1st EVER PSWA “Virtual”
St. David’s Day Celebration!
(Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant)

Sunday, February 28th, 2021
3:00PM

Put on a daffodil or leek, grab a cuppa, and
join us for a traditional Welsh celebration with
music, poetry, song, and fellowship.
*Have your hymnals handy!

Traditionally, the first of March is given to
celebrating not only St. David (Dewi Sant), the
Patron Saint of Wales, but also Welsh culture.

“Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed.
Do the little things that you have seen me do and
heard about. I will walk the path that our fathers
have trod before us.”

Last recorded words of Saint David 589 AD
‘Do the little things’ (‘Gwnewch y pethau bychain’) is still today a well-known phrase in Welsh

Call To Action!

> Former Board Members interested in
contributing to PSWA as the Association’s
Treasurer. Contact
President@PugetSoundWelsh.org

> Y Ddolen Co-Editor for one or two issues
each year. Contact
newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org

PSWA Board Members & Elected Officers

- Mary Lynne Evans, President
  President@PugetSoundWelsh.org | 206-525-5864
- Joel Ware IV, Vice President/Co-Editor
  Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org
- Bob Matthews, Secretary
  Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org
- Ellen Webber, Treasurer/Membership Secretary
  Membership@PugetSoundWelsh.org
- Gerri Parry, Member at Large
  Webmaster@PugetSoundWelsh.org
- Karyn Davies, South Sound Night Out of Hwyl/Events/Co-Editor
  Southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org
  Events@pugetsoundwelsh.org
- Laura Lovell, Member at Large
  Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org
- Gwen Weinert, Member at Large
  Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org
- Alan Upshall, Archivist
  Archives@PugetSoundWelsh.org
- Chris Mooreddrall, Member at Large
  Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org

We welcome your contribution of relevant articles, news,
announcements, events, and photos.
DEADLINE FOR NEXT SUBMISSION: March 20th 2021.
Letter from the President

Happy New Year -- Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

I am so glad to see 2020 go, for many reasons. And I am even more eager to plunge into 2021. Through all, I must tell you, I am heartened by my association with you all.

I loved our Noson Lawen Christmas celebration. A new adventure for those of us who produced it; we weren’t certain exactly how it would all turn out. Though I often find Zoom tiring and somewhat tedious (I much prefer warm personal contact) this event energized me! It was so much fun to have so many presenters with such good will and good humor. And to see you, the attendees in your little squares-- uplifting to see your faces and know that you are OK. I cannot thank you all enough for your participation. We had attendees from as far away as Silverdale, Washington and Baltimore Maryland. That is the beauty of Zoom. I also loved the chat afterwards. (I will include the names of the producers and presenters of this event at the end of this newsletter in honor of your work. I hope I have not left anyone out. I know you will let me know if I have.)

We also held our Annual General Meeting right before the Noson Lawen, as we are required by state law to do to keep our 501c3 status as a nonprofit group. It was with great pleasure that we elected and welcomed Chris Mooreddall to the board. Chris is an active participant in the Welsh culture and traditions. He has relatives in Wales with whom he keeps close contact. He is a Welsh language student and a baker—no stranger to Welsh cakes. He hopes to contribute to the board by furthering language and cultural studies and events. He also has financial, administrative and IT skills. A warm welcome to Chris!

We affirmed the following Board Members: Mary Lynne Evans (President), Joel Ware (Vice President), Bob Matthews (Secretary) Ellen Webber (Treasurer) and Members-At-Large Gerri Baker-Parry, Gwen Weinert, Laura Lovell, and Karyn Davies.

The organization is healthy financially if not overly wealthy. Your board is functioning at a high level and we have much interest from the members on participating. YAY for us!

The board held its first meeting of 2021, a planning session for the rest of the year. While it seems, we will not be able to meet in person as a group at least the first ¼ of the year, we hope to make lemonade out of lemons. St. David’s Day is an important part of our year. We will be having a St. David’s Day Celebration on Sunday, February 28th at 3:00PM over Zoom. We are working on the program now. We have hopes of getting some musical and poetry presenters and will be letting your know as soon as things are firmed up. Meanwhile, put it on your calendar. Music, tomfoolery, and Welsh companionship as usual!

So bravely we go forward into this new year, new world, holding tightly to each other and our glorious heritage. I welcome any ideas thoughts, and even yes, complaints, you may have.

Cadwch mewn cysylltiad a dymuniadau gorau (keep in touch and best wishes)
Mary Lynne Evans, President

Noson Lawen Producers and Presenters: Ellen Webber; Joel Ware; Evans Paschal; Karyn Davies; Bob Matthews; the entire PSWA Board; Nerys Jones; Chris Ensor; Laura Lovell and Kevin Gow, and Mary Lynne Evans

Jan Morris: Journalist, Historian, and Writer

By Mary Lynne Evans

I was saddened by the passing of Jan Morris (November 20, 2020 at age 94), the talented and beloved poet and author of Wales. Her affection for and knowledge of Wales brims over on the pages of her book The Matter of Wales, Epic Views of a Small Country. I loved her description of the opening of the Eisteddfod. “…in a kind of back-handed symbolism, the British Government’s Secretary of State for Wales is generally invited to open the festival’s proceedings, generally having to learn a few words of Welsh in order to do so….”

Q1.2021 Y Ddolen (The Link) is the Puget Sound Welsh Association’s Quarterly Newsletter - www.PugetSoundWelsh.org
St. David’s Day Celebration Program

-Karyn Davies

Our program this year will be much different than years past as it will be a live streamed event held via Zoom – an online audio and video conferencing platform.

Audience members must have access to a device (smart phone, desktop/laptop computer, etc) that can connect to the internet. You do not need a Zoom account or even to download Zoom to access the meeting. Once PSWA has emailed you the link and meeting codes to participate, follow the prompts – contact your tech-savy family member or friend to help walk you through this beforehand.

Zoom protocol: You do NOT need a camera or a microphone! You can call in when you receive the email invitation – it will list telephone numbers and the meeting ID codes. You will join MUTED, but if there’s a chance to say hello and you want to, you will need to dial [*][6] to UNMUTE. *Please MUTE yourself on your device(s) so we don’t hear background noises. If you do have Video, you can set up your background ahead of time if you download Zoom (blurred or fun background) or when you join from the meeting link. If you don’t want people to see your dirty dishes or unfolded laundry in the background, the dog or cat doing the unmentionable, or the little one streaking across the room, set your background. 😊

We realize this is not an option for all our members. If it is possible for you to join another household who can set up the Zoom meeting, we hope this is an option. Otherwise, call one of the numbers provided and you can listen in to the entire program. You just won’t be able to have the visual effect.

Call To Action

-Mary Lynne Evans/Karyn Davies

Puget Sound Welsh Association is still on the hunt to fill some much needed position – one appointed and one an elected Officer of the Board.

1. Although 2020 has come and gone, will need a new Treasurer as soon as possible. The position entails basic bookkeeping, monitoring the PO Box, receiving and entering the dues, and paying some bills mostly associated with event expenses. It is not a hard job, but is ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL for PSWA to be in legal compliance and not have to dissolve our organization – a real possibility! Current treasurer to mentor.

Past Board Members requested to apply as soon as possible!! President@PugetSoundWelsh.org

2. Co-Editor of Y Ddolen quarterly newsletter. PSWA publishes a quarterly newsletter to keep the membership updated on upcoming events, highlight past events, and provide news of interest, recipes, feature articles, historical data, and the like. As Co-Editor, you’ll take charge of a couple of the four newsletters. Assistance available! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact: Newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org. Diolch yn fawr!!

South Sound Night Out of Hŵyl

SouthSound@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Dear South Sound Group: Unfortunately the latest restrictions have placed any chance of social gathering on hold indefinitely. We have asked for input on holding a South Sound Night Out group meeting via Zoom, but at last check, there was virtually no interest. If you have had a change of mind, please contact us and we’ll check with the group on how to make it happen if it is of any interest.

We are making ourselves available should any of you want to meet up for outdoor dining/coffee – we prefer early afternoon due to cooler temps at night even with the heaters. Black Bear Diner in Lakewood is one consideration, but please contact us for other ideas, options, and thoughts. southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org
March 1st St. David Patron Saint of Wales

- by Gerri Parry [Reprinted from Y Ddolen 2008 January/February Issue]

March 1st is a celebration of Welsh nationality and culture, and special celebrations are held all over Wales to commemorate the country's Patron Saint.

Concerts are held to mark the occasion and leeks are worn - and eaten. Many local festivities traditionally feature traditional Welsh dances, Welsh folk songs and Welsh poems. St David's Day is also one of the most important dates in any School in Wales, when children dress in the traditional Welsh costumes and celebrate the Saint's day with an Eisteddfod, a festival of poetry, song and dance.

St. David's Day has been a national festival in Wales since the 18th century, when the London Welsh societies started celebrating their St David's Day dinners. Today, St David's Day is celebrated as a patriotic and cultural festival by the Welsh in Wales and throughout the world. However, contrary to Ireland's St Patrick or Galicia's St James, St David's is not a public holiday in Wales.

St. David (Dewi Sant) is the only native-born patron saint of the countries of Britain and Ireland. He was the only Welsh saint to have been formally canonised by the Catholic Church.

David came from an aristocratic family in Wales and was at the heart of the Welsh church in the 6th century. He became the abbot and bishop of St David's and died on 1st March 589 AD. He is buried in St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire. So respected was he that medieval pilgrims believed that two pilgrimages to St David's were equal to one pilgrimage to Rome.

Saint David is also known, in Welsh, as Dewi Ddyfrwr or David the Water Drinker. It is claimed that he ate only one meal a day of bread with vegetables and salt, and he was known for long fasts during which he drank nothing but water for several days.

Many legends recount how the leek came to be the national emblem of Wales. One popular legend states that Saint David advised the Britons on the eve of a battle with the Saxons, to wear leeks in their caps so as to easily distinguish friend from foe. This helped secure a great victory. It is also believed that the same thing happened when Welsh archers fought with Henry V at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. March 1st is now celebrated by Welsh people all over the world by wearing either of the national emblems - a leek or a daffodil.

Dues Are Due!
By Ellen Webber, Treasurer

Membership dues are owed each year in January for the calendar year, unless you have a lifetime membership. Any dues paid in the latter half of the year are applied for the following calendar year. So if you have not sent in any membership payments in the last six months, it’s time to send in that check! PSWA depends on those dues to produce our newsletter and pay for our events and operations.

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<td>Individual membership</td>
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<td>Family membership</td>
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*Surcharge for mailed copy of Y Ddolen ADD Additional $5

You can use the membership application at the back of the newsletter, print out the membership form from www.PugetSoundWelsh.org website, or just send a note with your name, mailing address, email address, and phone number along with your check (made out PSWA). Additional donations are always welcome, and are tax deductible!
Word Search Fun
Find the following words in the puzzle (words may appear forwards, backwards or diagonally):

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<th>CARIAD</th>
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<td>DAFFODIL</td>
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<td>SAINT</td>
<td>WALES</td>
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Annual Welsh Limerick Contest
By Ellen Webber

It’s time for the 2021 edition of the popular Puget Sound Welsh Association Limerick contest! Here are this year’s starting lines:

A Kerry Hill sheep from Powys
Huw and his pot of cawl cennin
A harpist who so loved to play

Please submit your entries to Ellen Webber at membership@pugetsoundwelsh.org with both your real name and a bardic name that will be used when submitting the entries to our impartial judge.

If you submit multiple entries, please use the same bardic name for each one. The deadline is February 15th, 2021, with the winners announced at St. David’s Day Celebration on February 28th.

2005 Email From Chicago Taffia Group Still Good Today
Reprint of partial article in Y Ddolen 2005 Jan/Feb/Mar issue and submitted by Joel Ware

“March 1st draws near, and again we can look forward to the prospect of blank stares when we mention St. David’s day to virtually anyone outside of the Welsh community.

While chances are that St.David’s Day will never be as popular or as widely celebrated as St.Patrick’s day, we can all make a difference when it comes to getting out general information and knowledge about our day of celebration. Following are a few suggestions which might help to reverse this “huh?” trend.

* In the days and weeks before March 1st, take a few minutes to email, write and phone your local radio/television stations and newspapers, asking them to wish the Welsh in your area “A Happy St. David’s Day.” In the case of radio stations, ask them if they might tribute a song by a Welsh musician, such as Tom Jones, Charlotte Church, The Stereophonics, Jem, or Bryn Terfel.

* Inquire whether you can post a St. David’s Day message at your local gas stations, grocery stores, pubs or anywhere else with a notice board.

* Make an effort to expand the circulation of Welsh publications such as Ninnau, Yr Enfys, and Cambria magazine in the United States, by donating a subscription to your local library (or school library).

* At the very least remember to fly your Welsh flag on St. David’s Day!

Members of the Chicago Taffia tried a number of these ideas in Chicago last year and had a great deal of success in getting air time on various radio and television stations and also got St. David’s day messages into several newspapers.”
Once Upon A Welsh Lovespoon

-By Chris Mooreddrall

With Dydd Santes Dwynwen (St. Dwynwen’s Day / Welsh version of Valentine’s day) being the 25th of January, it seemed appropriate to give a little story about Lovespoons or Cariad Llwys. The earliest known example of a Welsh Lovespoon is from the 17th Century. It was usually intended for a love interest. Carved from a single piece of wood, they are rich in symbolism based on what is carved, a lock for security, a cross for faith, caged balls indicating the number of children you hoped for. While there are many examples, there is one well known one in my family. My great great grandfather Owen Jones carved one to his beloved Annie (my great great grandmother) in 1894, 13 years after they married, so it was a work of love for his betrothed rather than intended.

After she died, he remarried… and he carved another one for his 2nd wife. The funny part is he carved an exact replica of the one he gave to his first wife! The only difference is the date and initials carved. While he was a limestone quarryman he was also a skilled carver and had carved other spoons as well. These lovespoons (and blueprints) have stayed within the family all of these years, though there had been a several decade stint with his wife’s spoon being displayed at St. Fagans Museum in Cardiff.

The Curator of the Welsh Folk Museum Trefor Owen wrote a book called The Story of the Lovespoon in 1973. Wouldn’t you know he picked our family’s lovespoon as the cover photo. Within the book he described the spoon as one of the most elegant from St. Fagans Museum. The spoon itself has a chain showing how they are linked in married (and described by the author as being perfection seen in symmetry), and two caged balls. Considering they had 5 children at the time, perhaps it was for the two more that came later?!?

Though it is not back in the hands of our family, there is no shortage of pride in our ancestor for his skillmanship. One of his grandchildren in America continued the tradition carving spoons in Wisconsin until the 1990’s when he died, and made a replica of Owens - also in the book! Perhaps I should learn and give it a go.

Santes Dwynwen – Patron Saint of Lovers

By Karyn Davies

Celebrated on January 25th every year, Dydd Santes Dwynwen (St. Dwynwen’s Day) pays tribute to one of Wales’ many legends. A princess who fell in love with Prince Maelon in the 5th century, Dwynwen (whose name means “she who leads a blessed life”) alas was pledged to be married to another. In her grief, she fled to the woods and begged God to have her forget Maelon. She was visited by an angel who gave her a potion to forget her love and in the fashion of so many legends… also turn Maelon into a block of ice.

She was granted three wishes. Her first was for Maelon to be thawed, second that all hopes and dreams of lovers to be fulfilled, and third that she never marry. She became a nun, devoting herself to God, and founded a covent at Llandwyn – an island off Anglesey. There, Ffynnon Dwynwen is a spring that flows and has become a place of pilgrimage.

Typical gifts on St. Dwynwen’s Day are cards, sweets, romantic holidays, love spoons, and other romantic gifts.

Cadw have put together a short downloadable e-book about St. Dwynwen you can check out here: https://cadw.gov.wales/sites/default/files/2019-05/Santes_Dwynwen_EN_0.pdf

http://brecon.fyinetwork.co.uk/static/user/22/635249912916860417/santes%20dwynwen_card.pdf
Turning... Poems of Migration and Identity

By Rob Morgan. October 2020 © – used with permission; do not copy or distribute in entirety or in portion without express consent from the author.


This second volume of twenty two poems is as memorable as its predecessor “Feathers Scattered in the Wind” (Iconau 2014). Each poem in this new collection is celebrated with the strength of memory, tight-woven images of celebration, and of anticipation. Tony Kendrew says in his introduction that the poems telling the stories of his Welsh forefathers are ‘poetic fantasies, not intended to be accurate character portraits.’ A lovely image. Yet, these are his chosen ones, his well-dropped anchors of his own identity, his far from elusive roots; the reason for his search within for identity and place...

“Come stranger

Sing for me

In your voice

I hear

The sound of unasked questions

That stir my longing.”

They are delightful. The core poems are chronologically arranged; nurturing and gathering into one murmuring stream those influences, real and imaginary, which have stirred from the past as he uncovered his own understanding of the need to belong, of Hiraeth....

“Perhaps I’d always felt the tremor of displacement, a sideways glance of exile.”

They are interspersed with reflections, ‘Leaving,’ ‘Roots,’ ‘Returning,’ which form the stepping-stones of life and love and loss by which he reveals a sense of kinship with all who are drawn by the desire to move outward and away from Cymru, to explore and to set new boundaries. Clearly, impressively, Kendrew’s ‘Turning’ resoundingly echoes the time-lines of Harri Webb’s “The Green Desert,” an anthology of Welsh poetry which will be dear to the hearts of all exiles from home. Yet, he intends his poems to go far beyond nationality and identity...

“the transitory hopes and dreams

which have defined and scattered us.”

Endeavouring in each verse to rediscover that internal state of longing, and of being, that lingers both in soul and heart, what he calls ‘the home within.’ Crucially, that’s a Welsh image of immense importance. Here, surely, Tony Kendrew has found it....

“enlightened yes by what we’ve lost

But lightened more by what we’ve gained.”

This poet is an amazing celebrant of exile and longing in the broadest sense, with the subtlety of distant singing. As the great Denbighshire poet John Idris Jones wrote, poetry should contain ‘a little bomb surrounded by song.’ Quite so. This is a strong collection by a poet worthy of that device.
Our Noson Lawen
By Laura Lovell

On Dec 13th, 2020, PSWA held our first ever virtual Noson Lawen, and it was a great success. We had some great talent on display, some doing their act live on Zoom, and others submitting recordings. There was poetry, songs, music and humor, interspersed with group singing of course. All of these were seamlessly (almost) blended all together by the MC talents of Bob Mathews, and the technical finesse of our computer team, Ellen Webber and Joel Ware.

Although we had some trepidations that a Noson Lawen could be done on computer, people had a lot of fun and, personally, I’d have to say it was the high point of my Christmas season. It lasted longer than we expected, because people chatted together afterwards for quite a while. We also had some attendees from other locations.

Special thanks are due to Bob, Joel, Ellen, and Mary Lynne, whose idea it was, to Nerys Jones for contributing above and beyond with her lovely voice, to the performers, and to everyone who logged in to try something new!

Welsh Proverbs
By Karyn Davies with Contribution by JoAnne Matsumura

All US-raised people will have learned some proverbs over time. These cute little adages or sayings have been memorized and used across all languages and cultures since time immorial. Filled with wisdom, there is one for every point of view: “The early bird gets the worm,” “Look before you leap,” “He who hesitates is lost,” “Haste makes waste.”

Wales also has its share of wisdom in proverbs. Can you match which Welsh phrase with its English translation goes with which English version?

1. “O giwio i chiwio yr â’r arian yn bunt.”
   From penny to penny the money becomes a pound.

2. “(Y) cyntaf i’r felin caiff falu.”
   First to the mill will get to grind.

3. “Dyfal doa a yr y garreg.”
   Persistent blows shatter the stone.

4. “Menyn hir, menyn drwg.”
   Long butter, bad butter.


New Years’ Customs
https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofWales/Welsh-Christmas-Traditions/
By Ben Johnson
https://westwalesholidaycottages.co.uk/blog/new-year-traditions-in-wales/
By Sara

“The most popular New Year’s custom was one that was carried out in all parts of Wales: the Calennig (small gift). On January 1st from dawn until noon, groups of young boys would visit all the houses in the village carrying evergreen twigs and a cup of cold water drawn from the local well. The boys would then use the twigs to splash people with water. In return, they would receive the Calennig, usually in the form of copper coins. The custom, in various forms, survived in some areas well after World War II, at least in the form of the chanting of a small verse or two in exchange for small coins.”

“The tradition of “first footing” was always important in Wales, a dark-haired man should let in the New Year for good luck. The man leaves the house by the back door just before midnight on New Year’s Eve, walks around and on the strike of midnight, knocks on the front door. The household opens the door and receives salt for seasoning, silver for wealth, coal for warmth, a match for kindling and bread for sustenance from him. If the first visitor across a Welsh threshold was either a woman or a red haired man it was considered terribly unlucky for the household.”

Photo below: circa 1919 Welsh Money Box sold at 1stdibs.com for over $550!
Annual memberships renew each January. Your contributions entitle you to a subscription to Y Ddolen, our wonderful quarterly newsletter, and provide vital support for our St. David’s Day celebration and other activities through the year. In addition to our sponsored events, the Puget Sound Welsh Association acts as a valuable resource for anyone interested in Welsh culture, language, and music. Questions? Contact Ellen Webber.

Annual 2021 Memberships/Fees

- Individual ($10) $____
- Family/Couple ($15) $____
- Y Ddolen mailed to you ($5) $____
- Life ($100) $____
- Overseas Annual Postage ($50) $____
- Overseas Life ($150) $____

Donations

- General Fund Donation $____
- Memorial Scholarship $____
- Memorial Fund $____ In Memory of (Name): __________________________

Retail Products – *prices include shipping/postage ($15 if picked up at events)

- PSWA T-Shirts Total number of shirts ___ x $19.95 $__________
  $19.95* each. Indicate how many of each size and color:
  Steel Green: ___ LG ___ XL *Limited quantities of each size; Email for availability.
  Dark Green: ___ SM ___ MED ___ XL *Limited quantities of XL; Email for availability.

- Welsh Music CD Total number of CDs ___ x $15 $__________
  *Y Ddraig Goch, Traditional Welsh Folk music of Wales: $15* each

Make check payable to PSWA TOTAL ENCLOSED $____

Membership Information (please print):

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: __________________________
Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

First Name: __________________________ Last Name: __________________________
Phone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

Mailing Address: ___________________________________________________________

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Please mail this form with payment to: PSWA, PO Box 27725, Seattle, WA 98165
Join the PSWA Facebook Group! “Like” the PSWA Facebook Page!
Stay in touch with other members across the Puget Sound and Washington state, keep up to date with events and activities, and post relevant events/information to the discussion forum. Read interesting news and historical posts. Share what you find.
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Cymru am byth!