



Y Ddolen



Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Visit www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

Ebrill/Mai/Mehifin
April/ May/June 2015

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

From the President

Not long ago, while exhibiting at a medical conference, I visited with a woman attending the sessions who was wearing a PSWA t-shirt! We talked about medical things, of course, but most of our conversation was about PSWA and Wales. She loves our gymanfas and St. David's Day celebrations although she hasn't been able to attend lately. She talked about the music that is in all of us who are Welsh, and said she was determined to be at our Gymanfa in October.

The point of this? You never know when you'll run into someone who shares your heritage and love of Wales. So wear your t-shirts, pins, scarves, or hats proudly, and take every opportunity to share the word about PSWA and our activities.

On another topic, I want to express my personal thanks to the members of the Board who work so hard to make our events so special as they did again at St David's Day this year. Karyn and Malcolm Davies are super at the sales tables, gathering items that we hope interest you! Laura Lovell, Gerri Parry and Ellen Webber put together amazing feasts each time we gather. Mary Lynne Evans makes our tables look beautiful, and, as you can see elsewhere in this newsletter, is an accomplished chronicler of our events and activities. And then there's the "Dean" of PSWA – Alan Upshall. His creativity and commitment to preserving Welsh culture in this part of the world are truly awesome. Thank you all of you!

There's always room for more. Your ideas and energy are more than welcome. If you'd like to chat about getting involved, just send me an email: President@pugetsoundwelsh.org

~Liz Heath

Mark Your Calendars! *Welsh holidays italicized*

April 19th South Sound Night Out of Hwyl (6pm)

May 1st Beltane (Beginning of Summer)

May 31st South Sound Night Out of Hwyl (6pm)

June 6th Black Diamond Welsh Heritage Days (1pm)

June 20th South Sound Movie Matinee (2:15 pm)

June 26-27 Tacoma Highland Games – Graham, WA

June 28th 80th Annual Bryn Seion Gymanfa Ganu

July 25-26 Seattle Highland Games – Enumclaw, WA

September 3-6 North American Festival of Wales

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT – PAGE 1

DINAS O FRAIN TO PLAY AT FOLKLIFE – PAGE 2

NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES – PAGE 2

ST. DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATION RECAP – PAGE 3

SEEKING BOARD MEMBER APPLICATIONS! – PAGE 4

SOUTH SOUND ANNUAL MOVIE MATINEE – PAGE 4

WELSH WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS – PAGE 5

BRYN SEION WELSH CHURCH GYMANFA GANU – PAGE 5

CWRS CYMRAEG IN PORTLAND – PAGE 6

BLACK DIAMOND WELSH HERITAGE DAYS – PAGE 6

PENBLWYDD HAPUS – HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April/Ebrill: Malcolm Davies, Gwen Helm,

Gerri Parry, Evans Paschal, Alan Upshall

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*

Dinas o Frain at FolkLife 2015

~By Kevin Gow

Dinas o Frain (The City of Crows) will be playing Traditional Welsh Music at FolkLife this year.

Members are Laura Lovell on fiddle and bouzouki, Kevin Gow on flute, whistle and concertina and Motter (Mo) Snell, harpist.

Dinas o Frain is scheduled to play at **4:40 p.m., Friday, May 22 on the Trad Stage at the Seattle Center.** It's the only Welsh music the whole FolkLife weekend, so we hope you can join us.



North American Festival of Wales

September 3-6, 2015 in Columbus Ohio

At the Hyatt Regency Columbus, you will be in the heart of downtown Columbus, OH and close to all area attractions. Columbus may be “the biggest small town in America,” but this sprawling, evolving metropolis is rich with history and culture, commerce and education.

The tradition began in 1929 when over 4,000 people gathered at Niagara Falls for the first National Gymanfa Ganu. It became the largest gathering of the Welsh, descendants, and friends in North America. The festival is held in a different location each year, in either the U.S. or Canada, on the shared Labor Day holiday weekend. Prepare yourself for four full days of song, merriment, and camaraderie with old and new friends, celebrating the life, heritage, and culture of Wales in Columbus, Ohio.

The Festival is organized by volunteers from across the U.S., Canada, and Wales, members of the Welsh North American Association who pool their time and talents to bring you a quality program each year. If you are not currently a member of the WNAA, we encourage you to join us in keeping the traditions alive.

Festival Highlights:

Seminars: Speakers from Wales and North America on topics including, *Genealogy*

Workshop; Welsh Writing and Identity in Nineteenth-Century Ohio; Patagonia: Flooding, Drought and Adaptation; Myra; the Lost Fairy Tales of West Wales & The Crow and the Canary; Welsh Cinema & Ethnic Identity; A Layman's Take on Cynghanedd and "What it Means to be Welsh; Welsh Poetry in Translation; The Welsh-American Hymn Singing Tradition ;Welshness and Choral Membership; Connections on Both Sides of the Atlantic; Patagonia 150 Years; Welsh Language I & II; Ysgol Gân; Welsh Folk Dancing; & Cinema Wales.

Eisteddfod: you are encouraged to participate in this time-honored tradition; enter a competition and show off your talents. Open to all ages and skill levels.

84th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu: held Sunday afternoon and evening, congregational hymn singing in both Welsh and English.

Affiliated Welsh Organization Roundtable: This annual meeting is your chance to meet with other local Welsh representatives.

Informal Singing: Finish every memorable evening singing Welsh hymns and old favorites.

Tours of central Ohio: we invite you to join us for some guided tours as part of the festival.

Headline Performers: Young Welsh folk group *Calan*, *The Penrhyn Choir* from Bethesda, North Wales; *John Ogwen*, one of Wales' leading actors; Welsh soprano *Gwawr Edwards*; tenor *Dafydd Edwards*; 2014 Welsh National Eisteddfod Blue Riband winner *Meinir Wyn Roberts*.

We promise you a Welsh experience that will not soon be forgotten. For further details about the North American Festival of Wales, for full details please visit www.nafow.org.



Cor Y Penrhyn photo by corpentryn.org;

Calan photo by bbc.co.uk;

Gwar Edwards photo by atholestill.com

A GOOD ST. DAVID'S DAY

-By MaryLynne Evans [Photos courtesy of M. Evans & K. Davies]



On February 28th, the Puget Sound Welsh Association celebrated Wales' beloved St. David in Seattle. The legacy of St. David includes his reported last words, "Be joyful, keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about." St. David accomplished many good works during his lifetime.

"Good" was the keyword of our celebration, especially because it starred John Good, and his band *Tramor*, consisting of William (Billy) Parker, and local percussion talent Kevin King. After meeting John at the 2014 North American Festival of Wales, several of us were so impressed with him we invited him to our St. David's Day as featured performer.

And John is good, a multitalented singer, songwriter, instrumentalist, poet and storyteller. Approximately 120 people in attendance sat amidst daffodils, banners, and flags, listening to John play Welsh pipes, flutes of various sizes and demeanors, and guitar. He sang his own compositions as well as Welsh folk and church related music. His cohort Billy Parker persuaded bluegrass instruments such as banjos, mandolins and guitars to take on Welsh overtones. Local Professor of Music at the University of Washington, Kevin King, filled out the band with percussions.

John was born in Cwmafan, South Wales into a Welsh-speaking household. Educated in Sandfields Comprehensive School, then Cardiff University, he studied with renown Welsh composer Alan Hodinott.



John has been living in the USA since 1975, devoting himself to the furtherance of Welsh culture and music since.

Our own Nerys Jones, originally from Wales, now residing in Seattle, joined John in several duets and sang solos as well. Nerys studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Presently, she sings with the Seattle Opera Company and has sung with the Welsh and English National Operas and the Scottish Opera.



Tomfoolery of the highest order took over at half time of the program with the second annual PSWA limerick contest. Although the limerick is an Irish poetic form, PSWA's contest has a Welsh turn. The contest opened in January soliciting limericks using the following opening lines: A slate miner's son from Ffestiniog; A crotchety old man from Cardiff; and A hard working farmer from Conway.

Using an international judge, five finalists were selected from all entries by Dr. Menna Elfin, Welsh poet and professor of creative writing at University of Wales, St. David Trinity College. Menna forwarded her finalists and those limericks were read aloud to the audience, who voted for their favorites by applause and cheers. First place winner, Brian Parry received a bottle of wine; second place winner, Gretta Upshall received a bottle of beer; third place winner, Karyn Davies received a bottle of water.



A generous goodies basket was raffled and, as usual, our Tê Bach was anything but little. The multitude left the hall, tummies full; some still humming our closing anthem: *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*.

And John was good to the very end, posing for photos, discussing his instruments, helping to fold up tablecloths and put away tables. Good St. David would have been impressed.

REPOST: Board Member

Applications Invited

By Liz Heath, President

As a nonprofit organization, PSWA must have a board of directors. This group is responsible for both the future of PSWA and for coordinating all our events. We hope to elect two more board members this fall for a full complement of ten (per our bylaws).

We are a congenial group that shares responsibilities fully and has a good time in the process. If you have some (not a lot) time available, we invite you to send us an application. We have five or six meetings a year that last an hour or two.

Each one of us takes responsibility for a specific area such as coordinating an event, food preparation, publicity, sale of items, and our booth, which we set up at various events like the Highland Games. Expectations of board members are that each will step up to take a lead role in activities and that all will attend board meetings regularly. In addition, board members contribute ideas to and help shape what PSWA will be in the future. There are no fundraising expectations of board members, although all must be current members.

Board members are elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting (in planning for this year). The Board application is simple. Just send an email to me with the following information:

- 1) Name, mailing address, telephone, email address
- 2) Statements about the following:
 - i) Why PSWA is important to you
 - ii) Any special skills you have that may contribute to the work of the board

Please send your application statement to president@pugetsoundwelsh.org as soon as possible. The current Board will review all applications and select those to be placed before the membership for election. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 253-381-9654.

South Sound Annual June Matinee

By Karyn Davies

Saturday, June 20, 2015 at the Lakewood branch of the Pierce County Library:

6300 Wildaire Rd SW, Lakewood, WA 98499.

Showing starts promptly at 2:30pm.

This year is a continuation of *The Story of Wales* (2012 TV Mini-Series). Presented by Welsh journalist Huw Edwards. Dinner or dessert/drinks at the Lakewood Town Center's Applebee's Restaurant afterwards.

Please RSVP by Friday June 19th to:

southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org or by calling 4253.761.3014.

Anglesey Eggs (vegetarian)

From: <http://tinyurl.com/pap7azf>

Ingredients:

- mashed potatoes (leftovers or freshly made)
- 2 large leeks, washed, finely sliced
- 1 cup milk
- 1 Tbs flour
- 3oz grated cheddar cheese
- 4 hard boiled eggs, peeled and quartered
- 3 Tbs breadcrumbs
- salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 400°F. Melt 1oz butter in large, roomy frying pan. Add finely sliced leeks, season generously with salt and a little pepper. Cook for 5 minutes on medium heat until leeks are just beginning to soften, take care not to burn.

Raise heat slightly, stir in flour, cook for 2 min. stirring continuously. Still stirring, slowly add milk; continue to cook for about 2 min. to make a thick, creamy sauce. Simmer on a low heat for 5 min., then add half the cheese, stir, then check the seasoning.

Generously butter an ovenproof dish, deep enough to take all the ingredients, but not too wide – you want thick layers of potatoes and sauce. Add the mashed potatoes, spread to cover the base of the dish in a thick layer. Neatly arrange the egg quarters gently pushing each into the mashed potatoes. Pour the leek sauce over.

Mix the remaining cheese with the breadcrumbs and sprinkle over the sauce. Bake 20 min or until bubbling and a golden brown crust on top.

Serve as a main dish or as a side dish for meats. Serves 2 as a main course.



Seattle Welsh Women's Club News

Meetings usually held the second Friday of the month at the Bellevue library September – April, 11:30am; Summer TBD.

Some in the Welsh Women's group have been sharing their family stories including what part of Wales their ancestors came from. It has been fun listening to a variety of responses. Many times over the winter months a short Welsh matinée is enjoyed when the regular meeting is concluded. We are now finishing the last episode of season 3 of the Welsh series "The Indian Doctor;" and will now start the summer schedule of outings.

There has been a joke over the years that we have become the *Welsh Women's Luncheon Social Club*, as in the summer months meeting places tend to be in restaurants including *British Pantry* (Redmond), *Cabbage Patch* (Snohomish), *Big Fish* (Bellevue), and the *Black Diamond Bakery*.

Several years ago, the Welsh Women put together a giving plan for charities that fit the interests and sensibilities of the group. To name a few receiving gifts from the club in past years, the Welsh North America Association for the *Seattle Welsh Women's Award* in the Eisteddfod Competition, awarded over several years; the *Welsh Memorial in Flanders Campaign*; Paver Brick in the *Black Diamond Miners Honor Garden*; and the ever popular *Welsh Pit Pony Sanctuary* which they have supported for quite a few years.

Giving for 2015 includes:

\$100 - Welsh Pit Ponies for whatever need they have. However, it has been requested to not have newsletter sent by mail, which is expensive. For information about this fund: www.pitponies.co.uk

\$150 – to support of Nerys Jones on her goal to raise money for Velindre NHS Trust Charitable Fund Victory Over Cancer campaign. She will be joining a hike in Patagonia, which coincides with the celebration of the Welsh who settled in Patagonia Argentina 150 years ago. For information: www.justgiving.com/NerysJones50, or the link on www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

Contact Carol Jones if you are interested in the summer activities: 425-429-6481 or welshwomen@pugetsoundwelsh.org.

Bryn Seion Welsh Church Gymanfa Ganu ~June 28, 2015



Bryn Seion Welsh Church
Beavercreek, Oregon

Photo: brynseionwelshchurch.org

Bryn Seion Welsh Church is a nondenominational Christian church dedicated to continuing worship, fellowship and singing in the Welsh tradition. Located in Beavercreek, Oregon, it is just south of Oregon City and only about a 30-minute drive south from downtown Portland.

Immigrants from Wales built this church in 1884, just a few miles from the end of the mythic Oregon Trail. The settlers wanted to hold their services in the ancient Welsh language and sing the beautiful Welsh hymns they remembered from their homes. The unbroken tradition of worshipping and singing in the Welsh custom continues to this day.

Bryn Seion Welsh Church has carried on the *Gymanfa Ganu* tradition since 1935. As in the past, people travel great distances to participate. The singers—completely unrehearsed—are drawn together for this special day by their love of Welsh hymn singing. Spontaneity and joy are an integral part of the tradition. This Bryn Seion celebration is always held on the fourth (not last) Sunday in June. The festivities begin right after church services as we come together to blend our voices in harmony. Even if you are not a singer—or you cannot read Welsh, we encourage you to hum along.

Afternoon singing is from 1:45 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. By then we're a bit hungry and thirsty! Thank goodness, Church members will have been working nonstop for weeks to prepare refreshments for us. The *Tê Bach*, or "little tea," is also a wonderful Welsh tradition. For only \$10 (\$5 if under 12 years old), choose from an amazing assortment of homemade treats, including muffins, lemon squares, Welsh cakes, lamb and leek tarts, brownies, miniature quiches, sliced cheeses, and chocolate tarts! Whet your thirst with some delicious, freshly prepared limeade, lemon water, and strong, hot tea.

Visit www.brynseionwelshchurch.org and join us:

**22132 S. Kamrath Road,
Beavercreek, OR 97004**

Volunteer Spot

<http://www.volunteerspot.com/group/81617862400>

The Puget Sound Welsh Association hosts multiple events throughout the year for members and friends. The ability to host these events is through the generosity of donations and volunteers. We appreciate your time in helping make each event successful and enjoyable for all - spreading Welsh-ness and all things Welsh everywhere!

Upcoming events needing volunteers:

Saturday, June 6: Black Diamond Welsh Days (set up sales and information table; meet and greet attendees; hand out free material; help with sales; pack up);

Friday-Sunday July 24 -26: Enumclaw Highland Games (Friday set up tent/tables; Saturday-Sunday meet and greet attendees, point out free material and resources, answer questions about PSWA and Wales, collect new/renewal membership, sell PSWA t-shirts and water; Sunday evening pack-up/tear down).

TBD: Gymanfa Ganu (set up tables, decorate, help where needed)

TBD: 2016 St. David's Day Celebration (set up tables, decorate, help where needed)

Without the necessary hands to make every event successful, each will be carefully considered to continue or to cancel involvement. This decision includes attendance at the Highland Games in Enumclaw, risking our location at a prime intersection if PSWA returns at a future year.

If you cannot access Volunteer Spot on line, please contact pswa@pugetsoundwelsh.org to donate your time. ~Diolch yn fawr!



Learn Welsh In Portland

<http://tinyurl.com/k5rhy6q>

The language of Wales comes to the Pacific Northwest in 2015. Cymdeithas Madog will bring the 39th 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!

www.facebook.com/cymdeithasmadog



Black Diamond Welsh Heritage Days

Saturday, June 6, 2015

Black Diamond Museum opens at noon; program begins at 1:00 PM. Program to include PSWA member Bill McJohn with his Welsh Triple Harp and Board Member Alan Upshall presenting a talk entitled "*Wales Off The Beaten Path.*"

Plan to meet for early lunch at the Black Diamond Bakery with the Welsh Women's Club before touring the museum. Walk through Black Diamond's cemetery and count the Welsh surnames. Stay for Welsh cakes, sweets, and coffee after the presentation.

Your donations help Black Diamond Museum maintain its Welsh artifacts and to put on this annual event.

32627 Railroad Avenue, Black Diamond, WA
www.blackdiamondmuseum.org



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

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

NON PROFIT ORG US POSTAGE PAID SEATTLE WA PERMIT NO. 1996

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED