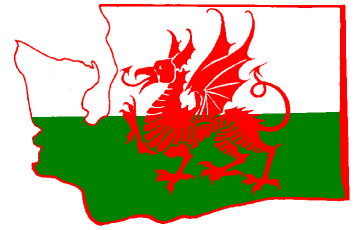


Y Ddolen



Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Visit www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

Ionawr/Chwefror/Mawrth 2017
January/February/March

Y Ddolen/The Link is a quarterly newsletter for the Puget Sound Welsh Association

ST. DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday March 4, 2017

2:00 to 4:30 pm

**Lake City Presbyterian Church
3841 NE 123rd St., Seattle**

The Puget Sound Welsh Association is sponsoring its annual St. David's Day Celebration on Saturday, March 4, 2017, 2:00pm at Lake City Presbyterian Church.

Annually, the Welsh across the world celebrate St. David (Dewi Sant), the patron saint of Wales, and Welsh culture. On this day, Welsh people wear a leek or a yellow daffodil. The leek (*cenhinen*), daffodil (*cenhinen Pedr*, "Peter's leek"), and the red dragon (*y ddraig goch*) are the national symbols of Wales.

Featured artists: *John Good*

John Good (www.tramormusic.com), a talented multi-instrumentalist, Welsh piper, singer/songwriter, poet and storyteller will be performing and directing congregational singing. Program will also include a set of choral music from the *Ultrasounds*. PSWA will present a special award to Bronn Journey (www.bronnjourney.com), talented harpist and past MC and musician at a number of PSWA events.

Take part in group singing and visit the Welsh sales table, followed by a Tê Bach (hearty Welsh Tea). Winners of the annual *PSWA Limerick Contest* will be announced and the winning entries read for all to enjoy. *See the website for details to enter your limerick by February 15th.*

Information/Questions: Ellen Webber (206) 696-1222

Admission to the Concert and tea are free;

however, a suggested \$10 donation per adult is requested to support this and future events.

For more information: www.PugetSoundWelsh.org or email pswa@pugetsoundwelsh.org



LETTER FROM THE (INTERIM) PRESIDENT

Dear PSWA folks,

At the July Annual General Membership meeting, (2016) we had election of board members and subsequently the board elected officers, as required by our by-laws. I am humbled to be your new interim president. I agreed to serve for one year in which time the board is committed to assess the health and well being of our organization. As you know, we have declining finances and our membership has declined.

The board and I are committed to bolstering the vitality of our organization. PSWA provides a voice for and representation of the Welsh in Washington. No one can sing and enjoy themselves like the Welsh. You will find in this issue an account of our assistance to the Puget Sound Revels, which produced a fine Christmas show last month featuring holiday traditions of the Welsh. Nerys Jones and Malcolm & Karyn Davies of our group gave language and culture assistance to the Revels' cast and producer. How to pronounce those pesky LL's, what do to with a U at the end of a word, etc. That sort of thing. Our members welcomed performers Ceri Owen- Jones and Elsa Davies, two fine musicians from Wales, hired as performers for the Christmas Revels. Their duo is named Deuair. You will find more information on them in this newsletter.

On January 8th, the board drafted calendar of events the year 2017. We have included a draft in this edition. It is subject to change so stay tuned, but the first quarter of the year is set!

We have a slap bang concert planned for St. David's Day Celebration, March 4th, 2017, at Lake City Presbyterian Church, Seattle. John Good, a Welsh musician from Arizona, returns as our featured performer. Our annual limerick contest winners will be announced! **DON'T FORGET TO ENTER!** See this edition for more information. The concert is funded by your donations. **We hope you will consider a generous donation for the St. David's Day concert.** Performer honorariums, church rental etc. make these concerts expensive to produce. But we have such a good time, and the music is so grand, we know it will make your day. Bronn Journey (www.bronnjourney.com) will be honored for his work as a Welsh ambassador of harp music. As usual, a té bach (small tea, which is anything but small) will be held afterward. YEA for St. David!

And PSWA is supportive of Phil Wilkinson and the Grace Lutheran Church of Des Moines for the production of Gymanfa Ganu (hymn sing) on Feb. 11, 2017. Do try to make this event. Phil and his crew have a great production planned. Bring your hymnals. (22975 24th Ave S. Des Moines 98198)

BUT we cannot do these things without you. We need cookie volunteers, limericks, your presence, enthusiasm, Welsh spirit and voices. Our Welsh spirit lives on. Join us.

Don't hesitate to call me if you have questions and or would like to volunteer.

-Mary Lynne Evans 206 525 5864

GYDA CHYDYMDEIMLAD DWYSAF



The PSWA Family extends our deepest condolences to:

Alan Upshall and his family upon the recent death of his mother. Mrs. Upshall, who lived in Wales, was 98.

Nerys Jones and her family upon the recent death of her mother of Llanfair Caereinion, Wales.

ST. DWYNWEN – WELSH PATRON SAINT OF LOVERS

January 25th is St. Dwynwen's Day - Wales' equivalent to St. Valentine's Day. "I love you" in Welsh is "Rwy'n Dy Garu Di" (Roo-eeen Duh Gah-ree Dee) – remember to trill your R's slightly!

Dwynwen lived during the 5th century, a daughter of the Brychan Brycheiniog (son of an Irish king). Legend tells she fell in love with Prince Maelon Dafodrill, but she was pledged to another. Heartbroken, she begged God to erase her memory of Maelon. The story continues that an angel gave her a potion to remove her memory and turn Maelon into a block of ice. Dwynwen was given three wishes, so she wished for Maelon to be thawed, for God to meet the hopes and dreams of true lovers, and that she should never marry.

Dwynwen committed her life to God's service and founded a covenant on Llanddwyn off the coast of Anglesey. The remains of her church are still seen today, including her well.

Visit Wales website has two downloadable St. Dwynwen's Day cards like the one below right that you can print and give to your "cariad" (sweetheart): <http://tinyurl.com/lheppgu>



2ND ANNUAL GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH GYMANFA GANU

Saturday, February 11, 2017 – 2:00PM
Grace Lutheran Church
22975 24th Ave S
Des Moines, WA 98198



Director & Special Music: Nerys Jones

Courtesy of: pugetsoundconcertopera.org

Bring your hymnals! With Kim Cooney (tenor), Annette Denis (soprano), Jessica Miller (soprano), Ken Labertew (baritone), The Grace Choir (directed by Laird Thornton), and others – this concert will entertain!

Te Bach in the Fellowship Hall will follow the Service. Food donations are welcome.

There is no cost to attend this event; however, there will be opportunity for those who wish to donate in order to continue to offer such fine musical talent and scrumptious treats. Thank you for supporting this long tradition of Welsh congregational singing!

INTERNATIONAL S4C

<http://tinyurl.com/z7a44rh>

Living outside of Wales used to mean you end up missing some great Welsh language television programming. Trying to keep your Welsh language or learning?

What better way than to stream Welsh language content from S4C. Check out shows like:

Gwaith Cartref, a drama which follows the lives of staff and secondary school pupils in South Wales, Loriau *Mansel Davies a'i Fab* is a reality show about a freight company called Mansel Davies & Son, *Heno* is a nightly news show about happenings all over Wales (think Today Show), *Awr Fawr* is a show for the little ones in your families, *Rownd a Rownd* is a long-running Welsh soap opera, *Ffermio* is a farming and countryside magazine show. And so many others for children, teens, and adults from education and nature shows to dramas, reality shows, and soaps.

With so much content to choose from, you'll have plenty to help you keep your Welsh roots, learn Welsh, or stay up to date with programs and news from Wales.

PUGET SOUND (CHRISTMAS) REVELS CONTACT PSWA

The Puget Sound Revels (www.pugetsoundrevels.org), producer of the annual Christmas Revels, contacted members of the Puget Sound Welsh Association (PSWA) for assistance in their 2016 production, which featured a Welsh celebration of the Winter Solstice with traditional songs, stories and dances.

PSWA members Nerys Jones and Malcolm & Karyn Davies met with the Revels staff and performers to discuss Welsh pronunciation, songs, culture, and traditions. Mary E. Lynn, producer of the Revels, expressed, "Thank you to PSWA and their members for their technical and cultural help."

Ms. Lynn invited PSWA to have an information room for the Association and display the Welsh in Washington panels during the performance intermissions. Joel Ware spearheaded the endeavor in the Rotunda Room of the Rialto Theatre. "It was like a New York cocktail hour in there," he said. "I passed out candy canes, greeted folks in Welsh ("Croeso"/"Welcome") and engaged in conversations. We must have had over 500 people come into the room over the duration of the show."

Posters featuring Welsh surnames, the history of the Welsh in Washington, and the Welsh alphabet were on display. Trivia questions invited dialogue. A number of visitors took home our PSWA brochure.



"Ms Lynn invited me to their donors' reception and asked me to say a few words," Joel reported. "I told them that the show was beautifully done and authentically performed. I complimented them on their pronunciation of Welsh words and thanked them for the opportunity to collaborate with them and have the Welsh information room."

Thanks to Nerys Jones, Rebecca Teeters (and family), Joel Ware, Malcolm and Karyn Davies, and Mary Lynne Evans for their involvement with the Revels and the information room.

DEUAIR VISITS SEATTLE

By Mary Lynne Evans

The folk duo *Deuair* from wild West Wales, visited Seattle/Tacoma upon invitation of the Puget Sound Revels of Tacoma. The Revels this year featured Wales as their country of focus for their annual Christmas Revels production. *Deuair*, composed of Ceri Owens Jones and Elsa Davies, sang and played as part of the cast of the Revels, which performed December 16-22, 2016 at the Rialto Theater, Tacoma.

Deuair, pronounced *day ire*, means literally “two words.” The two are Ceri Owens-Jones and Elsa Davies. Ceri plays harps of all varieties and Elsa the fiddle and other stringed instruments. Both sing the close and haunting harmonies of their ancient and authentic Welsh music.

Ceri and Elsa both began their musical journeys early. Elsa began learning the fiddle in childhood, and Ceri was schooled in singing and harp as a youngster.

When the two musicians met by coincidence on a bus, it didn't take long for them to discover their mutual interest in folk music. Now the duo states, “their intent is to play and interpret rare historical material from their own research and ... to bring life to a sound world of traditional music to people today.”

(www.deuair.moonfruit.com)

I consider Elsa and Ceri to be true “tradition bearers” (a person or group of people with great skill and knowledge of an intangible cultural heritage.) This could include oral traditions, social practices, traditional craftsmanship and activities, and performing arts. Not superficially involved or manipulative of the heritage, tradition bearers preserve the old ways from obliteration.

Based in West Wales, Ceri and Elsa search out musicians, storytellers, and dancers with knowledge of the old tunes. They spend time learning orally and aurally the songs and stories. When they play, you see them go deeply into their memories, forming a bridge between old worlds and old times and the present moment.

They also research information from the National Library of Wales, going back to old manuscripts, some with square notes and indeterminate time signatures. “The oldest manuscript we've worked with was dated in 1000's AD,” Ceri said. “Because the manuscripts are different than music notation today, it is sometimes hard to know that you have transcribed correctly”.



Photo by MaryLynne Evans

While in Seattle/Tacoma, *Deuair* performed a number of their repertoire of old songs. One example performed at the Revels was *Ar Fore Dydd Nadolig*, believed to be an old Catholic carol passed from Pre-Reformation times. Ceri and Elsa gathered the song from a collection by Myra Evans (1883-1972) from Cei Newydd (New Quay). Myra learned it from her mother who learned it from her great grandfather in secret. Where he learned it, remains a mystery.

Songs such as these always make the hairs on the back of my neck stand at attention. I know I am

experiencing something special; not only these wonderful musicians' performance, but also the songs themselves. They are a hand across the years that pulls at something deep and compelling-the voice of old Wales?

Deuair Story continued on following page...

I recommend going to *Deuair's* website (www.deuair.moonfruit.com) where a side bar on the left has the word "hirion". Click on this to hear a live recording of Ceri and Elsa performing at candle mass, an old Celtic fire festival in February in St. Caranog's Church in Wales. They sing three songs woven together which honor friends long past, "we say goodbye", "sleep quietly friends" and "the leaving of a party." The songs bring to life flickering candles, a dark night, and drained cups.

I had the privilege of showing Ceri and Elsa around Seattle one day. I asked them what sorts of things they would like to see. They choose, predictably, the Market, Museum, Square and Garden. They loved the Underground Tour, where the guide took a shine to the two of them. They marveled at the hardships depicted in the Klondike Museum. "It was not so long ago," Elsa said, "compared with the history of Wales." Sometimes I forget just how young the United States is. Stops at the Waterfall Garden, Uwajimaya, and the beaver mound in Lake Washington rounded out the tour of Seattle.

ANNUAL ST. DAVID'S DAY LIMERICK COMPETITION

Past first place winners: Greta Upshall, Brian Parry, and Gyn Dyad.

To try your hand in PSWA's Limerick Competition, just finish one or all of the following lines:

- 1. A strapping young lad from Llangeinor...**
- 2. A coal miner's daughter from Emlyn...**
- 3. There once was a dog from Beddgelert...**

As a reminder, limericks are unique forms of "poetry," consisting of five anapaestic lines: Lines 1, 2, and 5 have seven to ten syllables and rhyme with one another; Lines 3 and 4 have five to seven syllables and also rhyme with each other. A notable Limerick, winning an Irish 'Listowel Writers Week' prize in 1998, demonstrates this structure (*Wikipedia.com*):

*Writing a Limerick's absurd,
Line one and line five rhyme in word,
And just as you've reckoned
They rhyme with the second;
The fourth line must rhyme with the third.*

There is no entry fee and you can enter as often as you wish. **Deadline: February 15th**. Please send entries to limerick@pugetsoundwelsh.org or by USPS to the P.O. Box on the front of this newsletter.

Sign your entries with a Bardic name different than used last year, but be sure to include your actual name and contact information. Final judging at St. David's Day Celebration!

TID-BITS SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL BY: "NINJALYNX"

Anglican Communion News Service: The Revd Canon Joanna Penberthy will become the first female bishop in the Church in Wales when she is consecrated in Llandaff Cathedral on 21 January. She will be enthroned in St David's Cathedral on 11 February. <http://tinyurl.com/hztpol>

Roads & Bridges magazine October 2016 issue had a story of thousands of bees trying to hitch a ride in a car in Wales by writer David Matthews entitled "Bee-rilliant" <http://tinyurl.com/gtekogx>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

By request of Membership present at the 2016 Annual General Meeting, the PSWA Board has put together a calendar of events for the year. These include social gatherings, PSWA sponsored and PSWA supported events. Please contact events@pugetsoundwelsh.org or check the PSWA website and Facebook pages for changes and updates to this calendar to ensure you have the latest information. Thank you.

February 9th 7PM Welsh Language Mixer – Kevin & Laura’s Home
3616 Burke Ave N Seattle 98103. Bring Snacks & Drinks to share. RSVP to: erhulaura@gmail.com

February 11th 2:30PM Grace Lutheran Gymanfa Ganu - Des Moines. (By Donation)

February 19th 6:00PM South Sound Night Out of Hwyl –Elmer’s Restaurant 7427 S Hosmer St. Tacoma. RSVP to southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org

March 4th 2:00PM St. David’s Day Celebration – Seattle. (\$10/per adult suggested Donation)

March 11th 10a-6pm City of Lacey Ethnic Fest - St. Martin’s University. *Volunteers Needed! Please contact events@pugetsoundwelsh.org to volunteer for a 2-hour time slot. Also looking for immediate response if anyone is interested in participating in a hands-on Welsh “craft” table for kids or a short Welsh-related seminar (language, culture, history, tradition of singing, ancient instruments, etc).

March 19th 6:00PM South Sound Night Out of Hwyl – Elmer’s Restaurant 7427 S Hosmer St. Tacoma. RSVP to southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org

April 5th 6:30PM tentative Board Meeting. *Contact President@pugetsoundwelsh.org if you’re interested in attending. Members can listen in and speak during the Good of the Order, but cannot vote.

April 30th 6:00PM South Sound Night Out of Hwyl – Elmer’s Restaurant 7427 S Hosmer St. Tacoma. RSVP to southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org

June 3rd 12:00PM Black Diamond Welsh Days – Black Diamond Museum 32627 Railroad Ave., Black Diamond. (By Donation) Start time for Presentation by Alan Upshall is 1:00PM.

June date/time TBD South Sound Night Out Annual Movie Matinee – Lakewood Library.

June 24th Annual Noson Lawen - Bryn Seion Welsh Church 22132 S. Kamrath Rd, Beavercreek, OR.

June 25th Annual Gymanfa Ganu - Bryn Seion Welsh Church 22132 S. Kamrath Rd, Beavercreek, OR. Nerys Jones to conduct and Bronn Journey to provide special music.

July 16th Picnic/AGM – Planning in beginning stages, but the Board has agreed that the AGM portion will be pared down to 10 minutes to conduct just the necessary board member voting portion, then continue our food and music fest! Actively recruiting for the Board: contact President@pugetsoundwelsh.org

July 29-30th Seattle Scottish Highland Games– Enumclaw Expo Center. *Volunteers needed to set up/man/tear down the Welsh tent! Please contact events@pugetsoundwelsh.org

August TBD South Sound Night Out Group Annual Picnic – Veteran’s Park, Lakewood.

October 15th 5: 30PM Noson Lawen & Potluck – Seattle at Kevin and Laura’s. *Bring your hymnals; Participation in music and spoken word is greatly encouraged! RSVP and Questions: erhulaura@gmail.com

December 3rd 2: 30PM PSWA Christmas Party – In planning stages at Picnic Point, Snohomish.

South Sound Night Out Annual Christmas Party will be in **early December**, TBD.

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE JANUARY 1ST.

PSWA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization (501c(3)). Contributions may be tax-deductible. For memberships outside US/Canada, add \$5/1-year membership, \$50/life membership. *PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT TO PSWA, P.O. Box 27725, SEATTLE, WA 98165.*

**PUGET SOUND WELSH ASSOCIATION (PSWA)
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (day) _____

Phone (eve) _____

Email _____

MEMBERSHIPS

Amounts

- 1 year single (\$10) _____
- 1 year family (\$15) _____
- Life (\$100) _____
- Overseas Postage _____
- General Fund _____
- Memorial Scholarship _____
- T- Shirt Total _____
- Fund in memory of* _____

- PSWA T-Shirts: \$15.00 +\$3.00 S&H per t-shirt

*indicate how many of each size & which color –

(◆Steel Green ★Dark Green)

____SM (★) ____Med (◆/★) ____LG (◆/★)

____XL (◆/★) ____2XL (★) ____3XL (★)

- CD: Band Y Ddraig Goch, Traditional Welsh Folk music of Wales: \$12.00 +\$3.00 S&H

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Y Ddolen
Puget Sound Welsh Association
P.O. Box 27725
Seattle, WA 98165

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