



Y Ddolen



Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Visit www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

Ebrill/Mai/Mehifin
April/May/June

2017

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

Here in This Spring

Here in this spring, stars float along the void;
Here in this ornamental winter
Down pelts the naked weather;
This summer buries a spring bird.

Symbols are selected from the years'
Slow rounding of four seasons' coasts,
In autumn teach three seasons' fires
And four birds' notes.

I should tell summer from the trees, the worms
Tell, if at all, the winter's storms
Or the funeral of the sun;
I should learn spring by the cuckooing,
And the slug should teach me destruction.

A worm tells summer better than the clock,
The slug's a living calendar of days;
What shall it tell me if a timeless insect
Says the world wears away?

Dylan Thomas

International Dylan Thomas Day

Dylan Thomas, Wales' beloved poet, will be celebrated on May 14. The first International Dylan Thomas Day was celebrated in 2015.

More information can be found at
www.discoverdylanthomas.com

or

www.literaturewales.org

Maybe consider reading "Under Milk Wood" or sharing your favorite poems with your friends.

Mark Your Calendars! *Welsh holidays italicized*

April 16 - Easter

April 30 - South Sound Night Out of Hwyl

May 1 - *Calan Mai (May Day)*

May 14 - International Dylan Thomas Day

May 21 - South Sound Night Out of Hwyl

June 3 - Black Diamond Welsh Days (12 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

June 17 - South Sound Night Out Annual Sat. Matinee

June 20-21 - *Alban Hefin*

June 24 - *Gwyl Ifan (St. John's Day, Midsummer's Day)*

July 16 - PSWA Picnic

July 29-30 - Highland Games

August TBD - South Sound Annual Picnic

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PENBLWYDD HAPUS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April/Ebrill: Malcolm Davies, Gerri Parry, Evans Paschal, Alan Upshall

May/Mai: Vivian Cadwallader

June/Mehefin: Jean Sturton, Karyn Davies

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

Puget Sound Welsh Celebrate St. David's Day

-MaryLynne Evans

More than 100 people attended the celebration of St. David at the Lake City Presbyterian Church in Seattle, Washington on March 4, 2017. Interim president Mary Lynne Evans welcomed folks with a quick retelling of the biography of good St. David, Wales's patron saint. She noted that the PSWA had received an email of celebration from the Newcastle Australia Welsh group stating that the Welsh may be far flung as immigrants, but we all gather to sing and celebrate our saint.



John Good, our featured performer from Wales by way of Arizona, presented a program of Songs and Tales from Wales. Drummer Kevin King joined him. John performed his own original songs and told tales of magical oaks and bewitched lovers. Multitalented, John played various flutes, penny whistles, the bagpipes, a pip horn, and a guitar as well as sang and recited poetry.

Alan Upshall, our archivist extraordinaire, explained the group's archiving project. While scanning and organizing the massive materials, he noted that one name reoccurred many times, Bronn Journey. Bronn was presented a plaque by Carol Jones, president of the Welsh Women's Society and by Mary Lynne Evans, interim president for PSWA, for his service to PSWA, advancing Welsh heritage and performing on his harp. (See article by Alan Upshall in this edition.)

The Ultra Sounds, an a cappella vocal group, sang several selections in tight harmonies and with great sensitivity.

The limerick contest was next. Numerous limericks had been submitted by the membership in February, sent off for judging to an eminently qualified judge in Vancouver, BC. He selected four finalists. Ellen Webber read the limericks, and, using Bronn's decimeter on his phone, we calibrated the audience's approval. Here are the winners and their limericks:



Karyn Davies - First Place

A strapping young lad from LLangeinor
Ate bangors and mash to weigh more
The cook grabbed his sleeve
When he got to leave
"I believe you've forgotten to pay more."



Alan Upshall - Second Place

A coal miner's daughter from Emlyn
Met a blind date who left her a'tremblin',
Her mother did fret
Knowing not who she met
'til a neighbor's son came home a'smilin'.

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Brian Wood - Third Place

There once was a dog from Beddgelert
 Left to make sure a child would not get hurt
 He protected the child
 From a wolf that was wild
 But was slain ere they knew his great effort.

An honorable mention was awarded to Lori Gibson.



Lori Gibson - Honorable Mention

A coal miner's daughter from Emlyn
 Kept a dragon, two bats, and a gremlin
 They ate mushy peas
 Scotch whisky and cheese
 And had a big wicker basket they all slept in!

Prizes were Welsh beer, ginger beer, and a leek
 with some potatoes.

Before the closing of our celebration, one of our members Jim Bloch retold the story of the composition of the Welsh national anthem, "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau."

In January 1856, [Evan James](#) wrote the words and his son [James James](#) composed the music. Both

were residents of Pontypridd, Glamorgan, and were Jim Bloch's great-grandfather and grandfather respectively. The earliest written copy is part of the collections of the [National Library of Wales](#). The song was first known only locally in the pub which James James owned and where he played his harp. It was later performed at the [LLangollen Eisteddfod in 1858](#). A collection of Welsh airs (1860-1864) incorporated it, assuring its popularity across Wales. Gradually, the song became Wales' national anthem. What a gift from Jim and his family!

The PSWA closed its celebration of St. David with a heartfelt rendering of "[Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau](#)."

Of course Te Bach was served!

All photos courtesy of Joel Ware, IV

Bronn Journey Honored by the Association

-Alan Upshall

Every year at the St. David's Day celebrations, the Puget Sound Welsh Association has followed the tradition set by the Seattle Welsh Women's Club and honors someone who has contributed much to the Welsh culture in the region. It can be argued that this year the honor was given to someone who over the years might have received the distinction many times, Bronn Journey.



Bronn has a direct line to Wales through his mother, Betty, the daughter of William Park Pritchard from Penrhyndeudraeth, North Wales. William was never musically trained but he had the "instinct" and heritage to pick up the baton and
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direct the hymn singing. He was the mainstay of the Gymanfa tradition in the region (Vancouver down to Portland) in the “Between War” period, and by all accounts directed the energy and gusto to bring out the best in all.

Bronn was born into this music heritage, his mother instilling in him the responsibility to “eat your greens and learn the hymns.” He developed his musical skills by learning to play the harp and graduated from the School of Music at the University of Washington. Before graduating, and since, he has entertained audiences with his music and conversation at local, regional, and national Welsh events. He first played at the Seattle Welsh Women’s organized St. David’s Day celebrations in 1974 at the age of 13 and has been a fixture on the local scene ever since.

Recently, the Puget Sound Welsh Association has placed all of its archives (that we currently have) online at www.peoplescollectionwales.com where, by a search, it can be seen how large a contribution he has made. In the 43 years of support he has performed, hosted, or otherwise contributed well over 50 different times. But the number of contributions is not the end of the story; it is his style also, and style comes with more than just being a professional harpist. He enchants his audience with stories, commentary, and wit, much of it relating to his Welsh background.

Annually, with his wife, Katherine, he presents a series of Christmas concerts around the Pacific Northwest. They have entertained throughout Western Canada and the United States and have recorded 10 CDs on his own label, Phileo music (www.phileomusic.com). Everything with confidence and style.

The dedication from the Puget Sound Welsh Association reads: to Bronn, for more than four decades of superb service to the Welsh American community, we thank you. Diolch Yn Fawr Iawn.

Also, Bronn has already been hired for the St. David’s Day celebrations in 2024 to celebrate his 50th year of contribution to the Welsh in the Puget Sound area.

Bronn can be followed on his Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BronnJourneyHarp/>.

Remembering Rachel Daniels Williams

-Alan Upshall

Rhidian Lawrence and I travelled to Port Orchard on March 16 to attend the celebration of the life of Rachel which was organized by her three children on her birth date. Rachel passed away in January, just two months short of this occasion, at the age of 99.

Rachel was the wife of Benton Williams, a founder member of the Puget Sound Welsh Association and the first director of Côr Cymraeg Seattle. Benton contributed a great deal to the Association and in all of his actions he was strongly supported by Rachel.

Ever present, ever happy, ever positive, Rachel hosted very friendly gatherings with warm chocolate chip cookie welcomes and a wide smile. She was very proud when Benton was presented with an award for his contributions in 1996 at a special concert by the Seattle Welsh Choir to honor his music. Everything the choir sang at that concert was composed or arranged by Benton.

We send our condolences to the family and friends, many of whom came to the celebration.



Thank you to Joel Ware, IV for setting up the display and representing the Welsh at the City of Lacey Ethnic Celebration!

South Sound Night Out of Hwyl Events

Sunday, April 30 at 6 p.m.

Elmer's Restaurant

7427 S. Hosmer St.
Tacoma, WA 98408

Please RSVP to
southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org

Sunday, May 21 at 6 p.m.

The Ram Restaurant and Brewery

10019 59th Ave SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

Please RSVP to
southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org

Saturday, June 17 at 2 p.m.

South Sound Night Out's Annual Saturday Matinee

Lakewood Library
6300 Wildaire Rd SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

Please join us for our annual matinee followed by early dinner or drinks at Applebee's restaurant down the street at the Lakewood Town Center 10407 Gravelly Lake Dr SW

Lakewood, WA

This year's movie is a continuation of 2015's showing of BBC's "The Story of Wales" presented by Huw Edwards. We meet in the library's meeting room to the right as you enter the library. We will be there at 1:45 p.m. to set up, movie to begin promptly at 2:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to
southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org for the movie and/or Applebee's so we know how many seats to reserve.

Second Annual PSWA Picnic

Sunday, July 16 at 3 p.m.

Woodland Park, shelter 3

Potluck, although the grill will be going, and we'll be cooking hamburgers and sausages. Feel free to bring instruments, sports equipment, and singing voices.

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

71st Annual Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering

July 29-30

45224 284th Ave SE
Enumclaw, WA 98022

PSWA must decide whether to continue having a tent at the Games in Enumclaw by May. Anyone interested in volunteering to help set up the tent on Friday, July 28 (around 9 a.m.) or help man the tent in 2-hour blocks of time on Saturday/Sunday, or help take down the tent on Sunday, July 30 (around 6 p.m.) is encouraged to contact southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org so we can begin planning.

If there is little to no interest, PSWA will discontinue sponsoring a booth at this event. Doing so will eliminate our primary consideration for the spot we've held for more than 10 year on the main boulevard. Please tell us if you think PSWA should continue to represent the Welsh at this event.

Save \$3/ticket by purchasing by June 30 online at <http://www.sshga.org/games/spectatorInfo/tickets.htm>

Black Diamond Welsh Days

Saturday, June 3

Black Diamond Museum
32627 Railroad Ave
Black Diamond, WA 98010

<http://blackdiamondmuseum.org/>

Museum opens at noon

Program begins at 1:00 p.m.

Presented by PSWA's own Alan Upshall

Te Bach after the program

Admission by donation to the museum

August TBD - South Sound Group's Annual Picnic

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

December 3 - Christmas Party, Snohomish

December TBD - South Sound Group's Annual Christmas Party

State of the Organization—a Letter From the Interim President

-MaryLynne Evans

Dear Members and Friends of PSWA,

Already it is spring, the second quarter of 2017, a crucial year for PSWA. As you probably remember, last year we held a membership meeting to review our finances and our health.

Ellen Webber, our esteemed treasurer, reported that every year for about the past five years, the group had losses of roughly \$1000 primarily due to cost overruns on our St. David's Day Concert and Gymanfa Ganus, our two signature events.

Donations, craft table sales, raffles, and annual membership fees had brought in some revenue but not enough to offset the losses. Based on the finances alone, Ellen estimated that we have about 4 years of life left in us if we continue on as we have.

In addition, the board had experienced some fatigue and burn out, feeling that the same group of people were doing all the work.. Membership seemed to be declining and participation was thin. Clearly something had to be done. The organization was not sustainable over the long run. We learned this was a common fate of many ethnic organizations.

For a proud organization that had hosted the National Gymanfa Ganu, was a strong participant in ethnic awareness programs at the MOHAI Museum, held picnics and gymanfas, participated in the Highland Games and the Black Diamond Welsh Day, and held numerous get togethers in the South Sound Area, it was a sad realization.

What to do?

The board put out 3 options to the 10-12 folks at the membership meeting:

Option A: Continue on exactly as we have been, and at the end of four years have a terrific going out party, and close down the organization.

Option B: Revamp the program and approach and try for a year to see if we could make significant gains in revenue and membership support.

Option C: Other ideas to be determined. None were suggested.

The membership told us:

1. get the board in order, fill vacancies, become functional, hold meetings quarterly.
2. Try this year (2017) with a St. David's Day Concert, and some fun events,
3. and drop the Gymanfa Ganu. Essentially try Option B.
4. Let the membership know what is at stake, so we are all participating in the decision making, and having a chance to volunteer for tasks and activities.
5. Bring the results of all of this to an Annual General Meeting in 2017, and decide on the future of our beloved PSWA then.

So progress report:

1. The board has met quarterly and consists of Ellen Webber, Treasurer, Gerri Baker Parry, Communications, Karyn Davies, South Sound host and Secretary, Joel Ware, at large, Laura Lovell, Vice President, and Mary Lynne Evans., interim President. Therefore, all board officer positions are filled. _

We could use one or two more members for at large positions.

We will continue to meet quarterly. Meeting TBD for April/May.

2. We have continued to produce a quarterly newsletter under the able direction of Sarah Zenger, assisted by various volunteers. Postal costs for the newsletter are a big ticket item in our budget as well. The board is exploring moving to a totally emailed newsletter.

3. A second annual Gymanfa Ganu was held at Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines, under the able direction of Phil Wilkinson, Church Musical Director. PSWA supported the concert with publicity efforts, Nerys Jones led it, and many of us attended. It was a wonderful Gymanfa--the choir and musicians did a fantastic job, the minister was welcoming. The food afterwards was incredible! We understand they will hold another on February 18, 2018. We will continue to support them with great appreciation. Get it on your calendars now.

4. Karyn and Malcolm Davies have hosted numerous smaller South Sound get togethers, where a good time was had by all.

5. We participated in Black Diamond Welsh Days last June, with craft table sales. Alan Upshall delivered a talk on the Welsh in early days of Black Diamond.

6. We hosted a table at the Highland Games in July. Around 10 people volunteered to staff it.

7. We held a picnic at Woodland Park last July attended by about 20 people, 3 of whom were itinerant musicians we found in the park and invited in.

8. Alan Upshall and Gerri Baker Parry have almost completed digitizing and archiving our extensive historical collection. This was a labor of thousands of hours. We must assure the transmission and retention of the archives through a monetary contribution to the receiving museum. Another budget item to be considered.

9. We had a Noson Lawen potluck at Mary and David Williams's house, attended by about 15 people. Fun songs and readings.

10. We assisted the Tacoma Revels Association in language pronunciation, history and culture of the Welsh for their Christmas Production of WALES, a Christmas Revels. At intermission, we greeted Revel attendees in the Turret Room of the Pantages Theatre for all productions. meeting about 300 people. We hosted two travelling Welsh musicians in Seattle, who had been hired by Revels. About 10 people were involved in these activities.

11. We hosted a table at the St. Martin Day Ethnic Fair, garnering 25 new people wishing information. 2 board members were involved.

11 We produced the St. David's Day Concert. Over 100 people attended and our losses of \$400 were less than previous years. This was primarily because of the generosity of our members, who willingly paid a \$10 entrance fee to hear John Good, our talented performer from Arizona. Alan and Greta Upshall hosted John, also helping out. Of course the Te Bach was terrific, due to many volunteers.

Concerts such as this are expensive to produce—hall rental, programs, musician honorariums, air fare, etc..

BUT we got a wonderful response from you all, our fun-loving members: several new people volunteered, offers were made for involvement, and two new musical groups came forward, new membership fees were paid, the raffle brought in money as did the sales table. Thank you for supporting the entry fee, the Te Bach, the raffle and sales tables.

The Board was delighted with the response to the Concert. We are thinking of ways to keep the celebration going, but continuing to cut costs.

12. And of course, our intrepid Welsh Women's Group continues their monthly lunches.

13. We tried two Welsh scrabble nights, but had no attendees.

Plans for summer quarter

Picnic July 16 at Woodlawn Park, See this edition for more information.

Participation at Black Diamond Days, June

Table at Highland Games, July. *** Please note that this is tentative depending on volunteers and interest***

Autumn

Tentatively planned:

An annual General Meeting to decide on future of the organization. Stay tuned. THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT.

Winter:

Christmas Party at Joel Ware's House.

So, dear members, that's where we are now. We can use more volunteers, more money of course, and your continued lovely Welsh spirits.

Please do not hesitate to call me at [206 525 5864](tel:2065255864) or send an email to president@pswa.org, with your thoughts and ideas.

I remain, faithfully yours.

Dymuniadau gorau, (Best wishes,) Mary Lynne Evans

***** Please make note that there will not be an AGM at the July picnic this year. Look for updated information in the upcoming newsletter. *****

Y Ddolen
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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
