



# Y Ddolen



## Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Visit [www.pugetsoundwelsh.org](http://www.pugetsoundwelsh.org)

Hydref/Tachwedd/Rhagfyr  
October/November/December 2014

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

### Penblwydd Hapus!



Image courtesy of flickr.com

December: Rhidian Lawrence; Gretta Upshall

Please contact Y Ddolen if you would like to have your birthday recognized: [newsletter@pugetsoundwelsh.org](mailto:newsletter@pugetsoundwelsh.org)

### Mark Your Calendars! *Welsh holidays italicized*

**October 26<sup>th</sup> South Sound Night Out of Hwyl (6pm)**

*November 5<sup>th</sup> Bonfire Night (Guy Fawkes)*

**November 14<sup>th</sup> Seattle Welsh Women's Club (11:30am)**

*December 11<sup>th</sup> Llywelyn ap Gruffudd (c.1223-1282)*

*December 21-22 Alban Arthan (Winter Solstice)*

*December 25<sup>th</sup> Nadolig (Christmas)*

*December 26<sup>th</sup> Gŵyl San Steffan (or Boxing Day)*

*January 1<sup>st</sup> Nos Galan & Dydd Calan (New Year's Eve & Day)*

**January 11<sup>th</sup> South Sound Night Out of Hwyl (6pm)**

*January 25<sup>th</sup> Dydd Santes Dwynwen (Welsh day of love)*

**February 28<sup>th</sup> 2014 St. David's Day Celebration**

### PSWA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Limerick Competition

St. David's Day planning continues, and with it, PSWA's Board hopes for even more entries in the Limerick Competition – just finish one or all of the following lines:

1. *A hard working farmer from Conway*
2. *A crotchety old man from Cardiff*
3. *A slate miner's son from Ffestiniog*

There is no entry fee. **Deadline: January 31<sup>st</sup>.** Please send entries to the PSWA address on this newsletter or **email to [aupshall@hotmail.com](mailto:aupshall@hotmail.com)**. The best five entries (judged by Dr. Menna Elfyn, Writing Director of the MA Writing Program of University of Wales Trinity St. David) will be read at the St. David's Day Celebration. The winning limericks will be by audience vote.

### Dysgu Cymraeg Ym Mhortland/ Come Learn Welsh In Portland

<http://www.madog.org/gwefan/index.php/cwrs-cymraeg-eleni>

The language of Wales comes to the Pacific Northwest in 2015. Cymdeithas Madog will bring the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Cwrs Cymraeg to Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon July 19-26, 2015.

Learn Welsh at every level from absolute beginner to advanced. Not just classroom learning, the week will enhance your new skills with singing and Welsh-language films; unwind with folk dancing and a Noson Lawen. Scholarships available!



**Nadolig Llawen (Merry Christmas) a  
Blwyddyn Newydd Dda (and Happy New Year)!**

## Annual Gymanfa Ganu at Lake City

-By Alan Upshall

On Sunday 12 October the Puget Sound Welsh Association held their annual Gymanfa Ganu at Lake City Presbyterian Church. Directing this year was a new face to the region, that of John Good from Phoenix, Arizona. But do not let that fool you - John was born and raised in Port Talbot, South Wales (the same town as Richard Burton and Anthony Hopkins), and he speaks Welsh (and English) still with his strong South Wales accent. John was accompanied by the familiar friendly face of Richard Lind, who was accompanist for the Seattle Welsh Choir for many years. Although strangers, John and Richard worked well as a team, as if they had worked together for years. The result was a fine Gymanfa, well directed to bring the best out of the congregation.

Despite being outnumbered by sopranos and altos, the tenor and bass sections held their own very well, but really appreciated the fine tea and sweets donated by PSWA Board members and presented with the excellent organization of Gerri Parry, Laura Lovell and Ellen Webber.

This year, harmonious special music, arranged by Ellen Webber, was provided by the Seattle music chorale, the *Ultrasounds*, (which has two members from the former Seattle Welsh Choir) who sang a well balanced mix of music including traditional Welsh songs.

President Liz Heath expressed her appreciation to the congregation for attending, to the executive board for their planning and contributions, and to all the volunteers who helped in setting up the facility and with the te bach. She also lauded John Good and Richard Lind for their superb contribution. Several new members signed up to join the society at the craft and sales table organized by Karyn Davies and Vivian Cadwallader. The Invocation and Benediction were read by MaryLynne Evans and Alan Upshall respectively and the afternoon ended with a strong rendition of the Welsh National Anthem.

We look forward to February 28th when John Good will return to the region for our St David's Day Celebration, only this time he will be with *Tramor*, the folk music group that performed so successfully at the Minneapolis North American Festival of Wales.

## Seattle Welsh Women

-By Carol Jones



The Welsh Women meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at the Bellevue Library –  
1111 110<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

11:30 a.m. Bring your lunch. Any questions, email [welshwomen@pugetsoundwelsh.org](mailto:welshwomen@pugetsoundwelsh.org)

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## South Sound Night Out of Hwyl

-by Karyn Davies

Sunday, October 26, 2014 6pm Elmer's Restaurant  
7427 S. Hosmer, Tacoma, WA 98408

**\*\*No Sunday Night Out in November/December!\*\***

Sunday, January 11, 2015 6pm The RAM Restaurant & Brewery 1019 59<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Lakewood, WA

Please RSVP to [southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org](mailto:southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org) or call 360.893.7256 the day before the event so we can ensure a seat is reserved for you.

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## Volunteers Needed

-By Karyn Davies

We're using VolunteerSpot, a time-saving online coordination tool, to help us organize our upcoming activity. Please copy the link below into your browser's URL line to learn more and sign up to help. Thanks for making a difference! <http://vols.pt/rz7jFj>

Saturday, March 7, 2015 Lacey Ethnic Celebration – St. Martin's University campus (10am-6pm).

Future VolunteerSpot links will be created and posted in emails, on the PSWA website and on the Facebook group page for other events.

The Lacey Ethnic Celebration and all Highland Games opportunities will only see PSWA participation with adequate volunteers – including the long-running Enumclaw Highland Games. While we don't like to consider abandoning events, we also feel that these events, without enough hands to help, cannot serve to strengthen PSWA and its members.

If anyone is interested in representing PSWA and the Welsh culture at events or for any questions, contact [events@pugetsoundwelsh.org](mailto:events@pugetsoundwelsh.org)

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## Daffodil Donation

The PSWA Board would like to thank JoAnne Matsumura for her donation of stemmed silk daffodils. They will adorn future events to come, so next time you notice tables filled with happy daffodils, remember JoAnne and her generosity!

## Wales Weekend Vancouver Welsh Society

[www.welshsociety.com/Lab5/november](http://www.welshsociety.com/Lab5/november)

The Cambrian Hall (& Red Dragon Pub)  
215 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue Vancouver V5V 1A6

**Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** Social evening in the Red Dragon Pub. Fancy dress encouraged. Entertainment and pub food available.

**Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>** Bilingual Service 11am followed by a Tê Bach. Gymanfa Ganu (Hymn Singing Festival) with guest performer Nerys Jones 2pm followed by a Tê Bach.

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## Annual General Meeting - September 14<sup>th</sup>

Puget Sound Welsh Association held its annual general meeting at the Upshall's house.

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## Surprise at Pentre Ifan

By Eric Bowen

"This structure is more than five thousand years old," intoned my wife Sally melodramatically, as she started recording a video of our visit to Pentre Ifan on August 10.

"Dyma ni ymh Mhentre Ifan, cromlech enwogaf Cymru," I added, continuing the ham-acting.

After a couple of minutes of larking about, with cameo appearances by the local horses and sheep, Sally turned off the camera.

"We'd better get back," she advised; "I don't fancy driving back to St. David's down that winding highway in the dark."

"Go back to the car, I'll catch up." I had felt this place pulling me since the first time I saw it on a post card. It was an amazing sensation to touch these stones that had stood for millennia, first erected perhaps as practice for building Stonehenge, older than the pyramids, that had witnessed the coming and going of the Beaker Folk, the first Celtic Britons, the Romans, the Anglo-Normans, and generations of the Welsh, "yma o hyd." I lingered a couple more minutes before jogging after her.

"Pity we have to go," I commented as we drove down the three miles of slightly improved cow path to the main road. "My family owned an estate called Llwyngwair somewhere not far from here, where my immigrant ancestor was born. It would have been nice to see it."

A few hundred yards down the main road, I glanced at the sign at the entrance to a caravan park and campground. "Llwyngwair Manor Holiday Park." We

did an abrupt U-turn and followed the winding road to the stately old manor house, now converted to a hotel.

"Does anyone here know the history of this place?" I asked the barmaid.

"Mr. Ennis at the end of the bar. Why do you ask?"

"One of my ancestors was born here."

"A Bowen?" she asked, handing me a little book titled Llwyngwair.

"Yes. Is there something about the Bowens in this book?"

"What would this place's history be without the Bowens?" she asked archly. I glanced through the book; indeed, there was little except for Bowen history and genealogy.

I introduced myself to Mr. Ennis, whose father had bought the place after the Bowens sold it in the 1960s, after owning it for some four centuries. A lively round of chatter ensued, with his friends chiming in with their recollections of the family and the manor's history.

In a lull in the conversation, I asked, "Gyda llaw, a oes unrhywun yma yn siarad Cymraeg?"

In the sudden silence, I faced two blank stares and three pair of wide eyes.

"Sut 'dach chi wedi dysgu Cymraeg?" asked Paul, owner of a local gift shop.

I opted for the short version, one I could manage without using English. In addition to my Welsh ancestry, I explained, the town I was born in, Renton, had been founded by Welsh immigrants. An elder in our church, Thomas Harries [Benton Williams' mentor] had taught the old hymns and some of the language to the children of the immigrants, some of whom went on to help found the Cor Cymraeg Seattle and the Puget Sound Welsh Association, of which I was a member.

"A Welsh Choir in Seattle! Roger [Ennis] was a member of a local choir, Meibion Ingli," offered Paul.

"Now then, you must know this hymn that Mr. Harries sang," I replied, and sang a couple of lines of *Cwm Rhondda*, trying to get a singalong started.

A curious expression flickered across Mr. Ennis' face. Ever the sentimentalist, Sally patted his arm. "Did my husband's singing touch you?"

Wordlessly, he took her hand and kissed it.

We said our goodbyes and started to leave. "Come back sometime. If it's history you're after, we can go as deep as you want."

Back at Y Glennydd Hotel in St. David's, I perused the book of the family's history. "The poet Dafydd Nanmor extolled the warmth of the hospitality James Bowen extended to the bards whenever they called at Pentre Ifan..." I sat stunned. The ancient cromlech that I had so long wanted to see, stands on lands once owned by my family.

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