



Ionawr, Chwefror, Mawrth 2025

Volume 43, |ssue 1

January, February, March 2025

Puget Sound Welsh Association's Annual St. David's Day Celebration

Saturday, March 1st, 2025 2PM - 4PM

Sunset Hill Community Association's Hall 3003 NW 66th St, Seattle, WA 98117



Traditionally, the first of March is given to celebrating not only St. David, *Dewi Sant* the patron saint of Wales, but also Welsh culture. On this day, Welsh people wear a leek or a yellow daffodil.

We welcome back **Bronn Journey** (<u>www.bronnjourney.com</u>), accomplished harpist and long-time PSWA member, performing selections of Welsh favorites and more! Of course, the afternoon will not be complete without audience participation singing hymns and folk songs (accompanied by Katherine Journey) and choosing winners of PSWA's (infamous) annual limerick contest.

Te bach (little tea) to follow.

Contributions of Welsh cakes and snacks are appreciated for the spread of light refreshments as we enjoy conversation, music, and warm fellowship together.

Suggested donation of \$10 per adult

is greatly appreciated for this important cultural celebration to continue.

Please contact <u>pswa@pugetsoundwelsh.org</u> if you can assist with <u>s</u>et up, decorations, raffle, greeting, clean up, and/or refreshments.

If you have a song, poem, or recitation you would like to perform, the program has time built in to allow our Members and Friends a chance to be a part of the entertainment!

Contact: pswa@pugetsoundwelsh.org if you're interested.

Make sure to bring your hymnals!

Click to listen to a sample of Bronn Journey playing Myfanwy from his 2006 CD: <u>https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=WeSSNreZfvg</u>



PSWA Annual Welsh Limerick Contest!

It's time for the 2025 edition of the popular Puget Sound Welsh Association Limerick contest! Here are this year's starting lines.

There once was a silly young lamb

A farmer who loved a good ale

A young woman hiking through Penfro

Please submit your entries to Ellen Webber at <u>membership@pugetsoundwelsh.org</u> 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 <u>same</u> bardic name for each one. The **deadline is February 21**st, with the winners announced at St. David's Day. Fabulous prizes! Bragging rights! Put on your thinking cap and send in an entry.

Letter from the President

Dear Readers,

I am pleased to say that the Puget Sound Welsh Association is continuing for another year on a sound footing, with loyal members, and a good bank balance. Many Thanks to our outgoing President, and incoming Vice-President, Mary Lynne Evans, for helping PSWA change and grow. Diolch Yn Fawr!

This January, we have already supported our first event of the year with co-sponsorship of a concert in Ballard by our dear friend, mezzo-soprano Nerys Jones on January 12th.

At this concert, Nerys sang, supported by the able accompanist Steven Lukasan, providing a British Afternoon of music under the auspices of the local Edvard Grieg Society. PSWA supported this concert by providing Welsh cakes, bara brith, coffee, tea, and information about Welsh culture and activities.

St. David's Day is just around the corner! I encourage you, dear readers, to join in our next event on March 1st, **at 2:00PM**, celebrating St. David, the Patron Saint of Wales. We will celebrate with music, poetry, and te bach in the same location as last year, the Sunset Hill Community Hall in Ballard. This event is a fine opportunity to do outreach to your friends who may need to learn more about Welsh culture, so invite them, and offer them a ride if needed to seal the deal.

The weekend following, we will welcome members of the North American Welsh Choir for an extended rehearsal workshop. We would like to offer homestay opportunities for choristers, so please contact us if you can assist with transportation and/or lodging for visiting singers.

That's all for now! In our next newsletter, I will offer a brief capsule autobiography, but for now...

Pob Hwyl,

Joel Ware IV, President

"...do the little things ... "



South Sound

By Chris Mooreddrall

Sunday 16th Feb 2:00pm Black Bear Diner 10115 S Tacoma Way, Lakewood, WA 98499

Sunday 16 Mar at 2:00pm Black Bear Diner 10115 S Tacoma Way, Lakewood, WA 98499

To RSVP or if you have questions, please contact SouthSound@PugetSoundWelsh.org.



If you are interested in upcoming events and don't look at your emails often, feel free to check out **www.pugetsoundwelsh.org** or our Facebook groups which have all get togethers and events across the Puget Sound.

Six Nations Rugby

By Karyn Davies

https://www.sixnationsrugby.com/en/m6n/news/2025-guinness-mens-six-nations-matches-announced



Matches for Cymru will be (as always, verify times in case of changes): 12:15PM – Friday, January 31st (France) 6:15AM – Saturday, February 8th (Italy) 6:15AM – Saturday, February 22nd (Ireland) 8:15AM – Saturday, March 8th (Scotland) 8:15AM – Saturday, March 15th (England)

Watch Parties are encouraged! If you are planning to host or attend a live or delayed showing, please contact <u>pswa@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u> and/or the PSWA FB group page so we can let others know.

Luncheon Potluck Watch Party, Friday, January 31st in Ballard at the Weinert home. Match begins at 12:15PM so please arrive 11:30AM – 12 noon. >>RSVP to pswa@PugetSoundWelsh.org for address and directions.

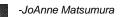
Breakfast Potluck Watch Party, Saturday, March 15th in Ballard at the Weinert home. Match begins at 8:15AM so please plan to arrive 8AM earliest. >>RSVP to <u>pswa@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u> for address and directions.

https://www.doylespublichouse.com/events

Doyle's Public House in Tacoma will be playing the matches live according to their website (call to verify). 208 St. Helens Ave South, Tacoma 98402 * 253.272.7468

Peacock will be showing matches. Check your provider's channel line-up and verify times: <u>https://www.peacocktv.com/sports/rugby</u>

And Then They Didn't Come



WELSH RAREBIT ----- "When I was starting my apartment," remembered the bachelor, "several of my lady friends wired me they would bring a small party of people up for Welsh rarebit. I went out and bought a chafing dish, the handsomest I could find; a dozen plates, silver knives and forks and spoons and napkins and a table to set the rarebit out on so that the rarebit, which at a restaurant would have cost about \$1.00 all told, cost me about \$35.00. And then they didn't come." -----New York Press. (Enumclaw Courrier, February 15, 1907.)

Côr Cymru Gogledd Coming to Seattle

By Mary Lynne Evans

International Welsh Choir holds rehearsal in Seattle. March 8-10, 2025 Local residents are invited to join workshop and potluck.

Côr Cymry Gogledd America (Welsh Choir of North America) <u>https://corcymrygogleddamerica.com</u> will hold rehearsals for its West Coast members Friday, March 8-Sunday March10 in Seattle. PSWA will facilitate the workshops and will host the choristers to a Saturday night potluck and noson lawen. All members of PSWA are invited to sit in on rehearsals and to attend the dinner. It will be a time to talk with Dr. Morgan, to reignite old friendships from your previous choir activities, and to enjoy good Welsh hwyl.

The choir, directed by Dr. Mari Morgan, was formed in 1998, and has toured Patagonia, Argentina, New Zealand, Canada, and Wales itself twice. It has also given numerous concerts in cities throughout the US and Canada. In 2025, the choir will go on tour to Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and St. Pierre Island. For months prior to the tour, the choir have met Saturday mornings on Zoom to hear the music, learn the words, sing along with their respective tracks, and sing altogether with a combined voices track. Commissioned composers from Wales, the US, and Canada join the choir for interviews on and interpretations of their original music.

Because the choir spans the continent, it is impossible and expensive for members to meet repeatedly in one venue over a year. Instead, separate regional workshops are held throughout the US and Canada to augment the Saturday Zoom meetings. But not to worry. Several days prior to the tour, choristers intensively rehearse in person. Of course, all individuals have learned their parts, practiced the words (most of them Welsh). The group begins to meld together as a full choir.

More information will come out as the time approaches (check your emails, PSWA website, and PSWA FB pages). Meanwhile, please contact Mary Lynne Evans at <u>pswa@pugetsoundwelsh.org</u> with thoughts on the activities. Any help you may give us for transporting people, providing for home stays, and bringing food is greatly appreciated. A great weekend is in store.

The Shanty Piper Author Finds His Welsh Connection

By Heidi Hiatt

Local author and pro bagpiper Don Scoby, who played at 2024's St. David's Day event, has published his latest book, *The Shanty Piper*. In what might be the first book of its kind, Don has adapted beloved sea shanties to the Highland Bagpipes. I was privileged to write the foreword to the book and see the arduous work that went into condensing a wealth of information into individual nuggets of knowledge with sheet music.

Whether you love sea shanties, are curious about sea shanties, love to sing, play pipers, or just dig music, this book is a kick. And guess what? It was suspected but has now been confirmed-- Don has Welsh ancestry! He had already been researching Welsh recipes for his next cookbooks and learning more about Welsh culture when this was discovered (Cymry's draw is strong...). So expect to see more Welsh references in his future publications and revised editions of his existing books.

If you're interested in his latest, *The Shanty Piper*, The Piper's Hut is accepting preorders, <u>https://www.thepipershut.com/the-shanty-piperpre-order.html</u>.



Happy St. Dwynwen's Day! Dirwnod Santes Dwynwen Hapus!

By Gwen Weinert

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGi61oy7Tew



Dwynwen was the princess daughter of King Brychan Brycheiniog and lived in Wales in the 5th century. She was in love with Maelon Dafodrill, but her father arranged a marriage for her to a prince. She was broken-hearted and prayed that she would fall out of love with Maelon.

An angel came to her with a potion that turned Maelon into a block of ice. God granted three wishes to Dwynwen: that Maelon would be thawed, God would bless all true lovers in Wales, and she would remain unmarried to live a life of service to God.

She founded a convent on the tidal island of Ynys Llanddwyn and became a hermit. She worked as a healer of humans and animals, until her death in c.460. Her church became a place of pilgrimage and she is the Welsh patron of lovers. She is celebrated as such each January 25th.

Her attributes of blessing all lovers extend to all people and animals. How can you celebrate her life each January? Here are some suggestions.

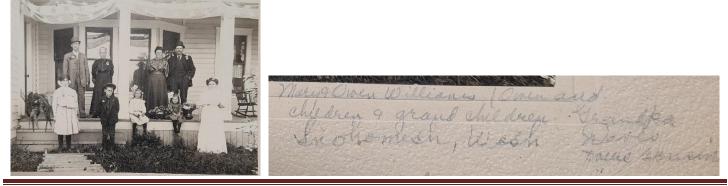
- 1. Take your dear one to dinner and a movie.
- 2. Teach your children or grandchildren how to make Welsh cakes and enjoy them together.
- 3. Plan to enhance the lives of your companion animals.
- 4. Give money or time to a cause that enriches lives.
- 5. Write some cards to people that you love and tell them why.
- 6. Show your appreciation to all those who serve in your community.
- 7. Think of ways to emulate this loving Saint, and do one a day for a week.
- 8. Plan a trip to her island (off the coast of Anglesey) for the next time you are in Wales.

Welsh Family Sought – Snohomish, WA

My name is Charles Boyd, my address is 545 Melanie Dr, Montgomery, Al. 36109. My email address is <u>econchate1976@gmail.com</u>

I have some cousins that were from Wales and they lived in Snohomish Washington in the late 1800s and early 1900s. I have a number of cousins that I can trace to the Seattle area that are of Welsh descent and there are some I am trying to connect to my tree better. My grandmother was Abigail Phillips and her father was William Jenkins Phillips and her mom was Annie Davies both of who were born and raised in Wales.

William Jenkins Phillips and family were some of the first homesteaders in the state of Colorado. His sister had lived in the Aberdeen, South Dakota area. I think they were a part of the Powell Welsh Colony. Her kids and grandkids settled in that area and many are the ones traceable to the Seattle area. I would love to get to know others in this group. I have a picture that I would like to share of the family in Snohomish Washington that are cousins. My grandmother wrote on this particular photo but was not completely labeled. *[Editor's note: names read as Mary & Owen Williams (Owen and Grandpa Davis).]* I was able to trace some on Ancestry DNA.



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Washington State Coal Mining Fatalities (1885-1960)

-JoAnne Matsumura

Washington State like so many other mining operations in other states of the United States lost many lives, and many of them were Welsh.

A special project nearly 10 years ago was undertaken to make a list of the names of miners who lost their lives in Washington State mines. The ethnicity of the miners was not always known, however in reading each of the mine accident reports every life lost was listed and if their ethnicity was so indicated it became a part of the information documented.

A listing of injuries sustained by coal miners has not yet been compiled.

The following names were found with "Welsh" listed as their ethnicity. Included is the year of death, the Town Name, and Marital Status if shown, are also listed below:

DAVIS, THOMAS A.	Black Di
EDWARDS. THOMAS D. 1935	Wilkesor
EVANS, DAVID J. 1912	Black Di
EVANS, JOHN E. 1919	Brunett
EVANS, WILLIAM J. 1952	Roslyn
FRANCIS, RICHARD 1957	Kent
HAMENS, WILLIAM 1917	Carbonad
HUGHES, DAVID J. 1930	Carbonad
HUGHES, MORRIS R. 1924	Carbonad
JENKINS, REESE 1918	Burnett
REES, JOHN 1914	Wilkesor
REESE, DAN 1918	Burnett
REESE, REESE (AKA REES) T.	Black Di
THOMAS, EVAN W. 1933	Wilkesor
WATKINS, JAMES R. 1914	Carbonad
WILLIAMS, OWEN 1917	Carbonad

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Puget Sound Meet Ups

South Sound has a group that has been meeting around the Lakewood, Tacoma, Olympia area for food, drinks, and even parties. Here are some opportunities in Seattle & Everett:

Aaron Byrne has posted to PSWA's FB group page a few times looking for some Welsh to round out his new Irish & Celtic Society of Snohomish. They meet monthly at Shawn O'Donnell's American Grill & Irish Pub in Everett. Check out the group for more information: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/1045922866649209</u>

Michael Trevor Horn has indicated he's up for a pint any time someone is in the Seattle area – especially for some Welsh language fun! But anything related to Wales that would be of interest. He has posted to PSWA's FB group in the past, but you can connect with him here: <u>https://www.facebook.com/MichaelTrevor981</u> and read and comment to his posts in the PSWA group page here: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/31450906189/user/100040899143705/</u>

When God was crafting Wales, he adorned it with sheep and cows for food and clothing. He gifted it with coal to keep its people warm. He bestowed rolling hills, enchanting valleys, and majestic mountains that reached the heavens.

Upon completing his work, God gently kissed the highest mountain, creating the very first Welshman. The Welshman, filled with awe, questioned, "My Lord, why have you blessed me with all these remarkable treasures?"

God chuckled and replied, "My child, wait till you meet the neighbours!"

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In-coming Vice-President's Letter

Our beloved Association held its annual general meeting (AGM) and holiday party at Laura Lovell's house on November 23rd, 2024. Friends gathered to partake of warm wassail, bara brith, cawl, salads, and desserts. Conviviality swirled through the whole event. Thanks to Laura and Kevin Gow who hosted us.

The holiday party was combined with the Annual General Meeting where we conduct business as a 501c3 organization, introduce new board members, and announce our new officers. Welcome, new board member Jill Moore!

In preparation for the meeting, I reflected over the years I have been President, and so many memories flooded back. Here are some of them:

We held AGM and Christmas parties before and even during the dark days of COVID. We never missed Saint David's Day either. We invited Ifor ap Glyn, poet laureate of Wales for 2023, and he graciously gave us a live Zoom reading, complete with an original video. A young harpist, also performing live from Wales, was charming and talented. We held hands across the seas during those uncertain times.

We initiated our "virtual pub," The Drunken Daffodil, and subsequently gathered over 80 people at various times via Zoom all over the United States and Wales with various presentations. We became a sister pub with the Crossed Keys in Wales with their bartender attending several of our Zoom meetings despite the time difference. They presented an epic program on the ghosts that haunt their pub.







We visited the Vancouver Welsh Association to get advice on making a Mari Llwyd, and then made one in Joel Ware's hobby room. She often attends our gatherings, and we learned her songs and rhymes.

We also hosted a reception for a visiting Welsh member of the New York Society, and attended and participated in one of the Seattle Storytellers Guild performances. We presented programs for the Black Diamond Historical Society's Welsh Heritage Day, and we treasure our association with them.

I found a genuine Ewenny pottery wassail bowl in Bridgend, Wales and brought it back home to hold our party wassail. We staffed a booth at the Highland Games, a big effort. We held summer picnics in parks and member's homes. We hosted Welsh storyteller Peter Stevenson and friends.

We attended the World Cup game between Wales and the USA in pubs in Puyallup and Fremont. We travelled to Almira, Washington, at the invitation of Welsh descendants. Together, we cleaned and reclaimed a Welsh cemetery once lost in the middle of a wheat field. We attended their church and taught them Calon Lan. Kay Vea, our nonagenarian member who grew up in Almira, played the piano to great acclaim. We represented PSWA at national and international conferences.

Our South Sound group have held get-togethers, parties, and dinners. We show-cased local talent like Bronn and Katherine Journey, Eric Bowen, Rebecca Teeters, Bill McJohn, Paul Matsumura, Kevin Gow and Laura Lovell with Dinas o Frain, Nerys Jones, and Andrea Wild from Portland. We wrote both brilliant and terrible limericks and auctioned off terrific gift baskets. Various members have opened their homes for Noson Lawen, picnics, and parties.

Our great co-editors, Karyn Davies and Gwen Weinert, have published out newsletter *Y Ddolen* faithfully. Bob Matthews, our secretary, and Alan Upshall, our archivist, have sent minutes and records to the UW Library at their request, and to the Great Plains

Welsh Heritage Museum <u>www.peoplescollection.wales</u> [Editor's note: see right for QR code]. We maintain a webpage and Facebook presence thanks to Gerri Parry and Karyn Davies. Ellen Webber has taken care of our treasurer and membership records, and assured communications between the board and members, facilitated newsletter distribution and Zoom meetings, and numerous other tasks. Joel Ware has played an essential role in all our activities, including representation at the Ethnic Fair in the City of Lacey. Many of our PSWA members are also members of Côr Cymry North America (more on that later in this newsletter).

When I wrote down this list, I was amazed at all we had accomplished (I know I have missed something. Making a list is always a mine field so please excuse my sins of omission and commission). I am so honored to have been your president for these years. And I wish to acknowledge the amazing history of this organization and previous boards. We always stand on the shoulders of those giants who came before us.

Thank you for your generosity, your loyalty, your hwyl, your friendship, your creativity and musicality, your willingness to participate in tomfoolery, and especially for your dedication to our mutual heritage. I always feel I have "come home" when we get together.

I shall be stepping down from the president's role, and longtime member Joel Ware IV will be our President. I will continue on the board in the position of Vice President along with: Secretary Laura Lovell, Treasurer Chris Mooreddrall, Membership Ellen Webber, *Y Ddolen* Co-Editors Karyn Davies and Gwen Weinert, Webmaster Gerri Parry, Bob Matthews, and new member Jill Moore. Be sure to thank your hard-working board. They are gems.

I know the board is already planning activities for 2025, so stay tuned, and remember your contributions and thoughts are always solicited and valued.

So I say so long as president, but not goodbye as a fellow PSWA member. Pob lwc, Joel!

With much affection,

Mary Lynne Evans

PSWA Membership Dues Now Due!

Membership dues are owed each year in January for the calendar year, unless you have a lifetime membership. If you have not sent in membership payments within the last six months, it's time to send in that check! PSWA depends on your dues to produce our newsletter and pay for events a operations.

Individual membership	\$10	
Family membership	\$15	
Lifetime membership	\$100	
Surcharge for mailed copy	of Y Ddolen	\$5

You can use the membership application on the back of the newsletter, send a note with your name, address, email, and phone number along with your check, or pay via PayPal on our website: <u>www.pugetsoundwelsh.org</u>. Additional donations are always welcome, and are **tax deductible**!

PSWA Board Members & Elected Officers

- Joel Ware IV, President
 <u>President@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u>
- Mary Lynne Evans, Vice President
 <u>Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u>
- Chris Mooreddrall, Treasurer/ South Sound Group
 <u>Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u>
 <u>SouthSound@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u>
- Laura Lovell, Secretary
 <u>Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u>
- Ellen Webber, Membership Secretary
 <u>Membership@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u>
- Gerri Parry, Member at Large
 <u>Webmaster@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u>
- Karyn Davies, Events/Co-Editor <u>Events@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u>
- Bob Matthews, Member at Large
 <u>Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u>
- Gwen Weinert, Co-Editor
 <u>Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u>
- Alan Upshall, Archivist
 <u>Archives@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u>











PSWA Membership/Renewal, Donations, T-Shirts, & Red Dragon Band CD

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.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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