



Y Ddolen



Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Visit www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

Ebrill/Mai/Mehefin 2014
April/ May/June

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

79th Annual Bryn Seion Welsh Church Gymanfa Ganu

June 22nd 1:45 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. sessions
Bryn Seion Welsh Church
22132 S. Kamrath Rd.
Beavercreek, Oregon

Director: Eryl Aynsley from northern California
Accompanist: Geneve Cook

Welsh Tea served at 4:00 p.m.
All are welcome!

For more information contact Janet Figini,
jpfigini@cascadeaccess.com, or 503-630-5317.



Image courtesy of brynseionwelshchurch.org

Wales in the News: 1964

By JoAnne Matsumura

The New York World-Telegram and Sun, Thursday, June 11, 1964, by the United Press International.

"Saves Time, Makes Money-----Cardiff, Wales, June 11--
---Gas board chairman T. Mervyn Jones went personally to Mrs. Evelyn Brokenshire's home to apologize for overcharging her. Mrs. Brokenshire had complained that her gas bill, which should have been \$11.20, read \$974. Jones explained that the mistake was made by a \$420,000 computer installed to save time and manpower."



Image courtesy of pleasantstonewelsh.org

Mark Your Calendars! *Welsh holidays italicized*

April 20th South Sound Night Out of Hwyl (6pm)

May 1st Beltane (Beginning of Summer)

May 4th South Sound Night Out of Hwyl (6pm)

June 7th Black Diamond Welsh Heritage Days (12pm)

June 21st South Sound Movie Matinee (3:30 pm)

June 22nd 79th Annual Bryn Seion Gymanfa Ganu

July 26-27 Seattle Highland Games - Enumclaw

August 28-31 North American Festival of Wales

Penblwydd Kapus!

April/Ebrill:

Gwen Helm, Gerri Parry, Malcolm Davies,
Alan Upshall, Evans Paschel

May/Mai:

Vivian Cadwallader

June/Mehefin:

Jean Sturton, Elizabeth Goldyn, Karyn Davies

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



Image courtesy of: zh.wikipedia.org

Welcome Home, St. David's Day, Puget Sound Style

By Mary Lynne Evans

The Welsh word **hiraeth** has no direct translation in English, and amongst Welsh people its definition varies. It is often equated with the English term "homesickness;" however, it is much more complex, encompassing the yearning for a home, a specific person or figure, or even a fictional national history. It also incorporates an aspect of impossibility—never getting home, or finding the person, or having the national history again. Those who experience hiraeth have a soul-deep sense of longing combined with feelings of incompleteness and sadness. For St. David's Day in Seattle, the Welsh concept of hiraeth permeated the gathering.

The Puget Sound Welsh Association welcomed its members to the annual St. David's Day Celebration at Lake City Presbyterian Church, March 1, 2014. Over 100 people joined with performers, Dr. Menna Elfyn, Nerys Jones, and Paul Kawabori for an afternoon of song, spoken word, and shenanigans (pardon the Irish term).



Dr. Elfyn - Photo courtesy of M.Davies

Dr. Menna Elfyn, Director of the Creative Writing at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, read both from her own work and Dylan Thomas's.

Her own poetry, "Handkerchief Kiss," "Bloodaxe," "Filthy Lucre," "Cocklewoman," and "Babysitting at the Crematorium" revealed her spry humor, close observational skills, sense of irony, and hiraeth. In commemoration of the 100th birthday of Dylan Thomas, she channeled his resonant voice from his poetry and plays. Menna will be hosting a Dylan Thomas celebration in Wales in May. She securely anchored us in our ancestral homeland. [See www.dylanthomas100.org for more information. -Editor]

Nerys Jones, born and trained in Wales, now lives in Seattle. In her rich mezzo-soprano voice, she sang a number of classical selections including "Mon Coeur s'ouvre a ta voix," from *Samson and Delilah* (Camille Saint-Saëns), "Yr Hwyr," and "Y Cymro" by



Enjoying fellowship, tea, and Welsh cakes - Photo by M.Davies

Meirion Williams. Nerys will be performing in the Seattle Opera's production of *The Tales of Hoffman* and gave us a preview with the Nicklausse aria known as the "Violin Aria." Nerys spoke of her own homesickness for Wales, even while knowing that Seattle is where her life is.

Our third performer, Paul Kawabori, a Seattle native, treated us to his lyrical tenor voice with original compositions and old standards. Referring to his Japanese-American/Welsh heritage, Paul said, "I may not look Welsh, but underneath, I am half for sure." Paul sang "Nant y Mynydd," "Men of Harlech," "Eli Jenkin's Prayer," "Dear Gwalia," "Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn," and "Suo Gan." Before singing his original composition, Paul recounted his homesickness for Seattle and family. He had gone to Los Angeles to launch a professional singing career. "It was really a time of hiraeth for me," he said. "I wanted to be in Los Angeles; I was excited but also afraid. Writing 'Call Me Home' helped to ground me. I had come to a new appreciation of home."



David & Nerys - Photo courtesy of K.Davies

Paul and Nerys sang "Moliannwn" together. [A traditional pub song about the end of winter and the coming of spring meaning "Let's Rejoice" or "Let's Give Praise." -Editor].

The afternoon was completed with announcement of the winners of PSWA's first annual limerick contest. Brian Parry won third and second place and Gretta Upshall cinched first place. [See article for winning entries. -Ed.] Alan Upshall thanked all the contestants for their entries and promised a second contest next year. A substantial Te Bach was served, a raffle basket filled with Welsh cheeses, crackers, wine, and Evan Williams Honey Whiskey helped raise money for future events, and the daffodils on the tables bloomed on.

Seattle Welsh Women

~By Carol Jones

The Welsh Women meet the 2nd Friday of each month at the Bellevue Library –
1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004
11:30 a.m. Bring your lunch. Any questions, email welshwomen@pugetsoundwelsh.org



Image courtesy of womenshistorynetwork.org

Nigel Jenkins (1949-2014)

www.nigeljenkins.com

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-25924608>



Image courtesy of thisissouthwales.co.uk

Director of Swansea University's creative writing program, poet, lecturer, and author, Nigel Jenkins of Mumbles, Swansea, has died after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Nigel, who taught himself Welsh and went on to become a notable literary figure, was winner of the 1996 Welsh Book of the Year Award and numerous other awards spanning four decades. "His volumes of poetry include *Song and Dance* (Poetry Wales Press, 1981), *Practical Dreams* (Gallop Dog Press, 1983), *Acts of Union: Selected Poems 1974–1989* (Gomer Press, 1990), *Ambush* (Gomer, 1998), *Blue* (Planet, 2002), the first collection of haiku ever from a Welsh publisher, *Hotel Gwales* (Gomer, 2006) and *O For a Gun* (Planet, 2007), another haiku collection. In 2011, he edited – with Ken Jones and Lynne Rees – the first ever national haiku anthology, *Another Country: Haiku Poetry from Wales* (Gomer). His poetry has been translated into the languages of and published in France, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Italy and Russia. His translations of modern Welsh poetry have appeared in many magazines and anthologies, including *The Bloodaxe Anthology of Modern Welsh Poetry* (2003); his own poetry is also much anthologised." (www.nigeljenkins.com)

His poem *Some Words for English Viceroy, Rugby Players, and Others, in Abuser-Friendly English to Help Them Con Televiewers That They Can Sing the Welsh National Anthem*, was written as a poke at John Redwood (then Secretary of State for Wales) who was seen attempting (poorly) to sing the Welsh National Anthem on TV:

*My hen laid a haddock, one hand oiled a flea,
Glad farts and centurions threw dogs in the sea
I could stew a hare here and brandish Dan's flan,
Don's ruddy bog's blocked up with sand.
Dad! Dad! Why don't you oil Auntie Glad?
Can't whores appear in beer bottle pies?
O butter the hens as they fly!*

Nigel Jenkins is survived by his wife, Delyth Evans (a folk harpist) and two daughters: Branwen (a nurse) and Angharad (a folk musician with *Calan*). He was laid to rest in Penarth to his exacting details.

PSWA's 1st Limerick Competition Winners

FIRST PLACE:

-By Gretta Upshall

*There was a young lad from the valleys
Who dated a girl from Llanharry
His wife got to know
And told him to go
Now he's sleeping at night in the alleys*

SECOND PLACE:

-By Brian Parry

*A pretty young maid from Portmerion
Won a trip to the moon on an Ariane
Just like the crew
She was limited to
An overnight bag and a carry on*

THIRD PLACE:

-By Brian Parry

*There was a young lad from the valleys
In one of his day dreaming dallies
Would wander off yonder
To look down through the Rhondda
With its terraced row houses and alleys*

South Sound Night Out of Hwyl

~By Karyn Davies

Sunday, April 20, 2014 6pm The RAM Restaurant & Brewery 1019 59th Ave SW, Lakewood, WA

Sunday, May 4, 2014 6pm Elmer's Restaurant 7427 S Hosmer St, Tacoma, WA

June 21st Matinee (see pg.4). No Night Out July or August!
Please RSVP to southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org or call 425.761.3014 the day before the event so we can ensure a seat is reserved for you.

BBC Cymru Interviews PSWA Member

-By Gerri Parry

The BBC contacted PSWA to do an interview in Welsh about the Oso disaster. The request went to Eric Bowen in Bellingham who arranged for the interview. His interview starts at the 1:20:00 mark at the following broadcast link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03ygkw5>. Eric says his Welsh is a bit ragged, but having no one to practice with I'd say he did a fine job.

Eric's thoughts: "Cymry ar Wasgar' and 'Cymru a'r Byd' stories seem to play well in Wales; I'm wondering if [the BBC] might be interested in a story about Welsh heritage in 'Bro Piwjet Sownd.'"

Cwrs Cymraeg 2014

July 20-27, 2014
Brock University
St. Catharines, Ontario



Cymdeithas Madog, the Welsh Studies Institute of North America, invites you to study Welsh language and culture next door to Niagara Falls. Daily language classes from absolute beginners to very advanced. Workshops available on language and culture topics: Welsh conversation, reading in Welsh, course choir, and more. Evening activities include folk dancing, quiz night, Welsh film, and a *noson lawen* or “merry evening” featuring performances from course students and teachers. Course fee covers room, board, tuition, course materials, workshops, and most evening activities. Registration and information: www.madog.org

South Sound Annual June Matinee

By Karyn Davies

Saturday, June 21, 2014 at the Lakewood branch of the Pierce County Library 6300 Wildaire Rd SW, Lakewood, WA 98499. Showing will start promptly at 3:30 pm. This year, we'll be seeing *The Story of Wales* (2012 TV Mini-Series). Presented by Welsh journalist Huw Edwards, Wales' history is shown as it never has before. Dinner or dessert/drinks at the Lakewood Town Center's Applebee's Restaurant afterwards.

Please RSVP by Friday, June 20th to:
southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org or by calling
425.761.3014.

North American Festival of Wales Gŵyl Gymru Gogledd America Featuring the 83rd Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu www.nafow.org

August 28 – 31, 2014 in Minneapolis, Minnesota

Festival Highlights: Apollo Male Chorus; 2013 National Eisteddfod Blue Riband winner; Welsh harpist, Elinor Bennett; Tramor with John Good – Welsh piper, singer/songwriter, poet, and storyteller; Premier men's vocal performance group Only Men Aloud with director Timothy Rhys-Evans MBE.

Seminars on various Welsh-themed topics, Eisteddfod competition for all ages and levels, Marketplace, Tea Room, Informal Singing, and Tours.

Entry forms for Eisteddfod completion and Festival registration on the website.

Lacey Ethnic Celebration Hears Welsh Triple Harp

By Karyn Davies

Bill McJohn played Welsh music for the triple harp at the Lacey Ethnic Celebration at St. Martin's University, held this past February 1st. Bill played airs from Edward Jones' collections of the late 18th C.

Hoping to take part again next year, March 7th, 2015, Bill said, “It's a fun, well-run event.” Although he doesn't have recordings of himself, his teacher, Cheryl Fulton does. Her recording “The Airs of Wales” is available through magnatune.com.

Anyone interested in performing in song, dance, verse, or music can look for applications later this year, which will be due in December for performers. There is no cost to perform and entertainers will be allowed to sell their media during their performance. Please see the City of Lacey Parks and Recreation website for more information:

<http://ci.lacey.wa.us/living-in-lacey/the-community/arts-and-events/ethnic-celebration>

If you intend on performing or offering a live one-hour presentation please let us know so we can get the word out and show you some support. And if you have ideas for a hands-on children's activity or would like to host an information table, please contact events@pugetsoundwelsh.org.

Dylan Thomas International Competition

www.developingdylan100.com
@Dylanwad100

A competition for budding writers between the ages of 7 and 25 is taking entries until June 27, 2014. Entries can be a poem, song lyric, limerick, fiction, or any form of creative writing – as long as it has been inspired by the Welsh writer Dylan Thomas and is no longer than thirty lines or 500 words.

Chosen works will be read and broadcast by some of Wales' best writers, BBC Radio 1 Huw Stephens, and others and have a chance for publication.

Suggested theses for the age categories:

Ages 7-11: Family/Holiday/New Life

Ages 12-15: Folklore/Journey/Night

Ages 16-18: Tradition/Superstition/Eerie

Ages 19-25: Rites/Nocturnal/Departure

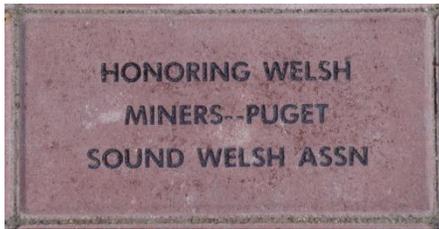
For more ideas, read Dylan's works at the National Library of Wales' website (www.llgc.org.uk). Prizes for each age group awarded as Runner Up, Best in Wales, and Best Overall, include a Kindle, a chance to work with editors to develop your work, publication of your work on the Developing Dylan website, a bundle of books, and more.

Please let PSWA know if you enter this competition.

Black Diamond Welsh Heritage Day & Coal Miners' Honor Garden

By Keith Watson, President – Black Diamond Historical Society

Welsh Heritage day will be held in Black Diamond, WA on Saturday, **June 7, 2014**, starting at **12 PM** at the Black Diamond Museum. Program, including PSWA's Alan Upshall, begins at 1 PM.



Honor Garden Brick PSWA purchased – Photo by K. Watson

Individuals can still donate \$100 to have their own brick engraved in the Black Diamond, WA Coal Miners' Honor Garden.



Coal Miners' Honor Garden, Black Diamond, WA – Photo by K. Watson

For Donations, Contact: Keith Watson, President
Black Diamond Historical Society
PO Box 567 Black Diamond, WA. 98010
360-886-0778 cell: 425-214-3684 kcwdoc@comcast.net

Survey Results

By Karyn Davies

Thank you for all those who took time over the last several months to take our survey asking for your input on PSWA's annual Gymanfa Ganu and other events.

For the 17 who participated, most of you enjoy the annual event and see it as a way to meet friends, enjoy the hymn singing, and find it an opportunity to practice the Welsh language. Although most of you stated you'd be willing to volunteer in order to increase interest and boost attendance for the Gymanfa Ganu, less than half provided a way to contact you to coordinate volunteer efforts and ideas. Most of you didn't note changes that would increase your enjoyment, but among the responses, you

stated that the "churchy" feel was primary to the Gymanfa Ganu's tradition, as was the core of hymn-singing.

Other events you'd like to see: Noson Lawen (informal singing), Welsh film, and pub meets, as well as car-pooling to events in BC or Portland. Attendance is key to any event and we've seen that few overall take advantage of the times PSWA hosts a Noson Lawen, the annual Welsh matinee in Lakewood and the monthly meet-ups in the South Sound, so we're interested in your thoughts on increasing attendance.

Although the survey results do not represent a great cross-section of membership, it's notable that by far, the Gymanfa Ganu is an event you'd like to keep. Realistically, however, without an increase in attendance, an infusion of assistance, and a few good ideas, your Board will need to consider an alternative. Please feel free to contact your Board or offer your views on the still-open survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BG6SNWW>

20th Annual Skagit Valley Highland Games & Celtic Festival – July 12-13, 2014

-By Eric Bowen

The Skagit Valley Highland Games has become an "and Celtic Festival." Last July was the year to highlight Wales. Believe it or not, twenty people sat still for a one-hour lecture on Welsh history -- which may have got interesting when I showed how Welsh attitudes toward leadership got incorporated into the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. [PSWA] might have a chance to make our presence known at the festival, and at the new Celtic Arts center in Mount Vernon:

http://celticarts.org/?page_id=380064

[Anyone interested in setting up a PSWA/Wales tent at these Games at Edgewater Park, Mount Vernon please email events@pugetsoundwelsh.org to volunteer. –Editor]

Dylan Thomas Film Set Fire to the Stars Transforms Swansea Into New York City

By Dylan Thomas Society of GB March 2014 Newsletter
<http://www.thedylanthomassocietyofgb.co.uk/>

New York came to the streets of Swansea during February when filming took place for *Set Fire To The Stars* the film which focuses on Dylan's first trip to North America in 1950 and his working relationship with his American agent John Malcolm Brinnin. Hollywood actor Elijah Wood stars as Brinnin opposite Welsh actor Celyn Jones as Dylan Thomas in the film co-written by Jones and *Downton Abbey* director Andy Goddard who also takes up directing duties. Despite being set in New York the film has been shot on location in Wales with Swansea streets doubling for New York, with fake snow, US style street furniture and classic American cars to complete the transformation. A gala screening in Swansea is expected later in the year.

The Welsh Battlefields Society

By Rob Morgan. SWANSEA (February 2014)

[“Cadw is the Welsh Government’s historic environment service working for an accessible and well-protected historic environment for Wales.” Cadw means ‘to keep’ or ‘to protect’ in the Welsh language. -Editor]

The average visitor to Wales might, at first sight, be overwhelmed by what one Welsh entertainer called ‘Cosy Cymru’ with the song, the poetry, the language and the literature we are so fortunate to possess. The fact is sometimes overlooked that this small nation of ours has around 125 stone-built medieval castles, a dozen walled towns, many more remains of castle mounds from the timber walled days, countless Iron Age fortifications, and one Roman Legionary fortress at the top and another at the bottom. The fortress at the top is now across the border in England, but it wasn’t when the Romans built it. And don’t forget Offa’s Dyke - a defensive line which marks us out as ‘abroad.’ All this, as Wales, its educationalists, and its historians have recognised in recent years, makes us not only one of Europe’s most cultured peoples, but especially in Medieval times one of its more ‘difficult!’

The Societies and groups which have come into being since the creation of CADW and the establishment of Welsh Government are diverse and yet fulfil crucial roles in discovering exactly who we, the Welsh are, and what we, as Welshmen, have achieved over centuries. The Owain Glyndwr Society, Owain Llaw Goch Society, and The Hywel Dda Society are just a few of the groups now researching, revisiting, and at last publishing the history of a country which has played a remarkable part in the development of other nations - America far from least among them.

‘The Welsh Battlefields Society’ (‘*Cymdeithas Meysydd cad Cymru*’) was formed in 2007 and followed on from the desperate interest displayed in preserving the substantial battlefield heritage of England and Scotland in the face of overwhelming threats to develop them commercially. Its role is simple: the WBS visits the known battlefields of this country, occasionally going over the border in the footsteps of Glyndwr or Llewellyn, records and protects where it can the astonishingly complex heritage of the nation in arms. Ultimately, there will be a Battlefields Register and an element of protection for an all too frequently overlooked part of Wales’ history and development. Wales is more fortunate than its neighbours in the fact that the terrain of old Cymru is rather difficult to cross. Battles were not always fought on the outskirts of towns or on flat plains, so development is less of a threat than sheer neglect.

Sometimes Welsh history in all its intricate depth and true beauty just throws itself at you; I was on the train from Swansea to Carmarthen recently. It only takes fifty minutes, but on the way the train passes four castles, at least three battlefields, and, as the train crosses the broad and windswept river which separates Glamorgan from Carmarthen, it passes over a Roman harbour built around 200AD to fight off Irish pirates, now undisturbed - apart from oyster-catchers and herons.



Image courtesy of waymarking.com – The Battle of Llwchwr 1136AD

Call For Input!

By Karyn Davies, Editor

What would you like to see in your *Y Ddolen* newsletter? Each quarter I wonder what is it YOU want more of? Recipes, humor, travelogues, feature articles, Welsh music and book reviews...the list can be exhausting so please take some time to write *Y Ddolen* with your ideas, submissions (please keep articles to under 400 words), photos...because ultimately this is YOUR newsletter! Diolch yn fawr! newsletter@pugetsoundwelsh.org



comic-picture-postcard-titled-a-welsh-rabbit-circa-1905 by fotolibra.com

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.

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) to the Puget Sound Welsh Assoc.

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, go to: **www.pugetsoundwelsh.org**

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

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.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Overseas Postage	_____
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<input type="checkbox"/> 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 (★)	
<input type="checkbox"/> CD: Band Y Ddraig Goch, Traditional Welsh Folk music of Wales: \$12.00 +\$3.00 S&H	
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