Bright and early on Saturday morning, Berwyn Jones and Martha Davies arrived, and it was all go for the next eight days. The booth was always well-staffed as several of us from North America took turns staffing the booth. Among us were Hefina Phillips, Hywel and Mari Davies, and Jeanne and Louis Jones Jindra. Having Rebecca Roy, the Dafydd Morris award recipient at last year's NAFOW in Columbus, with us was a particular pleasure as she prepared and competed to great acclaim in the mezzo soprano competition. She tells of her experiences elsewhere in this issue of Ninnau. Special also was the presence of several of our Welsh connections at the booth, Jenny Hubbard joining us for several days. Members of the Welsh board of the National Welsh American Foundation; Jonathan Morgan, Frances Jones Davies, Joanna Masters, Jon Roper, Bill Jones, Lynne Wilkins, and Jenny Mathers joined us on successive days.

This company alone made for a very enjoyable and productive time but of course we were there to welcome the myriad, estimated at 130,000, of visitors who came to the Eisteddfod during the week. They were mostly from Wales but a remarkable number turned out to be visiting from North America. Some of them had never heard of Ninnau so we quickly took down their particulars, gave them a free copy, and introduced them to the many Welsh organizations on this side of the pond.

The weather was the usual blend that Wales experiences; a wet day, a windy day, and then a couple of beautiful days. Happily one of these coincided with one of our major highlights of the week. This was the induction of Martha Davies into the Gorsedd of the Bards. It was a beautiful warm Friday morning as a large crowd gathered around the Gorsedd circle on the Maes to watch the inductees approach in a procession from the Gorsedd Pavilion. With appropriate ceremony Martha, assuming the Bardic name of Martha Bethania, was accepted in to the Gorsedd by the Archdruid Geraint Lloyd Owen known as Geraint Llifon. After the ceremony Martha was the center of attention as the only one of thirty-one new members of the Gorsedd born and living outside of Wales. Her four years spent in Aberystwyth many years ago allowed her to learn the language and instill in her the passion for all things Welsh which she so richly shares with husband Berwyn Jones.

Building bridges with Wales is one of the primary missions of the National Welsh American



The stand proudly displays the American and Canadian flags.

Foundation. A successful way of doing this has been the support of the winner at the National Eisteddfod of the Osborne Roberts Blue Riband for the best vocalist under the age of 25 to attend and perform at NAFOW the following year. It was therefore with anticipation and excitement that we went to the Pavilion on Thursday afternoon to listen to the four finalists. The winner was Steffan Lloyd Owen, a baritone from Pentre Berw on the Isle of Anglesey. We look forward to inviting him to perform at NAFOW in Rochester in 2017.

2015's Osborne Roberts winner Robert Lewis was at the Eisteddfod with his parents Ian and Ella and girlfriend Charlotte, and visited us in the booth on a number of occasions. He met with Rebecca Roy on one of these visits and a sweet memory is of the two of them

deep in conversation – another bridge built! In between his visits with us, Robert competed for the Towyn Roberts Scholarship, a prestigious and much-sought-after award for vocalists embarking on their professional careers. Robert made it through the preliminaries for this competition and late on Wednesday night he competed in the final with several more seasoned individuals. But at the tender age of 20 he won – and immediately left for the long drive to Salisbury to perform in an opera the next day!

After a wonderful eight days catching up with old friends and making many new ones it was time to close shop and, depart for our destinations far and wide – back to North America for many of us to prepare for NAFOW at Calgary. It was a highly successful week, full of culture and memories for the ages.



Martha Davies

Gardd o Drysorau - A Garden of Treasures

By Robin Gwyndaf

Lady Llanofor and Carnhuanawc; the National Eisteddfod of Wales, and a Poem in Praise of Monmouthshire

To attend the National Eisteddfod of Wales for the whole week since 1956 has been the joy of my life. I was then fifteen years of age, and the eisteddfod, as I well remember, was held in Aberdâr, Glamorganshire.

Over the years I have seen this remarkable cultural event develop from strength to strength. It is one of the largest moving festivals in Europe. But more important for us in Wales, it is, indeed, a national treasure; a wonderful celebration of our native language and culture.

The 2016 National Eisteddfod held at Y Fenni / Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, was no exception. It was, as everybody acknowledged, one of the most memorable and successful of all the eisteddfodau held in recent years, with the very warm welcome – 'croeso cynnes iawn' – of the local people still very much on our minds.

On behalf of all the people who attended the 2016 Eisteddfod, or who enjoyed it

on television or radio, may I express my very sincere thanks to Elfed Roberts, the Director; Elen Huws Elis, Organizer; every member of the small team of dedicated staff; and all the hardworking band of voluntary workers, led by the Chairman, Frank Olding, a fountain of inspiration. *Canmil diolch* – a 'hundred thousand thanks.'

As a small contribution towards the cost of holding the Abergavenny Eisteddfod, it was the great privilege of Eleri, my wife, and I to publish a four-sided A5 (8 inches by 5 inches) beautifully designed card, printed by Gwasg Y Lolfa, Tal-y-bont.

On the front and back covers of this card there are prints of two of the greatest benefactors of the Welsh language and culture during the nineteenth century. These two persons would have been very proud of the great success of the 2016 National Eisteddfod in Abergavenny: **Augusta Waddington Hall, Arglwyddes Llanofor – Lady Llanofor** (1802 – 1896), and the **Reverend Thomas Price, 'Carnhuanawc'** (1787 – 1848).

The full history and additional information about the Eisteddfod can be found on p.28-29.

David Morris Winner Loves Welsh Experience

By Rebecca Roy

As a musician still early in my career, I always look forward to the new places music will take me. Being able to attend the National Eisteddfod of Wales with the assistance of the David G. Morris Memorial Scholarship was an unexpected blessing and experience! Not only was I able to attend the Eisteddfod but I also visited London and enjoyed the lovely towns of Caerleon and Abergavenny. It was a dream come true to finally travel outside of North America and visit places on my bucket list.

I began exploring Welsh music and language in graduate school, but my desire to learn more about my Welsh heritage began much earlier. Since childhood I can remember my family wanting to visit Wales and talking of our Welsh heritage. While growing up I never could have imagined that I would be able to travel and sing in Wales all in my first trip! The more time I spend studying the music, language, and culture, the more excited I am return to Wales.

One of my favorite memories from the Eisteddfod was the crowning of the bard. I was out in the meadow at the North American Festival of Wales booth. When I noticed a hush come over the crowd surrounding one of the giant screens streaming the live feed from the main pavilion. After the winner was announced everyone outside clapped and cheered along



NWAFF scholarship winner Robert Lewis and Rebecca Roy in the North American stand

with the audience on screen. In that moment I was overcome with gratitude to be part of a celebration of culture and the arts with people who genuinely appreciate it.

I have previously participated a few vocal competitions and the Eisteddfod competition has by far been the most fun! Everyone was kind and supportive of the contestants and as the "outsider" I appreciated the welcoming atmosphere. Word spread quickly that an American was competing and I began to have a few strangers strike up conversations with me. People I spoke with were curious about my Welsh heritage and why I had come to the Eisteddfod to compete in the vocal competition. After placing 3rd in the Mezzo Soprano Division, BBC

Wales TV requested an interview with me, asking how I had come to be at the Eisteddfod and if I was enjoying Wales..

My mother best summed up the personal meaning of my trip in an email before my final round in the competition. She wrote, "Your ancestors would be so proud." It was in that moment that I realized how special my presence was at the Eisteddfod. It was an opportunity for myself and for my family to connect with our heritage and participate in the deeply rooted traditions in a unique way. I recognize that I am still very new to the Welsh language and I am on a long journey to mastering it, but I look forward to continuing to share Welsh music and culture with new audiences.

Two Very Different Political Giants Who Influenced Modern Wales

By Dafydd Wigley

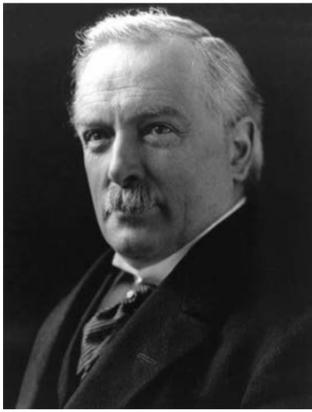
Two significant political events have anniversaries celebrated in Wales this year. The first was the famous Carmarthen by-election of 1966 whose fiftieth anniversary occurred on 14th July. The second will be the centenary, on 6th December of David Lloyd George becoming UK Prime Minister in 1916. Both – in different ways – have helped mould 21st century Wales; and both had significant influence on politics throughout Britain.

David Lloyd George was born in 1863. His father died when he was 18 months old. He was brought up in the village of Llanystumdwy, near Cricieth in north-west Wales. His uncle, a shoe-maker, helped sustain David and his brother William and their widowed mother in a Welsh-speaking household.

There was no chance of going to university, so he worked in a lawyer's office at Porthmadog, to qualify at 21 as a solicitor. He made his name winning lawsuits for ordinary working people against the establishment. In 1890, aged 27, he was elected as "Liberal and Welsh Nationalist" MP for Caernarvon Boroughs, the seat which he held for 54 years.

David Lloyd George secured his place in history as Chancellor of the Exchequer, with his "People's Budgets" of 1908-10. These aimed to redistribute wealth, introduced old-age pensions and help for sick and unemployed workers. To do this he increased income tax and death duties and introduced land tax. When the unelected, hereditary House of Lords refused to pass the legislation, Lloyd George took the historic step of stripping the Lords of their veto powers over finance bills; and threatened to flood the Upper Chamber with new members if they didn't acquiesce.

He further augmented his reputation as Munitions Minister in the 1914 war; and when things were going badly in 1916, it was to Lloyd George that the House of Commons turned to lead the UK. In co-operation with his Allies, he helped turn round the war effort and secure victory. After the war, his coalition government gradually lost support and in 1922 – after



David Lloyd George

almost six years at the helm, he resigned and was never again to enjoy power.

At his zenith LIG, as he was known, was a popular and populist leader who was almost worshipped in Wales. His framed picture would be seen in thousands of ordinary homes. As a nonconformist he challenged the enshrined authority of the Anglican church of England, and helped secure the disestablishment of the Church in Wales. He fought for the establishment of Welsh national institutions, including our National Library; and ensured for Wales its own educational structures. He advocated a parliament for Wales – though failed to deliver when – arguably – he had the power to do so. He was a fervent supporter of the National Eisteddfod and in the 1930's, by when he was a backbench MP, he did much to ensure the language rule which enshrines the Welsh language at the core of the Eisteddfod's activities.

In British terms LIG is remembered, more than anything, for laying the foundations of the welfare state. It was on his foundations that two other Welsh politicians – Labour's Aneurin Bevan and James Griffiths, brought in the National Health Service and comprehensive national insurance.

When I was elected MP for Caernarfon in 1974 (representing broadly the same districts as did LIG), I recall a constituent ask me in my advice centre, for help in relation to "Lloyd George's money". I was dumbstruck for a moment, unclear as to what was meant. Only slowly

did it dawn on me that it was a reference to the State Pension: sixty years on, people still identified those vital sustaining funds by the name of the "Saint" who introduced such a god-sent benefit.

But LIG was no saint and had a colourful private life which would never have allowed him to climb to the top of the slippery political pole in this age of media scrutiny. However, it's his achievement in becoming the first person to rise from humble beginnings to being Prime Minister at the darkest hour in the First World War, which Britain will remember in December. And for us in Wales, we shall remember the only Welsh-speaking Prime Minister of the UK; someone who aspired to greater Welsh autonomy; and who looked to a Europe of small nations, which had their place in the sun. That vision is still valid. The anniversary is a significant event indeed.

The other anniversary is equally, significant - perhaps even more so. That event - Gwynfor Evans being elected as Wales' first overt Nationalist MP and Plaid Cymru's first voice in the House of Commons – is still dictating key aspects of the Welsh and British political agenda.

Until July 14th 1966, not one MP had ever been elected on a pure nationalist ticket. There had been MPs – like Lloyd George – who has described themselves in election literature, as "Welsh Nationalist"; that was a descriptive statement, as if



Plaid Cymru Leaders who attended the unveiling ceremony on the steps of Guildhall, Carmarthen. Left to right: Cllr. Emlyn Dole, Simon Thomas, AM, Leanne Wood, Plaid Cymru Leader and AM, Lord Dafydd Wigley, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, Jonathan Edwards, MP and Adam Price AM. Photo thanks to Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths

they had asserted that they were pacifist, Christian, or feminist. However their primary allegiance was to a Westminster-based UK political party – Liberal, Conservative or Labour. Gwynfor Evans challenged Welsh voters to reject such attachments and to give their political loyalty to Wales. It was, incidentally, a great irony that Gwynfor succeeded Lady Megan Lloyd George – (LIG's daughter) as MP for Carmarthen.

Gwynfor's election led to a new focus on Wales at Westminster. In 1967 a Welsh Language Act led to lifting the ban on Welsh for administrative and law-court use, which had

been in place since the 1536 Act of Union. In 1968 a Royal Commission was established to consider political reform and devolution of power within Britain.

Gwynfor Evans' success triggered a similar upsurge of nationalist support in Scotland. In 1967 the Scottish National Party (SNP) won another parliamentary by-election when Winifred Ewing was elected MP for Hamilton. Since the Carmarthen by-election, there has been an unbroken period of fifty years with nationalist MP's in the House of Commons. Currently, the SNP hold 54 of Scotland's 59 seats at Westminster. It is arguable that without the catalyst of the Carmarthen by-election, Scotland wouldn't have seen the SNP landslide or its 2014 independence referendum. Certainly neither Scotland nor Wales would today have their own legislative parliaments which govern their respective countries on most domestic matters.

In July, a memorial plaque was unveiled in Carmarthen to commemorate the 1966 by-election. A rally brought hundreds of nationalists together to salute the key role played by Gwynfor Evans in the 20th century history of Wales.

Both Gwynfor Evans and David Lloyd George left an indelible mark on their country. In some ways the two men could hardly have been more different: LIG a wartime leader; Gwynfor a Christian-pacifist. LIG from rural Welsh-speaking Wales; Gwynfor from English-speaking industrial Barry. LIG a fully subscribed member of Westminster's political elite; Gwynfor who detested Westminster with all his heart.

In other ways, they had similarities. Both were adored by their adherents in Wales, whose hearts, minds and loyalty they captured. Both could dominate their audiences, though their oratorical techniques were very different. Both drew on the history of Wales to create a vision for its future. Both – in different ways – had a genuine attachment to the Welsh language and its attendant culture. And both – despite their very different relationships with the power base of imperial London, were regarded by the establishment as outsiders.

In celebrating these two anniversaries, we're recognising opposite sides of the same coin. And it's right that people beyond the respective parties of these two giants, should salute their contribution to our nation's history.



Gwynfor Evans' Memorial Plaque placed in Guildhall Square Carmarthen just below the balcony where the result was announced on 14th July 1966.

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The Sacred Springs and Holy Wells of Hay

By Phil Cope

Exploring the wellsprings of the Brecon Beacons National Park 4:

The latest in an on-going series of articles for *Ninnau* on the wellsprings of Wales by Phil Cope, author of *Holy Wells Wales: a photographic journey and Borderlands; new photographs and old tales of the sacred springs, holy wells and spas of the Wales - England borders.*

The seven wellsprings of Hay-on-Wye in the old county of Brecknockshire (now Powys) are in various states of disrepair and inaccessibility. While some are virtually lost, some dry, most in urgent need of repair, and one on private land, the Town Well, the Black Lion Green Well, the Castle Well, the Swan Well, St Mary's Well, the Eye Well and the Walk Well, each in their differing ways, offer intriguing glimpses into the history of the town and its beliefs.

Located near the old Nyegate



Town well, Hay-on-Wye

or Watergate – one of the three medieval entrances into Hay – a small square rusty panel set into the wall is, today, the only reminder that this was the site of the old **Town Well**.

The so-called **Black Lion Green Well**, which flows into the Dulas Brook and gets its name from its proximity to the Old Black Lion public house on Lion Street, shares a legend with sites in Cornwall dedicated to the fifth-century St Keyna (Keyne or Cain), one of the many beautiful daughters of King Brychan of Brycheiniog, who, ironically given the tale below, never married.

This "dear maid of the flashing eyes" (Donald R Rawe) who, it is said, turned snakes into stone, refused all suitors



Black Lion Green Well

and became a hermit on the banks of the river Severn, from which she is thought to have travelled widely, including it seems to Hay-on-Wye and to Cornwall.

The belief associated with her was that, after a wedding, whichever of the couple drank first from the wellspring would go on to wear the trousers in the relationship:

First of the sacred stream to drinke,

Thereby the mastry gains

Richard Carew [1555-1620] from his poem *The Well of St Keyne*.

There's a traditional tale of a groom speeding off after the ceremony to the wellspring, only for his bride, left in the



Swan Well

church, to open her bag and take out a small bottle of the water she had collected the night before, and drink from it:

I hastened as soon as the wedding was done,

And left my wife in the porch

But I faith she had been wiser than me,

For she took a bottle to church.

Robert Southey [1774-1843] from his poem *St Keyne's Well*.

The medicinal water from the **Swan Well** – again named after a nearby pub – flows from an elevated bank into an attractive stone-cut channel that bends at a right angle (like the neck of a swan?) to fall from an elegantly-carved spout. Never known to dry, even in the severest of winters or the hottest of summers, it is said to be particularly effective in the treatment of sprained wrists and ankles.

You will find the impressive **St Mary's Well** – which, it is said, was used as a source of holy water for baptisms – in the private garden of 2 Sackville Cottages, in a curved flowerbed, accessed down a steep slope facing the church which is also dedicated to the saint.

Now dry, the story is told of a fountain of water spurting from the well when the church tower caught fire, effectively dowsing



St. Mary's Well

the flames and saving the building ... a great tale that, sadly, has little foundation in historical fact.

The most appealing of all of the wellsprings in Hay, however, is the so-called **Walk Well**, which sits below the remnants of a path a few yards along the riverbank walk, built by Sir Joseph Bailey in the 1870s.

The well waters pour from above what appears to be the remains of an old stone quay, set into the Wye riverbank. The age of the quay, if that is what it is, is unknown. We do know that Hay had two medieval ferries, however, and old OS maps show a footpath crossing the fields on the other side of the river, at a point exactly opposite from the 'quay'. Another theory is that it was used during the building of the church, the large quantities of stone being required, landing here by barge.

Today, sadly, the Walk Well – like many of the other ancient water sources in Hay – is in a very bad state of repair, desperately needing the care of local people.

(I could not have written this

article without the help, research and support of Dr Peter Ford of the Hay History Group, who guided me to these important sites. The Group is keen to see the sites protected and restored, and to develop a 'Hay Wells Walk' to them all.)



Walk Well

Keep in Touch with Wales Through S4C Programmes

By Carys Evans

A great way to keep in touch with Wales – the county, culture and language – is through watching S4C programmes, the only Welsh language TV channel in the world.

More S4C programmes than ever before are available for viewers outside the U.K. through the channel's online international service – s4c.cymru/international

And to keep in touch with viewers around the globe, S4C sends a monthly email newsletter with specific information about the programmes available internationally.

You can subscribe to receive the newsletter by filling in the form at s4c.cymru/international

The website also contains a full list of the programmes waiting for you to watch now. Each programme is available online for 35 days – giving you over a month to catch up with the latest programmes available. Subtitles are available for a majority of programmes too.

Among them is the weekly programme **Dechrau Canu**



Dechrau Canmol, bringing you congregational singing at its very best from all parts of Wales. Follow events in Wales every day in the daily magazine programmes **Heno** and **Prynhawn Da**. There's also sports, documentaries, entertainment and drama including the soap series **Rownd a Rownd** which celebrates its 21st birthday this year.

The increase in the number of programmes available internationally comes following a specific effort to provide more Welsh language programmes for viewers around the globe. The aim is to develop the international provision for the future.

Elin Morris, S4C Corporate and Commercial Director,

explains the plans to reach more viewers living abroad; "We're very proud to be able to offer more programmes for international viewers on S4C's online service. We're very aware of the demand by viewers across the globe to see our content and we will do our very best to meet that demand where possible."

Currently, S4C is asking viewers to share their opinions through an online questionnaire. It's an opportunity for viewers to be part of the discussion about the channel's future and to share views on the type of service they'd like to see in the future. This, of course, includes viewers living outside the U.K..

Would you like more S4C programmes available for you? What types of programmes do you want to see? What other services could S4C offer to reach people around the world? Share your opinions by filling in the questionnaire at s4c.cymru/haveyoursay

This story is printed in Welsh on p35.

on **HOLY WELLS WALES:**

"What photos! Even when little remains to be seen, the author manages to produce enticing atmospheric photos which leave you itching to go exploring!"

L P Hunt

"Phil Cope is a genius with a camera."

Cymdeithas Ffynhonnau Cymru

"the sense of recondite sanctity that attends the ancient wells of Wales, captured as it has never been before by the photographs in this book"

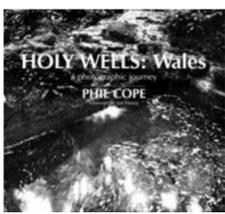
Jan Morris

"Those already familiar with Cope's photographic images will be aware of his immense skill, and this and his interest in the literature of Wales make Holy Wells a unique book."

Planet, May 2009

"a fascinating history through time."

Chris Naish

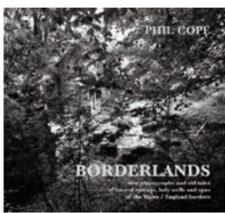


HOLY WELLS: WALES

and

BORDERLANDS

two inspiring new books by the photographer and writer **Phil Cope** exploring and celebrating Wales' magical history of sacred springs, holy wells and spas, through stunning photographs, informative text and poetry



on **BORDERLANDS:**

"His photographs make the importance of these places immediately apparent; he has captured their grandeur and beauty within the natural landscape ... a sheer delight."

Eirinen

"... lavishly illustrated by his exquisite photography. As someone who travels along the border between fairly regularly, I shall in future take this book with me to make detours en-route to see the wonders it has to offer."

Barry Jones,
Archbishop of Wales

In October 2008, the National Library of Wales purchased Phil's collection of photographs of the **Holy Wells of Wales** for the nation. And in 2014, he was a guest speaker at the North American Festival of Wales in Minneapolis.

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or your local bookseller

Sportscene Wales *By David Barry*

SOCCKER

Wales stay on winning trail

Following their excellent performance at the Euro Finals, Wales opened their quest for 2018 World Cup qualification with a clear cut **4-0 victory** over **Moldova** in Cardiff. Goals from **Sam Vokes**, **Joe Allen** and a pair from man of the match **Gareth Bale** saw home fans delighted with the win. Next up are two tougher ties against Austria and Georgia.

The team are now placed in the top ten of the latest FIFA rankings.

The excellent behaviour, singing and general support by the Wales fans in the "Red Wall" at the Euro finals in France has been officially recognised by the Euro football authorities. A **special plaque** has been presented to the Wales FA to mark the fans' exemplary conduct.

League sides struggle in early season

All three of the Welsh league sides have struggled in the opening weeks of the season. The loyal fans of Swansea, Cardiff and Newport County have been frustrated by their team's lack of consistent form and all three sides appear to be facing a fight to avoid relegation even this early in the campaign. Newport have now parted company with manager Warren Feeney after only two wins in his twenty two games in charge.

Swansea have sold iconic captain **Ashley Williams** to Everton and key striker **Andre Ayew** to West Ham. The deals may be financially sound but a lack of quality new signings has frustrated the home fans. There appears to be a lack of harmony in the squad and already the future of manager **Francesco Guidolin** has been called into question. Former Wales star **Ryan Giggs** has been mentioned as a possible replacement.

Cardiff City, too, have sold star performers **David Marshall** and **Fabio** to Premiership teams and despite signing ex England striker **Rickie Lambert** are finding goals difficult to come by.

Fans are frustrated too by the tactics employed by former boss **Paul Trollope**.

Bluebirds sack their manager.

Cardiff City manager **Paul Trollope** became the third Welsh club manager to lose his job in a week when he was sacked after a poor run of results. Only two wins in twelve games has seen the club sink into a relegation place after only two months of the season. The club's owner **Vincent Tan** and the board have dismissed **Trollope** after only five months in post.

Former USA Coach Takes Over at Liberty Stadium

Under fire boss **Francesco Guidolin** has been dismissed by Swansea City after another home defeat against Liverpool. He has been replaced by American **Bob Bradley**, who was formerly in charge of the USA national team from 2007 to 2011.

RUGBY

Warren Gatland to coach 2017 British Lions

Experienced Wales coach **Gatland** has been granted a year's sabbatical to lead the 2017 Lions on their very tough 10-match summer tour to New Zealand. His assistant **Rob Howley** will take over as Acting Head Coach for the 2016-2017 international programme. In a somewhat surprise move, recently appointed Cardiff Blues assistant coach, **Matt Sherratt**, will join **Howley's** backroom staff on a part-time basis.

One possible problem facing **Howley** will be the impact of so called "**Gatland's Law**" which limits the number of players currently playing outside the Principality who can be selected for the Wales team. With key players such as **George North**, **Luke Charteris**, **'Toby' Falatau**, **Jamie Roberts**, and **Leigh Halfpenny** "captured" by the ruling, **Howley** may have a real headache in selection.

Regions mixed fortunes in early season

Cardiff Blues are unbeaten in their opening four fixtures and share top spot in the PRO 12 table with **Ulster**. The **Ospreys** opened with three wins but went down 31-19 away to **Leinster** in what was Captain **Alun Wyn Jones'** 200th game for the region.

The **Scarlets** lost their three opening games before defeating last season's champions **Connacht** thanks to two tries from Wales star **Liam Williams**. **Williams'** contract is up for renewal next summer and the region may have a fight on their hands to retain their prize asset.

Newport Gwent Dragons have a squad featuring a number of very talented youngsters but with a lower budget than their regional rivals they may face a struggle yet again this season.

Other Rugby News

Cardiff Blues have announced very ambitious plans to develop the rather tired **Arms Park** ground. They hope to get WRU help to transform the playing area, build residential/hotel accommodation and a conference centre on their iconic site.

There are calls to restructure the timing of the season and the international fixtures for the Six Nations. Not everyone has greeted the proposals with enthusiasm and some cynics say the proposals put forward by **New Zealand** are only to the All Blacks' commercial advantage.

The PRO 12 league are contemplating playing some fixtures on the eastern seaboard of North America with a view to tapping into the Irish and Italian heritage market.

The WRU are keen to stop clubs in the community game from paying their players. Such actions are undermining many clubs at the grass roots of the game. Wealthier clubs entice players to move for cash payments and there is a loss of "community loyalty". Together with changing social patterns, the attraction of watching top class soccer at Swansea's **Liberty Stadium** the net result is that a number of clubs have folded due to a lack of playing

numbers. Amongst there are famous names such as **Tredegar**, **Blaengarw**, **Machynlleth**, **Cardiff CIACS**, **Mynydd y Garreg** and **Penygroes**. It does not bode well for the long-term future of the games in Wales despite WRU strategies to halt the decline.

CRICKET

Glamorgan's disappointing season

Glamorgan's final match of the season encapsulated their frustrating season overall. Seemingly well-placed and heading for victory at **Leicester** the team lost their last six wickets for ten runs to lose the game. Coach **Robert Croft** remains upbeat because of the talented, but as yet inexperienced, youngsters at his disposal.



Jade Jones

WALE OLYMPIC SUCCESS

Wales' competitors enjoyed remarkable success at both the Olympics and the Para Olympic events in Rio, Brazil. The nation punched well above its weight based on population size and enjoyed notable success across a wide range of sports. Key performers were gold medalists, **Aled Davies**, **Ellie Simmonds**, **Elinor Barker**, **Owain Doull**, **Hannah Mills** and **Jade Jones** who retained her Taekwondo title.

Gold medalist table tennis player **Rob Davies** of Brecon overcame the odds after a serious spinal injury brought an end to his very promising rugby career five years ago.

The teams were given an official welcome by the Welsh Assembly government in front of a large enthusiastic crowd in **Cardiff Bay**.

BOXING

St Clears boxer **Dale Evans** was devastated when his Scottish opponent died following their fight in a final eliminator for the British

Welterweight title. Cleverly Back on Top of the World

Nathan Cleverly regained the WBA lighthweight title when his German opponent retired after six rounds in Germany.

OBITUARY

Football fans are mourning the passing of former Wales star **Mel Charles** at the age of 81 years. Though he tended to play in the shadow of his legendary older brother **John**, **Mel Charles** was a true star in his own right. He played for Swansea, Arsenal and Cardiff City at both centre half and centre forward. He netted 66 goals in 233 league games for the Swans and was a key member of the Wales team at the 1958 World Cup finals in Sweden. **Mel Charles** was not only highly respected as a footballer but he was a fantastic character who enjoyed life to the full.

Smile, You're Welsh

By Billy Williams

America is deeply into two major and important events these final months of the year - politics and football. And we have some comments on both.

First come the office seekers (no names, please).

A friend said to me that two candidates were told they had to pass a test with a few general questions and some on health care. Taking turns, here's how they worked out

Question - Name the four seasons.

Answer - Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q - How is dew formed?

A - The sun shines on the leaves and makes them sweat.

Q - What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?

A - If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well-endowed.

Q - What are steroids?

A - Things for keeping carpets on the stairs.

Q - Name a major disease associated with cigarettes?

A - Premature death.

Q - What does the body's abdominal cavity hold?

A - It holds the five bowels, which are A, E, I, O and U.

Q - What is the fibula?

A - A small lie.

Q - What does 'varicose' mean?

A - It means nearby.

Q - What is the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section.'

A - The caesarean section is a district in Rome.

Q - What is a seizure? A - A Roman emperor. Remember Julius Seizure, who said "I came, I saw, I had a fit."

Q - What is a terminal illness?

A - It's when you get sick at the airport.

Let's move away from politics - Plessse!

Here are some famous names from the football world and their statements which have gone down in history (way down).

"It isn't necessary to see a good tackle, you can hear it." **Knute Rockne**, Notre Dame.

"At Georgia Southern, we don't cheat. That costs money and we don't have any." **Erik Russell**.

"The player who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely to be the one who dropped it." **Lou Holtz**, Notre Dame.

"There's nothing that cleanses your soul like getting the hell kicked out of you." **Woody**

Hayes, Ohio State

"I don't expect to win enough games to be put on NCAA probation. I just want to win enough to warrant an investigation." **Bob Devany**, Nebraska.

"In Alabama, an atheist is someone who doesn't believe in **Bear Bryant**." **Wally Butts**, Georgia.

"I never graduated from Iowa. But I was only there for two terms - Truman's and Eisenhower's." **Alex Karras**, Iowa.

"I could have been a Rhodes Scholar, except for my grades." **Duffy Daugherty**, Michigan State.

I think the coaches and players beat the politicians by a score of 9 - 2.

Stay warm. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, or as my mother would say:

"Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda." If you have a Christmas present for me, please don't send it C.O.D. I'm broke.

Good wishes would do finely at Welsh877@comcast.net or to 100 Fairway Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011-2066.



Mel Charles, right, with older brother John in their heyday

Sioni Dda John Good

Storyteller, poet, lecturer
Welsh teacher, translator
Director of Cymanfaoedd



Two languages
for every celebration
and weekend gathering

Solo performer
Welsh pipes, harp, flutes,
whistles, guitar, voice

His band **Tramor**



potelobop@hotmail.com
602-509-5223

www.tramormusic.com
www.youtube.com/TramorMusic

A Long Welsh Island Summer

By Sian Stacey

As I write this I'm sitting in front of our first fire of the Autumn, the stars already shining outside, the red flashing of the lighthouse through the darkness...and it's only 8.30 pm!

We've been spoilt with a glorious summer on the island this year. Long warm days with plenty of swimming, sunset beach BBQ's, and music nights in the old school house. We had plenty of island football games in the evenings, many of which



Celebrating the engagement with champagne!

were often followed by a quick dip in Cafn to cool off from the evening heat. The weeks flew past as families who have been coming to the island for many years returned for their annual pilgrimage. We also had plenty of family and friends visiting us over the summer, including some of Mark's family from Denmark and my family from New Zealand.

Of course it wasn't all fun and games for me, I am here to work after all. It was a summer of never ending grass cutting, frantic weekly changeovers, and fixing any emergencies that came my way: window hinges, door latches and water taps. Sometimes the days never ended with knocks at my door

just as we'd be settling into dinner that one of the houses cooking gas had run out. This would normally happen on the few rainy evenings and so would require changing into full waterproofs and towel drying my hair on return. Needless to say, there are no 'out of hours' for me during the summer!

Long days blended into long nights throughout July and August, with many evenings spent with Mark and the other Bird Observatory staff catching Manx Shearwaters and Storm

Petrels. Both of these birds are very special and I had the privilege of ringing my first Manx Shearwater this year, which will now be on its way to South America for its winter. Catching Storm Petrels involves opening a special bird net (called mist nets) and playing the song of the bird out to sea. Once set up we sit on the side of the mountain at midnight waiting for these stunning little birds to fly into the net to be rung. This year the Observatory has caught over 120, the most ever caught in one year. They spend most of their lives out at sea, only breeding on land, and so look rather clumsy and out of place when caught. They are so unfamiliar with people that they will

happily sit on your hand whilst they get their bearings before taking off into the night sky. These birds have a very distinct, musky smell to them, to me it's beautiful but to many people they smell like old books!

One of the highlights of the summer, the year in fact, was the engagement of my brother Gwyn and his girlfriend Lauren, which took place on the island! He'd been talking about it for a few months and despite my coaxing I'd been unable to get a plan out of him. Luckily, on the day, he gave me enough warning to put some bubbly in the fridge and a time to meet them down near the Lighthouse for the good news. That evening the whole island joined us at Ty Bach (our house) to celebrate as the sun set. Ben Porter (the farmer's son) caught us all off guard when he spotted a Minke Whale swimming along the West Coast of the island! A very memorable night indeed.

As we've moved through September it's been a real treat to witness the Grey Seals pupping. At last count we had 12 seal pups, all born in sheltered coves around the island. Despite some very windy days and high spring tides most are doing well and growing quickly. One cove, Ogof Hir ('long cave') seems to have become the place to have a seal pup. Last year one lone seal gave birth here but this year there are now four seal pups, with a possible fifth on the way. At the end of a day's work I can be watching the newest pup take its first swim only two minutes from my front door, definitely one of the most special things about living here.

I'll be leaving the island for a short few days next week when I'm hoping to get our winter supply of food bought, enough to see us through until at least January! It'll be a long cold winter ahead but plenty of time for evenings in front of the fire to finally try and teach myself how to knit!

Blog: <https://bardseyislandlife.blogspot.com/>
Twitter: @SianStacey1



Cooling down in the waters off Bardsey.



The lighthouse on the island with beautiful summer flowers.

WNAA Elects New Trustees in Calgary

By Richard P. Donohoe

At the Annual General Meeting of the WNAA members have elected four new trustees were elected. Illustrated profiles of each of them follow:

Myfanwy Davies of Ottawa has rejoined the Board where she previously served as Trustee, Chair of the Scholarship and Grant Committee, Secretary, and Chair of the 2004 Buffalo NAFOW. Myfanwy has been involved with the Ottawa Welsh Society, the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society and the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association for many years, serving as President of each of those groups. She sang with the North American Welsh Choir and currently sings with Merched Dewi.

Dilys Rana grew up on a farm in North Wales and moved to the United States in her early twenties. She maintains strong ties to her homeland with frequent visits to Wales and active



Next WNAA Trustees (left to right), Elaine Westlake, Myfanwy Davies, Karen Jones Wojahn and Dilys Rana.

involvement in Chicago's Welsh societies. She is currently president of The Cambrian Benevolent Society of Chicago, which was organized in 1853. She lives with her husband in a suburb of Chicago, close to her three children and their families.

Elaine Westlake was born in

the coal mining village of Nantyllyllon, Glamorgan, South Wales, when the local mine was still operating! Along with her young family, she emigrated to Canada on the day of the Aberfan disaster, Oct. 21, 1966. After completing a B.Ed in Special Education, she taught for the next 25 years. Upon retirement, she returned to Calgary to be closer to her five beautiful grandchildren. She also enjoys participating in Calgary Welsh Society events.

Karen Jones Wojahn has served as accompanist for the

annual Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festivals since the 1970s and she was organist for the 1999 Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu in Minneapolis. More recently, she has led the late-night singing at NAFOW and accompanied the Ysgol Gân. She is the Worship and Music Ministry Coordinator, organist and adult choir director for the American Lutheran Church in her southwestern Minnesota town of Windom. She and her husband Michael have three grown children and three granddaughters.

At the Annual General Meeting, WNAA President Ian Samways also recognized retiring trustees and thanked them for their service. Those retiring from the board are Kay Gavin from Roseville, Minn; Lezlie Wood, Ottawa, Ont; David Llewelyn Williams, Vancouver, BC; and Secretary Helen Steidle, Qualicum Beach, BC. Jeanne Jones Jindra also finishes her 2nd term, but has been elected to serve as WNAA Secretary.



WNAA President Ian Samways with retiring trustees, Kay Gavin and Lezlie Wood.

Next Deadline

The deadline for the January-February issue is December 1.

North American Festival of Wales

Calgary Memories: A Hymn of Praise

By Martha Davies

We'd been looking forward to NAFOW Calgary since a year ago in Columbus, where some jolly Calgary Welsh in white cowboy hats and red vests, invited us to head to Alberta in 2016.

From the moment we arrived at the Westin Hotel in Calgary, an imposing high-rise downtown on the prairie, we felt welcome. We sensed a spirit of adventure tempered by neighborly cooperation, those earmarks of the early settlers who survived on this northern prairie.

Neighborliness was immediately apparent. We saw festival volunteers at the hotel entrance, in the lobby and in the registration area, and that took a lot of people power! David Matthews and Elaine Westlake, the chairpersons, had rounded up 50 volunteers—all named in the program book.

And when no volunteers were present, a written welcome appeared. At hotel check in, we were given a card of welcome from the Calgary Welsh Society. At the Marketplace, we vendors were given a card with cell phone numbers of the organizers. How reassuring to know we were only a phone call away from a person.

We often saw Tim, our helpful Westin conference contact, who was present and accounted for all during the festival.

Adding to the cohesiveness of the festival was the Westin's Conference Centre—all meeting rooms in a separate block. At the Westin we had no long walks within the hotel, feeling lost along the way. Everything—Registration, Meals, Seminars, NAFOW office—was in easy reach.

We were aware, however, that the stairs were a challenge for some, as there was no elevator within the conference block. In the hotel lobby, elevators were unusually responsive, but



Local Venue Chairs Elaine Westlake and David Matthews take the stage with WNAA President Ian Samways.

also quick to close their doors and move on. Also in the elevators, some of us elders were flummoxed by the elevator security system—insert room key before selecting floor number. I never quite got the knack of performing that ritual, but fortunately others helped out.

From the Westin it was a short walk to Knox United Church, site of the Saturday evening Concert, Sunday service, and Cymanfa Ganu sessions. This church was described to me as, "the sort of church you'd expect to see in a movie." And indeed, Knox was lofty and lovely. Also lovely were the church members who greeted us and were stationed at other doorways to direct us to the "washrooms." The people made the place even more special for us strangers.

The beauty of the nave did not belie the sound we were able to produce within it. Acoustics in the Knox nave were sonorous, proving spectacular for singing, feeding the soul and all the senses. The singing was memorable, like being in an echo chamber with just the right delay. For me, the soul of a Cymanfa Ganu, is getting immediate gratification from singing within an acousti-

cally full space. This experience cannot be replicated by singing with a recording or even live, in most spaces. Drop a pin in Knox and it would sing a hymn! Such a space, though richly satisfying for singing, proved garbling for the spoken word. But if I must choose—song or word—in a Cymanfa Ganu, song wins hands down.

You'll have noticed by now that my hymn of praise is for these festival spaces—hotel and church—and for the organizers. Other contributors will sing songs of high praise for the choir, soloists, conductor, preacher, and accompanists who performed within the festival spaces.

NAFOW Calgary was created during three years of sustained effort by David Matthews, Elaine Westlake, the Calgary Welsh Society volunteers, and the Welsh North American Association Board of Directors led by its splendid Executive Secretary, Dr. Megan Williams. Three years of effort, and we lapped up all the milk and honey within a few days! We will be eternally grateful! See you all in Rochester, New York!

Marketplace and Tearoom Give Warm Welcome

By Berwyn Jones

Each year Martha and I spend much of the NAFOW weekend in the Marketplace at the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project booth. We shared our collection of translations about settlements in Alberta from *Y Drych*. We let our friends come to us, instead of hunting around for them! It's a great way to see all of our friends from all over North America and Wales. You are all so dear to us, we look forward to seeing you each year. It's almost like homecoming!

Several of our favorite vendors were absent this year, presumably because of Customs regulations. We missed you, but some Calgary shops took up much of the slack, including the Tea Trader, who supplied the tea shop, and the British Pantry, and we thank you for being

there. Among the old friends who were there, though, were Ninnau and Y Drych, giving out complimentary copies and subscription cards. I don't know how we could keep up on what's happening without it. I think everyone should subscribe and contribute articles the way our grandparents did in the old days. And several people remarked how much more has been in it in recent years. It really is a bargain.

Our two great lovespoon carvers were both in residence, carving next year's raffle lovespoon. Last year's raffle raised over \$2000 for NAFOW expenses. What a lovely gesture by these two talented young people, Laura Jenkins and David Western. Several exhibitors unique to the Calgary area added a special flavor this year: The Frank Slide, Barry Marks, local artist, and Barrie

Doyle, Welsh-born Ontario novelist. Miriam Roberts represented the Alberta Genealogical Society. Miriam has helped the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, and it was good to meet her again. And dare I mention the photo of Martha Davies' lovely visage in her penwisp, her face lighted up with joy after having been inducted into the Gorsedd of Bards?

A fantastic Silent Auction, with loads of great items. And the tearoom had great tea and Welshcakes.

Everyone we met remarked on what an outstanding job the Board and the Calgary Welsh Society did with the arrangements this year. I've never seen so many local volunteers. They were everywhere, with their cheery smiles and Western hats, eager to help and very knowledgeable. David and Mona Matthews and Elaine Westlake were absolutely outstanding leaders. Diolch yn fawr iawn, you! The seminars, too, were exceptional, thanks to Jeanne Jindra and the local leadership.



Hoop Dancer Dallas Arcand Jr. wows the audience.

A Very Special Opening

By Ian K. Samways

The Opening Ceremony, and indeed the entire Festival, were opened by a prayer from an elder from the nearby Stoney Nakoda Nation - offered in his own language. This was an honor of which I cannot possibly overstate the meaning and importance, and it is simply impossible to think of a better way of opening the Festival. We also were joined by a First Nations hoop dancer during the Opening Ceremony. What more can be said about the tremendous honor of being joined - welcomed - by our friends from nearby First Nations communities? We can certainly celebrate - and identify with - their own victories, over time, in keeping distinct languages and cultures alive and thriving against the most overwhelming of odds.

All of this was arranged by David Matthews, Elaine Westlake and the Local Venue Committee, comprising members of the Calgary WELSH Society. The tone they set and the amount of effort put into the Opening Ceremony was an example of the exceptional standards they provided to us throughout the festival.

The Ceremony went on to tell the story of the Welsh in Alberta, with members of the Society appearing as notable characters from history. Under the direction of Laura Styler, a children's choir delighted with song.

The Opening Ceremony was one to remember. I can't possibly thank them enough for adding this dimension to our events of the weekend.



Merlyn Williams tells the story of mining in Alberta during the Opening Ceremony

A special thank you to Beth Landmesser for providing the photographs from the North American Festival of Wales.

North American Festival of Wales

IONA Wows Once Again

By Bob Roser

IONA is probably the premier Celtic folk band in the Washington, D. C., metro area and possibly the entire Mid Atlantic region. I have had the pleasure of being on the same bill with them many times and to have been invited to their home for some really hooting ceilidhs. They have been playing together for 30 years now. While some of the musicians have come and gone, the "hard core" is made up of Barbara Ryan and Bernard Argent (happily married couple except when Bernard is practicing his bombard).

Also performing for us in Calgary were Jim Queen (fiddler extraordinaire, banjo and vocals and really bad jokes), Chuck Lawhorn (bass) and Kathleen Larrick (dancer and percussionist). Kathleen by the



IONA take the stage in Calgary

way is an adjunct professor of Celtic dancing at George Mason University.

This was IONA's second appearance for the North American Festival of Wales.

The first time was in Minneapolis in 1999, which I also saw.

Usually at these events, the band has a selection of their cds for sale. Over the years, Iona

has produced 14 different pan-Celtic cds. For the Calgary NAFOW, the band put together a special cd with the Welsh tracks from all of their earlier productions.

I remember writing a review for Ninnau several years ago for their latest CD. I remember writing "that voice" in reference to Barbara's amazing and sultry vocals. I was sitting next to one of the volunteers from Calgary who was wearing the traditional Welsh costume. Unfortunately I did not get her name. As soon as Barbara began singing, my neighbor turned to me and said "that voice".

While IONA did focus on Welsh tunes, both instrumental and vocal, a number of other tunes were added. One Scottish dance tune for Kathleen (Bernard did mention that it had been played by Robin Huw Bowen, so that was alright then)

and at least one Breton number to inflict the pain of the bombard on the unsuspecting. But then to take a page from Dafydd Wigley's book (who referred to the Welsh as the Irish who couldn't swim), the Bretons are the Welsh who could swim. There were several Cornish numbers to lead off some sets. Bernard reminded everyone that the Cornish used to be called the "West Welsh" and Cornish is Barbara Ryan's ethnic heritage.

IONA's also played at the Fredericksburg 27th Annual Welsh Festival in Fredericksburg, Virginia, alongside DragonFyre and Moch Pryderi (who played at the NAFOW in Cleveland) and the Stafford Regional Chorus.

Calgary Workshop: What Will You Remember on Friday, October 21, 2016?

By Huw Christopher

Where were you on Friday, October 21, 1966? This was a question that Dr. David Gwyn invited people to consider at the Thursday workshop at this year's North American Festival of Wales. Dr. Gwyn reminded people that while they may not remember the date of John F. Kennedy's assassination, they likely remember where they were when they heard about it and the same for other major events in history.

He went on to remind everyone of the way in which at 9:15 a.m. on the morning of Friday, October 21, 1966, after several days of heavy rain, the front part of colliery waste tip No. 7 on the hillside overlooking the town of Aberfan in the Merthyr Valley, about 20 miles north of Cardiff in South Wales, became

ter across the world was reflected in the fund opened by the Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil. The Mayor set up a fund which received over 90,000 contributions received from over 40 countries for a total of over 1.6 million pounds.

Unfortunately the use of this fund almost became a second disaster in the community. Dr. Gwyn highlighted the way in which the response of some people was to pray and of others to blame the National Coal Board, especially when earlier warnings of the danger of the tips moving had been ignored.

Dr. Gwyn mentioned the fact that on October 21, 1966 he himself was in Junior School and about the age of many of the children who were killed so that had been the impact of the event on him.

His presentation, though, was

ing with the rescue effort. When she joined the rescue effort her task as a nurse primarily involved washing and cleaning the bodies of the children who were brought out from the school before their parents were allowed to identify them. Merlyn and Joyce brought with them many newspaper accounts of the disaster which they had brought originally from her home in Wales and which they had had laminated for participants to review. These were later placed on a table in the marketplace where all of those attending the Festival could read about this disaster.

Joyce also mentioned the important role her father, Tom Lewis, had had in the community's struggle to have the remaining tips removed and in working with the many different and difficult decisions related to the use of the monies contributed to the disaster fund. For his service to his community he was honored by the Queen with an MBE (Member of the British Empire).

In addition to Merlyn and Joyce Williams, Dr. Gwyn also gave me the privilege of sharing some of my experiences on the day of the disaster and the days following as a student at the South Wales Baptist College in Cardiff. As a native of Mountain Ash just over the mountain from Aberfan the area was quite familiar to me.

In his presentation Dr. Gwyn showed pictures of the arched memorial in the cemetery where many of those who had died were buried. This memorial is visible from the main A470 road from Cardiff to Merthyr. Joyce Williams showed a picture and spoke of the park and garden where the school had been and of other memorials in the community to the disaster.

In reminding participants of the post-traumatic stress which many in that community still suffer today Dr. Gwyn and Joyce Williams reminded participants that the impact of these and other disasters does not disappear once they are no longer the attention of the news media. This was an important reminder in the light of so many tragic events of which everyone is made aware in a frequent basis.

As a heritage consultant and conservationist, Dr. Gwyn questioned whether the removal of



Sue Stealey studies the collection of Aberfan newspapers which were displayed in the Marketplace.

all such tips in South Wales in light of this disaster and in most cases, following their closure, all evidence of the coal mines which had been responsible for these tips, we run the danger of losing evidence of a very significant part of the history that had transformed the life of South Wales for several generations.

This workshop enabled many participants to recall their own awareness of the Aberfan disaster almost fifty years ago and

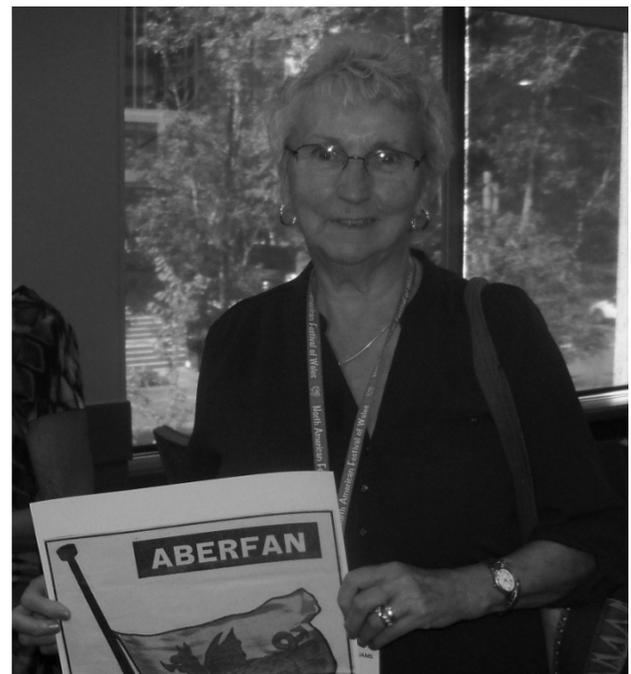
provided an opportunity for others to be informed of this significant, yet tragic event in the history of South Wales. Hopefully, this workshop and the singing of the hymn, Bro Aber, written in memory of this tragedy, at the afternoon Gymanfa Ganu session will make Friday, October 21, 2016 a significant day of remembrance for all who participated in this year's festival.



Dr. David Gwyn leads the session 'Raining in Aberfan'.

liquefied and moved down the hillside at high speed. In its path it destroyed a farm and twenty terraced houses along Moy Road and slammed into the northern side of Pantglas Junior School filling classrooms with over 30 feet of thick mud and rubble. Despite heroic rescue efforts the final death toll was 144. In addition to five of their teachers, 116 of the dead were children, between the ages of 7 and 10, almost half of the children at the Pantglas Junior School. Disasters related to the mining industry were not new to the South Wales Valleys but what made the Aberfan disaster so memorable was the fact that most of those killed were not working in the mines but were children attending school. The emotional response to the disas-

made more personal by Merlyn and Joyce Williams, who had emigrated to Canada the year after the disaster and have lived in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Joyce grew up on Moy Road, three doors from Pantglas Junior School, in Aberfan. They had been married in the community just a year earlier and at the time of the disaster and were living in Morryston in South Wales, where she worked at the Morryston Hospital as a nurse. As soon as they heard of the disaster they both left their work and drove to Aberfan. Joyce was relieved to find that her parents and their home were safe. She recalled the way in which the front hallway of the house was lined with coats and bags left there by people help-



Joyce Williams shared her collection of newspapers from the Aberfan tragedy.

North American Festival of Wales

Calgary Seminar Highlights

By Jeanne Jones Jindra

Dr. David Gwyn, a Heritage Consultant from Wales, opened the special events portion of the 2016 NAFOW with *Raining in Aberfan: Fifty Years of the Welsh Industrial Landscape*, in the Thursday lunch/workshop. Dr. Gwyn was joined by Huw Christopher and Merlyn and Joyce Williams, who contributed their own personal stories of the disaster that devastated the small Welsh town of Aberfan 50 years ago. (see Huw Christopher's article in this issue) Dr. Gwyn also presented two seminars on Friday and Saturday, *Outstanding Value? The Slate Quarrying Landscape: Gwynedd Council's Slate Industry of North Wales World Heritage Bid and Great Little Trains of Wales*.

Welsh nature observer and

from earliest to modern times, with demonstrations by Elsa and Ceri. The duo also performed in the MarketPlace, in a Friday afternoon performance, and they hosted the Noson Lawen.

We welcomed back Cincinnati, Ohio, native Dr. Jerry Hunter, who is now the Pro Vice Chancellor at Bangor University in Wales. Dr. Hunter presented his research on *Evan Jones and the Cherokee*, and facilitated the 3-part film documentary accompanying the seminar.

The 2016 National Welsh-American Foundation's Heritage Medallion Winner, Dr. Grenville Thomas, Vancouver, was one of the Welsh-Canadians who presented seminars in Calgary. His seminar was titled *From Coal to Diamonds*, telling the story of



Ceri Jones and Elsa Davies perform as Deuair.

story to life in her vivid portrayal of David Thompson's wife.

Hefina Phillips, Swansea native now residing in Toronto, brought her usual excitement and fun to the task of learning the Welsh language at NAFOW. Not a seat was to be had in Hefina's Welsh I & II classes.

Carys Lewis, a Welsh-born Toronto-based actor, presented *Beyond the Pail*, a four-character, half-mask play examining life in rural Wales. Word of the exciting play quickly spread after Friday's performance and by Saturday afternoon the room was filled to capacity.

The Red River Welsh Folk Dancers (Dawnsyr Gwerin Yr Afon Gôch), a group of traditional Welsh Folk Dancers from the McConnell School of Dance, performed with musicians Alan Owen, Susan Hammer, Paul Hammer, Mary Robinson and 'Yr Enaid Gymraeg' in the ballroom in a noon performance on the Friday of the festival.

Cathy Pisony, Program Coordinator for the Frank Slide

Interpretive Center, discussed the programs of the Center located in Crowsnest Pass, and shared the film that re-enacted the great rock avalanche that devastated the town and the lives of the people that were involved.

Dave Western from Canada, and Laura Jenkins Gorun, Ohio,

joined together once again to present *The History of Lovespoons* with hands-on examples. Both were available for discussion during the weekend at their table in the NAFOW MarketPlace.

WNAA Treasurer from Owego, New York, David Allen, presented some significant changes to the tax laws that have major implications for US taxpayers in his Friday Coffee Talk, *Investments and Legacies*.

Finally, those who needed practice singing the Welsh hymns for the Sunday Gymanfa sessions were able to attend the Ysgol Gan, an informal session led by Tudur Eames, musical director of Côr Meibion Colwyn, and Sunday Gymanfa Conductor. He was accompanied by Karen Jones Wojahn, who also organized the late-night singing sessions.



Hefina Phillips making friends with festival attendees.

television presenter known for wearing shorts in any weather, Iolo Williams, entertained his audiences with vignettes from his own career in his seminar, *My Career in Wildlife* and also in *Wonderful Welsh Wildlife*. This "wildlife in Wales" theme was carried through in seminars by Natalie Buttriss, CEO of the

his career as a pioneer in the diamond mining industry in Canada, beginning in Wales when he worked in an underground coal mine. Dr. Thomas explained that his seminar could also be called "Serendipity", meaning the luck of finding valuable or pleasant things that are not looked for.



The Red River Welsh Folk Dancers (Dawnsyr Gwerin Yr Afon Gôch) performed Friday afternoon.

Welsh Organizations Meet in Calgary

By Dale Richards

The AWO (Affiliated Welsh Organizations) met this year on Friday, September 2, 2016, in the Lake Louise Room at the Westin Hotel in Calgary.

I would like to begin by thanking Judith Brougham of Kansas City for taking the notes for this meeting.

The following representatives from the member organizations were in attendance: Robert Dayton and Dave Williams from St. David's Society of Pittsburgh; Richard Donohoe of the St. David's Society of Charleston; David E. Jones from Washington, D.C.; Pat Morris and David Llewelyn Williams from Vancouver Welsh Society; Danny Proud from the Cambrian Heritage Society, Madison, Wisconsin; Judith Brougham of the Welsh Society of Greater Kansas City; Charlotte Prior of the Welsh Society of Central Ohio; Dilys Rana of the Cambrian Benevolent Society of Chicago; Gwen Foulkes of the Cambrian-Welsh Heritage Society of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois and Meagan Langer of Cymdeithas Madog.

As the AWO liaison and meeting moderator I began the session by discussing what had been accomplished since last year's meeting in Columbus. Last year we decided to see if

members of Welsh societies would like to receive newsletters from other Welsh societies. Up to this time there have been five societies sharing their newsletters with the group who asked for them. This is one way to see what other Welsh groups are doing. I realize that many of our AWO's may not have the ability to have a newsletter but if you do and would like to join in this endeavor, let me know and you will be added to the list.

Many of our AWOs have Facebook pages and websites that can be accessed. The WNAA has a Facebook AWO page that can be utilized to ask questions and share ideas. Information can be shared quickly on this site if used properly.

At last year's meeting, Arturo Roberts suggested that we create a manual for the AWOs that would have all the pertinent information for societies to refer to. I am starting to work one and if anyone would like to help by giving suggestions it would be appreciated.

Dilys Rana was congratulated on the publication of her book,

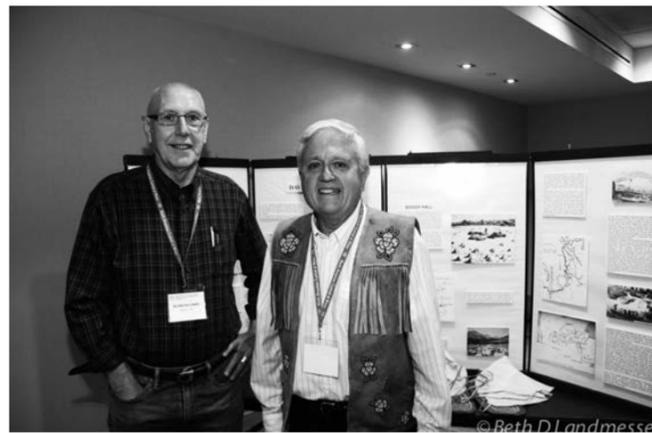
"The Welsh of Chicago". It is a well-written book.

The remainder of the time was spent with each member detailing what is happening in their societies. Here are some of the activities/events that were talked about;

- Welsh Folk Dance class
- Pub Nights
- Welsh language classes/Welsh conversations
- Travel films and speakers
- Eisteddfodau
- Welsh flags at city halls on St. David's Day
- Welsh choirs
- Booths at Celtic events
- Genealogy classes
- Book clubs
- Gymanfa Ganus
- Welsh picnics
- December teas

An hour and a half goes by very quickly and some of the members did not get their time to speak. This is something we will address ahead of next year's meeting.

If readers of this article have any suggestions, comments, critiques, please let me know at reddragonald@yahoo.com.



Allan Falconer with Dr. Cledwyn Haydn-Jones.

Vincent Wildlife Trust in Wales, as she presented *The Pine Martin Recovery Project*, documenting the Trust's successful attempt to restore the small pine martin carnivore back to the landscape of Wales. The Vincent Wildlife Trust also held a reception on Friday evening of the festival with Iolo Williams as special guest. (see separate articles on Iolo Williams and the Vincent Wildlife Trust in this issue)

Other presenters from Wales this year included the charming Elsa Davies and Ceri Owen-Jones, who form the group known as *Deuair*, meaning "two words". *The History of the Harp in Wales* gave attendees the chance to learn of Welsh harps

Dr. Wayne Davies, an author and professor born in Wales now living in Calgary, presented the important local Welsh history element in *History of the Welsh in Canada*. Dr. Davies cites that "although the numbers (of Welsh) were relatively small, their contributions were considerable, although all too often forgotten."

Dr. Cledwyn Haydn-Jones, born in Bangor but now living in Calgary, entertained his audiences with his portrayal of the intrepid Canadian explorer, David Thompson. He questioned just how Welsh was this great land geographer and what evidence exists to back that claim. Dr. Haydn-Jones' wife, Julia White, helped bring the

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North American Festival of Wales



Rhiannon Gressler with her harp and Katherine Freestone.

Youth Competition - A Great Success!

By David Matthews

Congratulations to the four competitors who captivated a very appreciative audience with their first-class singing. Two of the competitors, Ian Gressler and Kathryn Freestone travelled over three hundred kilometers from Drayton Valley, Alberta, to participate. The other two competitors, Jane Davies and Elizabeth Harper, were Calgary 'locals.' It was wonderful to experience their youthful enthusiasm and the very high standard of their performances.

Fourteen-year-old Ian Gressler hails from a very musical family with a strong patriarchal Welsh connection. The family's influence was such that a niece, nine-year-old Kathryn heard about the eisteddfod and, as aunt Trudy Gressler reports, 'wanted in on the action.'

Indeed, it was Ian's sixteen-year-old sister, Rhiannon, who accompanied Kathryn and Ian beautifully on the harp. Rhiannon also competed in the adult song competition.

Jane Davies and Elizabeth Harper also have this wonderful love for music. They are both members of Laura Styler's music program and singing classes in Calgary. Readers may recall that Laura was a past winner of the David G. Morris award in 2013. Both Jane and Elizabeth were also a part of the children's choir that played a very active role in NAFOW's Opening Ceremony.

This was the first time in many years that the Youth [fifteen years and younger] 'Singing Solo' category has been included in the NAFOW eisteddfod. It proved to be an excellent decision.

Eisteddfod Attracts Top Talent



The youth competitors performed alongside the winners in Saturday afternoon's concert.

The Eisteddfod at this year's North American Festival of Wales was once again a huge success. In addition to the new Youth Singing Competition, participants entered the Adult Solo Voice, Hymn Singing and David Morris semi-professional competition.

Festival accompanist Steve Jensen did a wonderful job and was joined by adjudicators Tudur Eames, Robert Lewis, Eirian Wyn Lewis and Karen Wjahn.

Recitation competitors entered English language recitation, and for the first time, on site sign-up was permitted for Welsh language recitation.

Saturday afternoon, the winners performed at the winner's concert. Winner of the Hymn Singing competition was Gwyn Jones from Wales. Jack Owen from Pittsburgh won the Solo Voice Competition and Rigby Jones, Santa Ana, CA took first place in the David Morris competition and will compete at the National Eisteddfod in Wales next August. A full article about Rigby will feature in the next issue of Ninnau.

Recitation winners were Glyn Long from Montana for English Language and Welsh Recitation went to Nesta Davies from Wales.

Congratulations to all!

Making friends with Welsh Martens

By Natalie Buttriss

It was great to be back in Canada since I was last in the country in 2001, when I was honeymooning with my husband in British Columbia. Back then, it was a memorable experience watching Canadian wildlife and now, fifteen years on, here I was talking about Welsh Wildlife with the wonderful people attending NAFOW this year. Doing this alongside the enthusiastic and inspiring Welsh wildlife presenter, Iolo Williams, was the icing on the cake!

Whereas Iolo's seminars were on the wildlife of Wales generally, my seminar focus was on a particular mammal species which is becoming increasingly important to Wales – the pine marten. This is a cat-sized member of the weasel family and closely related to the American marten. My organisation, The Vincent Wildlife Trust, is leading an eight-year project to help the pine marten in Wales recover from an all-time low in its population. The Pine Marten Recovery Project is taking action to boost the population of native animals through the licenced trapping of martens in Scotland where the species is abundant and recovering well.

Being very handsome and photogenic, the martens in my photographs and video clips were well-received by my audience. I was able to tell the story of how 'our' twenty martens had been translocated in the autumn of 2015 from the Highlands of Scotland to an area of forest in mid-Wales just



Calgary's Kathleen Johnson dressed in Welsh costume with Natalie Buttriss.

east of Aberystwyth. The highlight of the presentation was, of course, the great news that at least three of our translocated females had given birth to kits in spring this year – the first known Wales-born pine martens for many decades. So the scene is set for a pine marten population to once again thrive in the woodlands of Wales.

At the Trust, we believe this will be good not only for the natural environment but also for the communities and businesses around where the martens settle: providing eco-tourism opportunities and an additional wildlife attraction for all to enjoy.

So next time you visit Wales, look out for news and sightings of this elusive and very attractive small carnivore – an indicator that all is well in the forested landscape of rural Wales. In the future, I hope to be able to tell you more about how the

martens are faring.

I made many friends and met many acquaintances at my first NAFOW. Special thanks to Dale and Andrea Richards for sponsoring my seminar and to members of WNAA and Calgary Welsh Society who made me so welcome. I really enjoyed the programme and meeting everyone – keep up the good work.

It would be great if the Welsh-North American community could be part of this natural heritage project. Perhaps you have business or community links to Wales that might benefit from this work? To support the project over the next five years, please visit our website: www.pine-marten-recovery-project.org.uk. You can also sign up to our e-newsletter.

Diolch yn fawr.

Wonderful Welsh Wildlife

By Dilys Rana

Two programs at this year's North American Festival of Wales in Calgary shone a spotlight on the unique, wonderful, and, sometimes, endangered wildlife species that make their homes in Wales. The Pine Marten Project, presented by the CEO of the Vincent Wildlife Trust, Natalie Buttriss, gave us a closer look at this organization's intensive efforts to reintroduce an animal that was close to extinction in Wales. Shy by nature and nocturnal by habit, these small, cat-like carnivores are slowly building up numbers in the Welsh woodlands with the support of a dedicated army of volunteers and graduate students. One of their greatest champions is the BBC nature presenter, Iolo Williams, who feels as though their re-emerging presence, close to his home in mid-Wales, is like "...welcoming back an old friend."

Iolo had his audiences spellbound with his tales of a life spent monitoring and protecting the birds and animals who live in the landscapes and seascapes of Wales. From an early age, he was attracted to the outdoors, and fascinated by the abundance of creatures that inhabited the woodlands and hedgerows around his boyhood home in Powys. He credits his grandfather with being a "massive influence" on him; taking him on nature walks and encouraging him to hone his skills of observation by lying face-up under a hedge to look for a well-hidden nest. He amused us with tales of ditching school to spend days in the fields, and of then having to



Iolo Williams

explain away bad grades to his parents, who knew nothing of his escapades.

His passion for wildlife was evident with every example he gave of an adaptive special trait that placed the creatures in a superior category to their human counterparts. How many of us have air sacs in our face and chest to protect us when we dive headlong into water like the gannet, or possess the endurance of a tiny flycatcher which flies thousands of miles between Wales and West Africa every year? He was scathing in his contempt for egg collectors who regularly rob nests in early spring to add unusual specimens to their large, private collections.

The red kites of mid Wales have been particularly vulnerable and, when volunteers are available, the nests are monitored by rifle-toting militia in the hope that they will scare off intruders, although they are not allowed to shoot them, much as they might

like to!

Iolo is a GREAT storyteller and many descriptions of his exploits with wildlife, both in Wales and in many other wild parts of the world, had us all in stitches. Whether standing tall, looking fierce, and attempting to squeak out a strangled scream to scare off a mother bear protecting her cubs in Alaska, or trying to talk to the camera over the shotgun farts of silverback gorillas in Africa, his love for his subjects was palpable. His biggest hero, world renowned nature presenter David Attenborough, continues to be a great source of inspiration. Without a doubt,

Wales should be equally proud of its native son, Iolo Williams; fierce advocate and protector of Welsh wildlife, and a Welsh-speaking Welshman whose love for every inch of his home country comes shining through.

For more information, check out his website: iolo.williams.co.uk

North American Festival of Wales

2016 Heritage Medallion Presented in Calgary

By Philip Davies

Calgary presented a very different face for those newly returned from the National Eisteddfod of Wales in Abergavenny. At the western end of the Canadian prairie it has the Rockies as a spectacular background. The city manifests the wealth and prosperity derived from the harvest of the oil from Alberta's tar sand reserves. However, the atmosphere in the Westin, home to NAFOW for four days, was joyfully and entirely Welsh. After the wonderful opening program on Thursday night it was time for the joint banquet of the WNAA and NAWF on Friday evening. The banquet hall was full to capacity and everyone was in a festive mood as the

evening opened with the traditional procession of the leaders and guests of the two organizations to the strains of Men of Harlech played by Steve Jensen. After the Canadian and American national anthems were sung, the benediction was given by the Reverend Eirian Wyn Lewis the well-known Baptist minister from Mynachlog Ddu in Wales. Hywel Davies, Past President, WNAA in his familiar role as Master of Ceremonies, introduced the members of the top table. A sumptuous dinner was enjoyed by all before we moved on to the main program of the evening.

The event served to bring to the stage two distinguished individuals, both born in Wales. Grenville Thomas came to

accept the Heritage Medallion, NAWF's highest honor for his contributions as a loyal, passionate and generous Welshman. He is our greatest contemporary explorer, prospector, discoverer and entrepreneur. We honor him most of all for so much that he has given back to his Welsh communities both in Canada and in Wales. Robert Lewis came to sing, almost entirely in Welsh. His prodigious voice has brought him two of the National Eisteddfod's most prestigious awards; the Osborne Roberts Blue Riband in 2015 and more recently the Towyn Roberts Scholarship at Abergavenny this summer.

Grenville Thomas was introduced by Merlyn Williams, his dear friend from their childhood in Wales and later in Yellowknife. It was an introduction made with flair and humor permeated by the deep sense of admiration and community that they had shared over the years. To commemorate the occasion Grenville then accepted the Heritage Medallion and plaque from NAWF secretary Philip Davies. Earlier in the day Grenville gave a wonderful seminar when he told his life story, from his childhood in Wales with Merlyn and others to his amazing adventures in Canada and elsewhere. He was introduced at the seminar by another good friend, Brian Lewis, and then surrounded and prompted by his Yellowknife friends he regaled us with the enormous achievements and contributions that he has made over the years. A life worthy of



Grenville Thomas receives the 2016 Heritage Medallion from NAWF Secretary Philip Davies.

a biography and a movie.

Grenville and Robert's journeys to Canada and to Calgary happened at very different times and for entirely different reasons. Grenville came soon after graduating in 1964 as a mining engineer from Cardiff University to work at a nickel mine in Sudbury, Ontario. For Robert 2016 brought the opportunity for his first visit to Canada to share with us his brilliant vocal talents. This, as described in detail elsewhere in this issue by Dafydd Evans, he did in great style accompanied by Steve Jensen. Our story with Robert Lewis begins at the National Eisteddfod in Meifod in 2015 when he won the Osborne Roberts Blue Riband. For the third year the NAWF offered an opportunity for the winner to come to North America. This allowed Robert to come accompanied by his

parents Ian and Ella and girlfriend Charlotte. Robert received a standing ovation and this was followed by stirring rendering by the audience of Hen Wlad fy Nhadau to bring the formal part of the evening to a close. Many of us lingered to spend communal time together as seen in the photograph of the friends from Yellowknife. They brought a very special sense of friendship and welcome to the whole Festival.

Both Grenville and Robert left for the United Kingdom shortly after the Festival ended. Grenville travelled on business and Robert to begin his third year of studies at the Guildhall School of Music. We wish them both success in their endeavors, the future of Welsh life wherever they go will be brighter and better for their presence and contributions.



Old friends gather to honor Grenville, the Welsh community who once lived together in Yellow Knife.

Performance By Young Welsh Tenor Robert Lewis

By Dafydd Evans
Manhattan Beach, CA

Robert Lewis, this year's Banquet Concert solo performer, is the son of a Montgomeryshire farming family. At only 18 years of age he was the youngest recipient of the Osborne Roberts Memorial Award at the 2015 National Eisteddfod of Wales and was the featured performer at this year's Grand Banquet Concert. Robert has very significant success in Eisteddfodau, open singing competitions, and appearances on Welsh television and broadcasts and many concerts. Presently he is a third year student at the power house of performance singing education, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, England. A young Welshman whose strong build gives a hint of his strong, well rounded tenor voice. As well as his many competition successes he already has a very solid background in singing in recitals, concerts on television and radio. A fine start to what will become a sterling career as a classical singer.

The program selected by Lewis was well thought out and took into full consideration the audience's background and expectations. The chosen songs in the program covered a range that displayed the scope of this young singer's vocal capabilities. Especially interesting, and for me brave, was the singer's choice to sing all but one piece in his native tongue—Welsh of course. Performing songs in Welsh is required under the conditions of competition at the Welsh National Eisteddfod.

This includes operatic arias written originally with French, Italian or German lyrics and also applies to French Art songs or German Lieder. So, translations are available for the set competition pieces.

Opening with Parawys y Bardd by W. Bradwen Jones (1892-1970), a favorite of many Welsh performers and is a real test piece with a challenging dramatic range for the voice and interpretation of the lyrics. Robert Lewis has a lovely voice and solid singing technique and interpretive skills, and is at ease on the stage, developed over the many times he has sung in public.

Silent Moon by Vaughan Williams was next on the program. Vaughan Williams' family heritage was Welsh and English. On his paternal side the family was prominent churchmen and lawyers. His grandfather and uncle were judges and his father an Anglican Priest. On his maternal side his mother was part of the famous pottery family Wedgwood, and also Darwin, yes, of Origins of the Species fame, was his mother's uncle. Vaughan Williams composed a very large and diverse amount of music in his long and illustrious life, and he believed that the human voice was the oldest and greatest of musical instruments. Silent Noon is a song from the English Song Book with lyrics by the poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti and one of the poems from Rossetti's series The House of Life. A restrained, atmospheric but romantic song, with beautiful melody. This was the only song that Robert Lewis sang in English, not Welsh, and Robert

Lewis captured the mood and lyricism of the song.

Cymru Fach by David Richards is a song deeply loved by Welsh people. It is a must for an audience of 'expats,' conjuring up a love of Wales and a longing for the homeland. Some years ago at the National Eisteddfod was held in Bro Ogwr, South Wales, the adjudicators of the "Chair" poetry competition announced that the Chair would not be awarded that year as there were no worthy submissions. The large crowd in attendance for the 'Chairing Ceremony' was deeply disappointed by this turn of events, and a palpable glumness fell over the audience. But a soprano came on stage and sang a beautiful rendition of Cymru Fach and raised the spirits of the audience. Robert Lewis sang this song with heartfelt emotion.

Fleur Jet ee, by French composer Faure, is a song of requited love where the rejected lover compares false love to a flower which withers to dust and is blown away by the wind. This is a short piece and requires a lot of energy and a mixture of anger and hurt. Well sung with the required emotion.

Dies Bildniss ist bezaubernd schon (O image angel like and fair) is the principal tenor aria from Mozart's opera Die Zauberflote (The Magic Flute.) A beautiful aria that comes quite early in the opera and is deceptively difficult to sing, as Mozart has much of this aria in a transitioning part of a tenor's voice. The aria was sung very well with easy transitions and the right amount of wonderment and emotion.



Robert Lewis, left, with festival accompanist Steve Jensen.

Llanrwst, music by Gareth Glyn's setting of his fathers', poet T. Glynne Davies', poem expressing his love for his home town of Llanrwst. The song is full of 'hiraeth', soft and lilting and has a lovely melodic tone.

Morgen! music by Richard Strauss' setting, poem by John Henry Mackay. This is a very interesting song as the poet John Henry Mackay, was born in Scotland to a Scottish father and a German mother. The father died when John Henry Mackay was a small infant and the mother and child moved back to Germany, where the poet was raised. Strauss and Mackay knew each other but Mackay was arrested and died under mysterious circumstances in Germany in the 1930s. This short and exquisite song is often thought of a piece for the piano with voice accompaniment rather than the other way around. A lovely collaboration here between the singer and the

wonderful NAFOW accompanist Steve Jensen.

The last song of the concert was Arafu Don by R.S. Hughes. A real rafter shaker of a song with barely a phrase under a forte. The singer scolds the sea for taking his brother to the bottom where no one knows where he is and is no tombstone. But, when God's trumpet calls even the sea has to give up its dead. Very vigorously and well sung.

The audience rose and gave the young man a very hearty and prolonged applause for performing a fine concert and gave loud requests for an encore. Robert Lewis reprised Cymru Fach and the audience left after enjoying a very good evening of music. This young man will go a long way in the music world and we all send him our best wishes.

North American Festival of Wales

Cor Meibion Colwyn Attracts Full House

By Dafydd Evans

The Grand Concert is, of course, always highly anticipated and high standards are expected. As usual the large audience was delighted. Cor Meibion Colwyn was on top of their game and performed excellently under the direction of their new Musical Director, Tudur Eames. Mr. Eames took full musical advantage of the opportunities in his youth, and is a graduate of the Guild Hall School of Music and Drama in London specializing in harp and piano performance, and is a well known vocal coach. The excellent accompanists were Richard Hibbs and Mary Darling. The choir has a long and successful history performing throughout the UK and other countries over the years, and has raised over \$220,000 for various charities. The venue for the concert was Knox United Church, a lovely large traditional church with splendid acoustics. The choir sat on built risers behind pulpit and facing

'Cowboy Carol' by appropriately, Canadian artist, author, and western song writer Cecil Broadhurst, certainly brought a different character to the concert. When the choir started singing it brought back a distant memory of being asked to go to a cloistered Anglican convent in the Buckinghamshire countryside in England, to sing with a small group to the nuns. It was a different experience as we essentially sang to a large heavy curtain, hiding the nuns. Each time we sang a Christmas song/carol a lay member of the convent came and thanked us. I wonder what the nuns thought when we sang with gusto, the 'Cowboy Carol.' On this night it the choir sung with joy and gusto and it was thoroughly enjoyable. Well after all, Colwyn is in the West, North West that is, of Wales. Ending the first section of the concert was 'Amen' which features the traditional spiritual 'This Little Light of Mine.' A happy and popular choral piece with emphasis on the 'Amen's'

Hafan' and 'Ty Gobaith' which are hospices in Wales for limited life and at risk babies and young people. All the leading singers and choirs in Wales sing this very uplifting joyful song. This piece was a very fitting finale to the program's first half.

The first section of the second half of the concert was called Cor Meibion Colwyn Presents: A celebration of Welsh composers. Though I visit Wales often, some of these composers are not familiar to me. I discovered that they are significant composers. 'Clychae'r Gog' ('Bluebells') music by Gareth Glyn and words by R. William Parry, started the section. A lovely choral piece and Colwyn did it justice. 'Fy Mhlentyn' (My Child) composed by Aled Wyn Edwards, who was until recently the conductor of Cor Colwyn, is a lovely soft melodic piece of music, and perhaps composed for the choir. The choir did a very nice job with this music. 'Ceiliog Ffesant' (Cock Pheasant) music by Mared Emllyn, words by J.M. Edwards. This piece was commissioned by the choir and was sung, along with the prior two pieces in this section, at the 2015 National Eisteddfod. Though not placed in the top three at the Eisteddfod the choir received high praise from the adjudicators. Ryan Davies was a man of huge talents and among the best entertainers Wales ever produced. A favorite on TV and on stage, he died after a brief health episode while on holiday in Buffalo, USA. 'Pan Fo'r Nos Yn Hir' and 'Ti a dy Ddoniau' are often performed and deeply loved in Wales, were sung to close out this worth while section.

Then alas, we came to the final section with the Cor Meibion Colwyn and Edith Pritchard performing together. Llanfair, music Robert Williams, words William Williams and arranged by Mansel Thomas. This much loved and mighty hymn was performed in full voice and appropriate 'hwyl'. What a lovely surprise came with Calon Lan arranged by the conductor Tudur Eames, to the lovely melody 'The Rose' by Amanda McBroom. The words fitted the melody beautifully. Chwarelwr (Quarry Man) composed by the wonderful country singer and composer Rita MacNeal, born and raised in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. The song arranged by Haydn James well known choral conductor, has a close connection with coal miners and quarry men. With the history and struggles in coal and slate quarries in Wales the song resonates with us. A lovely country song however and chorister Hywel Roberts sang a solo part. Very apt with the connection between the working men in Nova Scotia and the home land. Finally Cymru Fach, music by David Richards words by T. Lewis. Oh my, at the end of this lovely concert how could it not fail to bring tears to eyes, and tears did flow. Edith Pritchard sang solo along with the men.

A fine night of music with an abundance of emotion, much needed in this world and we certainly received a full share of it at this concert. Many thanks to the choristers, pianists and soloist for a lovely evening.



Cor Meibion Colwyn perform to a full audience.

Calgary Soloist Shines

By Dafydd Evans

Edith Pritchard was born in Edmonton, raised in Okanagan, and studied in Vancouver and Toronto before going to the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England. She said that when in England she went through a period of having no dates. Then she met her husband who, of course, by the surname, is Welsh.

After completing her musical education at the Royal Northern she embarked on a successful singing career, performing with almost every opera company in the UK, including Glyndebourne Festival Opera, deputing as Fiodiligi in 'Cosi Fan Tutti', and with The Royal Opera, Covent Garden, singing mezzo soprano roles. Ms. Pritchard is now a voice and music instructor at Calgary University.

Ms. Pritchard opened her first session with 'My Little Welsh Home,' composed by a very important musician, W.S. Gwynne Williams. He was born in Llangollen, North Wales.

'My little Welsh Home' is a beautifully crafted piece of music, and yes, it is full of 'hiraeth'. Ms. Pritchard sang it beautifully. 'Y Nefoedd' (Heaven) By T Osborn Roberts again a favorite Welsh song was sung with feeling. Cor Colwyn and the audience were invited to sing the chorus along with Ms. Pritchard which of course we did.

The final song for this group was 'Hiraeth,' arranged by Brian Hughes. The tune of this lovely folk song is unusual and haunting. Somehow it brings up a feeling of ache and longing for that is a part of being Welsh. A friend said that the French have a saying which is "a longing for the land." But this is only partially of how this writer feels. Beautifully sung and remains a favorite of Welsh people who know the deep feeling of Hiraeth.

Edith Pritchard opened her final set of three songs starting with the well-known 'Habanera' from Bizet's opera Carmen. It's a role, and in particular this aria, where she taunts the hapless soldier Jose



Edith Pritchard

by singing "If I love you you'd better watch out", is coveted by mezzo sopranos. This is where her excellent training and experience in opera was evident. Edith Pritchard would have seduced any stern-faced Spanish soldier.

In the opera, both Carmen and Jose pay the ultimate price. But then that's opera, and the Welsh are justifiably famous opera singers. Then came "Ah, quel diner! (La Pericole) by Offenbach, where the singer sings when, in the opera at least, she's drunk, or at least seriously tipsy. The thing that's difficult in performing this is not to go over the top, and to be sure that the diction and timing is correct. Edith Pritchard did this funny little aria delightfully and the audience was greatly amused.

"Just another Rhumba" by George Ira Gershwin, I had not heard before. But it is lively, and if course very rhythmic. Like many Gershwin songs it is quite difficult to perform with the right dance movement and not to be sung by the untrained. The lyrics by Ira Gershwin make the song very funny. The accompanist for the number got so involved that he jumped up from the piano and danced with her. The whole section was very entertaining and very professionally performed.



Tudur Eames directs Cor Meibion Colwyn.

outwards, giving the choir plenty of room and providing a very good view of the choristers to the audience. The number of recordings of the many Welsh Male Voice Choirs is very large, and some say 'well it's usually the same pieces on all of the recordings.' This has some truth in it, but it is also true that, especially in live concerts, 'we know what we like and like what we know.' So we expect to hear the choruses and mighty hymns for which Welsh choirs are justifiable famous.

The concert opened with Gloria by Italian Baroque composer Vivaldi. Vivaldi was an ordained Catholic priest who spent most of his professional life as a music teacher at an orphanage for girls, and wrote much of his choral music for the school choir. This piece is short with a fast tempo, and was sung with precision and excellent dynamics. Immediately it was obvious that the concert was going to be very good. Gwahoddiad came next, arranged by John Tudor Davies MBE, who for many years was the pianist accompanist for the famous Cor Meibion Rhosllanochrugog. This arrangement displayed the choir's lovely blending and tonal quality. The unaccompanied section was particularly moving. For the Beauty of the Earth' by the highly acclaimed and popular Cambridge University choral composer John Rutter, came next. A lovely flowing hymn of praise and thanks for all that's beautiful on earth.

which are well written into the main body of the song. Again a fast pace requiring excellent and precise diction which the choir provided. A fitting ending to the first section.

The program's first half concluded with the choir singing firstly three folk songs arranged by Mervyn Burch. Having been away from Wales for many years I wasn't familiar with the composer's name. So by going onto the internet I discovered that he was a prominent and highly respected, prolific composer, whose compositions cover a wide range, including music for children, operas, symphonic pieces, string quartets and more. This set comprised of 'Dacw Nghariad,' 'Ar Lan y Mor,' 'Deryn y Bwn.' The first two are of course highly romantic, which were very smoothly sung. 'Deryn y Bwn' a children's song was sung lightly but with a lively tempo and a sense of fun. Very nice trio of folk songs. 'Unchained Melody' by Mark Brymer, also known as 'O my love,' is one of the most popular and recorded songs of the 20th 'Sing' is a song composed with lyrics by the two very renowned and popular composers, Gary Barlow and Andrew Lloyd Webber. The song was written for the Queens Diamond Jubilee. The composers say that it was to celebrate the Commonwealth. Very fitting for a Welsh festival in Canada. 'Hafan Gobaith' music by Delyth Rees, words by Eleri Richards, is an inspiring song as it is closely associated with 'Ty

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North American Festival of Wales

Songs of Praises

The 85th Gymanfa Ganu Reverberates!

By Richard P. Donohoe

The centerpiece of the NAFOW, the 85th National Gymanfa Ganu, was held on Sunday, September 4, at Knox United Church in Downtown Calgary, in the customary two sessions at 2:00 in the afternoon and 7:00 in the evening with Tudur Eames, Musical Director of Côr Meibion Colwyn, conducting and Steve Jensen, Milwaukee, Wis, accompanying on the church's large pipe organ with its four manuals and 5000 pipes.

In the customary pattern, each session included fourteen hymns in sets of four and three interspersed with announcements and special music. Côr Colwyn, the festival choir from North Wales performed at each session along with Robert Lewis, nineteen-year-old tenor from Montgomeryshire who performed at the Grand Banquet, singing in the afternoon session and Rigby Jones of Santa Ana, California, Winner of the David Morris



Tudur Eames leads the 85th Gymanfa Ganu.

Memorial Award, singing in the evening session.

Popular hymns in the afternoon session included *Gwahoddiad, Penpark, I Sing as a Bird (Rwy'n Canu), Panyfedwen, Sanctus and Morte Christe*. Popular hymns included in the evening session were

Calon Lân, Arwelfa, Rachie, Blaenwern, Rhys and, of course, *Cwm Rhondda*, which traditionally concludes the Gymanfa Ganu.

Three hymns that are not included in the hymnal were inserted in the Program Book and included in the singing: *Berwyn*, with a tune by Caradog Roberts, the composer of *Rachie and In Memoriam; Bro Aber*, a mid 20th Century hymn; and *St. Clement*, with a tune by a late 19th Century English composer Clement C. Scholfield and text by a late 19th Century English hymn writer John Ellerton, both clergymen, with Welsh verses translated by R. D. Roberts

Following the benediction, the customary closing ceremony took place, with the flag passed from the chairs of the Calgary festival to the chair of the 2017 Rochester festival followed by a rousing rendition of *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau* and, hands linked, a heart-warming rendition of *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*.



Knox United Church, full of 2016 festival attendees for the Gymanfa Ganu.

The Holy Spirit Works Through the Internet

By Huw Christopher

As I participated in the very inspirational worship service of the North American Festival of Wales on Sunday, September 4, at the Knox United Church, I wondered how many people who were sharing in that service realized that most of the people who were leading worship that morning had met only about 15 minutes before the service started. This truly was a service planned across many miles through e-mail and the power of the Internet. Those responsible for the service were the pastors of Knox United, Greg Glatz and Dave Holmes, and their very able Office and Facility Manager, Sue Forsyth, in Calgary, Alberta; the preacher for the day, Eiran Wyn Lewis in North Pembroke, South Wales; the organist, Steve Jensen in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; with assistance from Elaine Westlake and David Matthews of the Calgary Welsh Society; Megan Williams in Trumansburg, New York; Ian Samways in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Kay Thomas in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and myself in Pasadena, California!

Pastor Dave Holmes reminded all of us of our uniqueness and yet how all of us are beloved by God as he spoke of the Pride Parade in Calgary and we shared in a blessing of those from the Knox congregation who left to participate in that parade. His theme was very appropriate also as we celebrated our Welsh heritage in the midst of a very diverse community like Calgary. We affirmed this truth later in the service as together we sang the first two Welsh and first two English verses of the hymn, "In Memoriam," found at number 28 in the Welsh North American Gymanfa Ganu Association hymnbook, with the English words of Frederick William Faber reminding us that "there is a wideness in God's mercy" and that, "the love of God is broader than the measures of man's mind; and that the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind."

The Welsh lesson from Psalm 84 was read by Morfudd Jones from the Calgary Welsh Society and Ann Farebrother, a member of the Knox congregation read the English lesson from John 11:1-16. Eirian Wyn Lewis used this story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead in John 11 as the basis of his sermon. He reminded us of how the Dutch artist, Rembrandt, had used his own face to picture

Lazarus in his painting, *The Raising of Lazarus*, to remind him of the difference the power of Jesus had made in his own life, and he challenged us as "Onward, We Go Singing," to remember the familiar words and the affirmation and prayer we make as we love to sing, "Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land, I am weak, but Thou art mighty, hold me with Thy pow'ful hand."

Gwyn Jones, a member of the Côr Meibion Colwyn and winner of the Hymn Singing Competition at our Festival Eisteddfod, continued the theme of the sermon in his solo during the offertory as he pointed to the English translation of the Welsh hymn he was singing in the Voices United Hymnal as "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say."

Megan Williams, the Executive Secretary of the Welsh North American Association, read the names of members of the Association and of the Calgary Welsh Society who had died during the past year and Margaret Miyagishima read the names of members of Knox United Church who had died. After each name a rose was placed in the vases by Serana Dimarzo and Nadia Dimarzo, young people from the Calgary Welsh Society. Family members of those named were invited to take one of the memorial roses following the service.

The concluding "prayers of the people" included a response from the hymn, "For This Land in All Its Wonder," by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette set to the tune *Cwm Rhondda* as everyone responded to the petitions by singing, "May we follow where you lead us, God, this is our hope and prayer! God, this is our hope and prayer." This response together with all of the hymns being set to Welsh tunes and the prelude and postlude by Steve Jensen also being based on Welsh tunes helped to prepare those who shared in the Morning Service for the Gymanfa Ganu sessions that afternoon and evening.

We can indeed be deeply grateful to the pastors, leaders, ushers and members of the Knox United Church for the gracious welcome they extended to us as they allowed us as part of the North American Festival of Wales to share in their Morning Worship Service in such a meaningful way, and as they prepared the bulletin and special inserts and provided the wonderful reception following the service.

Here For the Singing

By Michael Wojahn

I'm just back from Calgary in Canada where I was attending the North American Festival of Wales. That's Wales without an H. Wales is an area of Britain. It's on the west side of the island. Welsh folk were there before the Romans, Saxons or the Normans. Their language is more ancient than most in Europe and has given few words to the modern English language. It very nearly was a dead language since the rest of England tried to outlaw the language, but it and its people still survive.

Many Welsh people emigrated to the Americas where they became miners, teachers, farmers and businessmen. If you see someone named Jones, Roberts, Williams and a host of other names, you can probably trace their roots back to Wales.

I go to Welsh/American events for the singing. It's the only reason I go, well maybe not since I married into a Welsh/American family that has been, and continues to be very active in Gymanfa Ganu's (or more properly *Cymanfa Canu*) and many other things Welsh. It is only half a joke when I tell folks that I had to audition to join the family.

I'm of German/Prussian/Norwegian decent. When I was growing up I remember my dad's family singing German and American songs at family gatherings. There were violinists, pianists, accordion players and guitar players, and that was just the men. One uncle had a polka band. On my mother's side we had a great aunt who had run off to Hollywood to join the music scene then came home to work in a music store and give piano lessons. Holiday gatherings there were filled with Norwegian and American songs. Music was part of my



The singing goes on, late into the night with informal singing at the Westin hotel.

growing up years.

School years also contained music. I took piano lessons, studied the clarinet and bass violin, those things never took with me, but singing did. I joined a barbershop chorus and the church choir and continued singing harmony when I settled into my own place, I still do. That tells you why I love to sing with the Welsh, it's for the harmony.

The Welsh have a joy of harmony that is hard to contain. You will be just as likely to find them bellowing out a hymn at a rugby game or a pub as you would in church. Music seems to fill them. They will let anyone with a similar joy of harmony join in. The most difficult part of singing with the Welsh is learning to sing Welsh.

For those of you unfamiliar with the language, it contains 28 letters, and leaves out about 6 or 7 letters usually found in English. DD and LL are actual letters of the alphabet for them. The rules for the differences between F and FF give you a hint as to why English is at times so hard to pronounce and spell. Their list of vowels also includes W, and has some inter-

esting sounds for the rest of the more common English vowels.

After 40 years of attending Minnesota based Gymanfa's and a few national festivals I can almost pronounce the words, there is no way I can understand more than a few of them. The Welsh joke that it is a language in which you cannot buy a vowel. Their words seem to be all consonants. Much of the time I will just sing on a oh or keep singing the same English verse over and over. I'm not the only one. There are many a Welsh descendant that is doing the same.

It is perhaps the habit of singing in harmony that most draws me to Welsh music. Yes, you can find songs that have only the melody line, but most are 4-part harmony. Many Welsh enclaves in the Americas have a habit of holding Gymanfas at least once a year locally and a "National" or North American event annually also. In Wales there have been Gymanfa's going on for over 1,000 years.

So if you have a hankering for singing in harmony and hear about a Gymanfa Ganu, *Cymanfa Canu* or Welsh Festival of Song, check it out. Join in as they sing out those hymns and folk songs. I know you'll have a great time.

The next issue (Jan-Feb) is your best opportunity to publicize your March 1 events. Send items for Calendar of Events, announcements and advertisements as soon as possible, **deadline Dec 1.**

North American Festival of Wales

Attendees Tour Buffalo Jump and Fort MacLeod

By Dale Richards

"Oh, Give me A Home Where the Buffalo Roam, where the deer and the antelope play." On Thursday, Sept. 1, 50 or so members of the NAFOW hunting party went looking for these buffalo. Alas, we did not find them but we would come across a site where they once roamed. This was the purpose of our trip, to see where the mighty buffalo once existed in the thousands.

Our journey began by heading south down the Deerfoot Trail, Highway 2, towards the United States. The trip would take us 2 hours through southern Alberta to the World Heritage site of Head Smashed-In Buffalo Jump and eventually Fort MacLeod. The Jump is located in the foothills where the Rockies meet the Great Plains.

I must first acknowledge our hosts for our journey, members of the Calgary Welsh Society, who planned a good time for us on this long trip. Curt Ansell, our bus driver, Norman Pierce and Jean Kuhn from the society would keep us entertained with a few activities. To start, they passed out raffle tickets which would be pulled for winners as we traveled along. Water and candy were passed out to keep us hydrated and fed if we wanted.

Before we started, Curt spoke to us to say that the restroom on the bus had no handle, so anyone with a need to go to the Ty Bach would have to ask for the door handle. I think we survived that issue.

On the trip to the Jump, our hosts were very good at pointing out facts about certain towns that we passed through. The first town was Nanton, which is home to the Bomber Command Museum of Canada is home to; Stavely, a farming community,



Arriving at Fort Macleod

known as the home of the Stavely Indoor Rodeo, the world's first indoor rodeo and the last remaining grain elevator. The others were removed when the Canadian Pacific Railway, that once ran through the town was closed. The other town that we passed through was Claresholm where, in 1941, the Royal Canadian Air Force Station was established to train pilots for service in WW II.

Every so often, as we passed through these towns and through the countryside, the raffle tickets that we were handed were pulled and the winners were awarded a prize. The winners of the raffle drawings were; Jack Owen, Patricia Shaw, Marcia Dahlman, Dafydd Evans and David Timmer. Jack also won first place in the Male Voice Solo at the Eisteddfod and Dan's wife Mary won a picture at the Ninnau reception. Also on the ride, we were given a Welsh history quiz where we had to answer 25 questions. The 2 winners of the quiz were Hefina Phillips and Dale Richards.

Finally, this is what we came for. Our first stop on the tour was to Head Smashed In-

Buffalo Jump. As mentioned before, it was designated a World Heritage Site in 1968. The museum and interpretive center are built into the ancient sandstone cliff in naturalistic fashion. It is very unassuming, meaning that it does not take away from the surrounding landscape. As our group stepped from the bus, we were greeted by members of the Blackfoot nation who would be our guides for the tour. We broke into 2 groups. After seeing a short movie about the site, we were led to the top level of the center where we walked a long path out to the actual site of the buffalo jump and an explanation of what occurred back then, 600 years ago. It was a very windy day, I'm sure because of the flatness of the surrounding terrain.

In order to understand what actually happened back then, I would like to give a short history.

Before the introduction of horses, the methods used by the Blackfoot to drive the buffalo from their grazing area included setting up "drive lanes" that were lined with hundred of 'cairns', a human made pile of stones. They would dress up as

coyotes and wolves. The term used was "buffalo runners". They were young men trained in animal behavior to drive the buffalo into the drive lanes. At full gallop, the buffalo would fall from the 36 foot high cliff, breaking their legs, rendering them immobile. If any buffalo survived the fall, they were killed because they would not be able to tell the other buffalo where the jump was. The processing of the buffalo included all parts- tools from the bones, hide to make dwellings and clothes and, of course, food. In

Our guide took us around to the various exhibits to explain the purpose of the fort, which was the headquarters of the North-West Mounted Police, the forerunner of the RCMP.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police was created in 1873. It was established to bring law and order to the Canadian west. The need was particularly urgent given reports of American whiskey traders causing trouble in the region. The fort that was built was named for Colonel James MacLeod, the man who led the North-West Mounted



Spectacular scenery at Head Smashed-In Buffalo Jump.

Blackfoot, the name for the site is Estipah-skikkine-kots. According to legend, a young Blackfoot wanted to watch the buffalo plunge off the cliff from below, but was buried underneath the falling buffalo. He was later found dead under the pile of carcasses, where he had his head smashed in, thus the name of the site.

After purchasing gifts from the shop, we boarded the bus for our final stop, Fort Macleod.

After lunch at the Kof C in Fort Macleod, we proceeded to the fort to learn of its history.

Police.

After experiencing the fort and its history, we were ready to return to Calgary. On the return trip, as we settled in our seats, the hosts came around with water, candy and song books. We sang a few of the favorite songs; 'Cwm Rhondda', Calon Lan, and Ar Hyd Y Nos. The final song was "We'll Keep a Welcome."

Thank you Calgary Welsh Society for a great tour and great hosts, Norman, Jean and Curt.

A Welshman Takes the Helm on Lake Minnewanka

By Mary Lynne Evans

Iceberg?? That's what I heard Captain Tim Latter, our guide on the Lake Minnewanka cruise, just say.

Along with approximately 60 other NAFOW participants, I was aboard the *Alberta Explorer*, a 38 ton sightseeing boat in Banff National Park, Canada. As required by the National Transport of Canada, ships of this size must have two licensed captains/engineers on board. Our captains, Taylor Lowery and Tim Latter, were dually licensed so it seemed we were in good hands. Captain Taylor expertly swung the craft away from the dock, while Captain Latter explained the safety features of the boat.

"Underneath your seat is a life vest, in case we come into contact with Icebergs," he said. Was he being droll? Just kidding maybe?

But I had just come back from Antarctica where I had seen icebergs up close. Even the smallest were formidable, hiding their true power beneath the waves. And I had seen the movie *Titanic* three times. I checked under my seat. There was indeed a life vest.

The blue-green lake actually looked calm. Heavily forested slopes, a monoculture, Tim lamented, dipped steeply to the lake. Streams cascaded from the snowfields above.

But the lake we were seeing

was not the original lake. The natural lake had been dammed and deepened to provide hydropower to the town of Banff in 1941. We actually drove across the dam to get to the dock. The resort village of Minnewanka Landing was relocated during this process. Submerged portions of the village make the lake popular with scuba divers doing underwater archeology. And as is the legend with many submerged villages, underwater bells are reported to ring their muffled complaints, according to one local guide.

A mile wide and thirteen miles long, the lake has been stocked with a non-native species of trout. One picture of a very happy fisherman showed a catch about 2-3 feet long.

Tim explained this fish was being phased out in favor of the more local species of bull, brown and speckled trout, which are suppressed by the larger species. There in the wilderness of Canada, where we had seen trail signs warning us of bear activity, it seemed incongruous that this lake was man altered and man stocked.

Nevertheless these rugged thrust-fault mountains, dominated by Mt Aylmer (10,324 feet), the grey skies threatening a storm, and a brisk breeze chopping the water gave a sense of natural power and grandeur.

Then Captain Tim asked, "Who on this boat has done the



Will Jones Fanning, rewarded for promoting Welshness

most to advance the cause of Welshness? "A number of voices said, "Will Fanning." "Come on up, Will Fanning," said Tim, "and drive the boat."

A surprised Will went up and took the captain's seat. Captain Taylor instructed him momentarily and then left him to his own devices! Never mind icebergs! A new threat had emerged, I thought.

Will opened the throttle. The boat burst forward. Several folks standing decided to take

their seats and fasten their imaginary seat belts. The wind picked up; white caps slapped the side of the boat. Will said later, "I never expected to be able to drive such a boat. The wind started blowing. Taylor encouraged me to speed up and try some things. I wanted to do a figure 8."

That might explain what really happened. "Oh no," said one participant. "We are going faster." "Look," said another, "Will is going in circles, the

same circle over and over."

"Yes," said Will later, when asked about the circle. "The figure 8 thing was harder than I thought. It didn't happen. Other than that, the boat was extremely responsive."

Captain Tim sought to divert our attention from the drama by explaining unusual natural forces in Banff. First he explained what exactly happens during rutting season with elk and deer. Several folks had heard the elk bugling during the night even down in Banff. Then he explained the mountains were prehistoric seabed, filled with fossils, layered with contrasting bands, then thrust, folded and pushed skyward by tectonic forces. Glaciers later scooped out the U shaped valleys. In contrast, he said, the American Rockies are granite and metamorphic rocks. The two ranges are cousins, but definitely not twins.

As our hour closed, Will relinquished the wheel to Captain Taylor, and she ably docked the ship. Under the first drizzle we had felt that day, we proceeded up to the buses, which had come across the causeway. Later our bus guide explained that the dam is a favorite spot for the locals to watch the aurora borealis, spectacular this year. We marveled at this national park, where wildness meets with man-made. Sort of like Will's driving.

Wales Review *By Lise Hull*

A DRIVE TO almost double the number of Welsh speakers to one million by 2050 was unveiled by the first minister at the National Eisteddfod. Carwyn Jones stressed the workplace, family, schools and the planning process as the key areas for action. Alun Davies, minister for the Welsh language, admitted it was a "deliberately ambitious" target. But Plaid Cymru's Sian Gwenllian called the announcement "another superficial stunt." The 2011 census reported a drop in the number of Welsh speakers from 582,000 in 2001 to 562,000, about one in five of the population. Traditional Welsh-speaking communities have been said to be under threat from young people moving away to find work and new housing developments attracting incomers who do not speak the language.

PLAID CYMRU'S founder, Saunders Lewis, has been recognized with a blue plaque on the Swansea home where he lived. Although born into a Welsh-speaking Merseyside family in 1893, it was during his time as a lecturer in Swansea that Lewis rose to prominence. The plaque was unveiled by Swansea council. It is close to the area of Hanover Street in Uplands where he lived with his father between 1916 and 1924. He was the party's president between 1926 and 1939, while it gained little electoral success during this time, it was credited with reawakening a sense of Welsh identity in people.

A DRAMATIC RISE in working farmers struggling to make ends meet is being seen in Wales, a charity has warned. The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution has traditionally helped retired farmers and workers. But it gave working farming families 84% more in the first six months of 2016 than in the same period of 2015. Between 1 January and 15 July 2016, Rabi Cymru gave out welfare worth £60,258 to families still working on farms. For the same period in 2015 it was £32,739. Nearly a third of help had gone to farmers in Brecon and Radnor, the charity said, with an 84% increase in cash help given to working farming families in those areas over the same period.

ABERYSTWYTH is one of the top-ranking universities for student satisfaction in the U.K., according to a survey. The annual National Student Survey of nearly a third of a million students found 86 percent in Wales are satisfied with the quality of their courses. Aberystwyth, which scored only 83 percent last year, has risen to 92 percent and is now above Oxford in the top 10. Bangor and Swansea universities both scored 90 percent. Among further education colleges in Wales, 92 percent of students at Merthyr and 91 percent of students at Grwp Llandrillo Menai said they are satisfied.

THE ARCHBISHOP of Wales, Dr. Barry Morgan, will retire next year after nearly 14 years at the helm of the Church in Wales and 24 years as a bishop. Morgan, who is the longest serving archbishop in the worldwide Anglican Communion and also one of the longest serving bishops, will retire on his 70th birthday at the end of January. He will also retire as Bishop of Llandaff after more than 17 years of service, having previously been Bishop of Bangor for nearly seven years. He will continue his work and engagements in both roles as normal



Dr. Barry Morgan

until then. He was born in the village of Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen, near Neath, read history at London, Theology at Cambridge and trained for the ministry at Wescott House, Cambridge, and studied for a doctorate while a university lecturer.

ONE OF THE "finest" portraits of the Jacobean era has been bought so it can remain at its home in mid Wales. The 17th Century miniature painting of Edward Herbert, 1st Baron Herbert of Cherbury, was painted in watercolor on vellum by Isaac Oliver. It will be restored before going back on display as the star attraction at Powis Castle, near Welshpool. It was bought for £2.1 million by the National Trust with help from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and Art Fund. The artwork shows Herbert, who was a poet, socialite and philosopher, with his head resting on his hand as he lies stretched out along the banks of a stream running through a forest. He bears a shield with a burning heart and the painting is said to reflect his life as a chivalrous romantic.

A NEW PARLIAMENTARY map outlining plans to cut the number of Welsh MPs by more than a quarter has been published. The number of Welsh seats in the House of Commons would fall from 40 to 29, with the size of Westminster constituencies increasing. Labour - which won 25 Welsh seats at the last election - is likely to feel the biggest impact. Voters have been invited to have their say during a 12-week consultation, with the final report due in 2018. The new constituencies have been drawn up by the independent Boundary Commission for Wales under a formula set down under the previous Tory-Lib Dem coalition government. Constituency boundaries will change across the UK, reducing the size of the Commons from 650 to 600 seats. But Wales will see the biggest proportional cut among the four nations. All of the new constituencies must have at least 71,031 voters. At present in Wales, all but one of the existing seats have electorates smaller than that.

SWANSEA HAS strengthened a century-and-a-half association with one of China's fastest-growing cities. It has signed an agreement with Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province. It will see authorities cooperate in the fields of economy and trade, transport and logistics, culture and sports, and education and tourism. Links between the two began in 1855, when Swansea's Griffith John founded the Wuhan Union Hospital. He set sail for China as a penniless 24-year-old missionary with a zeal to spread the gospel through good works. The hospital he founded is now, 150 years later, one of China's biggest - with more than 5,000

inpatient beds and treating 3.5 million patients annually.

A RECORD-BREAKING weed has been discovered in Conwy county. The 198cm (78in) tall hawksbeard, or crepis, plant was found by Clwyd West Conservative AM Darren Millar and his son Toby while they were out walking last month. It has now been officially certified by Guinness World Records as the tallest of its type ever found. The plant was spotted by the pair while they were walking their dog near their home in Kinnel Bay, and they immediately wondered whether it was a potential record breaker.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS believe they have found a log-boat dating back to the New Stone Age in Monmouthshire. Work on a housing development on Wonastow Road, near Monmouth, was halted when the remains were uncovered. The pieces of wood have been radiocarbon-dated to 3210 BC and were uncovered on a site which is thought to have once been a lake. The discovery was made three years after a Bronze Age boat building was found at a site one mile away.

ONE OF THE first medieval manuscripts written in Welsh has been published online after it was bought at auction and returned to Wales from the U.S. It's believed the 14th Century book, the Laws of Hywel Dda, was taken to America by Welsh settlers in the 1700s. When it came up for sale last year the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth bought it at auction for £541,250. The book outlines the laws of 10th Century Welsh ruler Hywel Dda (Hywel the Good) who created the country's first uniform legal system. Few people have seen it and the manuscript's condition had greatly deteriorated since the 18th Century.



James Sommerin

FOUR WELSH restaurants have made the Top 50 of the coveted 2017 Good Food Guide. As the highest Welsh entry at number 34, Restaurant James Sommerin in Penarth is officially the best restaurant in Wales for the third year in a row. Also making the Top 50 for Wales is Ynyshir Hall, Powys, which ranks at number 40. A new entry to the Top 50 this year is The Whitebrook in Monmouthshire, which features at number 47, while Llangoed Hall, near Brecon, is at number 48. The Top 50 is made up of the restaurants which scored the highest marks from the judges but the guide, owned by Waitrose, also features other highly-scored restaurants across the U.K., with a total of 60 from Wales making it this year.

CONTROVERSIAL plans to shut down a Welsh-language

primary school have been struck down by the High Court. Denbighshire County Council planned to close 56-pupil Ysgol Pentrecelyn, near Ruthin, where Welsh is both the language of the classroom and the schoolyard. A larger dual-language school, Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd, was also to close before the two schools merged on a purpose-built new site. But the decision that the new school would have a Welsh-English bilingual teaching environment caused bitter disagreement locally.

The plans were approved by the council in October last year. But Aron Wyn Jones, a 19-year-old former Pentrecelyn pupil, challenged the decision in court - and was finally handed victory by two senior judges. It was the first ever judicial review of a decision to close a Welsh-language primary school. The proposals to create a bilingual school in favor of a Welsh medium school caused uproar in the local community who started a campaign which had the backing of former pupil and Hollywood A-lister, Rhys Ifans.

THE ONLINE publication of old tithe maps is shedding new light on Wales' changing agricultural fortunes over the past two centuries. Maps and documents from the 1840s show that arable farming was far more common in 19th century Wales than it is today - even on the highest mountains - while trees are now much more abundant on farmland than in the past. An army of over 850 volunteers have digitized Wales' 1,212 tithe maps for the Heritage Lottery-funded Cynefin project, based at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. These were originally drawn up to keep a record of tithes, a type of tax payable by farmers to the Church. More than a quarter of a million field names are now listed on the cynefin.wales website, enabling historians and students to assess changes in land use in a way not previously possible.

SPIDER SILK has been used to create a superlens for a microscope, allowing scientists to view objects previously deemed "invisible." Physical laws of light make it impossible to view structures smaller than 200 nanometers - the smallest size of bacteria - using a normal microscope alone. But scientists from Bangor and Oxford universities found the silk lets them see beyond the current magnification. Bangor University said extending the limit of the classical microscope's resolution had been the "Holy Grail" of microscopy for over a century and superlenses had been the goal since the turn of the millennium. Manufactured superlenses have previously been used but this is believed to be the first time a naturally occurring biological material had been used to create one.

A LLANFROTHEN woman is breaking boundaries and taking the Welsh language to the world via Skype. The Crickieth-based business, Gwefus, run by Llinos Griffin, currently has Welsh learners in eight different countries including the United States and Spain. Llinos has taught languages in France, Argentina and Spain, and is taking advantage of digital technology to teach her native tongue to people all over the world. Learners vary from complete beginners to fluent Welsh speakers who may not have the opportunity to practice the language where they live.

A VALE OF Glamorgan



Eileen Younghusband

woman whose talent for mathematics helped foil German V2 bombs in World War II has died. Eileen Younghusband, 95, from Sully, was part of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and in later life became an author, writing about her war experience. Born in London, Younghusband worked in the filter room during World War Two, the top secret hub of Britain's air defense, which processed information from coastal radar stations to give air raid warnings and enable the RAF to intercept German bombers. After D-Day, she was sent to Belgium with a small team of women who used their mathematical skills to locate the mobile launchers for V2 rockets being used to bomb London and Antwerp. In 2012, she was awarded the British Empire Medal for helping to campaign against cuts in adult education.

A MONMOUTHSHIRE hotel and restaurant have both won awards in this year's annual AA Hospitality Awards. The Whitebrook in the Wye Valley won the Wine Award, while also picking up four AA rosettes, with The Angel Hotel in Abergavenny named Hotel of the Year for Wales. Both establishments were given the awards at the event in the Grosvenor House Hotel in London. The event, hosted this year by comedian Hugh Dennis, aims to celebrate the success of individuals and companies across the hospitality industry, with the winners appearing in the 2017 AA Hotel, Restaurant and Pub Guides. The Whitebrook was taken over by Chris Harrod and his wife at the end of 2013, and since then has attracted people from across Wales to sample the wine list and dine at the restaurant.

DUE TO NEW financial devolution powers Stamp Duty Land Tax will cease to apply in Wales from April 2018, and in September the Welsh Government introduced its replacement - dubbed the Land Transaction Tax and Anti-Avoidance of Devolved Taxes (Wales) Bill. Similar to existing stamp duty, the new tax will be payable on the purchase or lease of a building or land in Wales over a certain price, with rates and bands to be determined at a date to be confirmed. The new tax presented in the bill, which is the largest ever presented by the Welsh Government at 220 pages, is largely similar to stamp duty, with a few changes including, new anti-avoidance rules, an exemption from the tax for rent elements of new residential leases and changes to a number of other relief rules to be more relevant to Wales.

THREE ANCIENT tombs high above Goodwick have been re-opened to the general public thanks to the generosity of a landowner and the efforts of the Refreshing North Pembrokeshire team. The three Neolithic cromlechs, built in a

(Continued on page 32)



The Oldest Welsh Newspaper in the Americas.

NINNAU's Literary Section

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*Near Aberdaron, Llyn Peninsula, North Wales. Over the years, wind has forced the trees to lean one way.
In the distance you can see the Irish Sea and Cardigan Bay on a beautiful February morning.
Caption and Photo: Susan Davies Sit.*

TIMEKEEPER

By John Good

The ceiling fan- out of true-
momentarily ticks in time with
the grandmother clock
our granddad spent
my childhood adjusting
tinkering with its wayfaring
pendulum with a gypsy's soul
a lottery of loss-gain
Luckily the clockwork
is forever out of step
in grandma's front room



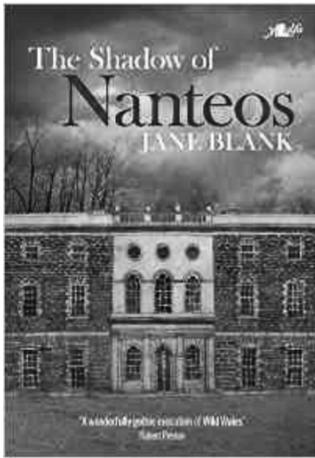
Should have known reaching over
my shoulder
would touch off a dusting of ambiance
The house still stands
walls windows back door
fireside throwing light on other
conversations
stairs leading to other bedtime stories
Better to be a gypsy
then and there just another here and
now
home a movable feast

The Shadow of Nanteos

By Jane Blank Reviewed by Elizabeth Spencer Spragins

The Shadow of Nanteos presents the 18th-century world of Welsh landed gentry through the eyes of the unconventional and headstrong Elizabeth Powell. When her husband William unexpectedly inherits the massive estate of Nanteos, Elizabeth trades the bustle of London for the stark beauty of Cardiganshire. Although she and her three children find rural life enchanting, they soon discover that their new residence has a dark side. The dangers of an unfamiliar landscape and the superstitions of the local people present challenges the Powells are not equipped to face, and their isolation renders the family particularly vulnerable.

Furthermore, the inheritance brings not only new responsibilities but also financial worries. As Elizabeth tries unsuccessfully to adapt to her new role as mistress of the mansion, William discovers that the estate is floundering under massive debts. The mines on the property are their last hope for keeping the estate solvent, but



boundary disputes soon jeopardize this source of revenue. When violence ensues, William becomes consumed with legal battles that eventually take him to London. During his absence, Elizabeth finds herself attracted to Cai, the handsome bailiff who tirelessly champions modernization of the mines. As the managerial difficulties at Nanteos escalate, the author

intensifies the tension among the three adults and ultimately presents them with life-changing choices.

With skillful narration and lyrical language, Jane Blank has created a world in which the wilds of Wales play a prominent role. Indeed, the forces of nature prove as unpredictable and as dangerous as many of the darker characters in this haunting novel.

Jane Blank has held a life-long fascination with Nanteos, the Georgian mansion that is now a five-star hotel near Aberystwyth. Her previous publications include *Naked Playing the Cello* and *The Geometry of Love*. In addition to writing novels and poetry, she works for an environmental charity and teaches in a Welsh-language secondary school.

Published in 2015 by Y Lolfa. Available from Amazon US, CA and UK and the publisher direct.

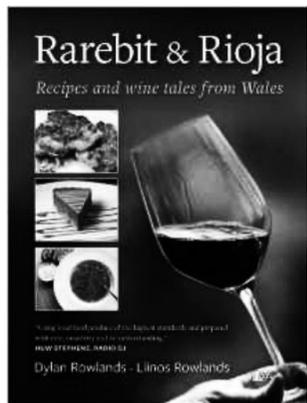
Rarebit and Rioja:

Recipes and Wine Tales from Wales

By Dylan Rowlands and Llinos Rowlands Reviewed by Keith Pellicano

Husband and wife restaurateurs Dylan and Llinos Rowlands have written a book that touches on a range of topics they clearly feel deeply about: Wales, Welsh cooking, wine and travel. Because of the breadth of subjects covered, it would not do justice to classify this as a book on Welsh cooking. The Rowlands express pride in Welsh regional cuisine and culture but see nothing wrong with bringing in outside influences and creating new takes on old classics.

Faggot, the Welsh comfort food traditionally made of "thrifty" off-cuts of meat gets the French terrine treatment when made with pork liver and pork belly. The recipe for Rarebit, which is so prominent a Welsh classic that it made it into the title of the book, has all the right ingredients (cheese, bacon, Welsh beer) but achieves



enough European sophistication that it can be served as a canape with a glass of Prosecco. The best known of all Welsh dishes, lamb, is braised in Rioja for Riojan Lamb—inspired by a trip to Spain.

The authors travel the food

and wine regions of the world for inspiration, but they are also wine importers and are on a mission to bring good wines and the love of wine home to Wales.

They have regular tastings at their family-run wine shop and admit it was challenging at first to discuss wine because of the lack of a wine vocabulary in the Welsh language ("Byrlymus" = "sparkling").

There is a chapter on wines from unexpected regions, exploring interesting wines from such little-known wine producing countries as Armenia and Hungary. Included in this chapter is a description of the growth of wine making in Wales, though the authors note that the growth of vineyards "haven't overtaken sheep yet."

Rarebit and Rioja is published by Y Lolfa. Available from the publisher or from amazon.

Well-Read Dragons Meet in Minnesota

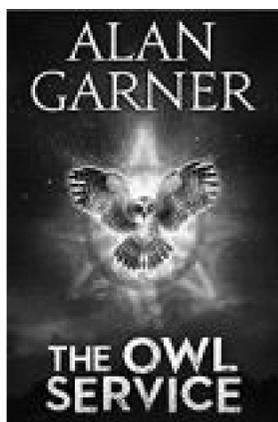
By Mary Morris Mergenthal

About 15 members of the St. David's Society of Minnesota meet bimonthly to discuss books written by Welsh authors or books about Wales. All books are in English. The Well-Read Dragons, now in its 10th year, meet at a pizza parlor with a meeting room. Members order lunch there in order to maintain use of the meeting room on those Saturdays. In the newsletter announcement, advice is given about obtaining books at local libraries, the state library loan system or by purchase in local bookstores or online.

On Oct. 1, the group read and considered *The Owl Service* by Alan Garner, OBE. It's a modern interpretation of the story of Blodeuwedd, from *The Mabinogion*.

On Dec. 3, an often-read Welsh author, Byron Rogers, will be featured: *The Bank Manager and the Holy Grail: Travels to the Wilder Reaches of Wales*. In this book of essays and portraits Rogers orbits in an unpredictable, eccentric fashion, as is often his wont.

Presenting Saunders Lewis by



Alun R. Jones and Gwyn Thomas will be featured Feb. 4. It is tragic that so little of Lewis's seminal work is currently in print. He was a gifted playwright, poet, Catholic apologist and Welsh Nationalist, who wrote in Welsh. This collection was compiled when Lewis was still alive, so he was consulted on all the choices and approved the translations.

In light of meeting on April Fool's Day, the group has chosen to read a light-hearted title, in itself a play on the words of

the Welsh National Anthem: Land of My Fathers. The book? *Land of My Neighbours* by Barry Pilton. We anticipate good fun reading and considering this title.

On June 3, the group will read *Addlands* by Tom Bullough. The stark beauty of the Welsh countryside is given powerful life in this sweeping tale of one family from World War II to the present day. Language and literature intertwine in this tale of family feuds and farming life in Radnorshire over seven decades.

The program year ends Aug. 5, with *Everything I Found on the Beach* by Cynan Jones, a writer receiving considerable acclaim in Wales currently. In this book, readers meet a Welsh fisherman; Grzegorz, a Polish migrant worker; and Stringer, an Irish gangster. They all want the chance to make their lives better. One kilo of cocaine and the sea tie them together in a fatal series of decisions.



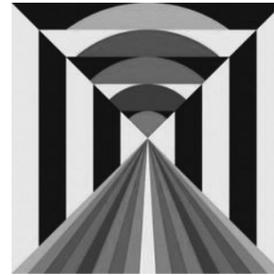
Caneuon Cymraeg Heddiw

Gan Edward W. Reid

Just before I went to Scotland for a well-deserved short holiday, I travelled across from my work week location in the Rhondda to the Eisteddfod in Y Fenni (Abergavenny) on the first Saturday of our national festival. Although the first Saturday is generally a bit slower in terms of the performances by leading Welsh pop and rock artists (as well as traditional artists) in recent years there have always been performances by artists of interest. This year was no exception, and the presence of a new wave of Welsh contemporary artists meant that from noon onwards there was no lack of interesting performances to listen to, so most of the afternoon was spent going from one to another, stopping off at some of the stalls between times to buy some CD's – I ended up buying more than ever, which means that there's plenty to review in Ninnau the rest of the year!

Admittedly the Eisteddfod is by far the main period of releases for Welsh CDs, but if the pre-Christmas crop is as good as that which came out around the time of the Eisteddfod we're in for some treats well into the new year.

5 i Ka Ching – compilation album



Over the years I've heard some great compilation albums and many if not most of these have been of Welsh pop-rock music and have consequently been reviewed here in Ninnau. Ideally a compilation album will expose you to music that you haven't heard before and the very best of these will make you want to explore the featured artists, possibly buying some albums that you wouldn't have bought

otherwise.

Many compilations have been brought out by Welsh music labels, such as Angst and Sain to present artists on their label over the years, but quite often as well to mark anniversaries of some sort or another. This compilation follows the general trend, as it has been released by the Ka Ching label - a newish label that has presented a number of innovative artists to the public during its five years of existence. As a label Ka Ching has mainly focused on 'new' artists, in that most of what they have released has been by artists who have come to prominence in recent years or totally unknown artists who they have presented to the world, although there are one or two exceptions to this. In any event, I saw this just before I headed for the Eisteddfod and didn't wait before buying it, and overall I was very pleased with the album.

An additional reason to buy the album (particularly if you already have some material by the artists concerned) is that some of the tracks featured are live versions or different mixes of tunes released on their albums, and in some cases (such as the track by Y Reu) they sound quite different!

The CD opens with a track by the band Jen Jeniro, who I've heard of but not actually heard until now - and I must admit that I was very impressed by their live version of 'Powys'. This is followed by fairly established artist Texas Radio Band, but this track is better than I've heard them before. San Segur follows with a new track from them, and at this point I was thinking "wow- this is really good stuff," However, the following track was the only English-language track on the compilation by Violas but this was actually quite good as well and was in the same general style as the previous tracks.

There was a bit more variety later on with tracks from artists such as Siddi and Clwb Cariadon, and a bit of more mainstream sounds from Yr Eira, Swmami, and Yr Ods which I didn't enjoy as much as the more innovative artists, even though they aren't bad. But such is the quality of Welsh music these days that bands I would have happily listened to at other times I find a bit boring just now.

Overall the compilation is very good and it shows the vitality of today's Welsh music scene with mainly up-and-coming artists being featured. 5 i Ka Ching is well worth a listen and going out and buying and I give it 4.5 out of 5.

Alun Gaffey – debut solo album



Alun Gaffey was a member of the well-known band Radio Luxembourg, which became Racehorses after the band's lineup changed and they started doing more material in English. Both bands were known for being fairly innovative and they tended to sound a bit different to the guitar rock bands which dominated the Welsh music scene at the time and which largely continue to do so today.

Following the breakup of Racehorses, Alun Gaffey appeared with a tune on another compilation album and collaborated with other artists prior to releasing his debut solo album this year. This was well received in Welsh music circles and consequently I purchased this as the Eisteddfod and listened to it straight away on the trip back to Wrexham.

Alun Gaffey's album is notably more electronic oriented than almost any other recent album with the exception of the dance oriented releases of artists such as Clinogol. This carries on from some extent from Alun Gaffey's work with Radio Luxembourg and Racehorses but is more pronounced here, and this again makes it fairly unique on the Welsh music scene, even if we're now getting quite a bit more than guitar bands or alternative rock bands at the moment. While there are a few lighter weight tunes on Alun Gaffey's CD, most of what's here is very good, with the best tunes being "Deinasoriad", "Sothach", and particularly "Hen Alawon". Overall Alun Gaffey's debut album is very good and I give it a solid 4 out of 5.

Wicked Wales Series By Catrin Stevens Reviewed by Hal Gale

The Appalling Victorians

The Victorian years spanned from 1837 through 1901. Life and the economy in much of Wales was transformed by massive mining, quarries and other labor consuming activities that returned little profit to the Welsh people. Some of the Welsh left for the United States, many served in the Civil War, many created the mines of New York and Pennsylvania near my original home.

Our Welsh ancestors rioted and revolted whenever conditions got too bad to tolerate:

1831-32:—"Scots Cattle" riots for labor unions; Merthyr Tydfil riots (24 killed).

1834-43:—"Daughters of Rebecca" Riots; Welsh farmers dressed in women's clothing (to play up their name) revolted against excessive taxes at toll gates; victory.

1839:—"Chartist" riots for fair political representation, 24 deaths; partial victory.

1886-92:—"The Tithe War" to free Welsh Protestants from a ten percent tax to support the Church of England, whose bishops were often absent and spoke no Welsh. Victory.

Investigation of Welsh Schools: "Treason of the Blue Books." Over the previous one hundred years, Welsh education resided mainly in the religious Chapel's custody, suppressed when only Anglican priests needed to read the Bible, but becoming of great importance with the spread of "Nonconforming" Protestants, who thought all should be able to read the Bible. In 1847 an investigation by three English agents, who mostly collected opinions of Anglican English-speaking clergy and their preferred witnesses. (Internet posted that sections of the Blue Books reported that the Welsh people were often smarter than the English acquaintances of the investigators, except for the speech impediment of speaking Welsh).

1861:—Teacher pay began to be based on performance reading, writing and arithmetic, all of course taught in English to children who rarely knew English. Beatings were com-



mon to improve the skills of Welsh students and punish when Welsh was spoken at school.

1880:—Children under 13 were required to attend schools taught in English only.

1889:—Secondary schools opened, also English.

1891:—"Free" primary schools (in English) for all children: well not really free because the taxes on the parents were terribly high.

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Other Welsh customs and activities:

Wedding by "jumping over the broom": This antic separated the drunks and unwilling from those really in search of life together, by jumping over a horizontal broom about 18 inches above the floor or ground. Catch a toe on the broomstick and the match was off before it began! That makes carrying the bride through the front door an easy test.

Religions of nearly every sort, but not quite as many as there were taverns! That got up to nearly 2,000,000 church fests per year; keep the folks and kids busy and they'll never get in trouble. Oddly, children were permitted to play at funerals, so lots of critters got unexpected burials; frogs, mice, wrens,....

Civil law punishments were tough on the poor folks. A mother of starving children who stole a loaf of bread might be shipped away from home to Australia for many years as punishment.

Coal mining suddenly became

a great employer, converting the green valleys of southern Wales to drab scenery. Unemployed men, women and children from all over southern England and Wales found a way in the mines to earn their daily bread. Pay was poor, working conditions dangerous. The Welsh pit ponies were special beasts as well, who listened for the warning sounds the walls and ceiling rocks usually made just before the stones came crashing down.

Creating the famous Welsh choirs from men singing together must have been a challenge with all the older men coughing and wheezing with black lung disease. Slate quarries and the tin works were no picnic either.

Notice that the profits went mostly to the English lords who owned the mine works, not the Welsh owner of the surface land, nor the working laborer. The workers attempted general strikes for better pay and safer work, but were mostly defeated, and starved, or went back to work.

The Welsh use of names linked to occupations or appearances got a look-at as well. There seemed to be a shortage of names, so lots of people were tabbed by a first name plus their kind of work or some other tag; "Dai the horse" or Dai the digger".

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The Appalling Victorians was the most amusing of the three of the Wicked Wales books written by Catrin Stevens, which I have reviewed here. These three are the latest in the series (2015) which total seven books, in Welsh and English.

Quarrelsome Celts and *Rapacious Romans* was nearly as amusing and had lots of new bits that were brand new to me.

"Woeful Wales at War" was well-written, but the topic was too gruesome for me to enjoy much of it. It did provide me a better insight on what happened to the Welsh during WWI and WWII.

The Wicked Wales series is published by Gomer Press. All three of the books reviewed here are available on amazon

Woeful Wales at War

Some books should be read by all modern citizens for the facts and images of our parents' and grandparents' lives during World Wars I and II. Nothing remains of the rose-colored propaganda of the official stories of glorious deaths, austerity, poverty and suffering of the real lives of soldiers at war, workers in the mines, women in ammunition factories and at home.

World War I: A great accidental war. During four catastrophic years millions died, often over small patches of land mostly in Western Europe - northern France, but also in Turkey and the Middle East.

Woeful Wales at War sent its sons to die in trenches, recruited to volunteer by various patriotic and emotional or romantic schemes until about 1916, after which almost nobody volunteered, thereafter the ranks were filled by conscription. Of course, many ways were used to avoid service, such as medical accidents and religious objections.

In 1918 the Great War was ended, providing a breathing space for the defeated of WWI to seek their revenge 21 years later.

During 1918-19 more people died of influenza, 50 million world wide, than in the war! The Great Depression followed, with vast unemployment and in Germany the rise of Hitler. Wales got new British training bases, despite protests by the dispossessed Welsh.

The use of poison gas proved to be as dangerous to the users as to the attackers causing cessation of using that form of weapon in WWII.

German use of submarines to blockade Wales and other parts of Great Britain had the unintended consequence of motivating intervention against the Germans by the United States.

Women contributed to the war in the munitions factories where they suffered sulfur poisoning, acid burns and nitroglycerine headaches. They received half the pay of men and boys doing the same work. The good news was that the women got the chance to wear the trousers in the family, while the men mostly were sent off to die in the trenches of France.

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Woeful Wales at War over simplifies the nearly twenty years long political descent into horror. As previously, coal from Wales powered many of the cargo ships that fed Great Britain, which at that point was minus most of Ireland.

The Germans bombed Swansea and Cardiff, noting that Wales was contributing more than slate, coal, tin and young men to the British military. The sea ports were obvious targets.

Art treasures from England, never seen before in Wales,

were given sanctuary deep in the tunnels of Welsh slate quarries. To confuse the enemy, maps and sign posts of Welsh roads were burned, much to the distress of allies forced to seek travel directions from the local inhabitants.

Part of the text focused on events in Wales, such as amusing views of the children evacuated from English cities to the peaceful towns and farms of Wales - often a big shock to all concerned. Letters home were amusing - "So that's where milk comes from?" Rationing and illogical regulations were defeated when local markets cleverly converted to barter and obscure transportation, such as shipping pigs in coffins!

Welsh soldiers were permitted to write letters in Welsh home (which they were not

Quarrelsome Celts and Rapacious Romans

The book is a lively collection of Celtic-Roman facts for teenagers and up, filled with startling facts and anecdotes that mostly I had never heard before. It has an interesting format that provokes giggles and occasional nausea: did they really do that with mouse brains?

Why did Roman soldiers put bits of wool between their toes in their sandals: to keep sharp rocks out and prevent chaffing. There are a few gross bits for the kids that like weird bits. This funny collection will fit with kids who loved the Grimm's Fairy Tales, but there are no fairies or giants either in this one.

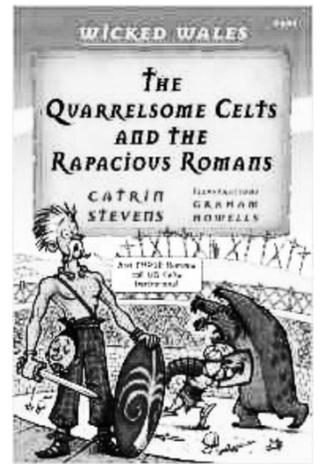
The approach gives both Celtic and Roman antics, cleverness, gruesome glories and antics a public view. Many points are reinforced by multiple-choice questions—and, fortunately, the answers.

The following samples the odd and interesting:

-Welsh antibiotics discovery: who would have guessed that Celts recovered from battle wounds of sharp-edged weapons by fighting stark naked except for their favorite whole-body paint job of Blue woad? The dirty Romans wore filthy clothes that got jammed into their wounds (naked was safer). And the Celtic body-paint of woad was a good antiseptic to reduce infections in sword or spear wounds. I'm not clear how the Celtic women warriors dressed for combat, but their shrieks and hair styles unnerved the Roman infantry at the Menai Straits.

- Already when the Romans invaded, the Celts fought with the most advanced weapons of those days: war-chariots from which they threw javelins and by wild driving that terrorized the Roman infantry.

- I'm not sure if the Celts were given citizenship in AD 214 when Emperor Caracalla decided to make every free man and woman of the Roman Empire a citizen of Rome. Voting in Rome, Italy must



have demanded a long hungry hike across Gaul (later called France), then South to the Forum above the Tiber River at Rome.

- By AD 410 the Celts voted with their spears and swords for BREXIT: the disgusted Romans went home to Italy to fight among themselves in the Coliseum and repent their wide open arms welcome to Eastern Huns and Gothic immigrant hundreds of thousands.

- Celtic daily clothing was quite modern, with men wearing trousers except at war. Woolen dresses warmed the women. In contrast, the ordinary Romans wrapped themselves in long swathes of cloth that looked like they were wearing dresses.

- For the foodies: Romans brought leeks, cabbages, garlic and other aromatic goodies to Wales. Smelly Roman troops trying to be stealthy must have been a problem for Roman soldiers sneaking up at night on the Celts.

Yuck: mouse brain tooth paste? Actually this unusual book manages to be amusing and educational at the same time — I sent my copy to a grandson.

Published by Gomer Press.

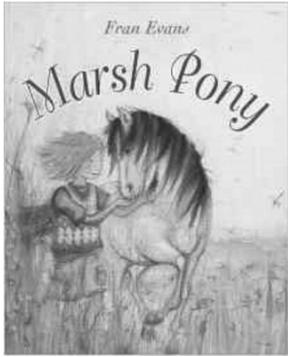
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Llyfr y Plant Marsh Pony

By Fran Evans Reviewed by Cindy Roser



Marsh Pony is a paperback children's book written and illustrated by Fran Evans who is a popular author/illustrator from Pembrokeshire. Her drawings, inspired by nature, are soft, detailed watercolors that bring nature to life on the printed page. A Welsh adaptation by Mererid Hopwood, *Morgan y Merlyn a Cai* is also available.

The book is the story of a young boy, Cai, who is bullied and taunted at school for his beautiful, creative abilities at carving. Cai's friendship with the marsh pony Celtie brings him comfort and relief from human cruelty. The animal truly loves him. The marsh grasses of Celtie's home and the sea creatures bring Cai tranquility and the driftwood becomes his carved birds and boats.

the marsh pony Celtie brings him comfort and relief from human cruelty. The animal truly loves him. The marsh grasses of Celtie's home and the sea creatures bring Cai tranquility and the driftwood becomes his carved birds and boats.

One day the two school bullies follow Cai to the marshes where Cai is collecting driftwood for his carvings not realizing that high tide is coming. The outcome is an exciting tale of rescue and a lesson for children and adults as to what happens when kindness overcomes meanness – the kind of lesson that we should never tire of reading about.

Each page of the book is filled with an illustration and few, or no, sentences. The pictures alone could tell the story so that a child can guess the story's content as the pages are turned. This is a warm story, beautifully illustrated.

Published by Pont Books in 2013. Pont is the children's book publishing branch for Gomer Press. Both *Marsh Pony* and *Morgan y Merlyn a Cai* are available on amazon US, Ca. and UK and from the publisher at www.gomer.co.uk

My First Memories of Being Welsh in America

By Marian Owen Bienbick

My first memories as a Welsh person in America probably revolve around the Welsh Presbyterian Church and its parishioners. My dad, John R. Owen, was the pastor there from 1956 to 1965. I was probably aware that the people who surrounded me with love and attention in that church did not speak the same way as people in other places we visited in Detroit. I had not started school yet, so the strong Welsh accents and the frequent conversations in Welsh (which my parents, but not I, understood) were probably "normal" for me. I myself probably spoke with a Welsh accent! But I knew from the conversations of my parents and others that we were "different" and "special." I knew from a young age that to be born Welsh was a wonderful thing!

After we moved to Mount Gilead, Ohio, and I started school, I began to realize in a different way the importance of being Welsh, and what a small minority we are in the world. My family was the only Welsh family in Mount Gilead, Ohio. We kept our Welshness alive by frequent trips to Detroit to visit our old friends, attending the North American Gymanfa Ganu whenever we were able to, and also attending the Gymanfa Ganu in southeastern Ohio every September. We became such good friends with one family from Oak Hill, Ohio that they became our adopted Welsh relatives and we celebrated Thanksgiving with them every year! And in fact we discovered that Lew Lloyd WAS related to my mother, Joan Evans Owen! Another way we kept out



John, Joan, Roderic and Marian Owen on the porch of the manse in Mount Gilead, Ohio in 1966.

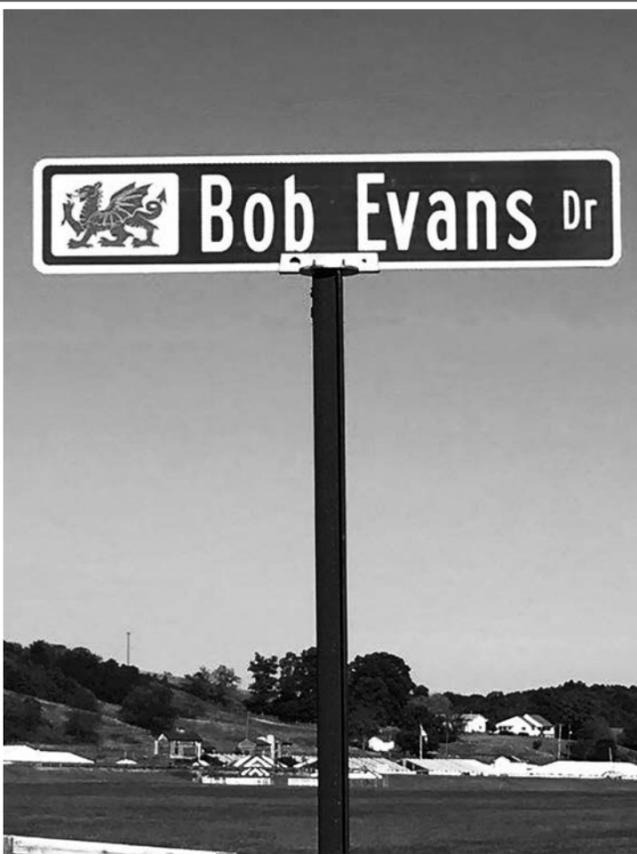
Welshness alive was to attend a yearly Welsh gathering in Granville, Ohio, where there was an extremely active Welsh-American community. I have many fond memories of banquets at The Granville Inn!

As I moved into my high school years, we had moved yet again, this time to Lisbon, Ohio. My mother was honored to be the representative of the Cymru A'r Wasgar at the 1976 Eisteddfod! Although I had visited Wales three times before as a child, magical trips that deeply moved me, this one was extra special as three of us, my dad, my mom, and myself, got to sit on the stage in front of TV

cameras! Scary! I was so proud of my mom! And my dad was too!

I could write even more, especially about my trips to Wales in which I was able to meet my relatives, but I just wanted to share a bit to show how it is possible to "stay Welsh" while living in another country!

Marian continues her Welsh memories with a column in the next edition of *Ninnau*. She will look at her memories of *Cwrs Cymraeg*.



The new sign for Bob Evans Drive is appropriately placed with the Bob Evans Farm in the background. Tents are being erected for the annual Farm Festival to be held the second week in October. Bob Evans Drive is named for the Welsh-American restaurateur who was so proud of his Welsh roots

Y Ddraig Goch in Rio Grande, Ohio!

By Jeanne Jones Jindra

After a life of over 24 years, old street signs are being replaced by the Rio Grande Village Council in a project suggested by Mayor Matt Easter. The new signs, which have just been installed, have a blue background with the red dragon of Wales beside the street name. Mayor Matt suggested the Welsh theme for Rio Grande's signs since the Welsh

Scenic Byway runs through the small village in an area that saw a huge influx of Welsh immigrants in the 1800s. Partial funding was contributed by the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College in an effort to preserve and promote the rich Welsh heritage of the area.



WELSH TRADITIONS from the University of Wales Press



Now in Paperback Welsh Traditional Music Phyllis Kinney

"Kinney has produced an excellent survey of Welsh traditional music, from the earliest bardic traditions to the present. . . . A critical resource for anyone interested in Welsh culture or traditional music in general. Highly recommended."—*Choice*

Paper \$25.00

A New Edition The Eisteddfod Hywel Teifi Edwards

With a New Preface by Huw Edwards

Featuring a new preface by broadcaster and journalist Huw Edwards, this concise, engaging, and witty volume gives an overview of that history from the first Eisteddfod in 1176 to the modern Eisteddfod of the 1980s.

Paper \$16.00



Distributed by the University of Chicago Press www.press.uchicago.edu

Welsh Films and Actors: Classic to Modern

By Janet Watkins Masoner

In 1932 a disheartened Welsh actress, Peg Entwistle, leaped to her death from the top of the letter 'H' of the Hollywood sign that stood near the top of Mount Lee (now known as the Hollywood sign). Born as Millicent Lillian Entwistle in Port Talbot, South Wales, the pretty blond made her way to Hollywood via the New York stage. With a modicum of success, for some unknown reason she decided to end her young life at the age of twenty-four. Film aficionados gather at times to watch her old films and exchange stories of the ghostly sightings of her at the Hollywood sign.



Peg Entwistle

This year, *Dream Alliance*, an endearing and exciting film about horse racing, opened in American movie theaters. Based on an incredible true story, it's the account of a working class village in Wales that pooled their money to buy a horse and train it for the Grand National. The film was made in Wales, back lanes, clotheslines and all, and featured Welsh actors and townspeople.

Although the 1941 classic, *How Green Was My Valley* garnered five Academy Awards, none were for Welsh actors, nor

was the movie even filmed in Wales. The only Welsh actor was Rhys Williams, who stole the show at times as Dai Bando, the blind prizefighter. John Ford's cast was comprised of mostly Irish actors, except for Oscar-winning Donald Crisp, who was Scottish.

The first Oscar awarded to a Welshman was to Ray Milland, born in 1905 as Reginald Alfred John Truscott-Jones in Neath, S. Wales, who spoke only Welsh for his first five years. In later years he frequently recounted

how it was his job to sweep the front stoop of their terrace house before he went to school each day. Milland's 1945 performance as a desperate man struggling with alcoholism in *The Lost Weekend* served to be the first for Oscar-winning Welshmen. Anyone who has seen Milland in Alfred Hitchcock's *Dial M for Murder* will remember him as the spine-tingling murderous husband of Grace Kelly. Their ensuing off-screen romance provided fodder for the gossip mill with fan magazine columnists vigorously dogging their dalliances.

The 1979 made-for-TV film, *The Corn is Green*, with Katherine Hepburn, was Welsh author Emlyn Williams' story of a beloved Welsh school teacher, Miss Moffatt, who, against great opposition, takes child laborers out of the coal mines and turns them into scholars. While filming in Wales, Hepburn developed a love for Welsh Cakes and began making them herself, and then later publishing her personal recipe in her autobiography (which I have unfortunately misplaced or I would share it here).

Prior to Hepburn's portrayal, the Emlyn Williams play was scripted for a full-length movie



Richard Burton

in 1945 that starred Bette Davis as a more stern and serious Miss Moffatt. Welsh actors Rhys Williams and Gwyneth Hughes played supporting roles. Although there were two Oscar nominations, there were no winners. The film was extremely well-received.

Before *Jaws* and *Titanic*, the grandest and most exciting sea adventure was the 1956 film adaptation of Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, starring Gregory Peck as Captain Ahab with his obsession of capturing the great white whale. Upon the insistence of Irish-born director John Huston, the saga that was set in 19th century New England, determined Huston's decision to set off for Wales for an authentic replication of the era. Older citizens of Fishguard recall the fuss when the crew arrived, and although parts of the filming took place in Irish and Portuguese waters, anyone in Fishguard will swear that the entire film was made there. Recognizable waterfront buildings from the movie can still be seen today.

Swansea born Catherine Zeta Jones began her career as a child performing at the Grand Theatre in Swansea, and later moving on to British stage and television, gaining popularity and recognition in the TV series *The Darling Buds of May*. The brunette beauty made her American film debut in *The Mask of Zorro*, 1998, an entertaining swashbuckler where she demonstrates her ability with a sword. In 1999's *Entrapment* with Sean Connery, she shows a cat-like agility performing

impressive acrobatics as they rehearse for stealing a priceless Chinese mask from a museum. In 2002 Zeta-Jones won a Best Supporting Actress Academy Award—the first Oscar for a Welsh woman—for her role as a murderous singer in the musical, *Chicago*. Currently, she's involved in two projects, including a biopic called *The Godmother*, portraying a real-life Columbian drug lord. In *Feud*, a TV series about Hollywood and the infamous relationship between Bette Davis and Joan Crawford, the Welsh actress has the role of Olivia de Havilland.

Much has been written about Richard Burton and Anthony Hopkins, both of whom led the way for worldwide recognition of outstanding Welsh actors. Hopkins' Oscar for *Silence of the Lambs* introduced us to the terrifying and unforgettable Dr. Hannibal Lector. Some of the film industry's insiders maintain that Hopkins' "entrance," where Jody Foster appears at his prison cell as Clarice, is the greatest "entrance" in film history. Hopkins stood back in the shadows, silently, unmoving, and then in a mocking, low voice said, "Hello, Clarice."

For occasional slapstick giggles, a dark comedy, *Undertaking Betty*, set in Coldicot, Monmouthshire, Wales, was one of Academy Award winner Christopher Walken's lesser-known films. Originally entitled *Plots with a View* in 2002, Walken shows up in the fictional town of Wroton Powys setting out to go into competition with the local undertaker by offering "theme funerals." His befuddled sidekick is Welsh actor Lee Evans who drives the white stretch limousine with a sign on the back that reads, "Just Buried."

The movies mentioned above are a cross-section of films that stand out in my mind, and will probably bring back memories for some of NINNAU's readers. With Christmas just around the corner, any of these DVDs plus a subscription to NINNAU, will be gifts for anyone who takes pride in Welshness, as well as enjoying a glimpse of the hills, valleys, and the people of Wales in some of the films.

Bare Knuckle Fighter From Swansea Helps Shape Robert De Niro's Latest Boxing Movie

By Lawrence Davies

OSCAR winner Robert De Niro hit the silver screen recently in 'Hands of Stone', a new film about Roberto Duran and his arch-rival Sugar Ray Leonard's battles for the WBC Welterweight crown. De Niro played Duran's trainer Ray Arcel. Arcel is arguably the greatest trainer in boxing history, with 20 World Champions having come under his care. What most film-goers won't be aware of is that Arcel learned the tricks of his trade from a prickly former bare-knuckle fighter from Swansea named Dai Dollings, who trained countless early British boxing champions.



Dai Dollings

Dollings was well known in the 1890's as a fearsome fighter, and claimed to have had 100 battles with the gloves, and 30 illegal bare-knuckle fights at dawn against the legendary 'mountain fighters' of South Wales.

After turning to the role of boxing trainer, renowned British champions such as Tom Thomas, 'Peeless' Jim Driscoll and Ted 'Kid' Lewis fell under his care.

Dollings' fame spread across the Atlantic after he masterminded the shock victory of Londoner, Matt Wells, over the lightweight champion of the world, Freddie Welsh, in 1911. After immigrating to the United States in 1914, Dollings became the chief trainer at Grupp's gym in New York, where a young Ray Arcel was beginning to harbour a desire to become a boxing trainer.

Notoriously tight with money, Dollings trekked five miles to the gym every day, rain, snow or hail, rather than spend a nickel on the street car. Complaining about the softness of life in the States, the Welshman would often enter the gym grumbling, "You

bloody Americans, you're made of tissue paper".

It was on these long walks to and from the gym that Ray Arcel started jogging along at Dollings' elbow and quizzed the belligerent trainer about the fight game.

At first, Dollings was reluctant to share the secrets of his trade, and asked Arcel 'over and over' why he wanted to be a trainer.

Dollings would eventually tell Ray that if he wanted to be a trainer, he had to commit to being the best, or not to bother at all.

The long walks and pestering continued, until the day finally came when Arcel knew he had made a breakthrough when the ex-knuckle fighter told him that he didn't want to be a trainer, but that he wanted to be an 'analyst'.

Dollings impressed upon Arcel the necessity of viewing every boxer as an individual. Where scolding could work for one fighter, it might harm another.

The key was to study the habits and the temperament of each boxer to devise a tailored approach.

A notoriously hard man, Dollings had little time for 'brittle' fighters, once complaining at ringside that his fighter was 'a hothouse bloody flower'. The analysis proved correct - the 'flower' wilted in the fourth round.

By the 1930's he was one of the best known boxing trainers in the United States. A decade later he still working six days a week at Grupp's, and was seconding fighters in the evening at the age of 83.

Dai Dollings' longevity as a trainer was almost matched by Arcel himself, who at 82 worked his last corner assisting Larry Holmes in his successful title defence against Gerry Cooney in 1982 at Caesars Palace.

Given his frugal reputation, it might be wondered whether if Dollings was around today, he could be persuaded to pay a fistful of dollars to watch 'Hands of Stone.'

If he did I am sure the old bare-knuckle fighter would crack a rare smile and conclude that his pupil, Ray Arcel more than fulfilled his professional commitment to being the best boxing trainer and 'analyst' he could be.

Dai Dollings' life is covered in more depth in a new book by Lawrence Davies, Jack Scarrott's Prize Fighters, Memoirs of a Welsh Boxing Booth Proprietor, available from Peerless Press, Cardiff (peerlesspress@gmail.com)

Griffiths Family Reunion



The Griffiths family

By Bill Griffiths

A revived Griffiths family reunion was recently held in Pennsylvania close to the area that ancestor William settled in 1887. Over 60 members attended, coming from Colorado, Florida, Maine, Maryland and

Pennsylvania, of course. Using the National Welsh-American Foundation as a conduit, the group donated significant funds to again support their ancestral chapel in Peterstone-super-Ely, Cymru.

144 Years of Gymanfa Celebrated at Nebo Church in Southern Ohio

By Jeanne Jones Jindra

Imagine an event that has been held annually for 144 years? It isn't difficult if that event is one that was brought from the homeland by Welsh immigrants who carried their Bibles and love of singing with them on their journey to America. Gymanfa were first associated with the Welsh churches and chapels around the country. The gymanfa of the Central Southeast Ohio Association of Welsh Congregational Churches was organized in Radnor, Ohio, in 1840 and consisted of 54 churches. According to Rev. Vincent Jones' *The Saga of the Central South Welsh Congregational Association and Y Gymanfa, 1840-1954*, the association grew too large and was divided into two sections in 1872, with 29 churches assigned to the Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania Gymanfa, and 25 churches designated to compose a Southwestern Ohio Gymanfa. Our association now has only three participating churches, Nebo, Tyn Rhos and the old Welsh Congregational Church, which is the Welsh-American Heritage Museum.

This year, on a beautiful fall Sunday, old friends and new joined to celebrate those 144 years of canu pregethau, at Nebo Congregational Church, organized in 1854 when the Welsh in the Tyn Rhos neighborhood had to travel a distance for a service. We welcomed Rev. David Morgan, Canton, Ohio, back for his third year of service to our gymanfa. We were saddened that our friend, Rev. Robert Hughes, Akron, Ohio, was not able to join us



Vice-Moderator, Joan Owen Mandry, and Rev. David Morgan at the Nebo Gymanfa.

this year. Thanks go out to him for his many years of service and his commitment to carry on the gymanfa tradition. Joan Owen Mandry, welcomed everyone and also read the morning scripture in English and Welsh. Following Rev. Morgan's morning sermon, Bob Powell, led the congregational singing with Stevie Jarvis accompanying. Shirley Jenkins announced the names for the memorial mums, brought for those loyal ones who have

passed on. A picnic lunch, provided by Nebo Church, was served in the shelter house. The afternoon session was opened with greetings and a song, followed by scripture in English and Welsh by Elizabeth Davis. In his afternoon sermon, Rev. Morgan expanded his morning theme of serving the underserved to treating others equally and learning to love one another. We rounded out the afternoon with more congregational singing. It was a day of joining together with old friends and new to celebrate the history and tradition of the local gymanfa tradition. We look forward to celebrating 145 years of gymanfa in September 2017 at the Welsh-American Heritage Museum in Oak Hill.



Karen Jones-Wojahn directs in Wisconsin.

Peniel Gymanfa Ganu Pickett, Wisconsin

By Devin L. Scherck

More than 200 lovers of Welsh hymns gathered from all over Wisconsin on the afternoon of Sunday, August 28th and filled the historic Peniel Chapel near Pickett, Wisconsin for the church's 93rd annual Gymanfa Ganu. This year's festivities were directed by Karen Jones-Wojahn of Windom, Minnesota, with organ and piano accompaniment by the Reverend Thomas White of North Fond du Lac and Sarah Conrad of Eldorado.

The singing session began with a rousing chorus of "Lily of the Valley" directed by Larry Conrad of Eldorado. Other songs featured were "Mawlgan", "My Redeemer", "Malvern", "Hyfrydol", "Huddersfield" and "Blodwen". Some of the more meditative hymns included were "Morte Christie", "Mae D' Eisiau Di Bob Awr", "Aberystwyth", "Bryn Calfaria" and "Ebeneser". The memorial hymn was the always poignant "Crugybar" led by Mary Davis of Fennimore. Of course, the closing hymns consisted of countless jubilant choruses of "Cwm Rhondda", and the part-

ing hymn was "God Be with You till We Meet Again".

Special music was provided by the Peniel Quartet singing an arrangement of "Sanctus". The quartet consists of Christopher Guy (Plymouth), Joshua Giese (North Fond du Lac), Devin Scherck (Fond du Lac) and Reverend Thomas White. Christopher Guy also served as the master of ceremonies and Joshua Giese provided the devotions.

This year's Gymanfa was particularly meaningful for Reverend Thomas White as it marked his 50th anniversary of playing the Peniel Reed Organ. Reverend White began playing for the Peniel Gymanfa Ganu when he was only 27. And after 50 years he is still going strong! To commemorate the occasion Reverend White composed an original arrangement of Hyfrydol and performed it for the congregation.

Information about upcoming cymanfaoedd canu and the historic Peniel Chapel can be found at wgga.org.

Sarasota Celebrates Welsh Olympic Success

By Amy Ferrell

30 of us gathered at Turtles on Little Sarasota Bay Restaurant at the August brunch and raised our glasses in a toast to the remarkable number of Welsh athletes who won medals for Great Britain in the recent Rio Olympics. We had a number of items donated for the free drawing following our meal, which was fun. Look for photos on our website.

Our Olympic Champions:
Elinor Barker, Women's cycling team pursuit - GOLD
Owain Doull, Men's cycling team pursuit - GOLD

Jade Jones, Taekwondo Women's 57kg - GOLD
Hannah Mills, Sailing/Women's 470 - GOLD
Jazz Carlin, Women's 400m freestyle - SILVER
Jazz Carlin, Women's 800m freestyle - SILVER
Sam Cross, Men's rugby sevens - SILVER
James Davies, Men's rugby sevens - SILVER
Becky James, Women's cycling keirin - SILVER
Becky James, Women's cycling sprint - SILVER
Victoria Thornley, Women's 2000m double sculls - SILVER.



A good turnout to toast Welsh Olympic success!

123rd Picnic for Welsh Youngstown, OH

By John Tamplin

St. David's Society of Youngstown, Ohio, held its 123rd annual Welsh Picnic on August 20, at Stacey Pavilion in Austintown Twp. Park. The picnic buffet, catered by the Korner Restaurant, whose owner and chef, Rob Proverbs, is Welsh, provided a sumptuous buffet for the 38 guests in attendance.

Following dinner, musical entertainment was provided by vocalists Ray and Jane Bartholomew, who excited the audience with a patriotic concert of both American and Welsh music and a sing-along. They concluded their program by leading the audience in *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau* and *God Be With You*.

The Welsh Picnic in Youngstown has a long and distinguished history, beginning in 1893, when the first picnic was held in Youngstown's Wick Park. As the picnic grew, it was moved to Idora Park, a large amusement park which had to close its gates to the public in order to accommodate the huge



Ray and Jane Bartholomew, vocalists, performing at the picnic

Welsh gathering. The streetcar line even had to add extra cars to accommodate the Welsh picnickers. Today the crowd is much smaller, but the history and spirit of the Welsh picnic are alive and well in Youngstown.

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Utica Members Travel to Historic Gymanfa

By Ted Engle

Utica, N.Y. On September 11, 2016, twelve members of the St. David's Society of Utica traveled to the annual Gymanfa Ganu at East Nelson, New York, in Madison County. The Welsh Church Society of Nelson maintains the non-denominational church to preserve their Welsh heritage and offers summer services with various visiting pastors. The final Sunday is always an afternoon Gymanfa Ganu with visitors from throughout Central New York.

The first Welsh immigrants to Upstate New York arrived in 1795 to the greater Utica, New York area. By the by the 1830s the Welsh had expanded in search of farmland and were in the Madison County village of Nelson, 50 miles to the west. In

the 1840s the Welsh Congregationalists and Welsh Calvinistic Methodists regularly met in various homes and were formally incorporated by the State of New York in 1854 and 1860 respectively.

The current Welsh Church building named Peniel, was built in 1876 through the efforts of Rev. Griffiths Jones who was born in Dolwyddelan North Wales and ordained in nearby Llanberis in 1853. Rev. Jones' first North American assignment was in Fairhaven, Vermont and he quickly developed a reputation for building churches. He was instrumental in forming churches in other Welsh communities in Poultney, VT; Granville, NY; Bevier, MO; and Cambria, WI; before coming to Nelson in 1875. He later served in Columbus, Ohio and his final



Welsh Church of Nelson, New York.

resting place is the cemetery adjacent to the Nelson Church. The church was designated in the National Register of Historical Places in 1993.

Originally only Welsh was spoken in the church until 1919, when English was added to attract younger people. The building has not been a functioning parish since the 1950s and is maintained by the Welsh Church Society of Nelson, many who are descendants of the original Welsh settlers.

Jay G. Williams III was the conductor of the Gymanfa Ganu and Jeannie Jones accompanied on the piano. The attendees were greeted by Tom Davies, who read a poem that gave a short history of the area and the *Nelson Quartet* were special guest vocalists.

Following the Gymanfa Ganu, a Te Bach was held in the church basement to allow the visitors to socialize and discuss local history and common backgrounds. Several took time to visit the well-maintained adjacent cemetery to look for Welsh ancestors buried there. The earliest Welsh grave dates back to 1830.

The conductor Jay Williams is a practicing attorney in Clinton, N.Y. who also serves as lay pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Augusta and Vernon Center. He is a past

president of the St. David's Society of Utica.

He has conducted Gymanfa Ganus in Central New York for the Utica Society, at the annual Remsen, N.Y. celebration and at such diverse locations as the First Presbyterian Church in Cambria, WI, the Dr. Edwards Memorial Church in Edwardsville, PA, and the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA.

He is the author of two books: *Memory Stones - A History of Welsh Americans in Central*

New York and Their Churches" and *"Songs of Praises - A history of Welsh-rooted churches beyond Britain."*

Pianist Jeannie Jones of New Hartford, NY has performed at many Gymanfa Ganu's and other local productions in upstate New York. She is a private music instructor.

The *Nelson Quartet* (plus friends) is well-known musical group in Madison County. The current performers consisted of Tom Davies, Chip McEvers, Perry Tooker, Mike Loudis, Buff Lingo, Bill Elliot, and Jerry Davis. They were accompanied by Nellie Johnson on the piano.

More information about future events of the St David's Society of Utica such as our Christmas Party, St David's Day Dinner and future Gymanfa Ganus can be found on the website www.saintdavidssociety.org. Information about The Welsh Church of Nelson can be found on their website www.nelsonunioncemeterywelshchurch.org. In addition to Summer services it is also available for weddings and meetings and is located on Welsh Church Road three miles West of Morrisville, N.Y. off State Route 20.



Accompanist Jeannie Jones

Wild Rose Gymanfa Ganu

By Devin L. Scherck

Though summer may have drawn to a close, in Wisconsin, Gymanfa Ganu season is far from over. Excellent evidence of this was seen when many residents of southern and central Wisconsin gathered at Wild Rose United Presbyterian Church on September 18 for their annual Gymanfa Ganu. The director was Ms. Ann Lemmenes of Waupun, and the organist was Reverend Thomas White of North Fond du Lac.

The singing session commenced with the popular children's hymn "R'wyn Canu". Ms. Lemmenes then had the hymns grouped into four sections, "Nations", "Fight for God's Kingdom", "Peace", and "Eternity-God Reigns". Hymns from the "Nations" section included "Malvern", "Ebenezer", (sung to the words of "Once to Every Man and Nation") "Rheidol", and famous Finnish composer Jean Sibelius's famous hymn tune (sung to the words of "This Is My Song") "Finlandia" from his symphonic poem of the same name. Songs from the "Fight for God's Kingdom" category were Caradoc Robert's "Rachie", "Awake Arise O Church of God", "Y Milwr Bach", and "Huddersfield". Songs from the "Peace" segment consisted of Joseph Parry's anthem "Cor Caersalem", as well as "Calon Lan", "Crimond", "Rhys" and the memorial hymn "Arglwydd, Dyma Fi". The last set of hymns from the "Eternity-God Reigns" portion were "Builth", "Blaenwern", "Sanctus", and what seemed like 1,200 joyful



Ann Lemmenes

choruses of "Cwm Rhondda", followed by the closing hymn "Caersalem".

In between song sets, special music was provided by Mary Williams, Jane Erickson, Roger Williams, and Chris Cutts (all of Wild Rose) singing "Christ Liveth In Me," with piano accompaniment by Reverend Alyson Janke. Chris Cutts also accompanied himself on the piano and sang the poignant song "Lead Me Lord".

More information on future Welsh events in Wisconsin can be found at wgga.org.



Conductor Jay Williams

Memorial Concert in Wymore, Nebraska

By Martha Davies

Many friends gathered on October 8 to celebrate the memory of Margret and Martha Thomas at a concert held at Wymore Community Center. John Good, Welshman of Arizona, enlivened the crowd by playing the Welsh bagpipes, and the jollity continued with Welsh tunes on the flute, penny-whistle and pibgorn. John also sang and played the guitar, and we joined in singing "Calon Lan" and other favorites.

Gwenith Closs Colgrove, newly installed president of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, invited us to deliver tributes to the late Margaret and Martha Thomas, benefactors of many good causes in the area.

At the close of the concert, John Good and his Welsh bagpipes led us in a memorial procession, out the door of the Community Center, past the Welsh garden and mural, and in through the front door of the Welsh Heritage Centre where a Tea Party awaited us.

We are grateful to John Good for bringing delightful Welsh folk music to Nebraska,



Sisters Margaret and Martha Thomas, pictured here wearing red jackets, a way to show their Welsh pride.

enlivening our celebration of the lives of Margaret and Martha Thomas. We know the Thomas sisters would have been pleased that John, on the day before our concert, had

appeared in two assemblies at Southern Elementary School, whose fourth graders visit the Welsh Centre every May.

Remsen Barnfest 2016

By Ted Engle

Utica St. David's Society again staffed an informational booth, and also sold Welsh gifts and Welsh Tea Cakes at the Remsen Barn Fest on September 24 and 25, 2016. The proceeds help fund our scholarship program for college students of Welsh descent. The Remsen-Steuben area is located north of Utica and was a center of Welsh immigration in the early 1800's. After the Revolutionary War, Prussian soldier Baron Von Steuben was granted 16,000 acres by a grateful New York State for his help in organizing the fledgling Continental Army. His land agent sold the initial plots to six families from North Wales. They were joined by other Welsh settlers in Oneida County and the Welsh soon became a major ethnic group in upstate New York. Today von Steuben

is not as well-known as other American heroes but his contributions cannot be overestimated. He was recruited by Benjamin Franklin to help George Washington and upon his arrival in Valley Forge he found a dispirited, unorganized Continental Army. He quickly began to instill organization and discipline as well as introducing modern military tactics and strategy. He became Washington's Chief of Staff and wrote the Army's training and organizational manual still used during the Mexican War in the 1840's (*Blue Book*). His final resting place is in nearby Steuben and is maintained by the National Park Service.

The Remsen Barn Fest is a two-day craft fair (9/24-9/25/16) with over 250 booths in keeping with "the rural Welsh tradition". As many as 50,000 people attended the annual two-day event. It culminated with the 55th Remsen

Gymanfa Ganu held in the Historic Old Stone Church on 2:30 PM Sunday with Jay G Williams III as conductor, Susan Bartholomew as organist and Kym Johnson Fox as guest vocalist. The Gymanfa Ganu has been sponsored by the Fortnightly Club of Remsen since 1961.

Many members of the Utica St David's Society participated at the booth. Welsh Tea Cakes baked by members and assorted Welsh-themed items were sold to visitors. In addition, Welsh travel and vacation information provided by the *Visit Wales* government travel association was distributed. Questions were answered about the local Welsh traditions and new members were recruited. Many visitors had Welsh roots and inquired about the original settlers in the area and their histories. One visitor, Edward Brydon, who was born and raised in Menai Bridge, North Wales now currently resides in the United States. He was researching our local area for a project to relate this region and residents to their original North Wales roots.

The Fortnightly Club started the yearly Gymanfa Ganu as a tribute to the area's rich Welsh history in 1961. The Fortnightly Club is a women's community service and literary group. The local chapter was founded in 1908 and this event was headed by officers Barb Credle and Ruth Arcand.

The Old Stone Church was built in 1831 by the Calvinistic Methodists and was one of dozens of Welsh Chapels once found in the immediate area. Now only three remain (Capel Cerrig 1831, Capel Enlli 1848, and Capel Hebron 1828) and are maintained as historic sites.



Saint David's Society Members Sharon Lanahan, Della Williams and Cindy Gilbert.

The Old Stone Church has ceased to be a functioning church since 1986 and is now owned by the Remsen-Steuben Historical Society. The main floor is used for meetings and the yearly song-fest while the upstairs is used as a library and museum of Welsh documents and artifacts. It is listed in the New York and National Registers of Historic Places.

Accompanist organist Susan Bartholomew is a resident of Remsen, NY and a member of the St David's Society of Utica. Ms. Bartholomew is a CPA and also serves as organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Iliion, NY.

Jay G Williams III was the conductor of the Gymanfa Ganu. As a fifth generation Welsh-American he has been active in Welsh activities in Central New York. He is a former president of the St. David's Society of Utica and a past director of the National Welsh

American Foundation. He is a life member of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association and is a frequent conductor in New York, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

Vocalist Kym Johnson Fox studied Music at Nazareth College and has advanced degrees in education from Touro College. She has taught music both privately and in the public schools and performs with the New Generations chorus.

More information on the local Welsh society can be found on saintdavidssociety.org. Information on the Remsen Barn Fest can be found at www.remsenbarnfestival.com. The website for the Remsen Steuben Historical Society is remsensteubenhistoricsociety@gmail.com for those who wish to visit the building or access the archives.



"He who has ears let him hear" - Matthew 13:9

Valley View High School Choir Raises Funds to Travel to Wales

By Kathleen Bolus

ARCHBALD — Valley View High School's Voices of the Valley choir—including three members who have never traveled outside the United States—will have the chance to sing in Wales next summer at the invitation of a Welsh choir and the Queen of England's representative.

The Cór Dathlu Cwmtawe Male Choir, also called the Swansea Valley Celebration Choir, and the Hon. Dame Shân Legge-Bourke, DCVO, the Queen's lord-lieutenant to the Welsh County of Powys, extended the invitation to the Voices of the Valley after the students performed with the Welsh choir in October. Thirty students, who had to audition for the International Odyssey of Friendship and Song trip, along with Valley View Chorus Director Gina Pascolini and chaperones, will tour London before traveling to Wales from June 18 to July 3. They will sing with three of the top Welsh choirs and Ysgol Bro Dynefwr, a local high school.

The choir will use Skype, an online video chat, to practice Welsh songs with the high school. The trip costs \$65,000, or around \$1,750 per student. Mrs. Pascolini hopes to raise enough money so no student will have to pay to cross the Atlantic.

Cassandra Dumas and Kasidy Leggin, seniors, and Cammie Gillar, a sophomore, have never traveled out of the country.

Cassandra, president of the



Children from Valley View choir

Valley View choir, has been singing since elementary school.

"It's just a country where chorus is taken seriously," she said of Wales, adding that choir is very important to her.

Voices of the Valley can already sing some pieces in Welsh, which Mrs. Pascolini said is a tough language that doesn't employ many vowels. They hit the notes beautifully while singing the Welsh national anthem.

Kasidy is excited to share his love of music with a group of people across the Atlantic.

"Music is uniting us," he said.

Cammie has been singing since she can remember and is honored to be a member of a group invited to sing in Wales.

In October, when Cór Dathlu Cwmtawe visited the area, they sang with Voices of the Valley

at the Best Western Pioneer Plaza Hotel in Carbondale.

"When Gina's kids sang with them, they were so impressed," said Jerry Williams, who volunteers to bring choirs to the area. So they asked Mr. Williams and Ted Frutchey, also a volunteer, if it would be possible for Voices of the Valley to sing with them in Wales.

Mr. Williams, past president of St. David's Society of Lackawanna County, and Mr. Frutchey helped organize the entire trip for the choir. Mr. Frutchey has organized travel for Welsh choirs to sing in Northeast Pennsylvania for years, so he used his experience to book the trip for Valley View.

"The history of the Welsh and choirs in the Lackawanna Valley goes back to 1823," said Mr. Williams. "When 90 Welsh

families moved to Carbondale to help begin the underground coal mining industry, they brought with them their song, choral celebrations and four-part harmony," he said.

"The choral history is so deep," Mr. Williams said.

Voices of the Valley began fundraising through 50/50 raffle tickets and an online donation campaign. A designer purse raffle is scheduled and a cabaret is in the works. The choir is asking for local community and business donations.

For information on the trip or

to donate, visit gvgb.co/voicesofthevalley; go to Voices of the Valley Wales Tour 2017 on Facebook; or contact VOTVWalesTour2017@gmail.com.

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27th Welsh Festival, Fredericksburg, Virginia

By Dr Harold W. Gale,
Honorary Bard of the 2016
Festival

A lovely bright sunny day, pleasantly warm, ideal for the 27th Annual Welsh Festival in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The festival is sponsored by the Museum of the 5th President James Monroe and the Welsh Society of Fredericksburg.

The street in front of the Monroe Museum was given over to the Festival performance seating and stage, shops, displays, street art and friendly conversations. In the garden of the President Monroe Museum were festival performances of different Welsh topics such as of Welsh instruments, language, myths, etc. Festival attendees were welcomed at the Museum free of charge on this day. The nearby tree shaded Masonic cemetery monuments dating some to before 1860. The street-side was lined by vendors. Views of the old historic town could be seen. From 11 am to 5 pm along the street were places for art, music, literature, conversation and food. As honorary Bard of the 27th festival, I'm privileged to offer a brief sketch of the festival's features with modest apologies if anyone feels slighted by my brevity.

Performances on the Festival Main Stage: 11am to 5pm. Rik Rice of the Fredericksburg Welsh Society serving as MC (and festival manager) welcomed the crowd of visitors and local celebrants to open the festival.

The "Stafford Regional Choral Society" was first up on the main stage with nearly a dozen performers from nearby Stafford County, Virginia. Directed by Kevin Perry, their enthusiastic polished performances launched the festival. A number of Welsh songs were featured including a rousing rendition of the love duet between Hywel and Blodwen from Dr. Joseph Parry's opera "Blodwen."

Bard award: The Fredericksburg Welsh Society each year presents an honor to recognize individuals for their achievements and their commit-



Dr. Hal Gale, 27th Welsh Festival Bard

ment to the Welsh community, culture, and the language. For 2016, I (Hal Gale) was the honoree, and spoke briefly:

I accept the Bard Award on behalf of my dear wife, who was 50 percent Welsh- both grandmothers. I got in the Welsh community by marriage. Our wedding pastor was from a local Welsh church but married us in English so I'd know what I promised. Our children and my wife had all the art, singing and other musical talent. Over a decade ago, as we were driving north my wife noticed a sign advertising the next Welsh festival. She suggested we attend. The gate-keeper said she could get in because half the Welsh women at the festival looked like her sisters, but I'd have to pay. Then and later at meetings and holidays the people of the Welsh community made us welcome even though we were strangers from out of town-Washington, D.C.

Five years ago we visited Wales for two weeks to see if the ancestral people and culture were the same as those we met here. We started in the northwest near the mountains, then

south near the glorious coast, across to Tintern Abbey near the English border and then north to the airport. Our second night in Wales we attended a male voice choir show at a local church. After the superb show was over, the English pastor sought us out to enquire with some astonishment why two Americans would visit Wales. My dear wife was speechless, so I replied that Wales we found had great mountains, glorious sea shores, ample farms and charming country villages, excellent Welsh breakfasts and other food, plus wonderful kind and generous people at every place we went - the same as Welsh in the US. (As a guest in Wales, I thought best not to mention to the English pastor, "It was too bad about the neighbors.")

My wife and I through the years did our best to contribute to the community in response to their generosity and kindness to strangers from far away. We did book reviews, for a while wrote a youth column and made Welsh-English crosswords for NINNAU. After my wife died of ovarian cancer in April 2016 my participation nearly ceased, so I was totally astonished to be selected for the 2016 Bard honor by the wonderful people of Fredericksburg. I and my family are deeply grateful.

"DragonFyre", the second set, was formed in January 2015 with veteran artists. Their group includes bagpipe, harp, fiddle, guitar, accordion, mandolin and vocals in English and Welsh. The group includes David Rich, Deborah Wenrich, Bob Roser, James Brown and Jodee James, who performs with DragonFyre for Welsh concerts and gigs. Amy Meyer plays the harp but was out this day with an illness.

Iona- fresh from the NAFOW. Artistic quality is high with authentic high energy...great to see traditional music of Wales, Cornwall, and Brittany. Lead singer is Barbara Ryan, Bernard Argent, Jim Queen; and Chuck Lawhorn. IONA is the leading Celtic musical group in the Mid-Atlantic region and has performed at the Welsh Festival for



Fredericksburg Welsh Dancers

many years.

Moch Pryderi from Fredericksburg, VA in 1998 with outstanding Welsh and Breton music. Mary Triola playing her 90 stringed triple harp, Rik Rice, Bill Reese, Luke Gray and Paul Burgess completed the outstanding group. From the beginning their style and panache was in the heroic Welsh tradition with splendid energy, kinetics and a wonderful joy of life. I have their latest CD "Migdlu Magdli Moch" plus all their earlier CDs.

A survey of varied street shop booths and displays

Several jewelry booths, some with silver wire findings, in traditional, classic and natural styles.

Rugby booth - a new attraction for the festival.

Welsh Society of Fredericksburg, VA: with Welsh books, apparel- always interesting new items.

Moch Pryderi music CDs - lively music.

An authentic one-person Coracle - always amazing that



Moch Pryderi on Stage.

"The Fredericksburg Welsh Country Dancers", eight men and women in traditional costumes led by Sian Frick were the wrap-up "frosting" on the series of twopath dances. Many charming colorful intricate traditional dances were agilely executed. They welcomed participants from the crowd. Their performance was worth attending the festival just to watch them.

Performance Sessions in the Monroe Garden. These smaller sessions in the Museum garden offered demonstrations of Welsh musical instruments, Genealogy, customs, Welsh Government, Welsh Tales, Welsh Language, Welsh mythology of the Mabinogion, Welsh Hymns and folk tunes, Rappahannock Ruby and "There be Dragons!" These 30-minute performances continued all through the day, usually with a full house. The Welsh Government talk was given by Gareth Morgan of the Welsh Assembly office in Washington.

The Monroe Museum, honoring James Monroe, the fifth President of the US, was open to the public with newly enhanced displays, including the 1st Lady's jewels. The displays were invaluable to understand in part the contributions of this Welsh descendant to our country. The gift shop and greeting tent nearby on the festival street offered literature and warm friendly folks welcoming all visitors.

these were often used.

Wales tourist brochures tent - good information, great photos of Wales.

St. David's Welsh-American Society, Washington, D.C.; with Welsh name samples.

Children's face painting and games booth - great fun for the kids of all ages.

Craft apparel tent - neat items

Fredericksburg Spinners and Weavers demonstrations tent.

Monroe museum literature and greeting tent -friendly and helpful.

Infamous Welsh cookies - a variety of flavors, but I prefer the originals.

Kettle popcorn booth - ideal snacks for kids.

A remarkable delightful traditional part of the Festival was the street pavement chalk art sketch of a dragon, and other beasties, by an artist whose name I failed to obtain. By my estimate, during the day nearly 300 adults of all ages, children and an astonishing variety of dogs participated and observed the Festival. Children danced with the music. Dogs in the shade along the curbs were nodding their heads or patting a paw in time with the jigs. Altogether a charming display of intergenerational and species good cheer and harmony.

Welsh Anthem and closing ceremony: the crowd joined in the Anthem and an ovation for a festival well done, anticipating another grand festival day next year.

A Welsh Weekend in Minnesota

By Karen Jones Wojahn

The Minnesota Welsh Association celebrated Welsh history and tradition on a beautiful late-September weekend.

In cooperation with the Blue Earth County Historical Society, the celebration began on Saturday morning with a bus tour of historic Welsh settlements in south central Minnesota. Participants were treated to a narrated bus ride with stops at Judson, Cambria, the Jerusalem Cemetery, and the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Crystal. A catered lunch was served at the Cambria Presbyterian Church, which was formed by the joining of several area churches that served the Welsh community from 1855 to 1980. Tour leaders provided historic information and memories of each place.

The celebration continued on Sunday afternoon with Minnesota's annual Gymanfa Ganu, directed by Dr. James Cassarino from Green Mountain College in Poutney, Vermont. Dr. Cassarino provided back-



Jim Cassarino conducts the annual Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu.

ground information about many hymns and led over 100 attendees in the enthusiastic singing of hymns in both Welsh and English. The Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus provided special music. At the Te Bach following the singing, people browsed a history table of photos and artifacts

from Welsh settlers in southern Minnesota and watched a DVD of area Welsh settlements.

For more information and photos from the weekend, check the Minnesota Welsh Association page on Facebook or <http://mnwelshassociation.weebly.com>.

The National Eisteddfod *By Robin Gwyndaf*

Gwenynen Gwent Arglwyddes - Lady Llanofor

Augusta was born at Tŷ Uchaf, Llanofor, 21 March, 1802, the daughter of Georgina and Benjamin Waddington. In 1823 she married Benjamin Hall, III (1802 - 67), an industrial landowner from Aber-carn, Monmouthshire, and a grandson of Sir Richard Crawshay.

From an early age, Augusta began to take interest in Welsh traditions and the Welsh language, still spoken by some of the local inhabitants and workers on the Llanofor estate. In 1826 she went with her Godmother, Lady Elizabeth Brown Coffin Greenly, 'Llwydilas' (1771 - 1839), Titley Court, Herefordshire, to the Brecon Eisteddfod. There for the first time she met the man who was to become her very intimate and influential friend: the Reverend Thomas Price, 'Carnhuanawc.'

At the 20 August 1834 Cardiff Eisteddfod, Augusta won the first prize of a seal ring with a Welsh motto engraved on a Welsh pebble for her pioneering essay: 'The Advantages Resulting from the Preservation of the Welsh Language and National Costumes of Wales.' It included many regional costume designs which, as we know, have had a lasting influence on the development of the Welsh traditional dress. She also took every opportunity to promote Welsh wool and traditional Welsh flannel designs. Eventually, in 1865, she established the Gwenffrwd woollen mill on the Llanofor estate.

Her pseudonym at the Cardiff Eisteddfod was 'Gwenynen Gwent' ('the bee of Gwent'), a name she used until the end of her life. It was, needless to say, a most appropriate bardic name, because she continued to be

exceedingly active throughout her long life and long widowhood. (Sir Benjamin Hall died in 1867 as a result of a kickback from a shotgun. Augusta died 17 January 1896, almost 94 years of age.)

Sir Benjamin - a very tall man - was a well-respected member of Parliament for Monmouthshire, and later Marylebone. It was during his term as Commissioner of Works at the Houses of Parliament that the famous tower and clock were built, and it is said that the bell of St Stephen's tower, 'Big Ben,' was named after him. Even more important, however, he gave his full and continued support to his enthusiastic wife in her never-ending campaign to promote the Welsh language and all that was Welsh. Greatly inspired by her close friend and mentor, Thomas Price, and at a time when she too felt that the districts around Llanofor and Abergavenny were becoming more and more Anglicized, she was not afraid of expressing her view that Welsh should be taught in the schools of Wales and used regularly by the clergy.

In 1848 she founded Coleg Llanymddyfri - Llandovery College - as part of her campaign for Welsh education and Welsh language church services. In 1854 she and Sir Benjamin funded the building of a church at Abercarn, with the firm instructions that the services were to be conducted in Welsh. She encouraged her staff to speak Welsh, and made use of the language on signs in the village of Llanofor. Furthermore, she sponsored the journal, *Y Gymraes* ('the Welsh woman', 1850 - 51), and wrote



413. Charles Augustus Mornewicke. Augusta Hall, Lady Llanofor, 1862. Oil, 813 x 495.

Augusta Waddington Hall, 'Gwenynen Gwent', Lady Llanofor (1802 - 96), from an oil painting on canvas (1862), by Charles Augustus Mornewicke (1836 - 74). On the black beaver hat there is a pearl with silk leek. Copyright: Private Collection.

these prophetic words in the first volume: 'Mothers of Wales: speak Welsh to your children.'

Gwenynen Gwent and her husband lived at Tŷ Uchaf, Llanofor. Their home (and especially after the new mansion, Llanofor Hall, was completed in 1837), was described as the 'Mecca for every Welsh bard [and musician]'. Guests from Wales and abroad, high and low, even European royalty, were all welcomed. With an ever increasing sense of enthusiasm and dedication, the lady of the house promoted Welsh traditional music - the triple harp (*y delyn deires*), in particular. A harpist was permanently

employed, and a factory at Llanofor was founded to make triple harps.

Welsh folk customs, such as the Fari Lwyd (Christmas season, horse ceremony) were also promoted. In 1867 she published her fascinating book, *The First Principles of Good Cooking*. In this book, for example, there is an early recipe (the earliest?) for the ever-popular 'pice ar y maen', often referred to now as 'Welsh-cakes'. But this publication is more than a cookery book. To quote Dr Celyn Gurden-Williams, it 'also sets out her ideals and beliefs ...[and] her opinions on everything from the Welsh language to animal husbandry ... The work is in fact a

handbook for the ideal Welsh life.'

Lady Llanofor was, indeed, a woman of very strong personal views. To quote Celyn Gurden-Williams again: 'She is famous for decreeing that her servants and tenants should speak Welsh and don the so-called traditional dress. She is infamous for having closed the taverns on her estate, and exercising a level of control that might charitably be called a benevolent autocracy.'

But today we remember her with joy and a deep sense of gratitude: a unique, fascinating and influential lady; a great character, patroness and benefactor, worthy of the greatest praise and respect.

Garden of Treasures A poem in praise of Monmouthshire

I know of a garden in Wales full of innumerable treasures, from Grosmont in the north to Gwynlleg (Wentloog) by the sea. How beautiful to me is every village and parish between the River Usk and the River Wye.

I will venture to the top of Twyn Barlwm and climb Ysgyryd Fawr; I will walk over hill and dale before setting of the sun. But although I wander long from place to place, I will surely return one day.

Brynbuga (Usk) and Bleanafon, Pontnewydd and Pen-rhos, Sirhywi and Allteuryrn (Golffcliff), and the banks of the enchanting Ebwy River; every town and village, church and parish, their names contain much more than gold.

Nant Honddu (Llanthony) and Llanfaches... Once more I recall the saints of yesterday, and I hear their prayers as music on the strings of the wind. At Tintern Abbey today and Capel-y-ffin I partake of a long, long draught of old, old wine.

Llanoder and Basaleg ... I know that in the locality of the pioneering Lady and the renowned Ifor Hael (Ifor 'the generous one') there are still brave benefactors, steadfast and dear, who strive to keep the flame alight.

I will visit Ysgol Gwynllyw and Y Fenni (Abergavenny); (the schools at) Casnewydd (Newport) and Cwm Gwyddon; Cwmbran and Cil-y-Coed (Caldicot: Ysgol y Ffin), and the leaves on a fresh new branch proclaim the rebirth of spring.

And this is the land we have inherited- a most beautiful gift- to love and to cherish as a sacred garden; to irrigate the soil and destroy the weeds, and to keep the sacred treasure forever pure.

Translated from the Welsh by Robin Gwyndaf

The 2016 NWAFA Scholarships

By Hefina Phillips

One of the greatest joys in life is to share ones passions with others. Chairing the scholarship committee of the National Welsh-American Foundation (NWAFA) has certainly brought me a huge amount of pleasure.

Annually two scholarships are offered to North Americans who wish to study in Wales. There is an Exchange Scholarship of \$5,000 and the Lloyd Travel Scholarship of \$1,000. Of course, deciding to whom these scholarships are to be awarded can be quite a headache. Not so this year. Although there were several applications, two were outstanding and it was not difficult therefore for the scholarship committee to come to a decision.

The two successful applicants were Mari Morgan and Marah Hager.

Mari Morgan is well-known to many of us in North America. She was the director of Cŵr Gogledd America and is a prominent and popular conductor of cymanfaoedd canu. She emigrated to the United States in the 1990s.

Currently Mari is reading for her PhD in Trinity/St David's University College, Carmarthen. The subject of her Dissertation is the work and history of the Welsh American musicians Daniel Prothero and Joseph Parry. This is proving to



Marah Hager

be extremely exciting and Mari has discovered manuscripts and information that were until very recently unknown.

Readers of Ninnau may be aware of the close connection between Trinity/St David's and the Madog Centre of Welsh Studies at Rio Grande University, Ohio. It is from this Institution that our second winner comes. Marah Hager's CV is spectacular! She has been extremely involved with Welsh activities in the college, promoting awareness of Welsh culture in the community. During her stay at Trinity/St David's she will work on a publication documenting her personal experience in the Welsh Exchange programme. She also aims to improve her Welsh and become

fluently bilingual as she explores her heritage.

The scholarship committee was so impressed with these two stellar applicants that the decision was made to divide the scholarship moneys equally between them.

We are extremely proud of them both and wish them "Pob lwc" as they continue with their studies.

A third scholarship is the Lloyd Jones Scholarship at Bangor University. A major endowment has been provided by Lloyd Jones of Allentown, Penn., to recognize the accomplishments of individuals graduating from Bangor University, North Wales. Awards are given to promising young entrepreneurs based on projects completed in their undergraduate studies. This year's recipients are Rhiannon Haf Quirk who designed and manufactures soft toys and decorative furnishings for her proposed online business, and Richard Gabriel Noakes, who designed and manufactured a prototype camera system to increase visibility for tractor drivers reversing attached trailers on farms in mid-Wales.

Rhiannon and Richard graduated from Bangor this year with a B.Sc. in product design. We congratulate them and wish them well as they begin their careers in Wales.

The Welsh North American Association



Become a member!

Join our mission to preserve and promote our Welsh heritage and culture in North America

- through the North American Festival of Wales, featuring the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, held each year in a different U S or Canadian city;
- through WNAA's quarterly newsletter HWYL;
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Visit our website www.thewnaa.org for membership, publications and Festival information.

contact WNAA International Headquarters,
P O Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886,
Phone 607-279-7402, fax: 877-448-6633
email IHQ@theWNAA.org

The National Eisteddfod *By Robin Gwyndaf*

Thomas Price, 'Carnhuanawc'

Thomas Price, 'Carnhuanawc', was born, 2 October 1787, at Pencaerelin, in the Parish of Llanfihangel Bryn Pabuan, Breconshire. He was the second son of the Rev. Rice Price, and was brought up in a cultured home. He took interest in music (the harp, in particular) and local lore from an early age. From 1823 until he died, 7 November 1848, he was a vicar at Llanfihangel Cwm-du, Breconshire, where he is buried. From 1832 onwards he was also the Rural Dean for a third part of south Breconshire.

Carnhuanawc was well known as an antiquary and author of numerous articles. His most famous book (published in fourteen parts, 1836-42) was *Hanes Cymru a Chenedl y Cymry o'r Cynoesodd hyd at Farwolaeth Llywelyn ap Gruffydd* ('The history of Wales and the nation of Wales from prehistoric times to the death of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd'). A note here about Thomas Price's bardic name, Carnhuanawc, may be relevant.

Like his very good friend and patron, Lady Llanover, he was very conscious of more and more of the inhabitants of his beloved counties of Breconshire and Monmouthshire speaking English, and especially conscious of official institutions becoming more and more Anglicized. But, again like Augusta Hall, Thomas Price was an activist. 'Action speaks louder than words.' He did more than express his sincere dissatisfaction and sorrow. He campaigned tirelessly in the press and in his public speeches for the use of Welsh in the schools and churches of Wales. At his own expense, he founded a school (c. 1820), at Gellifelen, Llanelli Hill, Breconshire, where the education was almost all in Welsh, and, similarly, he funded a Welsh school at Felindre, Llanfihangel Cwm-du.

Furthermore, he gave every practical help and moral support possible to Gwenynen Gwent in her endeavour to learn Welsh and to promote the language and the rich Welsh cultural inheritance in her everyday life at Llanover and the neighbour-

hood. Also, together with other benefactors (John Jones, 'Tegid', in particular), he gave his full support to Lady Charlotte Elizabeth Bertie Guest (1812 - 95) when she was translating the eleven classic tales, *The Mabinogion*, and the tale of Taliesin, during 1838-1849.

Carnhuanawc was a true Celt and greatly interested in the long and rich Celtic literary tradition. He learnt Breton, and promoted closer links between Wales and Brittany. One of his important contributions was to promote the translation of the New Testament to Breton (published in 1849, a year after his death).

In 1823 he played a leading role in establishing Cymdeithas Cymreigyddion Aberhonddu (the Welsh Literary Society of Brecon), and was elected its President. Shortly afterwards he founded the Welsh Minstrelsy Society and collected enough money to pay a teacher 'for the encouragement of performers on the Welsh Harp and the Instruction of Poor Blind Boys on that Instrument.'

Then, in 1833, Thomas Price gave his full support to one of the most influential literary gatherings ever held in Wales: Cymdeithas Cymreigyddion y Fenni (the Abergavenny Cymreigyddion Society). (It came to a sudden end in 1854.) Gwenynen Gwent from the beginning was a most active member. Lady Greenly, who had been a patron of Edward Williams, 'Iolo Morganwg,' was also a member.

In 1836 (long before the days of the National Library of Wales) the Welsh Manuscripts Society was formed, as a branch of the Cymreigyddion, and, eventually, it published a number of important Welsh texts. Once again, the diligent vicar of Cwm-du played a leading role in its activities.

Between 1834 and 1853 Cymreigyddion y Fenni held a series of ten remarkable and spectacular eisteddfodau. They were so influential during the mid-nineteenth century that they are now regarded as the forerunner of the National Eisteddfod itself. There were competitions



Carnhuanawc: y Parch Thomas Price
1787-1848

Thomas Price,
'Carnhuanawc'. Illustrated
London News,
25 October 1845.

in the fields of music (the triple harp, in particular), arts and crafts and Welsh woollen patterns. At the 1853 final eisteddfod, for example, two prizes were offered for the 'best Blind Female Performer on the Triple Harp,' and two prizes for the 'best Blind Male Performer on the Triple Harp'. Some of the essays written as a result of the numerous literary competitions were also of lasting importance.

The prizes offered at the Cymreigyddion Eisteddfodau were, generally, exceedingly generous. It is believed that Lady Llanover and Sir Benjamin Hall, either personally, or through the generosity of some of their noble friends, contributed about £2,500 in prizes (equivalent to quarter of a million pounds in today's money).

At the 1837 Eisteddfod, a medal, valued at 3 guineas, and a prize of 2 guineas, were donated by Lady Greenly for the 'best collection of original unpublished Welsh airs, with the words, as sung by the peasantry'. The winner was Maria

Jane Williams, 'Llinos' (1795 - 1873), Aberpergwm, Nedd Uchaf, Castell-nedd (Neath), Glamorganshire. This pioneering and renowned collection was privately printed in 1844, under the title *Ancient and National Airs of Gwent and Morganwg*, and dedicated 'by special permission to the Queen.' It is the only collection of Welsh folk songs that includes the words as well as the music to be published before the twentieth century.

A price of 25 guineas was given at the 1848 Eisteddfod by Queen Victoria in the name of her eldest son, 'His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales,' for a 'Critical Essay on the History of the Language and Literature of Wales from the Time of Gruffydd ap Cynan and Meilyr to that of Sir Gruffydd Llywd [Llwyd] & Gwilym Ddu; Accompanied with Specimens, Both in the Original, and in a Close English or Latin Translation of the Poems, Most Characteristic of the Period.' The winner was a young, cultured, self-taught chemist from Merthyr Tudful, Thomas Stephens (1821 - 1875), the son of Evans Stephens, a shoemaker from Pontneddfechan, Glamorganshire.

Thomas Stephens rightly received the highest praise possible for his composition, and it has been acclaimed ever since as the most important critical essay on the early literature of Wales written during the nineteenth century. On the stage during the adjudication by Archbishop John Williams was Sir Josiah John Guest (the hus-

band of Lady Charlotte Guest), and there and then he offered to pay for the publication of Thomas Stephens' work. And so it was. The book, *Literature of the Kymry*, appeared in print the following year (1849).

Thomas Price's death, 7 November 1848, was a severe blow to the organizers of the successful Cymreigyddion Eisteddfod that year (the last but one). Since the very beginning, with his enthusiasm, dedication and endearing personality; wonderful gift of speech, and extensive knowledge of the Welsh literary tradition, he, and Gwenynen Gwent, had been the main spring - the moving force - a shining sun - of the Cymreigyddion Society and its series of memorable eisteddfodau.

And at this point, as we remember his firm, yet gentle, elevating and serene manner, throughout his life, of sharing with others the richness of his own Welsh and Celtic cultural inheritance, it is relevant to contemplate briefly on the possible meaning of the bardic name, Carnhuanawc, which he chose. Carn: 1: cairn, mound. 2: hoof. 3: stay, foundation, support. Huan: sun. Huanawc: shining, rich, bountiful.

The Reverend Thomas Price (Carnhuanawc) today it is our great privilege to sincerely and humbly pay tribute to him and express our deepest gratitude: a kind man of integrity; a beloved friend of the people; a mentor, pioneer and inspirer; and, undoubtedly, one of the greatest benefactors of the Welsh language and culture.

Gardd o Drysorau Cerdd foliant i Sir Fynwy

Mi wn am ardd yng Nghymru
Sy'n llawn trysorau'n stor,
O'r Grysmwnt yn y gogledd
i Wynllwg ger y mor;
Mor deg i mi bob llan a phlwy
Sydd rhwng afonydd Wysg a Gwy

Mi af i ben Twyn Barlwm
A dringo'r 'Sgryd Fawr;
Mi gerddaf fryn a dyffryn
Cyn elo'r haul i lawr.
Er crwydro'n hir o lan i lan,
Af yno eto yn y man.

Brynbuga a Blaenafon,
Pontnewydd a Phen-rhos,
Sirhywi ac Allteurn,
A glannau Ebwy dlos;
Pob tref a phentref, llan a phlwy,
Mae mwy nag aur i'w henwau hwy.

Nant Honddu a Llanfaches ...
Mi gofiau innau gynt
Am seintiau a'u gweddiau
Yn gan ar dannau'r gwynt;
Yn Nhyndyrn mwy a Chapel-y-ffin
Caf ddrachtio'n hir o hen, hen win.

Llanover a Basaleg ...
Mi wn fod eto ar gael
Ym mro'r Arglwyddes flaengar
A'r enwog lfor Hael,
Ddewr gymwynaswyr hoff, ddi-gryn,
Sy'n dewis cadw'r fflam ynghyn'n.

Mi af i Ysgol Gwynllyw
A'r Fenni i gadw oed,
Casnewydd a Chwm Gwyddon,
Cwmbran a Chil-a-coed,
A dweud mae'r dail ar frigyn ir
Fod cyffro'r gwanwyn yn y tir.

A hon yw'r wlad a gawsom
Yn rhodd o gostrel hardd,
I'w charu a'i hanwylo
Yn gysegredig ardd:
Ireiddio'r pridd a difa'r chwyn
I gadw'n bur y trysor gwyn.

The Past in the Present ...

In October 1990 Cymdeithas Carnhuanawc (the Carnhuanawc Society) was formed. Its objective is to 'promote interest in the life and work of Thomas Price (1787 - 1848). It also seeks to foster knowledge of the history of Wales generally. It can justly be said of Carnhuanawc that he gave back to the people of Wales a sense of their place in history and in the world. His life continues to inspire Welsh people to fight for a wider recognition of their identity.'

The Society meets regularly, in Cardiff and elsewhere; organizes an annual day-school; an annual lecture at the National Eisteddfod; and visits places in Wales and the Celtic Countries, and especially if they have a connection with Carnhuanawc. The Society arranged to place a memorial stone on his grave at Llanfihangel Cwm-du and on the building at Felindre, Cwm-du, where his Welsh school had been held.

For further information:
www.carnhuanawc.org
Secretary: Alan Jobbins:

asjobbins@btinternet.com Tel:
00 44 29 20623275

Cymdeithas Gwenynen Gwent - the Lady Llanover Society was formed on 12 November-December 2016, 'to promote an understanding of the life of Augusta Hall, 'Gwenynen Gwent', Lady Llanover, and her contribution to the language and culture of Wales, a culture that remains equally relevant in the 21st century.' Lectures, concerts, 'Hands on Harp' days, and exhibitions are held regularly.

During the Abergavenny National Eisteddfod week, numerous events were organized to pay tribute to Gwenynen Gwent: lectures, dramas, triple harp performances, and exhibitions. Many of these events had been arranged by the Society, including daily meetings at Tŷ Uchaf, Llanover. One memorable event was entitled: 'Yn Ôl i Llanover' (A Return to Llanover), an evening concert in the company of a number of harpists, all playing the triple harp.

During the week the Society also launched an excellent bilin-

gual publication, by Dr Celyn Gurden-Williams, beautifully designed, with numerous illustrations, and costing only £5: *Pwy oedd Arglwyddes Llanover, 'Gwenynen Gwent'? / Who was Lady Llanover, The 'Bee of Gwent'?* It is based on the author's doctorate thesis: 'Lady Llanover and the Creation of a Welsh Cultural Utopia.' The Forward to the book is written by Elizabeth Murray, Tŷ Uchaf, Llanover, great-great-great-great granddaughter of Gwenynen, Gwent.

For further information re: Cymdeithas Gwenynen Gwent / The Lady Llanover Society: www.ladyllanover.org.uk. Secretary: Robin Davies: robin-bronllys@yahoo.com / info@ladyllanover.org.uk Tel. 01594 563172

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Sir William Vaughan's Cambriol & The Welsh in 17th century Newfoundland

By Cabot Martin

In spite of major contributions, the role of the Welsh in 17th century Newfoundland has been largely forgotten.

For a start, few know of Sir William Vaughan of Golden Grove, Carmarthen, who was, from 1616 to 1637, by far the largest landowner in Newfoundland and one of the most active of early colonists both directly in the establishment of his settlement "Cambriol" and by selling blocks in 1620 to George Calvert (Lord Baltimore) and to Henry Cary (Viscount Falkland), both friends at Oxford.

Upon obtaining his grant from Vaughan, Baltimore selected Welshman Edward Wynne as Governor to establish his Colony of Avalon at Ferryland.

Wynne in turn hired mostly Welsh stone masons, slaters and other tradesmen to build Baltimore's Mansion House and related marine, farming and commercial structures, all of

which form the core of the well-built site now under excavation at Ferryland, which continues to produce an unending stream of Early Modern artifacts unsurpassed by those from any other site in North America.

Welsh names show up frequently both in seasonal roles (transient fishermen, naval officers, chaplains on English warships) and as year-round planters and servants in settlements within and outside the limits of Cambriol.

Indeed, one of the best descriptions of late 17th century Newfoundland is from 1680 by John Thomas, a Welsh cleric, possibly the eldest son of William Thomas, Bishop of St David's, and then chaplain on the Naval Commodore's flagship HMS Assistance. Thomas wrote while stationed in Bay Bulls, Newfoundland; he was sympathetic to the interests of the local planter community.

Suffice to say that the Welsh were present in significant numbers throughout the 17th century and to this day, Welsh surnames are prominent in Newfoundland phone books - this would seem a rich largely

unexplored field for genealogical research.

Sir William Vaughan and his dream of Cambriol

Sir William Vaughan (1575 to 1641) was the second son of Walter Vaughan of Gelli Aur (Golden Grove), Carmarthen, upon whose death the family's extensive Tywi River valley estates fell to Sir William's older brother John, 1st Earl of Carbery.

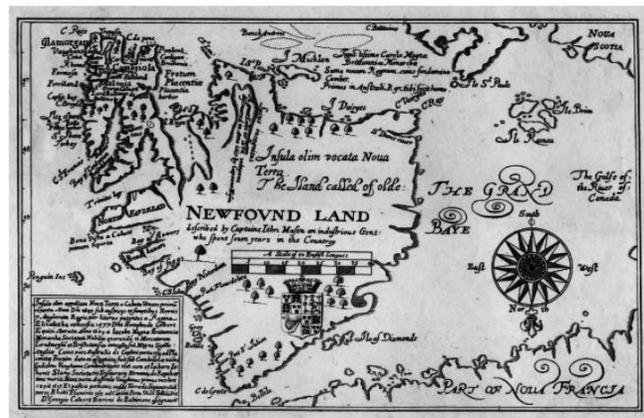
Sir William devoted himself to study, travel, and writing, becoming both highly educated in the law and philosophy and a man with a social conscience writing extensively on the ills of Welsh rural society. He also acquired through marriage an estate on which he implemented innovative agricultural methods.

In 1610, James I made a very large grant in the eastern most part of Newfoundland to the London and Bristol Company, a group that included some of the most prominent figures in England (e.g. Sir Francis Bacon). That same year they established a colony at Cupids in Conception Bay.

The Company's grant covered all of the 17th century "English Shore" from Cape St Mary's to Bonavista location of cod fisheries that were a source of great wealth.

In 1616 dissension within the Company caused it to sell the southern part of the Avalon Peninsula, the vast bulk of their holdings, to Sir William Vaughan giving him a long, fish-rich coast, backed by a vast wilderness covering an area nearly half the size of Wales.

The mostly thin rocky soil, the bogs and dense woods were unattractive to many. But the moor-like natural grasslands on many seaside headlands meant good sheep farming; the woods, fuel and building materials; the barrens, a large source of deer (caribou) meat; the rivers, salmon; and the abundant sea fisheries, a cash export business.



Mason's map of 1625 which was printed in Vaughan's book "Golden Fleece" and shows location of Cambriol relative to Vaughan's transfers to Lord Baltimore and Lord Falkland.

Vaughan wrote with conviction that in Cambriol, many Welsh tenants would be far better off, through a mix of fishing and farming, than at home in Wales.

He devoted much of his adult life trying to realize that dream.

In addition to grants to worthies such as Calvert, Cary and Poyntz, starting in 1617, Vaughan brought over Welsh families - men, women and children; it is a sad situation when we presently do not know even the rough numbers involved, let alone their names.

There is also divided opinion as to whether Sir William spent time in Cambriol; some Welsh sources say he made two trips including one when he had time to write his famous book "The Golden Fleece" on the merits of Cambriol.

In any event, Vaughan spent 21 years on his Cambriol project before being unceremoniously thrown off his lands by Charles I in 1637 in favor of a better connected group led by the Duke of Hamilton and Sir David Kirke.

History simply records that Vaughan's Cambriol project "failed." His deeds and struggle deserve a more careful analysis.

The Sir William Vaughan Trust

The Sir William Vaughan Trust is based in St John's, Newfoundland, and was incorporated as a not-for-profit Trust in March 2012.

The Trust's main objective is to help better understand the Welsh legacy from 17th century Newfoundland and the role played by Sir William Vaughan and his Cambriol settlement. The Trust's objectives also include helping create economic development opportunities for the Town of Trepassy which was likely the capital of Cambriol.

All Board members serve on a voluntary basis; archaeologists and local assistants are hired on a project basis. The Trust conducted archaeological digs on the Lower Coast Trepassy, in 2013 and 2014, recovering 17th century pottery. Another is planned for late fall 1916.

For further information, please contact Cabot Martin, Trust Chair at cabotjwm@gmail.com



Lower Coast which is located just inside the entrance to Trepassy Harbour; this area of the very large harbour had a documented 17th plantation and was once the main area of settlement; given its many advantages we suspect it was where Vaughan's settlement was located and where we are digging.

My Quest for the Descendants of Michael D Jones

By Alun Owen

A ongoing series looking at the search for family history

Part IV

Post Patagonia

Tegai Roberts sadly passed away on 23 April 2014 at the hospital in Trelew. She was a very quiet and modest person and an expert on the history of the Welsh colony, the curator of the Welsh History Museum in Gaiman (now taken over by her nephew, Fabio Gonzales) and, as aforementioned, had been awarded the OBE (as also has her sister Luned Gonzales). I was pleased and privileged that I had met her and spent a short time discussing the family with her and her sister at their Gaiman home.

I have also contacted Dr Arturo Lewis Roberts (Luned and Tegai's brother) in New Jersey to inform him that I was undertaking the quest for MDJ's family tree and to confirm his family details. I have since sent him a copy of the MDJ's family tree and subscribe to his Welsh "Ninnau" newspaper that he has been editing for some years

with his wife Olga. They have recently retired.

Meanwhile I had started corresponding with Iris Spannaus and Elizabeth Dean (Liza) following the short telephone conversations in Buenos Aires. Liza was full of information. With further details and correspondence from her cousin Cristina de Bary von Wuthenau in San Isidro the details of their co-descendants and Mihangel's family and his history began to emerge.

Liza's notes indicate her grandfather Mihangel graduated as a Doctor in Edinburgh University and went out to Chubut in 1888. After two years treating the colonists, he moved to Buenos Aires to revalidate his medical degrees which took him three years. He was offered the post of a doctor in 1893 on the Buenos Aires and Pacific Railway based outside and west of Buenos Aires in Junin. He went to live there and also attended at the local hospital. He married an English lady Florence Hannay in 1898 (who had been visiting her sister and the wife of the Railway's General Engineer). He evidently had his own railway carriage to travel around the network. There is a street in Junin called

Dr. Iwan near the railway line.

In 1912 they moved to Buenos Aires so that their six children could attend school. He also attended the British Hospital there. Every year he returned on holiday to Chubut where he had the *estancia* at *Arroyo Pescado* (Nant y Pysgod) and fished in the nearby *Rio Pescado* and the *Rio Tecka* beyond. It was there he had a stroke when 76 years old which left him very incapacitated. There is some indication that thereafter he could only remember the Welsh language apparently and his Spanish-and English-speaking family had great difficulty communicating with him. His last years were spent in the British Hospital where his son Dr Trevor ap Iwan worked and looked after him. He passed away at the age of 81 in 1944. The obituary item in the Buenos Aires Herald included "The Late Mr ap Iwan - After a long and useful life he finally retired and made his home in Villa Devoto, spending several months in the year at his *estancia* in Tecka and enjoying the fishing in the "Arroyo Pescado" until he became seriously ill."

Iris Spannaus had succumbed to Parkinson's disease and



Liza, Iris and Cristina, in Buenos Aires

eventually found it difficult to write. She had been attempting to build up a family tree of her immediate Argentinian relatives and Llwyd ap Iwan's descendants for some time. Her daughter Patsy provided her notes to me through her brother, now living in Cardiff. These were extremely useful in my quest. Iris very sadly passed away on 16 June 2015.

From all this latest information and all the relatives' names coming to the fore, it emerged that some of them were here and living in the UK. Many sessions and hours spent trawling

through the Internet, eventually revealed some contact details and by further queries on the telephone, found relatives and their families living in Edinburgh, Gloucestershire, Yorkshire and areas of south Wales. I have spoken to them and also met and visited some of them. Inevitably, there is a handful of relatives still to be found whether here or abroad.

Continued in the next edition of Ninnau

Welsh Ministers: William Williams-The Sweet Singer of Wales

By Thomas Lawton Jones

As King David, “the sweet psalmist of Israel,” translated the heart cries and aspirations of God’s ancient people into poetry and song, so William Williams of Pantycelyn, “the sweet singer of Wales,” set the heart, soul, and spirit of Wales singing during the eighteenth century revival. Author H. Elvet Lewis wrote: “What Paul Gerhardt has been to Germany, what Isaac Watts has been to England, that and more has been William Williams of Pantycelyn.” His over 800 hymns have comforted, encouraged, and inspired Welshmen from the shepherd, blacksmith, and miner of old to today’s computer programmer, health-care worker, and automotive technician.

William Williams was born in 1717 at Cyfn-y-Coed, Llanfair-ar-y-bryn, Carmarthenshire. His father was a deacon in an independent congregation in Carmarthenshire at a time when nonconformist churches were outlawed and persecuted. During times of persecution, the congregation met in a cave at twilight. Williams’s father died when the boy was very young, and his mother devoted herself to his care. He attended the Dissenting Academy of Llwynllwyd, near Talgarth in pursuit of a medical career. But passing through Talgarth one Sunday morning, he found the direction

of his career, and indeed of his whole life, altered.

After attending a lackluster service in the Establish Church of Talgarth, Williams witnessed an unusual event. Instead of making their way home, the parishioners gathered around a short, stout man standing upon a gravestone. Expectation and a good measure of apprehension showed on the faces of the crowd. As the preacher boomed out his call for repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, some wept, some fainted, and some cursed as though demons were crying out! That preacher was Howell Harris, who had been stirring the fires of revival across the principality. (See *Ninnau*, May-June, 2016) Williams, wrote Elvet Lewis, “came out of that historic churchyard with the light of eternity in his eyes.” He turned his attention to the ministry, and within three years, in 1740, he was ordained a deacon in the Established Church, ministering at Llanwrtyd, Llanfihangel, and Llanddewi Abergwesyn.

In spite of – or perhaps because of – his energetic, fervent preaching, which was attended with impressive results, the Anglican prelates would not grant Williams ordination as a priest, and even censured him for, among other things, not making the sign of the cross at baptisms and holding services in unauthorized places of worship. After his troubling experience in the



William Williams

Anglican Church, Williams came “under the influence of (George) Whitefield, who urged him to go forth to the highways to proclaim the glad tidings. And preach he did from Holyhead to Cardiff [traveling] on an average 3,000 miles every year for fifty years.” (Lewis 33)

Williams joined the Methodist Revival and became “the ablest conductor of the societies that were springing into existence” (R.Tudur Jones). He was uniquely gifted with the ability to help new believers with their personal problems and anxieties. Williams was also the most prolific author of

the Revival era, publishing some ninety titles. Yet his greatest contribution was his hymns, over 800 of them, that gave vivid expression to the spiritual aspirations of Christians across Wales. “His hymns seemed to fly abroad as on the wings of the wind, and soon became the sacred ballads of the whole nation. As Luther sang Germany into Protestantism, so did Williams sing the Wales of the eighteenth century into piety” (Lewis 33). Though most of Williams’s hymns remain in the Welsh language exclusively, some have found a treasured place in English hymnals and continue to bless English-speaking congregations around the globe. The most famous of these is *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*, later set to the stirring tune by John Hughes, *Cwm Rhondda*. Who can forget the moving scene in *How Green Was My Valley* as the miners wend their way home singing that tune in four-part harmony!

A generation later, the great Welsh preacher Christmas Evans (*Ninnau*, November-December 2015) found comfort on his deathbed from a Williams hymn. H. Elvet Lewis poetically describes the scene:

It was a verse of his that Christmas Evans—one of the immortal ‘three’ of the Welsh pulpit—sang when nearing home; taking it as a staff in his hand, ‘and smiting Jordan with it, so that the waters were divid-

ed hither and thither, and he went over on dry ground’:

O Thou Righteousness eternal!

Righteousness of boundless store!

Soon my naked, hungry spirit

Must enjoy Thee evermore.

Hide my nakedness, oh! hide it,

With Thy robe of shining white;

So that, fearless, I may ever

Stand before Thy throne of light.

William Williams made his own passage from his family farm at Pantycelyn into heavenly glory on 11 January 1791. Nevertheless, “he being dead yet speaketh” through the deeply spiritual verses he has left us.

Resources

Jones, R. Tudur, “William Williams (of Pantycelyn) (1717-1791),” *The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church*, 1978 ed.

Lewis, H. Elvet, *A Story of Welsh Hymns and Their Authors, With Original Translations*. London: Religious Tract Society.

Roberts, Rev. Gomer Morgan, *Y Per Ganiedydd*, at <<http://yba.llgc.org.uk/en/s-WILL-WIL-1717.html>>

The Welsh at Mametz Wood

By James Thomas

The Welsh at Mametz Wood is a series of pieces on this battle in July 1916 that still reverberates in Wales today. Several poets who served in Welsh units in or near Mametz during the Somme Campaign in the First World War remembered it in verse. Other writers are more recent. Rewritten from the first versions posted on the St. David’s Society of New York website Blog, these pages will now appear in *Ninnau*. I would also like to note the useful prose of Phil Carradice from BBC Wales History, Andrew Dickson of *The Guardian*, and author Andrew Green of *gwallter*, “a blog and more from Swansea.”

“Some Cursed Wood”

On 4 July 1916, near Mametz Wood, Lieutenant Siegfried Sassoon noted in his diary his previous day’s activity. Throwing grenades, he had cleared a German trench and forced the defenders to flee. He then, according to Robert Graves, his fellow officer and poet in the Royal Welsh, sat down to read a book of verse. The scheduled Fusilier attack was delayed while Sassoon relaxed. Patrols, i.e., Sassoon, were still “out.” His commander raged, “I’d have got you a DSO if you’d only shown more sense.”

Three days earlier the British assault on the First Day of the Somme had taken the village of Mametz but the Lehr Regiment, Prussian Guards Division, still held Mametz Wood 1,000 yards to the northeast. On that day alone, 1 July, the British army endured the worst single day ever for the British military in one of the bloodiest battles ever



Mametz Wood (detail), Edward Handley-Read, 1916

fought in human history. That square mile of woods was the next objective.

On 3 July, a close friend of Sassoon’s was killed by a sniper. Enraged, depressed, and horrified, the poet jumped under covering fire and rushed the enemy trench with “bombs.” The Germans prudently fled. “Mad Jack” as he became known, missed another chance at death himself, but on 27 July he was awarded the Military Cross “for conspicuous gallantry” under fire recovering British wounded. In between those dates, Mametz Wood was waiting. British Field Marshall Douglas Haig demanded its capture.

To relieve pressure on the French defending against the German attack at Verdun to the southeast, a northern front was planned for the Somme in Picardy. Part of it included the village of La Boisselle, where the opening attack started on 1 July with the land mines Lochnagar and Y Sap blasting

German trenches. Further north lay Mametz. British gains on 1 July were consolidated, but the Wood was left in German hands. The British 7th Division, including Lt. Sassoon’s Fusilier battalion, attacked but failed on 4 July.

With Mametz Wood still held by the Prussian Lehrs, the next assault on was planned for 7 July, led by the 38th (Welsh) Division. Originally envisioned by Prime Minister David Lloyd George as the Welsh Army Corps, this unit drew volunteers from across the Principality and from English cities. New battalions were added to the established Welsh Fusiliers, South Wales Borderers, and the Welsh Regiment. Due to lack of supply, some recruits learned tactics and the manual of arms with brooms, not rifles.

After a short artillery barrage, the whistles blew at 8 am that Saturday morning. Over the top toward “Happy Valley” marched the men of the Welsh

and the Borderers Regiments, but German machine gun fire enfiladed the advancing lines. The Welsh moved northwest toward the trees while hidden emplacements erupted with automatic weapons fire from “the Hammerhead” section on their right flank. Later the historian of the 16th Welsh dryly noted that “‘Cut to Ribbons’ would be an apt description.”

A second attack across what was now “Death Valley” bogged down and a third wave never charged. Corps commander Lt. Gen. Henry Horne ordered a second day of attacks but conflicting messages caused confusion. No assault occurred. He then summoned 38th division commander Maj. Gen. Ivor Phillips back to headquarters and sacked the Welsh general. Philips had balked at ordering unprotected soldiers into

machine gun fire. To Gen. Haig that was inexcusable and blamed Phillips’s weakness for the failure.

More rumors flew because the division had failed to advance with spirit, a polite way of saying that the Welsh were cowards. That lie was shattered in hand-to-hand fighting during the next assault on 10/11 July. Mametz Wood was cleared of Germans and the Welsh took almost 4,000 casualties reported in the news accounts. Official numbers were 3,993 casualties, wounded and missing in action, with 602 killed.

Earlier on 3 July, Sassoon had written down his poem “At Carnoy” before his Fusilier battalion attack, which ended with the words “Tomorrow we must go/To take some cursed Wood...O world God made!

Holiday Cottage for Rent

Bryn Tirion,
Wern Bach, Llanfair T.H.,
Abergele, Conwy, Wales
Tele/fax : 01745 720 308

E/mail: jones.fishwick@btinternet.com

Single storey cottage next to the owner's home, situated by a quiet minor road above the Elwy Valley, 2 miles NE of the village of Llanfair Talhaiarn and 5 miles south of the coast and market town of Abergele. The accommodation comprises a spacious double bedroom with ensuite shower room, fitted kitchen/diner including microwave, and an attractive beamed lounge area with TV. Gas central heating is included in the price and an extra single bed or travel cot is available by arrangement. Lovely walks with panoramic views. There is a public footpath to the village of Llanfair T H (tennis courts), a trout farm with bar/meals 2 miles away; also local reservoirs to fish. Very convenient for Snowdonia and the coast. Tariff available on request.

Years ago, when I was learning Welsh at Lampeter College, one of my teachers had us read "Trychineb Aberfan." It was a turning point in my love of Wales, for it brought home the dreadful suffering of industrial workers and their families as well as the beauty of the language. I began working on an English translation on the flight home to the United States.

The Aberfan Disaster

Behind a veil of fog which hid the coal tips from the villagers
Suddenly shot, from beneath Tip Seven, water, shiny, black, greasy,
Tearing a channel for the loose, slick torrent behind it,
Which carried with it bricks, trees, boulders and tram cars
And the remains of two cottages, Hafod-Tanglwys-Uchaf.
Its sound was like the screaming of a jet flying very low.
Before it stood Pant-glas School like a living dam: the mud
Swept away the fence, darkened the windows, shifted the walls,
And at one end climbed as high as the roof, then fell
Upon the heads of the children and the brave teachers: and flowed through
the school and over it,
Killing inhabitants in their houses, crushing homes and motorcars.
Then a sudden, solid silence: no bird was heard singing,
Nor a single child crying: one sensed nothing but the stench of death.

The residents, and the miners who knew them, of course,
And strangers of all sorts, from Beatniks to the Salvation Army,
Dug, shoveled, and clawed in the school and outside it for bodies,
Carried them to a shed nearby, washed them, and lay them in blankets.
Some bodies and faces had been deformed by the mud, others
Had been shattered, and the shattered were wrapped in blankets
With orders that no one should open them: and the ambulance cars ferried them
To Bethania, with a policeman inside, and a line of fathers outside
Waiting to identify them: one-hundred-sixteen children, and twenty-eight adults.
Had ever a chapel in Wales, on the main floor and in the gallery,
A congregation so odd, and in its schoolhouse pupils so mute?

The sludge of Tip Seven covered Aberfan like Bethlehem and Rama;
Rama, where Rachel wept for her children for they were no more
And she would not be comforted: but the enemy took those captive children
To Babilon, and in captivity they were at least alive,
And where there is life there is hope. Herod beheaded children
With the sword at Bethlehem, yet although the children were corpses their mothers
Recognized them. If death, better death by the sword than death by sludge.
Mothers of Aberfan wept broken-hearted, especially the mothers of children
Unidentified; wept the most pitiful tears of the twentieth century; deeper tears
Than the tears of Bethlehem's mothers, and even Rachel's tears.
Some mothers stood like statues near the stinking flood believing
The whole thing was a nightmare, a nightmare from their sleep the night before.
Some were jealous of living children; and others furious with God
For not descending from heaven to stop the tip from spewing death.
Some sought their children's murderer to hang him on the Hanging Tree.
Parents felt the arms of eternity closing around them, holding them,
Upholding their broken faith in Christ, and their shattered hope in God.
No member can ever worship Him again in Bethania Chapel
For the bodies of their children lay there, and they gone with no farewell,
No cry and no caress.

Costly coal was throughout the years in South Wales for it was red
With the blood of the young and the middle-aged, like the streams of blood that were lost
In Senghennydd, a village not far from Aberfan: but today
It is more costly still because the blood of innocents is added to all that. The tips
We played on, loved on, lived in their shadow, and snatched chunks
Of coal from in time of strike, we can no longer look upon
Without redness in our eyes, without remembering horror and the weight of guilt.
Why, O Lord, didst thou make the valleys of South Wales so sodden and narrow?
Oh yes, Keir Hardie used to maintain that the piles should be buried
In the empty bowels of the mines to prevent collapses, gas, and floods:
But the modern Socialists believe like the capitalists of yore
That production is more valuable than workers, expenses more than homes.

There is depth in suffering; it is this depth that pulls
Men, women, and children near to one another. This suffering,
More than anything, has built in the South communities so close,
A society so human. Not only had the village the sympathy of Wales,
But the sympathy of all the free world. The mayor of Longarone came
All the way from the north of Italy to shake hands with the parents of Aberfan,
For the dam of the Piave River broke, killing the village's inhabitants
Including the children, but they drowned in clean waters.
They got no sympathy from Communist countries since the disaster.
Surely, was a disaster of capitalism; but they've the same kind of system
As that alien, bureaucratic Behemoth, the Coal Board
In Wales.

They made their escape from the village to Egypt, did Mary, Joseph, and the baby
When the children were killed; and they returned to it after the old butcher died.
But when the baby grew to be a young man he himself drank,
At Gethsemene, the cup full of the wretchedness of man and anger of God.
And while hanging, between two thieves, on the Cross, the blood upon him like a gown,
Even he lost hold of his Father, in the terrifying darkness after the eclipse;
And his mother stood nearby, the sword having pierced her heart
With weeping at such a barbaric death: her Son was crucified
By the powers of death that work in religious men, politicians, and common folk.
He plummeted to depths deeper than the passion of Aberfan,
The depths of demonic man and the depths of eternal God. From his wounds
And the blood of his head flowed to us sinners the justification, atonement,
Forgiveness and love; and with our hands strengthened by grace we will grasp
The bond that binds us to him; a bond no disaster can sever.
On the piece of land above is a large flowered cross, and at its head
Bouquets from San Remo; and on the graves the small, neighborly crosses;
And on every grave is a name, save the grave of the unknown bodies.
Cross of our faith and our salvation. Cross of righteousness and of love.

Gwenallt
Translated from the Welsh by Anne Knowles,
1989/2016



National Library Opens Aberfan Exhibit

By Elin Williams

On the morning of Friday, 21 October 1966, tragedy struck a small mining village in south Wales. The valley around Aberfan had been piled high with spoil from the nearby Merthyr Vale Colliery, and shortly after 9am, 'Tip 7' began to move.

Within minutes a vast landslide of shale and coal dust hurtled down the mountain, mixing with underlying water and engulfing everything in its path. One thousand tonnes of colliery spoil wiped away two farm cottages, several houses, and tore into the side of Pantglas Junior School.

The disaster took the lives of 144 people, 116 of them children, triggering a profoundly emotional response not only in Wales but also throughout the international community.

Thousands rushed to help with the rescue effort while sympathies and financial support poured in from other countries as well.

Over a period of fifty years since that black October in 1966, a myriad of poets, writers, photographers, musicians,

media professionals and others have commemorated the tragedy and the lives lost in their own unique way.

A special exhibition will be arranged at The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth from the 17th of September until the 14th of January 2017 which will focus on the response to the disaster, and allow the Library itself to remember that which was lost.

The exhibition will include: Various photographs of the disaster and the days that followed

Remembrance; literature; including poetry; and articles
A collection of stills from ITV Cymru Wales news programmes

A coal installation which has been created especially for this exhibition to remember anew, fifty years later.

During this period, there will also be an opportunity to see a photographic collection by I.C. Rapoport as part of **The Days After** exhibition which commemorates the Aberfan disaster and record the residents' attempts to come to terms with life after the tragedy.

Church Directory

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

33 Melrose Avenue
Toronto, Canada
Tel: 416-485-7583

English Service - 11 am, every
Sunday

Welsh Service - 7 pm
(First Sunday of the month, Sept. to
June)

CROESO / WELCOME

Eglwys y Cymry The Welsh Congregation of the City of New York

236 West 73rd Street
New York, NY 10023

Rev. Matthew P Harrington
Bilingual Services

Second Sunday of the month at 3 pm
Exception is May, third Sunday

CROESO - WELCOME

Information: 212-664-0734

Rehoboth Capel Cymraeg Delta, PA - Cardiff, MD

1029 Atom Road
Delta, PA 17314

Rev. Richard Price Baskwill,
Pastor (nondenominational)
Meeting every Sunday
at the church:

5 pm Welsh Language Study
6 pm Bilingual Service

Gymanfa Ganu - First weekend in
May

Bryn Seion Welsh Church, est. 1884

22132 S. Kamrath Rd,
Beavercreek, Oregon 97004

Rev. Greg Tatman
Non-denominational, bilingual
services held every
second and fourth Sundays of the
month at 11:00 am
followed by a potluck lunch

Chapter 4. “Rough Life of the Mining Pioneers; Reese Hughes Speaks of the Troubles Incident to Camp Life and the Early Days of the West; Dinner with Lord Vivian.”

Reese Hughes migrated from South Wales to Carbondale, Pa. with his family in 1833. He entered the anthracite mines as a boy, became a mine boss, an owner-manager, and then travelled extensively as a mineral prospector and consultant. His friends convinced him to commit his life story to paper, and between June 1913 and February 1914 the eighty-five year old Hughes published his reminiscences in *The Druid*, a Welsh American newspaper. They appeared in five chapters one of which is reprinted below.—Ronald Lewis

The voyage from New York to Liverpool was vividly resurrected in my mind by the terrible calamity to the Titanic, for we were caught in ice floats among the mountainous bergs and were detained for six hours. Fortunate we were that both the wind and sea were calm. The S. S. City of Glasgow traveling in the opposite direction to us was lost at the time, and doubtless among the icebergs we encountered.

I found my grandfather well at the advanced age of 87, in which year I find myself now since last April. Nevertheless, he was spry both in body and mind, and as keen as ever for news of the great country across the Atlantic. We spent nine months with him, traveling through various parts of Wales, England and we visited Cork and [the premises] of Killarney, in Ireland.

I was honored, in company with my grandfather of course, with an evening dinner in the palace of Lord Vivian, who twenty years previous had rigged up his Elizabeth Cook to carry us to New York.

Fourteen of his special guests were in attendance, two of them from London, and I served as the special but of questions concerning America—its modes and customs. Being illiterate and never before having attend-

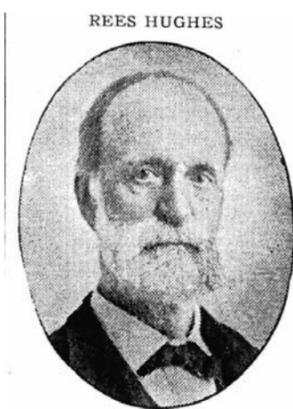
ed such a company, style and occasion, my predicament can be imagined much easier than I can picture it; the desire uppermost in me was to have a knot-hole in the floor and crawl through it somewhere out of sight. However, grandfather said that I had acquitted myself very well!

We visited London and some of its chief attractions, and grandfather, as a retired Admiral, was presented to the Queen in Buckingham Palace and she told him that she did not remember seeing an admiral before in the 88th year of his age.

In January, 1854, we sailed for home, bringing with me grandfather's mahogany chest of tools, instruments and some relics which I have in my possession to this day.

Landing in Philadelphia we visited for some days with my brother, Joseph, of the Columbia Iron Works, and then by train to Tamaqua, Pa., where I met Ed. Morgan, one of the boys in the company at Harrisburg for the Mexican war! He was the mining boss for Mr. Bowman and gave me a good job robbing pillars [the dangerous job of removing pillars of coal that supported the mine roof before a section was abandoned] where I made excellent pay.

After that I took contracts under John Powell, assistant superintendent for the Lehigh Valley Coal Co., where I was advanced to be a mining boss. Not satisfied with fifty dollars a month pay for that work, in the fall of 1856 I undertook to sink a shaft for the Passaic Company in Luken Valley, four miles from Bethlehem, Pa., the shaft, however, did not prove successful, but I found a good deposit of zinc ore about a quarter of a mile distant. In August, 1857, I assumed charge of the Ogdensburg Zinc mine in Sussex County, New Jersey, for



REES HUGHES
The Venerable Welsh Patriarch of Carbondale Whose Memory Is So Clear.

the same company, and in the same year I discovered the Hematite iron ore vein two miles from Hellertown for the Hockendaqua Iron Company. This was one of the busiest years of my life, for after this that I have related I was sent, in October, to Davidson County, North Carolina, to open a zinc and lead mine, called afterward the Silverhill Mine, and which was very rich in both zinc and lead. Here I had to engage slaves from their masters on the plantation to do all the menial work of the mine. In 1858 I discovered the Davidson Copper Mine for a company in Baltimore, Maryland. These mines proved very successful until the James Buchanan panic [a serious financial recession that struck the nation in 1857 the same year Buchanan took office as U.S. President] demoralized everything in the year 1859, when I was ordered to close the mines, stop everything but the pumps, and sell the horses. Then I came North and went prospecting in the Adirondacks for Messrs. Hall and Brady of New York City, and discovered a good sample of graphite (black lead) near the outlet of Lake George, eight miles from Ticonderoga on Lake

Champlain. After this, in company with Charles P. Williams of Philadelphia, I discovered the first nickel ore in America in Lancaster County, Pa. We did not know what it was and could not find out until we came across an old Swiss chemist in Newark, N.J. who analyzed and reduced some of the ore for us. Then Joseph Warton, of Philadelphia, for whom I was working, built a smelting works at Camden, N.J., which proved very successful, for Mr. Warton induced the government and contracted with it for so much nickel to be used in currency and which is used to this day. About this time Mr. E.K. Garretson of New York City desired a man to go to California to open a gold mine and put up a quartz mill. Mr. Weatherall, secretary of the Passaic Company granted me a leave of absence for a year, and I started for California taking with me three men, Thomas Morgan of Tamaqua, Evan Wildin of Summit Hill, and Thomas Williams of Friendship, Lehigh County. We went by boat from New York city down to Aspinwall, then crossed the Isthmus of Panama on Mexican ponies to the Pacific and then by boat to San Francisco. It took us twenty-three days from New York. I had a map of the claim and location, which was on the first plateau of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, near the Little Silver Creek—a tributary to the South Euba River five miles below. We had a great trouble to find it and some hardship in starting to work for it was fourteen miles from the nearest camp. Two teams of oxen were used to carry supplies from Marysville, sixty-eight miles away. We worked hard and on October the 9th the mill was put in operation by water power—18 feet wheel and a sixteen stamp battery. The venture proved very successful throughout.

November the 4th was Lincoln's first election, at the mine we were fourteen men and we all sent our names, as requested by the Justice of the county capital, and voted by proxy for Lincoln. On December the 3rd a general cleaning up was instituted at the mill for we had worked it now six weeks and two days, and the result was we cleared \$6,215. The snow by this time was very deep—five feet on the mountain and much deeper in the canyon. However, it interfered but very little with our work for we had the camp well stocked with provisions, and the little travelling we did from it was on Norwegian snow shoes.

On March the 12th Mr. George Bissell took charge for my time was up, therefore I left for the East and landed in New York City, April 10th, 1861.

The atmosphere here was surcharged with rumors of war, and I was ordered immediately by the company in New York to North Carolina to place five tons of powder in the Silverhill Mine to blow it up should it be confiscated. I was there three weeks doing the work and after instructing John Udy the pump on what and how to do in the emergency, left for New York, when, to my horror, on arriving at Portsmouth the blockade with Confederate marine vessels was on. I was forced to remain here more than three weeks, and I was in a terrible state of mind fearing lest my career would end in the southern army by conscript. However, fate would not have it to be so, by a little diplomacy on my part with one of the chief officers of the marines who visited the hotel where I stayed, daily, and his sympathy, of course, and the aid of some prominent men in New York, I got back safely. (to be continued)

[*The Druid*, 22 January 1914, p.7]

Obituaries

Eleanor Margaret “Peggy” Speakman

Eleanor Margaret “Peggy” Speakman, age 91, of Pickerington, Ohio, died Sunday, August 21, 2016. She was born January 16, 1925, in Mansfield, Ohio, to the late Samuel and Margaret Morgan. She was the youngest of four children and the first one in her family to be born in the United States, but she was always proud of her Welsh heritage.



Peggy Speakman

Peggy graduated from Mansfield Senior High School and attended the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore prior to her marriage in 1945 to the love of her life, Joseph C., who predeceased her in 2008. She retired in 1982 after many years as an operator supervisor at the Ohio Bell Telephone Company and she remained a member of the Ohio Bell Pioneers.

As an active member of East Baptist Church, Peggy taught Sunday School and Bible School, while also singing in the choir and serving in many other ways. She participated in the “Families in Touch” program and was involved in the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). She was also part of the Violet Township Women's League, the Red Hat Society of Pickerington and attended classes for Silver Sneakers. She continued to have an artistic flair all her life through sewing, quilt-

ing, and watercolor painting. Peggy was a member of the Pickerington Senior Center, where she was still taking watercolor classes and attending other social events.

Peggy was a vital member of the Welsh Society of Central Ohio. Peggy was in charge of the Tea Room during the 1998 Columbus National (granddaughter, Anne Speakman, in Welsh costume, helped her grandmother in the tea room), and served as a greeter in the 2015 Columbus NAFOW Marketplace/Tea Room (along with her daughter Becky Crownover and granddaughter Lisa Zacharias – three generations!). She frequently attended the WNGGA/WNAA celebrations in other cities, for many years accompanied by her husband Joe.

Peggy served on the WSCO Board of Directors for ten years and then, with ex officio Board status, was the Editor of Dragon Tales until she was ready to retire from the job in 2006. Peggy continued her connection with the newsletter via her Welsh cookery column.

While she was on the Board during the '90s, Peggy oversaw the tea back after WSCO's annual gymnafanu and there was usually a batch of her Welsh tea cakes to enjoy at the tea. During the years that WSCO had a booth at the annual Columbus International Festival, there was Peggy with tea cakes (her own and some cooked by her son Joe's family).

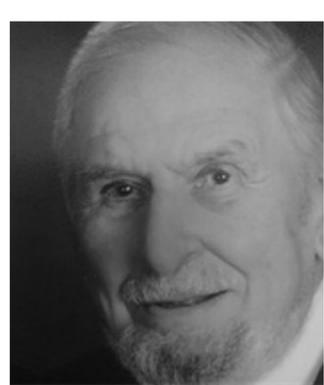
Peggy was always seen at WSCO's annual events – the St. David's Day flag-raising and luncheon, summer potluck picnic, and autumn gymnafanu and tea back -- often accompanied by one or more members of her family.

Peggy visited Wales several times, and stayed in touch with a nephew who lives there.

Peggy will be dearly missed, not only by her immediate family, of whom she was always so very proud, and her extended family of nieces, nephews and cousins, but also by all of her many friends, including her loyal cat, Louie.

David Joseph Jones

David Joseph Jones of Newtown Square, PA died peacefully at home surrounded by family on August 25th, 2016 at the age of 79. He was the son of the late, David J. Jones and Mary Ellen Lynch Jones. He was a graduate of Gettysburg College, where he served as President of Sigma Chi fraternity.



David Joseph Jones

Mr. Jones served honorably in the U.S. Army Intelligence. Mr. Jones worked in Sales and Marketing for the Pension Group of CIGNA for 26 years.

He was an active member of the Welsh Society of Philadelphia, serving as past president. As a member of Newtown Square Church for 48 years, he sang in the church choir for 12 years.

Mr. Jones took great joy in collecting and restoring antique carriages, sleighs and furniture as well as landscaping and gardening around his home. He enjoyed woodworking projects, American and European history and classical music.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Margot G. Jones; sons,

NINNAU & Y DRYCH
The North American Welsh Newspaper®

Wales Review

(Continued from page 14)

line at Garn Wen behind Harbour Village, had become overgrown and many local people were unaware of their existence. The undergrowth has been cleared, new interpretive panels put in and a footpath created and fenced off which connects the site with the already-established link to the coast path and creates several circular routes. The tombs are thought to date back to between 4000BC and 2500BC. It is believed that they were used as burial sites for important members of society. The dead would have been placed in the chamber along with their possessions and originally would have been covered with earth.

A PIECE OF ART believed to be a copy and kept in a Welsh museum's storeroom has been valued as a £3million masterpiece. The work in question is actually an early version of Meleager and Atalanta by Jacob Jordaens - one of the leading Flemish Baroque painters of the 17th century. The artwork has been valued at £3 million and its discovery at Swansea Museum has been heralded as "a great and astonishing find" by Ben van Beneden, the director of Antwerp's Rubenshuis museum. He authenticated the work, which had been partially painted over by a restorer in the 1970s. Swansea Museum is thought to have owned the work for nearly 150 years, but it was not known who painted it.

AN UNMANNED boat sent by a school in the USA has washed up on the Pembrokeshire coast three months after it set sail. Students from Kent School in Maryland launched The Osprey with a time capsule onboard off the New Jersey coast on 13 June and tracked it across the ocean. Robert Morgan from Tenby found the boat in Swanlake bay, near Manorbier, while collecting rubbish from the beach. The outside of the vessel contained a message in English and Spanish asking whoever found it to deliver it to the local "middle school" - or pupils aged 12-14 - who they said would find a list of email addresses and other items inside, and asking them to contact the school.

A MONMOUTHSHIRE cider company have become the first producer to win back-to-back top prizes at the prestigious Great Taste awards. More than 300 guests were present to see Ben and Stephanie Culpin of Apple County Cider Co accept their award at the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington, London. The Monmouth-based company's "Dabinett Medium Cider" finished ahead of 10,000 products to win the award, becoming the first company in the 12-year history of the awards to win consecutively. The company made the top 50 and top 15 shortlists before eventually being announced the overall winner.

SWANSEA UNIVERSITY has been ranked the best in Wales for the first time in a new league table of higher education institutions. In a significant shifting of power, Swansea knocked Cardiff University off its perch and into second place in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide. Despite dropping three places to 44th in the UK, Swansea is the top in Wales by virtue of Cardiff's sharp slide to 46th - from 33rd last year. The gap between the two city-based institutions has narrowed in recent years, but Swansea's rise

will nevertheless come as a surprise to many within Wales's higher education sector. Until this year, Cardiff had been the highest-ranked Welsh university in every edition of The Times and The Sunday Times league tables since they were first published in 1998. Elsewhere in Wales, Aberystwyth University has risen to third in the country, replacing Bangor which has slipped into fourth.

A D-DAY veteran from Ebbw Vale has been honored for the part he played in the liberation of France. Thomas Price, 91, received the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest award at a ceremony in Ebbw Vale. The Blaenau Gwent man served in the Royal Engineers and landed on Gold Beach during Operation Overlord, the codename given to the Normandy landings. The Sapper, who joined the army aged only 17 1/2, helped with the disembarkation of troops from landing craft during the landings and later worked clearing mines from the beaches. Prior to the invasion he was involved in maneuvers using landing craft across the south coast of Britain, even landing at Tenby. After the Battle of Normandy he served throughout northwest Europe and assisted with the liberation of the notorious Belsen concentration camp. He also worked as a train driver for the army, seeing service in Libya and Palestine. In civilian life he continued to work on the railways when he also became a union activist.

FOUR OUT OF five tourist businesses in Wales say their summer was at least as busy as 2015's recording-breaking year, a government survey shows. Good weather and more people deciding to stay in the UK are believed to be behind the findings, in the Wales Tourism Barometer Survey of 922 firms. Caravan and campsites did particularly well, with 67 percent reporting they were busier than in 2015.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have uncovered the remains of at least six people hidden under a church floor on Anglesey. The bones were discovered during a project to clean and restore a rare alabaster stone tomb at St. Gredifael's Church near Menai Bridge. The tomb at Penmynydd is of Goronwy Tudur and his wife Myfanwy - part of Tudor family dynasty. Experts believe the bones could have been disturbed after earlier Victorian renovations. Archaeologists at the site said it had been a custom to bury the rich inside the church, and over time most of those bodies would be moved to graves outside. However, in the case of St. Gredifael's it is clear those human skeletons remained. The church no longer holds services but because of its links to the Tudor kings and queens of Britain it holds an important place in history.

PETER EDWARDS, a former Head of Drama at HTV Wales, has died. He was executive producer of gritty Valleys drama Nuts and Bolts, the twice-weekly serial that ran on HTV Wales between 1999 and 2002. He was also director of A Mind to Kill, the 1990s detective drama starring Philip Madoc that was sold to over 90 countries. Peter Edwards was most recently the co-founder and managing director of Welsh independent production company Barefoot Rascals which produced a number of factual entertainment series for ITV Wales. During his career, he worked on

both Welsh and English language productions. He was also a launch director on the BBC's EastEnders. A native of north-east Wales, Peter Edwards was the son of the late actor and writer Meredith Edwards. He was 68.

SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE'S first dedicated Welsh school has opened. Ysgol Hafan Y Mor has been built in Tenby in response to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education in the area. It opens along with the English-medium Tenby Church in Wales VC primary school, and together they cater for children aged three to eleven years. The two new schools represent an £8.37m investment in education in the town from Pembrokeshire council and the Welsh Government.

TINY REBEL was named best U.K. brewery at an international industry awards ceremony. In addition to being named best U.K. brewery, the brewer also scooped three other medals at the International Beer Challenge. These included Gold medals for Cali and flagship beer Cwtch as well as a Bronze medal in the Stout and Porters category. Judged by leading industry figures the awards attract entries from over 30 countries. The Newport-based brewer has won a succession of prestigious awards this summer including medals at the Great British Beer Festival where they collected Silver in the Bitter category and Bronze in Best Bitter. Organized by the Campaign for Real Ale, the Great British Beer Festival is one of the most significant and well-attended beer festivals in the world. Of the hundreds of producers present, only eight - including Tiny Rebel - were formally invited to have a brewery bar at the event. The Tiny Rebel bar proved to be especially popular with over 15,500 glasses of beer enjoyed by visitors over the five days of the festival.

AN APP TO help people living with dementia reclaim their memories will be trialed as part of a new project. The Book of You allows patients and their carers to create a digital life story book using photos, words, music and film and encourages conversations about their lives. It has been developed by a Denbighshire firm and backed by Bangor University. Professor Bob Woods, from the Dementia Services Development Centre Wales at Bangor University, said the project was a "landmark step forward in the battle to defeat dementia." Developed by The Book of You CIC, the app is one of two chosen for the UK-wide study by the innovation foundation Nesta as part of its Dementia Citizens project.

A NEW headstone will be erected at Llandyfriog Church on Saturday to preserve the memory of Thomas Heslop - the victim of the last fatal duel fought in Wales on 10 September, 1814. The chest-tomb of the West Indian who was killed in a duel against John Beynon, can be found in the church grounds, but the writing on the headstone has been eroded by the weather and a new one is needed. As well as the unveiling of the new headstone, a dedication of plaque to commemorate the Last Duel in Wales has also been made and is erected at the entrance gates with bilingual information and a map.

DEWCH I SIARAD

(Ann M. Jones)

GWERS 139

We've already looked at the concise Future Tense forms of regular verbs in Gwersi 121 - 126. As you know by now, there are 5 main irregular verbs in Welsh - 'bod' (to be), 'mynd' (to go), 'dod' (to come), 'cael' (to have) and 'gwneud' (to do / make).

Yn ein gwers ddiwethaf (In our last lesson) fe edrychwn ni ar ffurfiau cryno Dyfodol 'dod' (we looked at the concise Future forms of 'dod' - 'to come').

Yn y wers 'ma (In this lesson) fe edrychwn ni ar ffurfiau cryno Dyfodol 'cael' (we'll look at the concise Future forms of 'cael' - 'to have' - 'I will have' as opposed to the 'long' Future Tense 'I will be having').

GEIRFA

cryno-	concise	gyda	-with
eleni-	this year	gan-	from (a person)
ffurf(iau)-	form(s)	hwyl	-fun
canlyniad(au)	result(s)	llyfr	book
llyfrgell f.	-library	cwrw	beer
dewis	choice	anrheg	-present, gift
sglodion	-chips, (Fri)	escaniatâd	-permission

1. Ffuriau cryno Dyfodol (The concise or 'short' Future Tense forms of) 'cael'

Fe / Mi ga(f) i	-	I'll have
Fe / Mi gawn ni	-	We'll have
Fe / Mi gei di	-	You'll have
Fe / Mi gewch chi	-	You'll have
Fe / Mi gaiff e/hi	-	He/She'll have
Fe / Mi gân nhw	-	They'll have
Fe / Mi gaiff Tom	-	Tom will have
Fe ga' i ginio yn y dre'.		
- I'll have lunch (dinner) in town.		
Mi gaiff y plant hwyl yn y parc gyda Mary.		
- The children will have fun in the park with Mary.		
Fe gawn ni'r canlyniadau yfory.		
- We'll have the results tomorrow.		

Remember that the direct object of all 'short' verbs (Future and Past Tenses) undergoes a Soft Mutation - if it is indefinite (i.e. it does not have 'the' in front of it).

Fe ga' i lyfr yn y llyfrgell	BUT
Fe ga' i'r llyfr yn y llyfrgell.	
Mi gaiff o bapur yn y siop.	BUT
Mi gaiff o'r papur yn y siop.	

2. As with the regular verbs, we form the negatives by dropping the positive markers 'Fe / Mi' and adding 'ddim'.

But notice that the initial mutation is different. All verbs beginning with c, p or t undergo an Aspirate Mutation in the concise negative forms. (c > ch p > ph t > th)

Cha(f) i ddi	-	I won't have
Chawn ni ddim	-	We won't have
Chei di ddim	-	You won't have
Chewch chi ddim	-	You won't have
Chaiff hi ddim	-	He/She won't have
Chân nhw ddim	-	They won't have
Chaiff Tom ddim car newydd eleni.		
- Tom won't have a new car this year.		
Chei di ddim cwrw yn y picnic.		
- You won't have beer at the picnic.		
Chân nhw ddim dewis.		
- They won't have (any) choice.		
Chawn ni ddim swper heno.		
- We won't have (any) supper tonight.		

3. To form direct questions, just drop the positive marker 'Fe / Mi' - reverting to the Soft Mutation at the beginning of the verb. And to reply, use the verb itself.

Gaiff Tom anrheg gan ei frawd?	-	Caiff !.
Will Tom have a present from his brother?	-	Yes (he will have)!
Gewch chi ganiatâd?	-	Caf! Cawn!
Will you have permission?	-	Yes (I will have)! (we will have)!
Gân nhw sglodion i ginio?	-	Na chân!
Will they have French fries for dinner	-	No (they won't have)!

4. We can also form questions using the usual interrogatives at the beginning of the sentence

Ble ca' i?	-	Where will I have?
Pryd cân nhw?	-	When will they have?
Pwy gaiff?	-	Who'll have?
Gyda phwy cewch chi?	-	With whom will you have?
Sut caiff hi?	-	How will she have?
Am faint o'r gloch cei di?	-	At what time will you have?

Merely place 'na' in front of the verb to form a negative question

Pam na chaiff Bill?	Why will Bill not have
--------------------------	-----------------------------

Dyna ni am y tro. That's it for the time being. See if you can extend the questions in number 4 again, to form longer questions. Pob hwyl.

Gair o Toronto: Cymru v. Gwlad yr Iâ*

Na, nid siarad am beldroed dw i nawr ond am fy ymweliad â'r Ynys ar fy ffordd o Toronto i Gymru yr haf 'ma. Pam Gwlad yr Iâ? Dw i ddim yn hollol siwr ond falle achos bod llawer iawn o hysbysebu yn denu ymwelwyr, gan addo pob math o "ddanteithion" fel "a stopover at no extra cost" gan eu cwmni awyrennau, Iceland Air. Felly bant a fi i Reykjavik, eu prif ddinas, am bedwar diwrnod a chwmpo mewn cariad 'da'r wlad.

Pam? Wel i ddechrau roedd y tywydd yn fendigedig - awyr las, las, haul yn disgleirio, dal yn olau tan oriau mân y bore, amgueddfeydd ac orieli ardderchog, golygfeydd anarferol, bwyd y môr blasus, er rhaid cyfadde allwn i ddim blasu morfil Minke nac aderyn y pâl (puffin) am ffortiwn.

Beth drawodd fi fwy oedd faint allwn ni, y Cymry, ei ddysgu wrth y wlad fach hon am farchnata. Tan yn wedd ddiweddar doedd neb yn meddwl am fynd i Wlad yr Iâ ond yn sydyn mae'r Ynyswyr/Y Llywodraeth wedi troi'r lle yn Feca i ymwelwyr, bron dros nos. Ac fe gofiwch hefyd roedd y wlad mewn sefyllfa economiad ddifrifol, ond ddim bellach. Erbyn heddi twristiaeth yw eu prif incwm.

Marchnata! Pam na allwn ni efelychu'r Ynyswyr? Beth sy yng Ngwlad yr Iâ sy ddim gyda ni yng Nghymru - heblaw am allbwlldd i ffynnon boeth (geyser) a llosgfynydd! Mae'r Ynyswyr wedi dysgu sut i farchnata'r hyn

sy gyda nhw i ddenu gweddill y byd.

Gwlan: mae'r siwmperi lleol yn atynfa fawr a phobl o bob cwr yn eu prynu. Ond mae cystal, os nad gwell, gwlan gyda ni ac ambell i felin yn y deorllewin ddylai gael mwy o sylw. Mae'n carthenni ni heb eu hail. Cym on bois! Marchnata!

Ceffylau: mae'r ceffylau lleol yn hollol gorjys- mor annwyl a chyfeillgar. Ond beth am ein "ponis" ni - y Cob Cymreig a'r ponis mynydd? Pam na allwn ni farchnata mwy o wyliau marchogaeth a theithiau arbennig dim ond i ymweld â'r ceffylau a falle eu marchogaeth?

Bwydydd: mae nifer o dai bwyta yn Reykjavik yn arbenigo mewn bwydydd lleol- pysgod gan fwy a chig oen yw'r prif gynigion ar y bwydleni. Ond erbyn heddi mae bwydydd ardderchog yng Nghymru i'w cynnig, yn enwedig y gwahanol fathau o gaws. Fuoch chi erioed yng Nghwm Cerrig (ger Caerfyrddin) lle mae'r siop fwyd a'r caffi gorau weles i eleni?

Adeiladau: yn 'y marn i dim ond un adeilad gwirioneddol wych sy yn Reykjavik, sef yr Harpa- neuadd lle cynhelir cyngherddau. Meddyliwch am eiliad beth sy lawr wrth y Bae yng Nghaerdydd, heb sôn am yr holl gestyll sy' gyda ni (ocei, Normanaidd yw'r mwyafrif, ond mae ambell i gastell Cymraeg fel Carreg Cennen sy'n atynfa hynod). Ac mae San Ffagan yn amhrisiadwy.

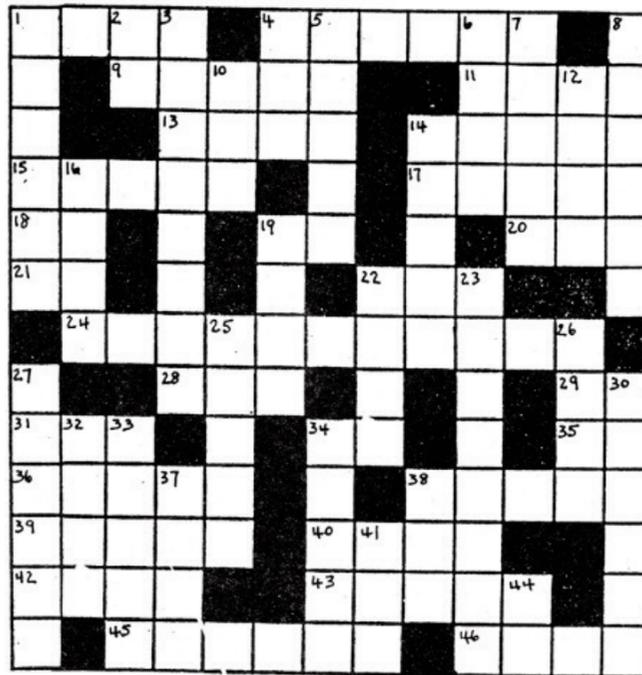
Yr Iaith: rhaid cyfadde taw

dyma beth drawodd fi fwy, sef bod yr iaith leiafrifol hon a siaradir gan llai na 350,000 mil, heb fod mewn urhyw beryg. Mae ieithoedd lleiafrifol eraill, gan gynnwys ein hiaith ni ein hunain, mewn sefyllfa fregus. Yma mae pawb yn ddwy-ieithog ac yn gallu siarad Saesneg (fel ni) ond gyda'i gilydd eu mam-iaith maen nhw'n siarad. Does neb yn ymddiheurio i'r ymwelwyr, sy'n gwybod taw mewn gwlad ddieithr maen nhw ac yn disgwyl clywed iaith y brodorion. Beth sy'n bod arnon ni'r Cymry? Pam 'dyn ni'n caniatáu i Saeson a Chymry di-Gymraeg ddi-ystyru'n hiaith ac i ymddwyn mor atgas tuag atom wrth i ni siarad ein hiaith ein hunain?

Marchnata, marchnata, marchnata! Beth sy'n ein hatal ni'r Cymry rhag efelychu llwyddiant yr ynys fach hon? Dim ond ni ein hunain! Magwn falchder yn ein gwlad a gadewch i ni sicrhau bod gweddill y byd yn ymwybodol o'n nodweddion arbennig a'n rhagoriaethau.

Hefina Phillips

* Yn ôl un gwr bonheddig gwrddeges i yn y Steddod, "Ynys yr Iâ" yw enw cywir y wlad, ond erbyn heddi mae "Gwlad yr Iâ" yn dderbyniol gan bawb ac yn rhedeg yn fwy ystwyth, dd'wedwn i.



CROESAIR

Caneuon Cymreig

Gan Meira'r Tawelfor

Clues in English, answers in Welsh

AR DRAWS

1. Emyn, "Nes --"
4. Titwm -
9. He was small
11. To cluck, c-r
13. All, total (mutated)
14. "Myfi sy'n - baban"
15. Misfortune
17. Building (old word)
18. It is used with arrows, b-
19. The last vowel, twice
20. Opposite S.S.W. (Engl.)
21. A nursing grade
22. Nobody
24. "---, gamfa gu"
28. Exactly, i'r -
29. William abbreviated
31. A mountain's response
34. "Llwyn -n"
35. Not first, but -l
36. Mist
38. It's provided in school
39. To talk on Bell's invention
40. The venue of the 2010 Eisteddfod, - Vale
42. To place, g-
43. "Y- Aur"
45. "Bugeilio'r - Gwyn"
46. "Hob A - Dando"

25. "Myfi sy'n -r crud"
26. Male servant
27. Nain had one --
27. "--- fy Nain"
30. Magldi. -
32. A sudden commotion (anag.)
33. Coward
34. Babies wear them on their head, b-
37. Widow
38. Clever
41. "- sydd imi yn y byd"
44. Nobody, -b

The digraphs ch, dd, ff, ll, ng, ph, rh and th go in one square.

I LAW

1. A month
2. It has animals, ffe-
3. "Yr Eneth Gadd --"
4. A bath vessel
5. Preparation
6. "Mae hen - fy"
7. She had a daughter
8. There were men, not women, there
10. Fate, fortune
12. Solitary (anagram)
14. Mother, in Latin
16. A verse by Ceiriog "- y Mynydd"
19. "Plant - eto dan ein"
22. She had a cane
23. "- Y Frenhines"

Solution to Previous Puzzle



Cysylltu â Chymru Drwy Raglenni Rhyngwladol S4C

Ffordd dda o gadw chysylltiad â Chymru - y wlad, ei diwylliant, a'i hiaith - yw drwy wyllo rhaglenni yr unig sianel iaith Gymraeg yn y byd.

Erbyn hyn mae mwy o raglenni sianel S4C nag erioed o'r blaen ar gael i wylwyr ar wasgar a hynny drwy'r gwasanaeth rhyngwladol ar wefan s4c.cymru/rhyngwladol

Ac er mwyn cadw cysylltiad gyda'i gwylwyr dramor, mae S4C yn anfon eboest arbennig pob mis gyda gwybodaeth benodol am y rhaglenni hynny sydd ar gael i chi ei gwyllo ym mhedwar ban byd.

Er mwyn derbyn yr eboest, tanysgrifiwch ar y wefan s4c.cymru/rhyngwladol

Ar y wefan hefyd mae rhestr lawn o'r rhaglenni sydd ar gael yn rhyngwladol nawr. Mae'r rhaglenni ar gael yno am 35 diwrnod i gyd - dros fis o amser i wyllo pob rhaglen, ac mae isdeitlau ar gael ar lawer hefyd.

Yn ei plith, mae canu cynulleidfaol ar ei orau yn y gyfres wythnosol **Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol**. Dilynwch ddiwyddiadau yng Nghymru bob dydd yn y rhaglenni cylchgrawn **Heno a Prynhawn Da**. Mae hefyd chwaraeon, rhaglenni dogfen, adloniant i blant a drama, gan gynnwys y gyfres **Rownd a Rownd** sy'n dathlu ei phen-blwydd yn 21 oed eleni.

Mae'r nifer o raglenni sydd ar

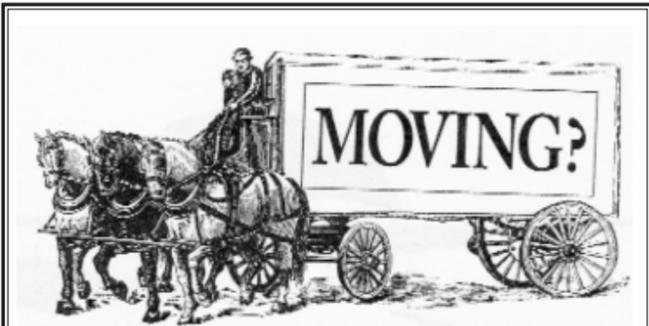
gael i wylwyr ben-baladr wedi cynyddu yn dilyn ymdrech benodol gan y sianel i ddarparu mwy o raglenni iaith Gymraeg i'r Cymry ar wasgar. Mae'n rhan o ddymuniadau'r sianel i ehangu'r ddarpariaeth ymhellach yn y dyfodol.

Mae Elin Morris, Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol a Masnachol S4C yn esbonio bwriad y sianel i gyrraedd rhagor o Gymry sy'n byw tramor; "Rydym yn falch iawn o allu cynnig rhagor o raglenni i wylwyr tramor ar wasanaeth ar-lein ar alw S4C. Rydym yn ymwybodol fod galw gan wylwyr ar draws y byd i weld ein cynnwys ac rydym yn gwneud ein gorau i gwrdd â'r galw yma."

Ar hyn o bryd, mae S4C yn gofyn am farn gwylwyr drwy holiadur ar-lein. Mae'n gyfle i gyfrannu at sgwrs am ddyfodol y sianel ac i rannu eich barn am y math o wasanaeth y mae gwylwyr eisiau ei dderbyn yn y dyfodol. Mae hyn, wrth gwrs, yn cynnwys gwylwyr ar draws y byd.

Ydych chi'n dymuno fod mwy o raglenni S4C ar gael i chi? Pa fath o raglenni ydych chi'n mwynhau? Pa fath o wasanaethau eraill all S4C ei cynnig er mwyn cyrraedd gwylwyr y tu hwnt i'r DU? I roi eich barn, cyfrannwch at y sgwrs drwy lawni'r holiadur ar-lein:

s4c.cymru/dweudeichdweud



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Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

Oakville, ONT

November 5 - Burlington Welsh Male Choir Rememberance Day Concert for Royal Canadian Legion with Enchorus Children's Choir, 7:30 pm, Glen Abbey United Church, 1469 Nottingham Gate. Info: www.burlingtonwelsh.com

Vancouver, BC

November 4-6 - Vancouver Celebrates Wales, Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Ave. Bilingual service at 11:00 am; Gymanfa Ganu at 2:00 pm. Additional details coming. Info: www.welshsociety.com

San Mateo, CA

November 6 - Noston Lawen, 4:00-6:00 pm, O'Neill's Irish Pub, 34 S. B Street. Bring a song, poem, story, or joke to share. Appetizers provided by Welsh American Society of Northern California. Info: Laura Richardson, 408-316-1763 or www.facebook.com/WASNC

Wilkes-Barre, PA

November 9 - Monthly meeting of the St. David's Society of the Wyoming Valley, noon, Genetti Hotel & Conference Center, 77 East Market St.

Des Moines, IA

November 12 - Iowa Welsh Society Fall meeting, Central Presbyterian Church, 3829 Grand Ave. Info: www.iowawelshsociety.org

Toronto, ONT

November 12 - Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir 'Rememberance Concert', 2:00 pm, Veterans K Wing, Sunnybrook Health Science Centre. Info: welshchoir.ca

Bloomington, MN

November 13 - Welsh Language Group, 2:00 pm, at Bradshaw residence. Sponsored by Welsh Society of Minnesota. Info: Laurel Bradshaw, llawrf@yahoo.com

Delaware

November 13 - Welsh Society of Delaware Fall Social. Details coming soon. Info: www.facebook.com/Welsh-Society-of-Delaware-417900255021232/

New York, NY

November 13 - Monthly service of the Welsh Congregation of New York City, 3:00 pm, Rutgers Presbyterian Church, 236 West 73rd St. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrington preaching; music by Mary Nelson. Te bach following. Info: www.welshchurch.nyc

Waupan, WI

November 13 - Christmas Gymanfa Ganu, 2:30 pm, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 525 W. Main St. Director Rev. Thomas White; Organist Ann Lemmenes. Info: wggaw.org

Pittsburgh, PA

November 14 - St. David's Society of Pittsburgh Book Club meeting, 6:30 pm, Panera, 136 Bakery Square Blvd. Discussion of two short stories by Arthur Machen, Welsh author and mystic of the 1890s and early 20th century: "The White People" and "The Bowmen." Info: www.facebook.com/welshsociety.pittsburgh/posts/1411520052208831

Courtice, ONT

November 19 - Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir Concert, 3:00 pm, Rotary Club of Courtice. Info: welshchoir.ca

Glastonbury, CT

November 19 - Welsh Society of Western New England Genealogy Group monthly meeting, 10:00am-5:00pm. Bring your Welsh family tree and a lunch dish to share. Info & RSVP: WelshWNE@gmail.com. Directions will be forwarded.

Oakville, ONT

November 19 - Burlington Welsh Male Chorus concert, 7:30 pm, St Andrew's Catholic Church, 47 Reynolds St. Info: www.burlingtonwelsh.com
November 25 - Burlington Welsh Male Choir Concert with Hamilton Children's Choir, 7:30 pm, St. Augustine's Parish Church, 58 Sydenham St. Info: www.burlingtonwelsh.com

DECEMBER

Omaha, NE

December 2 - Ethnic Holiday Festival, interactive booth by Nebraska Welsh, 4:00-9:00 pm, Durham Museum, 801 S 10th St. 20+ culture displays, shopping, performance. Museum admission. Info: www.facebook.com/SaintDavidsWelshSocietyofNebraska or Lori McAlister, 402-742-0477, NebraskaWelsh@gmail.com

East Windsor, CT

December 3 - Welsh Society of Western New England Annual Christmas Holiday Luncheon, Nutmeg Restaurant, 297 South Main St. Social hour with hors d'oeuvre at noon, luncheon with popping of Christmas crackers, program by Scottish Gaelic teacher Thomas Leigh on Celtic Languages, Welsh quiz, and Christmas shop. Info and RSVP

(by Nov 25): WelshWNE.org or WelshWNE@gmail.com

Minneapolis, MN

December 3 - Welsh Society of Minnesota Well-Read Dragons book club meeting, 11:30 am, Davanni's Pizza, 3673 Lexington Ave. North, in Arden Hills. Lunch from menu followed by book discussion: "The Bank Manager and the Holy Grail: Travels to the Wilder Reaches of Wales," by Byron Rogers. Info: David Conradi-Jones, dae20cj@gmail.com

Stoney Creek, ONT

December 3 - Burlington Welsh Male Choir Concert, 7:30 pm, St. Francis Xavier Parish Church, 304 Highway 8. Info: www.burlingtonwelsh.com

Brampton, ONT

December 4 - Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir Concert, 2:30 pm, St. Paul's United Church, 30 Main Street South. Benefits SHARE Agriculture Foundation. Info: www.shareagfoundation.org/welshchoir.ca

Burlington, ONT

December 9 - Burlington Welsh Male Choir 4th Annual Christmas Concert with Oakville Children's Choir's A Few Good Men, 7:30 pm, St. Christopher's Anglican Church, 662 Guelph Line. Info: www.burlingtonwelsh.com

Aurora, ONT

December 10 - Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir Concert, 7:30 pm, Trinity Aurora Anglican Church, 79 Victoria St. Info: welshchoir.ca

New York, NY

December 11 - Christmas Service of Carols, Welsh Congregation of New York City, 3:00 pm, Rutgers Presbyterian Church, 236 West 73rd St. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrington preaching; music by Mary Nelson. Te bach following. Info: www.welshchurch.nyc

St. Paul, MN

December 11 - Welsh Conversation Group, 2:00 pm, at Mergenthal residence. Sponsored by Welsh Society of Minnesota. Laurel Bradshaw, llawrf@yahoo.com

Wilkes-Barre, PA

December 14 - Monthly meeting of the St. David's Society of the Wyoming Valley, noon, Genetti Hotel & Conference Center, 77 East Market St.

Glastonbury, CT

December 17 - Welsh Society of Western New England

Genealogy Group monthly meeting, 10:00am-5:00pm. Bring your Welsh family tree and a lunch dish to share. Info & RSVP: WelshWNE@gmail.com. Directions will be forwarded.

Utica, NY

December 17 - St. David's Society of Utica Annual Christmas Party, 1:30 pm, New Hartford First United Methodist Church, 105 Genesee St, New Hartford, NY. Games, entertainment, bring dish to share. RSVP: Ted Sangle, 338-3538. Info: www.saintdavidsociety.org

2017

JANUARY

Bloomington, MN

January 8 - Welsh Language Group, 2:00 pm, at Bradshaw residence. Sponsored by Welsh Society of Minnesota. Info: Laurel Bradshaw, llawrf@yahoo.com

Lincoln, NE

January 8 - 12th Night Revel sponsored by the St. David's Welsh Society of Nebraska, 3:00-5:00 pm, Grace Lutheran Chapel, 2225 Washington St. Mid-winter traditions, mums' play, live music. Donation. Info: www.facebook.com/SaintDavidsWelshSocietyofNebraska or Lori McAlister, 402-742-0477, NebraskaWelsh@gmail.com

New York, NY

January 8 - Monthly service of the Welsh Congregation of New York City, 3:00 pm, Rutgers Presbyterian Church, 236 West 73rd St. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrington preaching; music by Mary Nelson. Te bach following. Info: www.welshchurch.nyc

Wilkes-Barre, PA

January 11 - Monthly meeting of the St. David's Society of the Wyoming Valley, noon, Genetti Hotel & Conference Center, 77 East Market St.

Glastonbury, CT

January 21 - Welsh Genealogy with the Welsh Society of Western New England, 10:00am-5:00pm. Bring your Welsh family tree and a lunch dish to share. Info & RSVP: WelshWNE@gmail.com. Directions will be forwarded.

San Francisco, CA

January 21 - 12th Night/Nos Galan Dinner and Noston Lawen, Presidio Social Club, 563 Reger St. Details TBA. Sponsored by Welsh American Society of Northern California. Info: www.facebook.com/WASNC

Sarasota, FL

January 23 - Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society Gymanfa Ganu, Lunch and Annual Meeting, The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch, 7333 Scotland Way. Dr. John Garrison, song leader. Details TBA. Info: www.sarasotawelsh.com

FEBRUARY

Minneapolis, MN

February 4 - Welsh Society of Minnesota Well-Read Dragons book club meeting, 11:30 am, Davanni's Pizza, 3673 Lexington Ave. North, in Arden Hills. Lunch from menu followed by book discussion: "Presenting Saunders Lewis," by Alun R. Jones and Gwyn Thomas. Info: David Conradi-Jones, dae20cj@gmail.com

Wilkes-Barre, PA

February 8 - Monthly meeting of the St. David's Society of the

Wyoming Valley, noon, Genetti Hotel & Conference Center, 77 East Market St.

Glastonbury, CT

February 11 - Rugby and Welsh Genealogy with the Welsh Society of Western New England, 10:00am-5:00pm. Bring your Welsh family tree and a lunch dish to share. Break at 11:45 am to watch Wales v England 6 Nations rugby match, live from Cardiff. \$5 donation to streaming fee. Come for one or both events. Info & RSVP: WelshWNE@gmail.com. Directions will be forwarded.

New York, NY

February 12 - Monthly service of the Welsh Congregation of New York City, 3:00 pm, Rutgers Presbyterian Church, 236 West 73rd St. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrington preaching; music by Mary Nelson. Te bach following. Info: www.welshchurch.nyc

St. Paul, MN

February 12 - Welsh Conversation Group, 2:00 pm, at Mergenthal residence. Sponsored by Welsh Society of Minnesota. Info: Laurel Bradshaw, llawrf@yahoo.com

Glastonbury, CT

February 25 - Rugby with the Welsh Society of Western New England, 9:25 am to watch Wales v Scotland 6 Nations rugby match, live from Edinburgh. \$5 donation to streaming fee. Info & RSVP: WelshWNE@gmail.com. Directions will be forwarded.

MARCH

East Windsor, CT

March 5 - Welsh Society of Western New England Annual St. David's Day Luncheon & Celebration, 11:00 am, Nutmeg Restaurant, 297 South Main St. Members in Welsh national costume, video message from First Minister of Wales, The Right Honorable Carwyn Jones, followed by lunch, and a presentation on Welsh food by Welsh-born Tom Davies, from Snowdonia Pub in Astoria, Queens, New York. Welsh logo items for sale and Welsh "Tea Cup" Auction. Info and RSVP: WelshWNE.org or WelshWNE@gmail.com

Wilkes-Barre, PA

March 8 - Monthly meeting of the St. David's Society of the Wyoming Valley, noon, Genetti Hotel & Conference Center, 77 East Market St.

Glastonbury, CT

March 10 - Rugby with the Welsh Society of Western New England, 3:00 pm to watch Wales v Ireland 6 Nations rugby match, live from Cardiff. \$5 donation to streaming fee. Info & RSVP: WelshWNE@gmail.com. Directions will be forwarded.

Bloomington, MN

March 12 - Welsh Language Group, 2:00 pm, at Bradshaw residence. Sponsored by Welsh Society of Minnesota. Info: Laurel Bradshaw, llawrf@yahoo.com

New York, NY

March 12 - St. David's Service and Dinner of the Welsh Congregation of New York City, 3:00 pm, Rutgers Presbyterian Church, 236 West 73rd St. Dinner following service. Info: www.welshchurch.nyc

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