



Y Ddolen



Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Visit www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

Gorffennaf/Awst/Medi
July/August/September

2017

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

What Passes and Endures

-John Ceiriog Hughes

The mighty mountains changeless stand.
Tireless the winds across them below;
The shepherd's song across the land
Sounds with the dawn so long ago.
Still around with rocks each day
The bright white daisies nod and climb.
Only the shepherds cannot stay
Upon those hills till end of time.

Old Welsh customs need must change
As years progress from age to age.
The generations each arrange
Their own brief patterns on the page.
After his long watch on the hill
Alun Mabon too has gone.
Yet lives the ancient language still,
And still the melodies play on.



Born September 25, 1832, Welsh poet John Ceiriog Hughes was sometimes referred to as the "Robert Burns of Wales." Along with poetry, Hughes wrote lyrics which were adapted to old Welsh tunes.

The poetry of Wales, in all its forms, is a continuous adventure of discovery and amazement.

[//www.literaturewales.org](http://www.literaturewales.org)

Mark Your Calendars! *Welsh holidays italicized*

July 16 - PSWA Annual Picnic (Seattle)

July 16-23 - Cwrs Cymraeg (Albany, NY)

July 28-30 - Seattle Highland Games (Enumclaw, WA)

August 1-Calau Awst (First day of Autumn)

August 6 - South Sound Night Out Annual Summer Picnic (1 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

South Sound Night Out of Hwl - No meetings until Oct.

August 31-Sept. 3 - North American Festival of Wales (Rochester, NY)

September 16 - Owain Glyndŵr Day (Unofficial)

September 22-23 - Alban Elfed (Autumn Equinox)

Save the Date

October 15 - Noson Lawen/Potluck at Kevin & Laura's

December 3 - Christmas Party at Joel Ware's

December TBD - South Sound Annual Christmas Party

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

POETRY AND CALENDAR - PAGE 1

ARCHIVING WELSH HISTORY - PAGE 2

PSWA ONLINE ARCHIVES - PAGE 3

BLACK DIAMOND HERITAGE DAYS - PAGE 4

HAPPENINGS - PAGE 5-6

PENBLWYDD HAPUS - HAPPY BIRTHDAY



July/Gorffennaf: Brian Parry, Mary Lynne Evans,
Sarah Zenger

Please contact Y Ddolen if you would like your birthday to be recognized: newsletter@pugetsoundwelsh.org

The Puget Sound Welsh Association Online Archives

-Alan Upshall

Most ethnic societies hold significant archival material which records some of the activities and fervor of immigrants and their descendants as they eagerly tried to maintain their homeland connection through traditions, activities, and language. These archives are historical records and social commentary which form an integral part of international history and therefore deserve to be conserved and made available to all.

The Puget Sound Welsh Association (PSWA) was founded in Seattle in 1983. However, the history of Welsh activities in the Puget Sound region (Seattle, Renton, Tacoma, and many outlying towns) goes back many more years. Materials gathered by PSWA members have described Welsh activities as far back as the late 1800s, mostly within microfiche archives of Seattle and other city newspapers. We have accumulated programs of events from Seattle, Renton, and Tacoma from as early as 1909 (some as copies of originals but which nevertheless are worthy of archiving since they provide information which would be lost if not saved). Also we have many photographs, recordings, and mementoes of these early and, of course, later years. Together they provide a fascinating picture of the early immigrant life of the Welsh and how celebrations and styles have evolved over the years as the first-generation immigrants were replaced by their second- and third-generation descendants.

Like many ethnic-based organizations, PSWA is experiencing a declining and aging membership and a lack of fresh immigrants. In light of this situation: What do we do with these archives? Already they have been passed through the hands of several members with no concerted effort for conservation. Who knows what has already been lost? Who will be the last person to hold these archives and what will happen to them? The likelihood that local or state public, academic, or historical groups will serve as permanent repositories for the archives is minimal.

The distinct possibility is that, eventually,

they will be discarded and lost. PSWA members are committed to preserving the information contained in the archives and making them available to everyone. The only realistic way to do this is to save them electronically using current technology and database systems.

The People's Collection Wales Program (<http://www.peoplescollection.wales>) is a project designed to preserve the history, memories, and traditions of Wales from families, communities, and societies internationally. The services and web site are funded by the Welsh National Government and the program is operated as a partnership between The National Library of Wales, based at Aberystwyth, and the National Museum of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. The website is a searchable database for the digital preservation of documents, photographs, videos, and audio recordings. It is easy to use and requires digitized scans of each item coupled with entry of detailed information concerning the deposited item, including dates, description, and specific searchable tags.

Over the past year we have downloaded almost all of our current archives which includes programs of St. David's Day celebrations, cymanfaedd canu (hymn songs), sponsored concerts, major events, Board and Annual general meeting minutes, photographs, recordings of concerts and recordings of the Seattle Welsh Choir and Red Dragon Folk Band. Currently, Evans Paschal, Gerri Parry, and I are digitizing more audio tape recordings and these will be downloaded in the coming months. Every item is tagged with "Seattle" and "Puget Sound Welsh Association" and the term "Seattle" or "Puget" should be included with any search of the archive; e.g., Seattle Gymanfa Ganu will bring up all Gymanfa Ganu programs in our archives as well as reports and discussions. Adding a specific year will narrow the search.

In the 1990s, the Puget Sound Welsh Association was a member (along with the Welsh societies of Portland, Oregon; Boise, Idaho; Vancouver, B.C.; and Victoria, B.C.) of the Welsh Association of the

Pacific Northwest, an organization which coordinated an annual gathering of the societies of the Pacific Northwest. This Association ceased to function in 2001 and the archives scattered amongst the various societies. Much of the archives have been recovered and also placed on the Peoples Collection website.

Concurrent with the deposition of items on the Peoples Collection website, we have created a text database completely cataloguing and organizing the archives. Each item deposited is numbered and the reference number is included in the item description on the website.

There remains only one more issue: What to do with our actual archive materials? Since the information they contain is now preserved digitally, do we still want the hard copies? We believe so. Many of the items preserved are old and of historical value. For example, we have original copies of the program for the Welsh Eisteddfod held at the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition in Seattle in 1909, along with several other old programs and photographs. Where do we store them? We have decided that they will be stored at the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center in Wymore, Nebraska. This center has become the repository for the archives of both the Welsh North American Association (formerly the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association and the North American Welsh Foundation as well as other North American Societies.

So, some of the activities of the Welsh in the Puget Sound region, for more than 100 years are recorded and available for academic, historical, and genealogical researchers all over the world. Of course, there are many gaps in the record, but recently we have received materials and information from two families with photographs and other materials recording activities from the Welsh of Seattle and of Tacoma. Specifically, we have received a photograph of a large Welsh picnic held at Point Defiance Park in 1929 organized by the Tacoma Cymrodorion Society, a group and event that was not known to us. Hopefully, as word of the archives spreads, more old archival material will appear and be given to us so that it can be

preserved for prosperity. The spreading of the word can start with our membership not only searching attics for your ancestor's papers, but also by keeping eyes out for Welsh-related items (members have found Welsh books in thrift stores!), and passing the word along to anyone you know with Welsh connections. Any new find can be reported to me at arvhives@pugetsoundwelsh.org. We appreciate your help in seeking out any document that reflects a Welsh activity in the region. Diolch yn Fawr.

Good hunting!

A Note From The Editor

If you haven't had a chance to look through the People's Collection Wales website, you are missing out on a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the history and stories of Wales and the Welsh. There are pictures, letters, articles, videos, maps, and so much more that are available to look through and learn from. But be forewarned, it is very easy to find yourself hours later reading another story or discovering another picture. Perhaps a cup of tea and a few Welsh cakes by your side before you start?



And Now, What's in the Archives?

-Alan Upshall

Now that the compilation of the archives is nearly complete, I thought it would be interesting to share some of the interesting and perhaps surprising discoveries that emerged, and over the next few issues I will add some snippets as I get to them.

In this issue I have two photographs, each titled: The Seattle Welsh Choir. The Seattle Welsh Choir that we know is the one that existed from 1983 to 2000 (ish) and which sang at many churches, gave many concerts, organized Christmas programs and the annual Gymanfa Ganu for the Puget Sound Welsh Association.

-continued from Page 3

Here I show the last one of the group taken at the concert given for the then director emeritus Benton Williams.



Cŵr Cymraeg Seattle, 1999 at Benton Williams Concert (L-R) Director, Paul Buck, Accompanist, Richard Lind.
R: Rhidian Lawrence, Joel Ware, Vincent Marsh, John Cramer, Alan Upshall, Steven Enslay, Phil Humphries, Adrian Barradough, Hugh Parry, Ken Thomas, Paul Cowles, Bob Matthews.
F: Ruth Fox, Laura Lovell, Carol Enslay, Lillian Dyck, Jean Sullivan, Amy Perkins, Maryanne Griffiths, Betty Bonfield, Gwynne Dodge, Greta Upshall, Cynthia Taylor, Margie Hunt, Rae Stevenson, Carrie Fox.

If you search the site for Seattle Welsh Choir (psw000683 is its catalogue code), you will find other photographs of the choir and see how it changed over the years.

When you search for Seattle Welsh Choir, you will also find the second photograph shown here which is the Seattle Welsh Choir as it was in 1920.



Finding this was a surprise as it had never come up in the many discussions during the research of the PSWA book "Conversations with the Welsh of the Puget Sound Region."

Joanne Matsamura is currently searching old newspaper articles and perhaps she will come across some reference to the group and, hopefully, names to go with the faces.

Black Diamond Welsh Days

-Keith Watson

The coal mining town of Black Diamond was founded by Welsh coal miners in 1882. The Black Diamond Coal Company, located in Nortonville, California, was looking for a new source of coal which they found here in the Green River area. The community of Nortonville moved to the wilderness of what is now known as Black Diamond and opened their first coal mine.

The Black Diamond Historical Society/Museum has, for many years, celebrated Welsh/Founders Day in June and have had the pleasure of having speakers present programs that are not only educational but very entertaining.

And it was no exception this year. It was very special to hear Alan Upshall give his presentation that was just incredible. He was asked to discuss the history of Welsh music which he did in fine order. He presented a musical treat that not only let us hear wonderful music from Wales, but Welsh music from America as well.

I was especially impressed to hear and see an entire stadium full of people break out in song at a sports event. Alan did a fine job and if you see him, please thank him from all the members of the Black Diamond Historical Society. He must have spent hours and hours putting his presentation together and we really appreciate his dedication to keeping Welsh history alive.

Keith Watson, President of BDHS

Visit the Black Diamond Historical Society website and the Black Diamond History website to learn more about the stories of this town and about upcoming events.

<http://blackdiamondmuseum.org/>

<https://blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BlackDiamondHistory/>



71st Annual Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering

45224 284th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

It's summer and that means the Highland Games are here again!

Come enjoy a day (or two!) of athletic competitions, bagpipes, musical performers, Celtic arts, and so much more.

Bring the family and invite friends!

***Please let us know if you can volunteer for set up on Friday, July 28 around 9 a.m. or help with manning the tent Saturday or Sunday for 2 hours or more. **So far, there are not enough volunteers and we are close to pulling out of this event** without 3 commitments on Friday, and 3-4 commitments to fill every hour 7:30 a.m -5 p.m. on Saturday and 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. plus take down on Sunday. Contact events@pugetsoundwelsh.org if you can help and please indicate which DAYS and TIMES you can be there - along with your contact information.

Thank you for helping PSWA keep a presence at this Celtic event.



South Sound Night Out Group's Annual Picnic

All Are Invited!

**Sunday, August 16
1:00 p.m.**

**American Lake Park
9222 Veterans Drive SW
Lakewood, WA**

Potluck picnic. We will supply baked and fried chicken, all the plates utensils, napkins, and cups. You supply your own non-alcoholic beverages, side dishes and desserts to share, chairs, and blankets.

First in gets to secure a table or spot for the group. Otherwise, look for the Welsh flag to identify the group. Some years it's hot, some it's windy and chilly. No telling if we're in the shade or full sun, so come prepared. Parking is limited.

Please RSVP to southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org so we know to look out for you.

Registration Now Open! Come Learn Welsh in Albany

[Cwrs Cymraeg 2017 - Cwrs Y Seintiau](#)

July 16-23, 2017

Siena College,
Albany, New York

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

North American Festival of Wales

August 31 - September 3, 2017
Rochester, New York

www.nafow.org/



Do You Believe in Dragons?

They're real and they're here! And they've got a family.



Dewi was the first dragon to make an appearance at Caerphilly Castle last year. Not too long after delighting visitors with his black and red scales, his lovely mate, Dwynwen, flew down to nest with him and show off her pearlescent purple scales.

And, then, finally, after two eggs had appeared, the wait was finally over. On May 26, 2017, the proud father and mother welcomed their scaly, winged babies, Dylan and Cariad. The dragon babies are said to be mischievous, but loveable all the same.

If you can't make it out to Wales to see them in person, you can read about them here and follow them on their adventures as they visit different castles and create more tales.

<http://cadw.gov.wales/fun/livethelegends/the-dragons-lair/?lang=en>



And, speaking of tales, the Cadw site is brimming with stories and history and interesting tidbits about this rich land. Currently, you can download, for free, stories about heroes and heroines here:

<http://cadw.gov.wales/learning/TheHeroesandHeroinesofWalesstorycollection/?lang=en>

Happy reading!

PSWA Annual Picnic



PSWA will hold our second annual picnic on **Sunday, July 16 at 3 p.m.** in Woodland Park in Seattle. We will be at shelter #3 this year.

Take the N 50th St. exit of I-5 and head west. After crossing Greenlake Way N, turn Right at the rainbow park sign. You will see the shelter and I'm sure we'll have a Welsh flag up.



Bring potluck food to share, frisbees, musical instruments, singing voices, and whatever else floats your boat.

We'll be grilling sausages and burgers and will have a selection of drinks (alcoholic beverages are prohibited in Seattle parks).

Last year's event was a lot of fun, and we anticipate the same for this year!

Here is a link to the map of the site:

<http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/Reserve/Picnic/Woodland1-3.pdf>

We hope to see you there!

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 \$ _____

PUGET SOUND WELSH ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Board Members & Elected Officers

President: TBD

Secretary: MaryLynne Evans secretary@pugetsoundwelsh.org

Treasurer: Ellen Webber treasurer@pugetsoundwelsh.org

Membership Secretary: Ellen Webber membership@pugetsoundwelsh.org

Events & Activities: Karyn Davies events@pugetsoundwelsh.org

Newsletter: Sarah Zenger newsletter@pugetsoundwelsh.org

Website : Gerri Baker-Parry webmaster@pugetsoundwelsh.org

Other Contacts

Archives: Alan Upshall/Gerri Baker-Parry archive@pugetsoundwelsh.org

Côr Cymraeg Seattle / Seattle Welsh Choir choir@pugetsoundwelsh.org

South Sound "Night Out of Hwyl" - Karyn Davies southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org

Seattle Welsh Women's Club - Carol Jones (425.429.6481) welshwomen@pugetsoundwelsh.org

Welsh Music Sessions / Dinas o Frain - Kevin Gow/Laura Lovell (206.633.3577) erhulaura@gmail.com

Members-At-Large

Liz Heath

Gerri Baker-Parry (see left)

Karyn Davies (see left)

Laura Lovell erhulaura@gmail.com

Y Ddolen
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

We frequently get requests to distribute to our membership Welsh-related advertisements and promotions. Although PSWA does not endorse any, many are listed on the PSWA website: www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

Please note that bulk mailings are not forwarded or held by USPS and will be returned to sender at a cost to PSWA.

We will make every attempt to redeliver with the correct address if possible.

If you missed an issue because of a vacation hold or address change, please let us know right away.

Y Ddolen [*The Link*] is published quarterly by the Puget Sound Welsh Association. Views expressed herein do not imply Puget Sound Welsh Association endorsement. Annual subscription is included in the PSWA membership dues. PSWA is dedicated to promoting and preserving the history and heritage of the Welsh in the Puget Sound region and surrounding environs. We welcome stories, articles and pictures of interest:

newsletter@pugetsoundwelsh.org

PSWA Facebook Group

Request to join! Keep in touch with other members across the Puget Sound and Washington state, keep up to date with future events and activities, and post relevant events/information to the discussion forum.

www.facebook.com/groups/pugetsoundwelsh

PSWA T-Shirts & Red Dragon

Band CDs: New Port & Company brand Dark Green comes in sizes S - 3XL. Original T-shirts are Gildan brand Steel Green in sizes from M -XL. For a \$15.00 donation* (plus \$3.00 S&H) to the Puget Sound Welsh Assoc. you will receive a PSWA t-shirt. **Does not include Membership.*

The Red Dragon Band, a CD of traditional Welsh tunes, has been reissued and is available for \$12.00 (plus \$3.00 S&H). Send check or money order to:

PSWA, P.O. Box 27725 Seattle, WA 98165

Include shipping cost, size, quantity, and your address for USPS delivery. To see both shirts in living color:

www.pugetsoundwelsh.org
