Black Diamond Welsh Heritage Day
Saturday, June 3, 2023

Opens at 11:00 AM, Program begins at 1:00 PM
32627 Railroad Ave, Black Diamond, WA

Meet early for brunch at the Bakery or lunch at a nearby restaurant. Visit the antique shop or the cemetery to count Welsh surnames. Stay for light refreshments after the presentation and enjoy the museum.

Entrance to the museum and presentation is free; however, your generous donations allows Black Diamond Museum to continue offering this celebration of the Welsh heritage of Black Diamond, Washington. Please contact Sherrie Evans (sherrie.evans@comcast.net) to volunteer or to bring refreshments.

The Puget Sound Welsh Association will be hosting a table and presentation with a selection of free handouts and Welsh-related items to purchase. Every tax-deductible donation of $15 or more will receive either a PSWA T-shirt or a Red Dragon Band music CD. Volunteers for PSWA are also appreciated. Contact Karyn at events@pugetsoundwelsh.org if you want to help with the table.

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: June 20th 2023.

Email to: newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org
Letter from the President

February 29, 2020 - almost most exactly three years ago from today, March 4, 2023 - we held our last in person St. David’s Day. On March 1, 2020, the Seattle Times announced the arrival of COVID. And everything shut down. It was an uncertain time, yet we knew we had to continue on. We held our subsequent St. David’s Days 2021 and 2022, over zoom—memorable performances by the poet laureate of Wales, a young harpist, a winsome soprano from Maryland. Members from Puget Sound and around the nation who had moved away joined us. It seemed essential to continue our 140 year tradition.

This March 4, 2023, we were able to gather in person at Grace Lutheran Church in Burien, for celebration of our patron saint. We opened with a moment of silence for those we have lost. Joel Ware read “And Death Shall Have No Dominion” by Dylan Thomas. Margie Hunt gave a lively biography of St. David. Then we had a grand concert with Bill McJohn, playing the triple harp, and Nerys Jones, mezzo soprano, accompanied by Sheila Bristow. Welsh folk songs, airs, dance tunes, hymns and art songs rang in the air. We were delighted to have these talented performers with us again.

Members of the audience introduced themselves quickly and told of their Welsh connections. Old members and new members sang several hymns. Daffodils and lavish greens arranged by Gwen Weinert bedecked the tables and stage. The limerick contest was conducted, and winners announced (see article later in this newsletter). Evans Paschal held the winning ticket for the raffle basket. Karyn and Malcolm Davies opened the marketplace, and a substantial te bach was offered. Circles of people lingered talking and laughing. It was almost like no one wanted to leave.

Many thanks to everyone who made this possible: Gerri Parry from Oregon, Ellen Webber, Laura Lovell, Margie Hunt, Joel Ware, Gwen Weinert, Chris Mooreddall, Karyn and Malcolm Davies, and Bob Matthews, who supported from afar. And special thanks to Bill, Nerys, and Sheila for the stunning music. Diolch to all of you who attended.

We were joining Welsh organizations from all over the globe who celebrate St. David at this time. Welsh organizations sent greetings to their sister organizations, renewing friendships, and appreciation for our heritage. This sends us on our way for the new year. Your board is planning a continuation of our virtual pub, the Drunken Daffodil, with programs to begin soon. We will hold a summer picnic, (more details on that later), and a Christmas party in late November, early December.

We are also considering a Noson Lawen, (a merry evening) and encourage all of you to think about a short presentation: a joke, a story, a reminiscence, a song, a poem, a dance, a musical piece, a folk tale, a piece of art, photo. We encourage all to participate. If you would like to present a pub (we’ll help you) or perform at the Noson Lawen, or write for the newsletter or join the board, we would be delighted to talk with you. Please email president@pugetsoundwelsh.org and let’s chat.

2023 is the 100th Anniversary of the Women of Wales Peace Initiative. Welsh women all over Wales, still reeling from losses of WWI, collected over 390,000 signatures of women, advocating for establishment of the League of Nations as an avenue to end war. On an epic journey the signatures in a hand carved chest were escorted across the Atlantic and delivered in person to President Calvin Coolidge asking for United States participation in the League. It is an amazing story which is being brought to light these 100 years later. (See articles in this newsletter.)

On a more mundane note--DON’T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES. You don’t want to miss out on any activities because your name is no longer on our contact list. As you know, we are a so very non-profit organization. You give us energy and longevity. Send dues to PSWA, PO Box 98131, Lakewood Wa. 98496 A bargain at $10 a year!

Looking forward to more gatherings, more music and more heritage. Stay well. - Mary Lynne Evans, President
Lewys Jones Williams
by Gwen Weinert

PSWA members, this was written by my cousin Dafydd Jones about my Uncle Lewys. His story explains the anger and sadness of so many Welsh people after World War One, and the motivation of Welsh women to work for peace:

“Lewys Jones Williams was the first-born son of Richard and Margaret Williams of Fourcrosses House, Penrhos, near Pwllheli, five of whose children survived into adulthood. He had two older sisters and a younger sister and brother.

Lewys received his secondary education at the County School, Pwllheli, where he displayed considerable academic ability. His aptitude for Art won him prizes in local eisteddfodau and the National Eisteddfod held at Caernarfon in 1906.

He became a student at the University College of North Wales, Bangor, in October 1909 where he studied for the degree of BA. He was the best draughtsman of his year and one of the best that the college’s Department of Education had ever had. He played a prominent part in the college’s social and athletic life. He was a Students’ Representative Committee member and Captain of the Boat Club. He was also a member of the Officers’ Training Corps at the college, in which capacity he gained the “A” Certificate of the War Office.

He was appointed deputy head of Tregarth Church School on 1 October 1912 but left his duties at the school on 23 October 1914 to join Lord Kitchener’s army. The military authorities pressed him more than once to accept a commission as an officer but he refused each time. He preferred to remain a simple soldier until he felt that he had gained sufficient warfare experience, but fate denied him his wishes.

On 17 December 1915, his battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers marched to the Belgian trenches, probably east of Ypres, where he was severely injured the following day. Four days later, Corporal Williams died of his wounds in a field hospital at Dickebusch. He was 26 years old.

He was buried in a church cemetery by his friends the following day. After the war, his body was reburied at the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery near Poperhinge in Belgium.”

The 1923 Welsh Women’s Peace Petition to America.

By Mary Lynne Evans

In 1923, with the devastation and horror of WWI still uppermost in their minds, a group of Welsh women from the organization Welsh League of Nations Union, vowed to promote a world without war. Passionate, dedicated and highly organized, they understood that women held the key on this topic. They embarked on an unprecedented campaign to gather signatures from Welsh women to present to American women and politicians. Each Welsh community of any significant size had a chairwoman who organized volunteers to go door to door. At the end of the campaign, 390,296 Welsh women had signed the petition, which collectively measured 7 miles long, as the New York Times reported. The petition asked, “the women of the United States to aid in the effort to hand down to the generations which come after us the proud heritage of a warless world.” “Hearth to hearth and home to home” was their slogan.
In 1924, Annie-Jane Hughes Griffiths (Mrs. Peter Hughes Griffiths), took on the leadership role for this campaign. She was joined in her petition efforts by Miss Mary Ellis, (later to become Mary Gwilym Davies,) Miss Elined Prys, (later known as Elined Prys Kotschnig) and Mary Gladys Thomas. (Mrs. G.M. Thomas.) Though we give their married names here, it is important to use their own first names. Welsh propertied women were granted the vote in 1918. This petition drive was a bold political move to flex their new political power and to make a bid for the voices of all women. (The rest of the Welsh women did not get the vote until 1928.) The campaign worked closely with their American counterparts from the League of Women Voters, who had helped get the US women’s right to vote in 1919-20.

The petitions were artistically assembled. The preamble was calligraphed in medieval revival illumination and script by Cecily West of Northwood, Middlesex. The handsome vellum covered document was published by a woman owned printer. These and the reams of petitions were placed in a great Welsh oak chest, designed by Welsh architect J.A.Hallam. The four women were to escort the chest to the United States and present it to the League of Women Voters. Then the next step was to jointly present the chest to President Woodrow Wilson, whom they knew was a champion for the League. The chest would then be preserved forever in the National Museum in Washington (now the Smithsonian). The Welsh women would then travel throughout the United States galvanizing the support of American women, with copies of the preamble and petition, the originals secure in the museum. However, on Feb. 12, two weeks before the delegation arrived in America President Wilson died. Calvin Coolidge became president.

The crossing of the North Atlantic and news of Wilson’s death were both rough, but the group arrived undeterred in New York. They were greeted at the dock by the press, photographers, and American women wearing daffodils. At the welcoming luncheon the chest was placed on a dais, unlocked and the contents presented to Miss Ruth Morgan of the League of Women Voters. Also in attendance were representatives of nine women’s organizations, representing 5 million American women.

Then on February 21, 1924, the Welsh and American women’s delegations met with President Coolidge. He received the women cordially, spoke of his own Welsh ancestors, heard about their petition and the chest. He agreed with their request that the chest be placed in the Smithsonian Institute for all time. After luncheon with various Senators and their wives, the four ladies boarded a train for a tour of the United States to spread the message of the Peace Petition.

Annie’s wonderful diary, only recently found, characterizes the cities they visited:

- New York -- a city of heights
- Washington-- a city of beautiful buildings
- Chicago -- a city of lengths, Michigan Avenue 60 miles long!
- Utica-- a city of beautiful boulevards
- Salt Lake -- a city of Mormons
- San Francisco -- a city of hills

By all accounts, the tour was a smashing success. Mission accomplished, the delegation returned to New York and was given a proper send-off to Wales.
As a result of the Peace Petition tour, the nine big women's organizations initiated a Conference on the Cause and Cure of War (CCCW) in 1925. The conference was so successful that it was held annually until 1941. After WWII, the work of the CCCW continued as the Committee for Education on a Lasting Peace.

At the end, America did not support the League of Nations. Historians have acknowledged that the League failed because world powers such as US, Germany and Japan did not sign. And other member governments—France, Belgium, Germany, Russia, and Italy-- did not observe the rules they had endorsed. The political will to prevent war was simply not there.

The peace effort was stymied, of course, by World War II. But at the end of the war, the lessons of the League and its founding principles gave rise to the United Nations. The Welsh peace initiative, though not successful at first, certainly galvanized the public feeling about war, and ultimately influenced the formation of the United Nations. America has played a significant role in the UN in the subsequent years.

Now, to bring us completely up to date: the 100th anniversary has spurred much discussion, research and debate about how to shed new light on this historic drive. The Women of Wales for a World without War Partnership began working in 2019 with the National Library of Wales to borrow the chest and petitions from the National Museum of American History. The subsequent discussions between the National Museum of American History and the National Library of Wales produced a wonderful result. The National Museum of American history has gifted back to the people of Wales, the chest and the peace petitions. The Welsh Government contributed £150,000 to finance the return of the chest and petitions in recognition of its importance to Wales.

Our thanks to the National Museum of American History!!

As of March 29, the trunk is now on its way back and should reach its new permanent home at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth within the next few weeks. The representatives from Wales, to include Academi Heddwch Cymru (the Welsh peace institute), Heddwch Nain / Mamgu (Our Grandmother’s Peace), Welsh Government, The National Library of Wales and Aberystwyth University, will meet with staff from the National Museum of American History to mark this occasion.

Once in Aberystwyth, expert staff at The National Library will digitize its contents. This in turn will enable the public to search the Peace Petition to find out who exactly were these peace-seeking women of Wales.

In addition, the National Library and National Museums of Wales, the Smithsonian, Heddwch Nain Mamgu, other organizations and countless volunteers are searching out unknown documents, letters, diaries. In fact, in the last five years many of the documents were found for the first time. Annie’s diary was recently discovered and is being read and refurbished. Pages and pages of the names of the committee volunteers from each city are just now getting digitized (soon you will be able to see if your family participated). Letters from parties both in America and Wales are being collected. The biographies of the delegates and pivotal figures are being gathered and written. On the American side, the participating organizations stories are being sought out. Later peace movements spawned by the petitions are now being documented and analyzed.

Museums are preparing displays. Seminars are being organized - during 2023-2024 the chest and petition will be available for viewing at three locations –Aberystwyth, St Fagans and Wrexham. But this is not the end. The story continues: in the subsequent 100 years other Welsh people have contributed to the search for peace. It is possible your family may have information of this “hidden history” as the Welsh Center for International Affairs, the lead organization of this effort, calls it. Finally, the movement is getting the attention it deserves. This is a story of peacemakers from the past, the present and hopefully the future from both countries.

To stay in touch or contribute to this work visit the WCIA Women’s Peace Appeal Centenary Homepage (https://www.wcia.org.uk/peace-heritage/womens-peace-petition/) or email walesforpeace@wcia.org.uk
World Good Will Day is May 18th – A Day of International Friendship

By JoAnne Matsumura

The Education Conference of 1921 was established to promote international friendship, to be observed by all, and to be known as International Friendship Day.

Leading educators met for their annual gathering in 1922. They established a day to be known as World Good Will Day to bring the world-wide essential of peace and goodwill through to the schools of the nation through teaching and the exchange of letters.

By 1923 a national organization proposed fostering a good will day to be observed by children. Universities and schools began establishing a Universal Good Will Day. The World Federation of Educational Associations inaugurated the movement in 1925.

The Parent-Teachers Association held a public meeting at Seattle’s Olympic Hotel in 1926 to celebrate, and designated International Good Will Day for planning their work in the grade schools.

It was decided that the message of Good Will Day in observance would circle the globe in 1931 by telephone relay, beginning in Oregon, then to Montana to relay across the US, with links to Washington DC after it crossed the Atlantic, Europe, Asia and back to the Pacific.

Four high schools in Seattle observed Good Will Day through Seattle’s oldest peace organization, The Seattle Peace Society, in 1934. Also, in October Mrs. Roosevelt received more than 500 students at the White House in observance of Good Will Day.

Washington State Governor Clarence David Martin issued a proclamation designating May 18th as World Good Will Day in 1938.

The Enumclaw, Washington, Junior High School received “Good Will Messages” from the children of Wales in 1953 stating, “We, the boys and girls of Wales, once again greet you. This is Good Will Day. Across land and sea, youth calls to youth in the name of freedom and friendship.”

Fourty-one junior high students wrote replies which were typed on air letters and sent to Reverend Gwilym Davies in Cardiff, Wales. Students, the leaders of tomorrow, asked that “peace will prevail, that everyday should be Good Will Day”.

Student Carol Yonkers wrote, “We want to thank you in Wales for starting World Good Will Day on May 18, 1922.”

Student Karen Callero wrote, “We, the boys and girls of the United States, greet you with the warmth of friendship. Today is Good Will Day over land and sea.”

Student Michael Farman concluded, “In the interests of the brotherhood of men and peace the world over, we do humbly and hopefully join the free nations of the world to promote peace, prosperity and good will among all people. We are the leaders of tomorrow and express our dearest wish that freedom for all shall prevail on earth during our generation and generations thereafter.”
PSWA Limerick Competition 2023
By Ellen Webber

Judging this competition is becoming more difficult each year, because not only has the quantity of entries increased, but the quality has also gone up. As usual, I reread all the entries a number of times, looking for such things as does it rhyme? is it in the right meter? and does it tell a story? before finally deciding on the following contributions. Hearty congratulations to everybody who submitted an entry.

One night after singing in choir,
Rhys Evans agreed to retire.
He'd emitted a screech
For a note out of reach,
A low blow for one who aimed higher.

Bardic name: Ima Evans  Donna Schultz

An American traveling through Wales,
Was enthralled by the myths and tales.
He loved all the stories
Of conquests and glories,
But really he came for the ales.

Bardic name: Number 66  Alan Upshall

An American touring through Wales,
Traveled over the hills and the dales,
In order to check some,
Football ⚽️ in Wrexham,
In the hope Ryan Reynolds prevails.

Bardic Name: Mam Pel-Droed  Cheryl Well

South Sound Night Out of Hŵyl
By Karyn Davies

Please RSVP to southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org or the Facebook Group Event by the morning of the Night Out so we know how many seats to reserve!

- Sunday, April 23rd - 5:30PM – Black Bear Diner 10115 S Tacoma Way, Lakewood, WA
- Sunday, May 21st – 6:00PM – Black Bear Diner 10115 S Tacoma Way, Lakewood, WA
- Sunday, June 11th – 6:00PM – The RAM Restaurant & Brewery 10019 59th Ave SW, Lakewood, WA
- No South Sound Night Out meet in JULY! See you in August for our annual Picnic!

Rugby Schedule
Rugby World Cup - Mark Your Calendars!
https://www.rugbyworldcup.com/2023/matches


Wales plays in Pool C with Australia, Fiji, Georgia, and Portugal.
Wales V Fiji - Sunday, September 10th 12:00PM PDT
Wales V Portugal - Saturday, September 16th 8:45AM PDT
Wales V Australia - Sunday, September 24th 12:00PM PDT
Wales V Georgia - Saturday, October 7th 6:00AM PDT
Quarterfinals will be October 14-15, Semi-Finals follow on October 20-21, Bronze Final October 27th and the Final on Saturday October 28th.
**Triple Harp**
by Laura Lovell

During our recent St. David’s day festivities, we were all treated to the wonderful music of Bill McJohn playing Welsh music on the Triple Harp. It was a magical sound to be sure. I was captivated.

Now, the harp is one of the oldest instruments in the world, with versions of it that developed in various lands and among many peoples, all over the world. And really, who isn’t enchanted by the sound of it? I have been lucky enough to hear a fair amount of harp music, both live and recorded on various types of harps, but the triple harp is one of the most beautiful. For those who don’t know, the instrument has three rows of strings: the outer two are in unison with each other, while the middle row contains the sharps and flats. It is offset in comparison to the outer rows, allowing the musician to reach in between the outer strings to play notes that fall outside of the scale, like the black keys on the piano. (Although the triple harp (or Telyn Deires) is very associated with Welsh music, it actually originated in Italy in the fourteenth century).

I thought it would be interesting to speak to an accomplished player of the triple harp, and Bill was kind enough to oblige. I’m indebted to him for a fun and stimulating conversation which I have tried my best to record here.

First, Bill told me that the harp was an example of the feedback between music and style and how one affects the other. He explained that in the sixteen hundreds, composers and musicians in Italy liked to include occasional unexpected chords in a piece of music to intensify the emotional affect during dramatic passages, which would then quickly resolve back to fit in with the normal scale of the composition. The triple harp, with its (relatively) easy access to accidental notes, was very successful for this. Although it remained very popular, eventually in the 1800’s composers became fond of writing in gradual key changes by means of progressive alterations in the key signature of a piece until the change was complete. This gradual modulation was not facile for the triple harp, and so over time it came to be replaced with the pedal harp which is played in orchestras today.

The triple harp continued to be played in Wales, however and also in the realm of early music. (This reminded me of how the open holed wooden flutes are played all over Ireland, which were replaced in orchestras by the modern Boehm system flutes.)

We then discussed incidence of accidental notes in Welsh tunes. Accidentals occur but are resolved right away, so it’s no wonder the triple harp found a home in the Land of Song. We talked about Bill’s harp. His has 29 strings in the right row, 37 in the left row, and 32 in the chromatic row. Bill also shared that he believes that he is the only triple harpist in Washington state, although that hasn’t always been true. Other triple harpists he admires include Maxine Eilander, and Cheryl Ann Fulton, who has a great CD of Welsh airs. His harp was built by Tim Hampson of Southampton in the UK. He has no immediate performances as of the publication of Y Ddolen but look to see (and hear!) him in December at the Volunteer Park Conservatory.
Saint Dafydd

St. David was renowned for his speaking and preaching. He was caring, courageous, practical, and a good organizer.

Three denominations call him saint: Roman Catholic, Eastern Church, and Episcopal. His Saint’s Day is March the first. He is usually pictured standing on a hill with a dove on his shoulder.

He was born early in the sixth century, the grandson of a king, but did not choose wealth or political power, but rather to serve God and his church. He became a popular preacher and teacher whose message was to live the simple life. “Do ye the little things,” he said. He ate only simple vegetarian food and drank only water.

His best-known miracle happened at Llandevi. So many had gathered to hear him speak that they couldn’t see over each other. Then a hill grew beneath him, and he could be seen by all. The miracle brought faith to the crowd, but with dry wit Welsh historian, John Davies, commented: “One can scarcely conceive of any miracle more superfluous in that part of Wales than a new hill.”

David headed a monastery which he governed using the strict rules of the Eastern Christian Church. In the sixth century Wales was at the center of a religious revival, and David founded many other monasteries, including ones in Cornwall, Devon, Ireland and Brittany.

David greatly desired that people spiritually prepare for their death, and he received a vision that when and where someone was going to die, mysterious candles (which came to be called corpse candles) would appear, glowing dimly.

David lived a long life; some say 101 years. There was disagreement about the year of his death, whether it was 589 or 601, but everyone did agree that it was on a Tuesday. He was buried at St. David’s in Pembrokeshire, a beautiful final resting place, with its rounded green hills and the ocean nearby.

One week before his death he gave his most well-known speech:

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Lords, brothers, sisters.

Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed.

And do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about.

And as for me, I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us.

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Greetings from Eileen Wyke
I WISH I COULD BE WITH YOU ON THIS SPECIAL DAY. I'M THINKING OF THOSE EARLY DAYS WHEN I BELONGED TO THE SEATTLE WELSH WOMEN’S CLUB AND WE CONTRIBUTED TO SERVING AFTERNOON TEA AND PROVIDING ENTERTAINMENT IN A TYPICAL WELSH FASHION. SINCERELY EILEEN.

FIND THE WORD IN THE PUZZLE
Words can go in any direction.
Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

AWYREN GWLAD DWYLO
OHERWYDD Gawanwyn SWYDDFA
LEUAD CYFAILL CWNINGEN
GEIRIADUR RHYWBETH GWYRTH
ESGIDIAU PLENTYN TAWEL

English translation:
airplane country hands
because spring (season) office
moon friend rabbit
dictionary something miracle
shoes child quiet

USETRELENPZVELM
URSRWLSRYGWYRT
LEBWHCWNINGEN
JFUAIYSNNDBAUD
JKFDPWTYDMWWJL
MYIBFTA WXQGYLEU
CAEJNLRGFMVRLNE
UTQESTTGDFOEZOL
HSLCGAINDEPMKOL
APFRPPWZROYIBOR
CDDYWREHDTWUBX
CWLLOOLKJQAMSZ
RUDAIRIEGMBLZOQ
QKSCCSSIFJORTWDS
GUWJPBDOLFNLKGR
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 2023 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; Email for availability: membership@pugetsoundwelsh.org
    - 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 | $_______ |

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