



Y Ddolen

Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Ebrill, Mai, Mehefin 2020

Second Edition 05.01.2020

April, May, June 2020

Letter From the President

Greetings Puget Sound Welsh Association members and friends.

Every day brings new information on the pandemic and everyone's efforts in dealing with it. PSWA has cancelled all its previously scheduled meetings and events in an effort to work toward the safety of the whole community. No Mabinogion Epic storytelling, no scheduled picnic, no South Sound events - at least for now. *[June 6th Black Diamond Welsh Heritage Day is also canceled.-Ed.]*

I got word from the Welsh North American Association President Dave Matthews (our international organization of Welsh folk in Canada and US) that the Festival of Wales has been cancelled for 2020. Slated to be held in Philadelphia over Labor Day, the board cancelled the event upon careful consideration of the numerous risks and uncertainty. The Philadelphia organizing committee was disappointed, as was the rest of WNAA. The board assured Taylor Williams and Jack Williams, co-chairs of the Philadelphia group, they would try to reschedule in Philadelphia again. Until then, the 2021 festival will be held in Ottawa.

Closer to home, you should have gotten an email update in the middle of April from us, telling of the delay of this newsletter and the cancellation of the Mabinogion event. In addition, the board continues to do the back stage work of keeping PSWA up and running. Along those lines, I also asked a couple of questions that I would like to repeat here.

As you know, putting on a St. David's Day Concert annually is getting increasingly expensive. Churches have upped their rental rates and getting out-of-town talent always involves travel costs and honorariums. PSWA board has been discussing what options we might have for hosting the celebration that would be more self-sustaining.

(Letter continues on next page...)

PSWA Board Members & Elected Officers

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We welcome your contribution of relevant articles, news, announcements, events, and photos.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT SUBMISSION: 20th of June, 2020.

Volunteer Request!

- >Co-Editor for *Y Ddolen* (just one or two issues each year & you'll have support!);
- >Coordinator for Highland Games Information Tent (and other similar one or two-day events – you'll have assistance learning the ropes!);
- >St. David's Day Celebration help: set up/ decoration, sales table, greeters, raffle tickets, cleanup.

Please contact Mary Lynne Evans at
President@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Letter from the President (*continued...*)

Make no mistake! We want to continue the celebration as it is a highlight of the Welsh year globally. All over the world Welsh societies mark the day. And in the Puget Sound region, the association has held a celebration for over 100 years. However, perhaps we could consider other ways of celebrating.

In the email, we offered some thoughts: Continue with a concert and té bach but raise dues and/or entrance donation; Make the concert more of a noson lawen, with members of the society presenting and performing; Find cheaper venues for a concert, like a community center; Hold a potluck dinner with an emphasis on singing together, and visiting; Hold a heritage event where members of the association present on some aspect of Welsh life, past or present. Of course we would have refreshments no matter what. And singing. OR any combination. Or other ideas. I have appreciated hearing from several members. If you have ideas, I would love to hear from you: President@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Board member Gwen Weinert will be calling or emailing you in the near future in an effort to get our mailing list up to date. We assure you she is NOT a telemarketer nor will we share your info with anyone else. If you feel inclined to pay your 2020 dues in your conversation with her, we would be much obliged.

So in these uncertain times, I hope you keep well and can enjoy the beautiful spring. We'll keep doing the little things.

Dymuniadau gorau - Best wishes.
Mary Lynne Evans, President

P.S. We recently received this note from long time member Carrie Fox, who is now living in Aberystwyth. "Hello friends from long ago. Pleased to see from the website that you have a fair amount going on—here's hoping the tough times we are facing globally don't cause too many problems for you all. And if you haven't yet checked out the great new FB group, CÔR-ONA!, you should. Welsh people doing what they do best in times of trouble, singing." She goes on to say she would be happy to receive any replies. "But no need to write back --just keep on keeping on." Thanks, Carrie! A hearty cheer from us in Seattle to you in Aber.

"Taffy Tales"

-Submitted by JoAnne Matsumura

"Strictly Business---A celebrated Welsh basso profundo after years of fame, returned to his native village in the wilds of Cardiganshire. A charity concert was arranged, and the world famous virtuoso was billed to sing "The Village Blacksmith." Just before the concert a local supporter came around to the artist's dressing room.

The visitor approached the artist and said, "I understand that you are going to sing a song, "The Village Blacksmith," Well, I'm telling you now that I am the village blacksmith and I want to say that if by any chance you get an encore, will you shove in an extra verse to say that I also let out bikes on 'ire at sixpence an hour!"

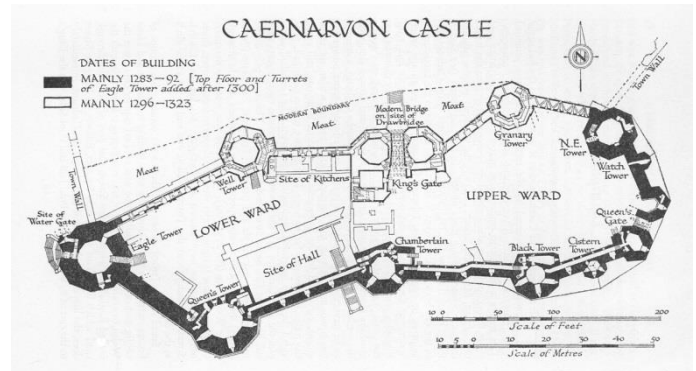


Unearthed: 13th Century Town Walls

Submitted by Heidi Hiatt

<https://tinyurl.com/y7edaew6>

Remains of what is thought to be the town walls that surrounded Edward I's castle were recently discovered in Caernarfon, Wales. Construction on a community health center looks to have unearthed the town walls and a flight of steps. Fragments of pottery and remnants of a doorway or fireplace are among the interesting finds. Check out the link above for the story!



Gymanfa Ganu Recap

-Philip Wilkinson, Artistic Director (Photos by Karyn Davies)



The 5th annual Gymanfa Ganu at Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines was held on Saturday, February 22, at 2:00 PM. Guests were welcomed in the narthex with PSWA's familiar display of Welsh items while Bill McJohn played Welsh favorites on the triple-harp.

Pastor Rachel Swenson officiated at the Service. Nerys Jones led the hymn singing with her customary spirit and enthusiasm, accompanied on piano and organ by Sybel Johnson and Philip Wilkinson.

Many of regular soloists returned: Nerys Jones; Kim Cooney, introducing Chelsea Hagget; Laird Thornton, with sons Kevin and Justin, and grandson Garret; Ken Labertew;

Jessica Miller, introducing Sarah Loveless.

Following the Service we enjoyed a splendid Té Bach prepared by Sandy Bollinger in the Fellowship Hall, accompanied by a group of fiddlers playing Welsh Celtic music.

Many thanks to Grace Lutheran for hosting this event and to PSWA for generous support and promotions. Let's all stay healthy and look forward to meeting again next year!



South Sound Night Out of Hŵyl

By Karyn Davies

All South Sound Night Out group dinners are canceled for the months of April and May. Plans for dinners will resume once restaurants open and we are tentatively optimistic for mid-June. Check your email and the Facebook Group for the next scheduled Night Out. We hope you are all well and able to take some



time to check out the PSWA Facebook Page and Group. There are some fun ways to keep entertained with singing and learning Welsh – as well as interesting articles on Welsh churches, archeology, and history and photos of landscapes. Stay well! We miss you!

1930 Woodland Park, Seattle Welsh Picnic

Annual Welsh Limerick Contest

By Ellen Webber

Our annual Welsh Limerick contest was held at the St. David's Day Celebration in Seattle, and we had some very good entries this year. Try entering next year! You can pick just one of the 3 starting lines or write a limerick for each one. Humor, a clever rhyme scheme, and a little Welsh flavor definitely win points with both our judge and audience. This year several people included Welsh words; we are hoping to expand to include a category for one entirely in Welsh for next year. The new starting lines for the 2021 contest will appear in the January issue of *Y Ddolen* and will also be available on PSWA's website. Here are the 2020 winners.

1st Place: Donna Schultz

There once was a dragon named Dai
Who gave Welsh choral singing a try
But he sang with such force
He belched fire of course
Which caused all the sopranos to die



2nd Place: Eric Bowen

There was a young girl from Pwllheli
With artistic tattoos on her beli
With sensuous swirls
And Celtic-knot curls
I addoli wrth orwedd ar ei gwely.

3rd Place: Karyn Davies

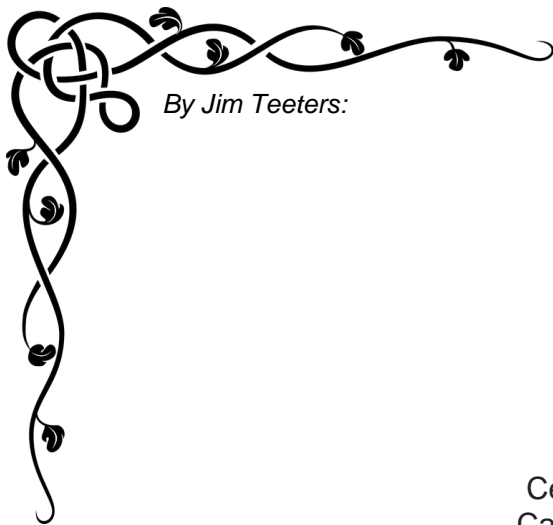
There once was a dragon named Dai,
Who was ever so painfully shy.
He would hide from school mates
Behind hedges and gates.
And cried when one called out. "sh'mae."



2020 Seattle St. David's Day Crafts, Information & Sales Tables

-By Karyn Davies

Many thanks to Bob Mathew for his help at the sales and give-away tables! PSWA made up some bookmarks with the Welsh alphabet, a Welsh flag coloring page, and a Welsh Word Search to hand out. Also available was a handy booklet "Notes on the Welsh Language" created by past PSWA President, Brian Parry. The sales table is an eclectic array of hand-crafted, used, and brand new items we hope you like. We are always looking for new items to include if the price is right for PSWA and you, but would love to hear your feedback: events@pugetsoundwelsh.org.



By Jim Teeters:

14 Offerings by Rebecca A Life List Poem

Storyteller - to all ages
Writer - songs and more
Singer - her summit talent
Dancer - challenge and joy
Birder - feeding and searching
Swimmer - graceful as a swan
Baker - 'famous' pumpkin chiffon
Celebrator - from Easter to Christmas
Canner - Jam, applesauce and beyond
Decorator - all over the house and yard
Gardener - planting and watering artistry
Weeder - on her knees clearing our brick walkway
Traveler - hiking, walking, viewing/ 28 countries/5 continents
Lover - listening, giving of time & money/loving God, friends & family

Rebecca Lee Williams Teeters (September 20, 1940 – April 3, 2020)



It is with sadness that we note the passing of Rebecca Teeters, a longtime active member of the Puget Sound Welsh Association. On Friday, April 3rd, Rebecca succumbed at home to a return of cancer, surrounded by family.

Rebecca's Welsh roots were strong. Her grandfather, James Williams was a native of Dolwyddelan, Wales and immigrated to the United States in 1887, heeding a recruitment call from the owner of the Black Diamond Mine. He later moved to eastern Washington and took up farming. Rebecca's father, Herbert Williams (1910-1999), continued farming near the small town of Edwall, WA where Rebecca grew up on their wheat farm.

She majored in Spanish at Eastern Washington University and spent a year in Mexico during her college years, showing her propensity for travel early. After receiving her Bachelor's degree, Rebecca enrolled at the University of Washington as a Masters in Library Science student. It was there she met Jim Teeters, who had graduated with a BA in Sociology.

"I wanted to marry her so badly," Jim said. But Rebecca was hard to convince. She had set her sights on a trip to Brazil, not marriage. "My mother came from a long line of strong-willed women," reported daughter, Rhionna Watson, "But dad won out." Jim chuckled and said, "I finally convinced her to come to Hawaii where I continued into a Master's Degree in Social Work. But much later she finally took me to Brazil, so she finally got her trip!"

"She continued to want to travel. So in 1978 she declared that she was going to Portugal for a month! I said, 'I have a job and we have four kids and that costs money.' Next thing I knew, she had hung out a shingle—teaching guitar lessons. She made enough for us both to go. We had the children spend time at the grandparents' farm, I left my job, and away we went. In 2000-2001, we taught in Wuhan, China together as a mission for the Friends Church. Students still write to her. She used her musical talents to teach English. Her signature song was John Denver's 'Country Roads,' which she played on the guitar. She eventually took me to 28 countries and 5 continents; places I would have never gone without her. Her final trip was to Wales last fall, where she still has cousins. It was a timely and lovely trip," Jim recalled.

A librarian in several libraries including the King County Library System, Rebecca was considered a renowned children's librarian and storyteller. An active member of the Scottish Dance Society, the Puget Sound Welsh Association, and the Seattle Welsh Women's Club, she attended many events and gave generously of her time and talent, including most recently as Secretary of the Welsh Women. Her contributions as a singer, guitarist, and storyteller at many PSWA events are not easily forgotten. At the time of her death, she was working on a story to be told at the Mabinogion Epic Weekend originally scheduled for May, now postponed. Rebecca also produced two CD's: *Fly Away* and *Isn't it a Miracle*.

Rebecca is survived by husband, Jim, four children: Marlan, Bronwen, Morgan and Rhionna, ten grandchildren, and a great-grandson due in October.

Rebecca inspired us with her spirit, graciousness, generosity, faith, talent, and love of all things Welsh. We will miss her a great deal and offer our condolences to her family.

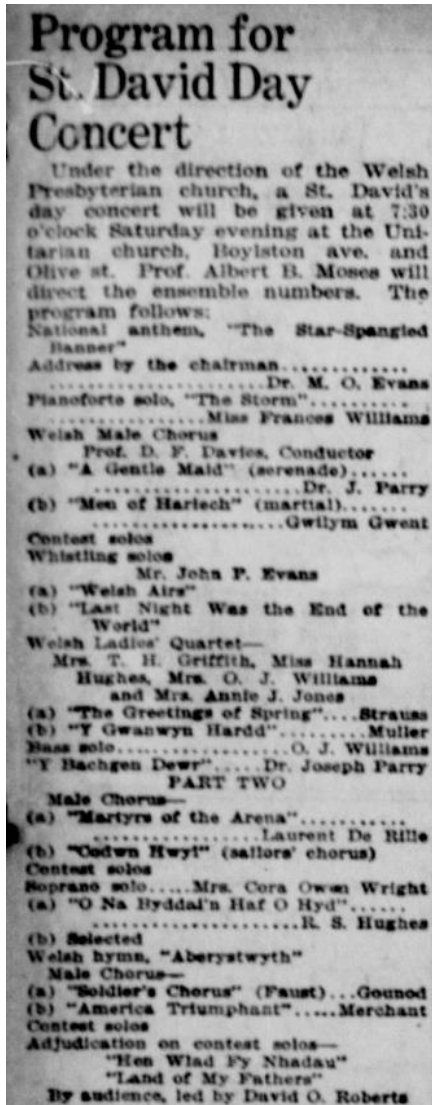
The following is a Haiku Jim wrote. His friend, Dave Harwood, added two lines:

*a legacy of
love and adventures
flowers and bird song*

*people-songs, you-and-me songs
strummed on a silent guitar*

A Step Back In Time – St. David's Day 1920

By JoAnne Matsumura



The Seattle Star February 27, 1920 pg.15

St. David's Day celebrations have been held throughout Seattle and the environs since 1886 when the first known event took place in Black Diamond, WA. A reported 4,000 people attended the event, having come from near and far. One documented account stated that the "musical affair was wonderful and the rafters rang."

One hundred years ago on Saturday evening, February 28, 1920 Seattle and neighboring town residents, sons and daughters of Cambria selected this date to celebrate "Welshman's Day" in the accustomed musical style at the Unitarian Church as the Seattle Welsh Presbyterian Church was too small for the expected number of visitors. The concert was held under the auspices of the Welsh Presbyterian Church with Prof. Albert B. Moses directing the ensemble numbers. Rev. M. O. Evans, D.D. of the Beacon Hill Congregational Church acted as chairman. Substantial cash prizes were given to the winners.



Ladies Aid group on the steps of the Welsh Presbyterian Church circa 1920

The festival commemorates the pilgrimage of St. David, an archbishop of Wales, who accompanied by his followers crossed over to Ireland and instigated the great Irish missionary movement and contributed to the Christian enlightenment of that period.

Welsh music would be the predominating feature of the program, with a championship solo and duet contest, open to any voice. Madame Cora Owen-Wright sang Welsh music in its many moods. The Welsh Ladies Quartet had a prominent part in the program, as well as the Seattle Welsh Male Chorus. Piano accompaniments were Miss Frances Williams, Madame Gwendoline Taylor Lewis and Mrs. Annie J. Jones.

The program began with the National Anthem, the Address by Rev. Evans, and followed by piano solo of "The Storm" by Miss Frances

Williams. The Welsh Male Chorus of thirty voices was conducted by Prof. D. F. Davies. The Contest solos: Whistling solos by Mr. John F. Evans, then the Welsh Ladies Quartet in native costumes were Mrs. T. H. Griffith, Miss Hannah Hughes, Mrs. O. J. Williams, and Mrs. Annie J. Jones, followed by O. J. Williams, Bass solo.

In Part two of the program, the Male Chorus offered two additional songs, followed by Contest solo: Mrs. Cora Owen Wright for a Soprano solo. Then several selected Welsh hymns were sung: "Aberystwyth." The Male Chorus sang "Soldiers Chorus" and "America Triumphant."



Adjudication of solo competition was by D. F. Davies and E. Graham Price and the audience closing song "Land of My Fathers" was led by David O. Roberts.

With 10 solo entries, each entrant made personal selection of the oratorio number he or she would sing; it is with certainty that the 'music was wonderful and the rafters rang.'

PSWA Archives Now Fully Online

By Alan Upshall

This month has seen the completion of the transferring of our archives to the online data base: <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/>. This last year I have been concentrating on listening to and preparing our music archives with tapes that Jackie Cedarholm made of many concerts and performances of the Red Dragon Band and Côr Cymraeg Seattle. Not every tape was suitable for archiving and there was a lot of repetition in the pieces played or sung. Many decisions had to be made before spending the time digitizing and editing for submission to the Collection. In this work I had some valuable help from Evans Paschal and a story will explain.

In 1994, the year that our Association hosted the annual Welsh Gymanfa Ganu (now called The North American Festival of Wales) in Bellevue, Jason Howard, international Welsh Opera Singer, was playing the lead in Seattle Opera's production of *The Pearl Fishers*. I have known Jason for a long time and he volunteered to part of a fund-raising concert with Côr Cymraeg Seattle for the Gymanfa Ganu held in Lake City Presbyterian Church on May 8, 1994. The concert was very well attended, with the Welsh contingent very much in presence, flags and all, and many people from the operatic community including Speight Jenkins, the director of Seattle Opera at the time. It raised about \$800. The concert was regarded as very high point in the life of the Seattle Welsh Choir. Jackie recorded the whole concert on her portable Walkman. It was digitized directly into the computer and as someone with two hearing aids it sounded quite good to me. I edited out all of the talking and applause, of which there was quite a bit, except for towards the end where I wanted to show what the atmosphere was like. During this time, I kept Jason in the loop and asked his permission to be able to archive on line. Not surprisingly, he wanted to hear the recording before we did that. So, once I had finished, he was sent a copy to download. He was disappointed in the recording and told me that the first few of his pieces were about a semitone sharp and it distorted his voice. Not suitable for placing online!



The distortion suggested that the recording speed of Jackie's Walkman was not right. In came Evans Paschal, our fall back person when we have technical problems, and he used a comprehensive music editing software to correct the distortion. And yes, I can now tell the difference between the two versions. This was sent off and Jason was happy with it. I have downloaded it as a single file with the whole concert and also each piece is archived as individual songs. Search 'Seattle Jason Lake' to get the single concert and then 'Seattle Jason' for the individual songs.

Music from the Red Dragon Band can be accessed by searching the archives on 'red dragon Seattle.' These tapes of the band were made by Jackie Cedarholm with the same tape recorder so there is almost certainly some distortion, but I think not enough to spoil the music. They have not been corrected.

I have no more stuff at home (at least that I know about) to archive, but I will continue to archive our *Y Ddolen* newsletter as it comes. If anyone comes across materials about Welsh activities in Seattle, I will be happy to archive also. With all of the archiving over the last few years I have been helped by Evans Paschal, JoAnne



Matsumura who has provided a lot of material about the history of the Welsh Women in Seattle and much research and history of St. David's Day celebrations in Seattle all the way back to the 1880s, and Gerri Baker Parry. I thank them all for their help. All of the physical archives are stored at the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center, Wymore, Nebraska.

Bryn Seion 85th Annual Gymanfa Ganu Canceled

By Gerri Baker Parry

We are sad to announce that the Bryn Seion Gymanfa Ganu that was planned for June 28, 2020 has been canceled. This event has been held each year on the 4th Sunday in June for 85 years. With the COVID-19 projections changing daily by region, there are too many unknowns to consider further planning, as well as not knowing if our director for this year would be able to travel from British Columbia. Our regular church services have been canceled at least through the end of May.

Pastor Larry and congregation have been checking in with each other via email to stay connected and entertained. Our Friday gardeners have been busy keeping the grounds tidy, many daffodil bulbs that were planted last fall are in bloom and we are anxious to see the colors in the new rose bed this summer.

We hope to be able to take the time and energy that would have gone into planning the gymanfa ganu to getting some building maintenance projects done this summer. Please visit www.brynseionwelshchurch.org for future special events, and don't forget the Lessons and Carols Service in December.

We keep you all in our thoughts and invite you to join us for services held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month (*once services resume*).

2020 Seattle St. David's Day

-By Mary Lynne Evans (Photo by Alex Weinert)

Right after completing the PSWA 2019 St. David's Day, the PSWA Board began planning for the celebration of St. David's Day, 2020. Because it is often hard to get a space reserved around March 1st, we looked at the calendar and found the last weekend in February 2020 was the 29th. No one could remember having the celebration on a Leap Year. Seemed quirky and fun. We chose it. And since the first of this inauspicious year, the event looked destined to failure: our venue reservation was not recorded due to a retirement; rental rate had to be renegotiated down to the original reservation; global pandemic began to cause concerns; our headliner, in Wales with a return flight four days prior to our event, phoned to alert us that international travel was getting difficult and they might not get back in time; a band member took another gig; the morning of the concert a band member fell ill and could not attend.



PSWA board members made all the behind the scenes arrangements necessary to make the celebration a go. *[With special acknowledgement of the excellent negotiating skills of Ellen Webber and your President's soulful begging and pleading. -Ed.]* Andrea Wild and The Bad Wolves arrived with three musicians: Andrea (leader, singer), Kevin Gruginic (flutist, guitarist), and 11 year old Phoebe Burns (harpist).

With decent afternoon weather, sixty attendees arrived at St. Andrew's Church in Seattle for an afternoon of Welsh music and celebration. Introductions were given, the Welsh language was discussed, the raffle basket was won by Evans Paschal. Limericks were read and the winners were chosen by the crowd. Andrea and her friends gave a rousing program with Welsh folk songs, some rugby songs, and a few hymns. The crowd sang their favorite hymns and a robust Té Bach was served. There was much conviviality.

Little did we know the first recorded COVID-19 death in the United States had occurred in the Seattle area that morning, reported the next day. Little did we know our St. David's Day event was one of the last gatherings held in Seattle before the Stay Home Order was executed.

So, we made history for our leap year timing, for rescuing the venue, for having Andrea Wild and her friends, and for celebrating St. David's Day in such a time. How good it is to have the memories of our time together.

Thanks to our hard working board: Joel Ware, VP; Bob Matthews, Secretary pro tem; Ellen Webber Treasurer; Laura Lovell; Gwen Weinert; Gerri Parry; and Karyn Davies, newsletter co-editor and convener of South Sound Events. REMEMBER: We are soliciting your opinions about the format and type of St. David's Day for 2021. Please let Mary Lynne Evans know your thoughts: President@PugetSoundWelsh.org.

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.

Annual 2021 Memberships/Fees

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

*Membership is annual
from Jan 1 through Dec 31*

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 \$ _____
\$19* 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: _____



PSWA is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization 501(c)(3). Contributions may be tax-deductible.
Please mail this form with payment to: **PSWA, PO Box 27725, Seattle, WA 98165**



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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.

www.facebook.com/groups/pugetsoundwelsh

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Welsh Words of the Quarter: **Sychu** (suhch ee) ‘ch’ as in *Bach* – To Dry. **Canu** (can’-ee) – To Sing. **Oen** (rhymes with ‘coin’) – Lamb. **Blodyn** (blod in) – Flower. **Bwrw glaw** (boo roo gl ow) – Raining. **Y Gwanwyn** (uh goo an win) – Spring. **Halen** (hal en) – Salt. **Coffi** (coff-ee) – Coffee. **Afon** (a’ von) – River. **Papur Toiled** (pap-ear toy-led) – Toilet Paper. **Sebon** (se bon) – Soap. **Pili Pala** (pilly palla) – Butterfly.



Cymru am byth!