

Y Ddolen

Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Awst, Medi 2020

Third F dition 08.15.2020

August, September 2020

Letter From the President

Hello Members of PSWA:

Summer is in full swing, making the days glorious, despite other events. We hope you got a phone call from Board Member Gwen Weinert during the stay at home orders. Gwen volunteered to call each and every member to check on them, say hello, and to update your contact information. Some folks she reached, some she did not and left messages, and some did not have current phone or email. The board was very thankful for her outreach during this time and eagerly awaited her report. We wanted to hear how you were doing most importantly. I think an antidote to staying at home is remembering the groups you belong to, and who belong to you. Our Welsh society is certainly your heritage home and we appreciate any communication you send to us.

If you have not been able to help us with our updating, please do so soon. You can send your updated names, mailing addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers to Membership@PugetSoundWelsh.org. We do not publish this info or give it out to other groups. It is strictly for us to contact you.

We hope to get this updated directory information onto a new platform for our next mailings. We're trying to tidy up here behind the scenes, making good use of our time.

I miss our picnics, our noson lawens, our impromptu gatherings. I especially miss singing with you. Since the approach to COVID has stayed steady at masks, social distancing, and not meeting in large groups, the board is investigating other ways of hosting a Welsh event. We are particularly thinking about a sort of Noson Lawen for the fall. As you know there are many things to consider when hosting such an event on the internet, so we will get back to you when we have a better sense of what we can do.

(Letter continues on next page...)

PSWA Board Members & Elected Officers

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

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT SUBMISSION: September 20th 2020.

Call To Action!

- >"Virtual" Noson Lawen performers: 5minutes or less submitted electronically.
- >Former Board Members interested in contributing to PSWA as the Association's Treasurer.
- > Y Ddolen Co-Editor.

Details inside!

Please contact Mary Lynne Evans at <u>President@PugetSoundWelsh.org</u>

Letter from the President (continued...)

It is great to report to you that we have received several generous donations since the start of the COVID time. These came with notes saying how much the donor enjoys being part of a Welsh community. One came from Wales, but we will have more on that later. Our Treasurer, Ellen Webber, reports that our finances are above last year's at this time and that we remain financially healthy. HOWEVER, may I make a plea for paying your 2020 dues if you have not done so? Please send the dues to PSWA PO Box 27725, Seattle, WA 98165. We may incur expenses this year as we move to more digital format.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter as each of the board members has written an article for you. Here is a picture of what I have been doing since the start of the Pandemic. I built my own Welsh castle in the carport from recycled cardboard. Yes, I did dumpster dive to get some of the bigger boxes.

Please stay in touch and keep hoping for a virtual event full of song soon. We'd like to hear/see what you have been doing. Post your pictures and thoughts to the PSWA Group Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/pugetsoundwelsh/ or email to Newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Diolch yn fawr, Mary Lynne Evans, President



Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project Update

-Ellen Webber

The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project in Wymore Nebraska has been busy during the pandemic in continuing their mission to discover, preserve, interpret, and celebrate the history and contributions of Welsh pioneers on the North American prairies. Their exhibits and archives have greatly expanded over the years and include archives and history from the Puget Sound Welsh Association and other societies around North America. PSWA donated an antique map of Wales from 1610 to the museum, and it has now been installed in their permanent exhibits. They also house our Association archives following their extensive organization by Alan Upshall and Gerry Parry. Following is an update from Gwen Closs-Colgrove, the project president on the museum's recent activities:

- We have completely repainted two areas inside the Welsh Heritage Centre and refreshed the exhibits.
- Our 1910 Denver Welsh Church quilt and other historic textiles have been rehung for easier viewing.
- We have added new displays honoring St. David and Owain Glyndwr and updated the Wall of Welsh heroes.
- Our hardworking volunteers have completed a reorganization of the research library and are continuing to preserve and catalog items in our archives.

If you are interested in the history of the Welsh in America check out their website which has lots of information, lists of Welsh cemeteries, and the archives for *Y Drych*, a Welsh American newspaper published from 1851 to 2003 when it merged with *Ninnau*. The Welsh Heritage Centre will soon be producing short videos to showcase the museum and archives which will also be available on their website: https://welshheritageproject.org/



Elizabeth Goldyn, Carol Ensley, Mari Wingate, Quinland Daniel Porter, Bev Ratajak, Bob Matthews

Call To Action

-Mary Lynne Evans/Karyn Davies

1. We are investigating how to have a Noson Lawen/Annual General Meeting on Zoom in the fall (that's a live meeting on a computer, laptop, or smart phone for those of you non-techie types). The noson lawen part would have people perform a short, entertaining segment which would be uploaded to a producer (yet to be determined). The segments would be then put together as a real show! We have a storyteller, a limerick reader, and a member telling about her mother's

experiences during WWII in Wales already interested. What about you???

By law, as a non-profit, we must have a yearly AGM to elect Board Members and approve the budget. It will be short, I promise.

We are looking for any members who would like to record a short performance that can be put on a Zoom Meeting format for our Noson Lawen. **Performances should be 5 minutes or less.**

COME, ALL YOU TALENTED WELSH PEOPLE! HELP SMASH THE PANDEMIC! BRIGHTEN OUR COLLECTIVE LIVES! SHOW YOUR STUFF!

Be one of the first PWSA members to perform in our first annual(?) Zoom Noson Lawen.

Read or tell a story Sing Read your original limerick Recite and original poem Tell your own Welsh history Act out a Welsh legend Play your instruments Speak Welsh to us Give us a recipe Dance Read a poem Whistle

Please get in touch with President@PugetSoundWelsh.org ASAP!

- 2. We will need a new Treasurer by the end of 2020 for PSWA. 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
- 3. 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. Easy peasy! You will have assistance from past/current Editors and you will even have help wrangling Board Members for their submissions, event dates, and photos! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact: Newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org. Diolch yn fawr!!
- 4. 2021 St. David's Day Celebration Volunteers: Please indicate your interest in helping with this main PSWA event! Location is to be determined, as is the date (typically the Sunday before/after/on March 1st). Every year we need help setting up chairs/tables, creating/setting up table centerpieces, greeters, kitchen help, sales and information table help, selling raffle tickets, and clean up at the end.

Donations for raffle basket are greatly appreciated! Limerick submissions are highly admired! Publicity help is invaluable! If you can lend a helping hand in any capacity, your Board will be ecstatic! © "Many hands make light work." Volunteers/Inquiries can be made here: Events@PugetSoundWelsh.org.



Welsh Romany People & Their Musical Contribution to Welsh Traditional Dance

-Laura Lovell

The earliest appearance of Romany, or gypsy people in Wales was circa 1730. They were to have a wide and lasting influence on the traditional music of Wales. Without them, the jigs, hornpipes, polkas, and waltzes might not have survived to the present day.

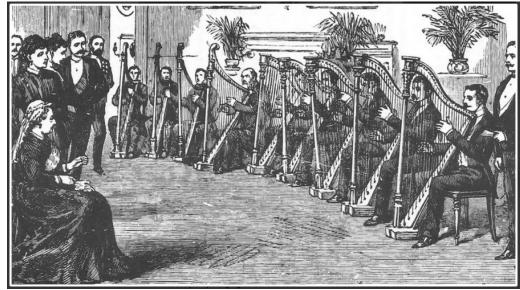
Dancing, and the music accompanying, it were frowned on by Welsh Calvinist Methodists, who took a dim view of all secular entertainments. We have to give these religious believers credit for their zeal in preserving the Welsh language as a living tongue. They were hard fighters for it, against the government in London, who wanted to 'reform' education in Wales. However, they were very focused on the world to come, and not to enjoyment in this one. Adherents were actively discouraged from learning to play musical instruments since it distracted people from a life of prayer and Bible study. The Rom were invaluable for keeping the music alive through the 1830s. Some Rom were Christians, but seldom followed the Calvinist teaching.

Although often accused, occasionally justifiably, in stealing livestock from farmers and shepherds, they sometimes had friendly relations with rural people, who looked forward to their appearance. They would work to bring a harvest in, and also had skills in metal work, and animal doctoring, and also provided diversion by offering live entertainment, and especially by providing music.

As mentioned earlier, the earliest appearance of Rom people in Wales is thought to be in 1730, with the arrival of the patriarch Abram Woods. He was a fiddler, and claimed to have introduced the fiddle to Welsh music. (As a fiddler

myself, thank you Abram!) He had ten sons, who all played musical instruments. Three of his sons, and one daughter all became accomplished players on the triple harp. One of his sons, John Wood Jones, established a harp school where he taught both ablebodied children, and those who were lame or blind.

For those of you who don't know about this instrument, this harp was invented in Italy, but was most often adopted in the Land of Song, and is



considered the national instrument of Wales. It features three rows of strings, with the outside two rows in unison with each other, while the inner row provides chromatic notes. (Fun fact: it's the only harp you can play a chromatic glissando- if you're very skilled, that is.)

Many families of Gypsies formed musical ensembles and toured successfully through Britain and even in Europe. Rom musicians often were hired as the permanent resident musicians of wealthy families. Certainly, many lived comfortable lives and received honor.

Other famous Welsh Rom musicians were Thomas Richards, and his daughter Nansi, who won the national Eisteddfod on harp three times in succession. She played pedal harp as well, and was a virtuoso on both.

John Roberts circa 1813-1894, had ten sons, all but one of which were fine musicians. His granddaughter, Eldra Roberts, was a well-known triple harpist and was one of the teachers of Robin Huw Bowen. She was also the title character in an acclaimed movie about her life, with Robin providing the soundtrack for it.

The Romany people seem to have played music in pretty much every place they have sojourned, and have enriched the cultural life of the Western world. Though they are often maligned, we need to be grateful for their gifts, and nowhere more than in Wales, because they were the preservers of a precious musical legacy.

Gwenu Bach a'r Gwarchodwyr Cymru

-By Gwen Weinert

I am lucky to live to have lived an eventful life, and glad that I am able to put some childhood events into the context of 20th century history. Here are some of my memories.

My parents met in London in 1937. My mother had recently returned to London from Copenhagen, having been warned repeatedly about the threat of war in Europe. She found a job at Lyon's Corner Tea House. My father was furloughed from the Welsh Guards and was working as a doorman at the Ritz Hotel. She popped in for a drink at the hotel, and it was love at first sight. They married and had two children. In 1939, my Dad went off to France with the Welsh Guards as a member of the British Expeditionary Force.

He did some heroic things at Dunkirk, spent three years with the French Resistance and two years as a prisoner of war. While he was gone, my mother and siblings went to Wales to spend the war with my Welsh grandmother. My father was liberated from a prisoner of war camp in Poland by the Soviet Army and rescued from starvation by American soldiers. After a spell of physical and mental rehabilitation, he was returned to his family and regiment in London.

I was born in 1947 at Woolwich Army Hospital. I spent the first two years of my life in London, before the family moved to Berlin, where my father was stationed. I have a memory of a blanket being hung at the window each night, during the time of the Berlin Airlift. We must have lived in Berlin for two years and I saw German civilians salvaging bricks from the bomb sites. Once, my parents took me to an apartment where my Dad performed an emergency tracheotomy surgery on a boy with diphtheria. Medicine and antibiotics were not readily available at that time for the people of Berlin.



Next, we went to a British Army camp in Hilden, Germany. I went to a real Armed Forces school and I remember the moment I learned to read. Princess Margaret came to visit our regiment. My little sister and I got lost in Dusseldorf and the German police took diligent care of us until my mother arrived. We enjoyed a Christmas party with Welsh singing and a German Santa, who brought exciting gifts. I felt quite safe in Hilden because we lived in a community of homesick Welshmen who spoiled the regimental children as much as they could. I grew up convinced that all men wore khaki wool, sang a lot, and shared Welsh teas with children.

I got my Coronation mug at an assembly at school, and then it was time to go back to London. There, we

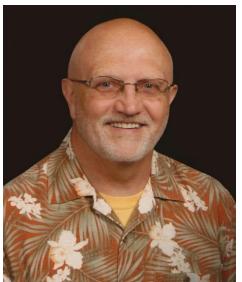


lived in family housing in Victoria and I attended first grade. We got premier tickets for the Queen's Birthday Parade because my Sergeant Major father helped organize it. We played with royal children from the palace because we were trusted personnel. When my Dad was able, he took us to the barracks; watching the soldiers drill for parades was quite normal for me.

The Malaysian Emergency was the next piece of history I experienced. My family sailed to Singapore and joined my Dad. British families were embedded in Malay villages, and we lived mostly without my father, who was fighting the insurgents in the jungles of Kuala Lumpur. I fell in love with Malaysia, her people, and the jungle.

We went home again to London, and I was shocked by the cold after the Tropics. One day, my father took me to Pirbright, the Welsh Guards training facility in Surrey, to ride the Colonel's horse. I managed to kick it into a fast canter - first and last time for that! The Regiment's Christmas party was

spectacular that year with great singing, food, and presents, and I wore my first grownup stockings. As we left the Mess, I saw the changing of the guard in the falling snow and thought how smart they looked. So many pictures in my brain. I was a lucky girl. I was the daughter of the Regiment!



John Rogers (December 5, 1945 – May 16, 2020)

South Sound Night Out of Hŵyl group is sad to announce the passing of long time member and volunteer, John Rogers. We will surely miss his sense of humor, knowledge, and charm.

John Douglas Rogers "Buck", age 74, passed away at home on May 16, 2020 due to complications resulting from glioblastoma cancer. He was born in Auburn, WA to John and Louise (Thorpe) Rogers.

He was a dedicated student-athlete participating in football and track. Following his graduation from Enumclaw Senior High School, John attended the University of Washington on a four-year Weyerhaeuser Scholarship. He married his high school sweetheart, Kristine Jane Jensen, and transferred to Central Washington University to finish his undergraduate studies in business.

After college, John had a long career in the insurance industry, worked as an executive for major insurance companies including The New Hampshire as well as leading brokerage houses such as Raleigh Mann & Powell and Parker Smith & Feek earning important industry certifications and accolades. John was a committed family man and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. His hobbies included bowling, hiking, camping, fishing, and tracing his family's genealogy in Denmark, Wales, and Ireland. He was active in the Danish Brotherhood, Puget Sound Welsh Society, and in Hope Lutheran Church.

John was an accomplished painter. He drew inspiration from the French Impressionist movement and the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest, especially Mt. Rainier.

John is survived by his wife of 54 years Kristine Jane; his daughter Kristin (Bill) Schuver; his son Aaron (Amy) Rogers; his grandchildren Meagan (Jimmy) Karlsson, Austin Schuver, Moira Rogers and Soren Rogers; his great-grandchildren Axel & Emelie Karlsson; as well as his sister Dody.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to: Hope Lutheran Church https://www.hopelutheranchurch.org/, South County Cats https://www.southcountycats.org/, or Featherhaven https://www.featherhaven.org/.

South Sound Night Out of Hŵyl

SouthSound@PugetSoundWelsh.org

All South Sound Night Out group dinners are canceled for the months of July-September. Plans for dinners will resume once YOU are comfortable in joining us! Check your email and the Facebook Group for the next scheduled Night Out and/or our Annual Movie Matinee (typically November).

Word Search Fun

Find the following words in the puzzle:

CROESO
CYMRU
DIOLCH
HIRAETH
HWYL
MEDI
SIARAD
WALES

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Mary G. Powell (January 2, 1932 – June 18, 2020)

-JoAnne Matsumura and Washelli.com

Ladies of the Seattle Welsh Women's Club and interested individuals: Mary Powell, Past President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Tê Bach Chairman, passed on June 18, 2020.

Born in Hampton, Virginia, she married David T. Powell in 1952 and together they raised three children in their Seattle home. Mary and David were avid travelers; they sailed the seven seas and visited each of the seven continents. They traveled to more than seventy countries and all fifty states.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, David, and is survived by two brothers Eldred (Janice) and William (Carole) Hicks; a sister, Margaret (Steve) Wieting; three children Elizabeth, Thomas (Carole), and Catherine (Don) Ellis; five grandchildren Randi, Jeff, Jamie, Danae and Elli, and five great-granddaughters.



Mary Powell became member of the Seattle Welsh Women's Club in 1985, served as Treasurer from 1992, and was given Honorary Membership status in 2016. She hosted Christmas luncheons for many years in her lovely Seattle home with a decorated tree and other themed decorations in every room. Upon being honored in 1997 by the Seattle Welsh Women for her services during the St. David's Day Celebration, she wrote in a thank you card, "I love Wales and I am glad there is a group such as ours for me to belong to. Sincerely, Mary."

A private service will be held at a later time. Please visit www.washelli.com for full obituary.

French Invasion of Wales

https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofWales/The-Last-Invasion-of-Britain/

Fishguard. Southwest Wales. 1797. Jemima Fawr (Jemima Nichols) was alone, yet captured twelve invading French soldiers.

Napoleon Bonaparte, busy with his conquest of central Europe, decided to send 1,400 recently released inmates and left-over soldiers to Britain for the purpose of securing support - by force. Led by Irish-American Colonel William Tate, their orders were to land near Bristol, destroy it, then cross into Wales before marching north to Chester and Liverpool.

Weather prevented the landing of the French warships at Bristol, so they set course for Cardigan Bay in southwest Wales....where they were met with canon fire from a local fort. The canon was set up as a warning alarm for the local village, unbeknownst to the war party! So they sailed on to a beach near the village of Llanwnda where they unloaded soldiers, arms, and gunpowder. The four ships returned to France with news informing of a successful landing.

Rather than continuing with the plan, the soldiers set on a looting spree of food and wine. Rendered unable to fight in their drunken state, Tate's troops surrendered to Lord Cawdor's local militia on February 25, 1797...although the agreement to surrender that was drawn up stated the British came at them "with troops of the line to the number of several thousand." It is surmised they may have mistaken the hundreds of local Welsh women come to see the sights were Redcoats, as they were dressed in traditional scarlet tunics and tall black felt hats.

47-year-old Jemima Nicholas, the wife of a Fishguard cobbler, upon hearing of the invasion headed to Llanwnda, pitchfork in hand. She rounded up twelve Frenchmen, marched them into town, and locked them inside St Mary's Church, returning to look for more. Chwarae teg, Jemima Fawr!

Virtual North American Festival of Wales 2020

-By Gerri Parry

Regrettably, it was necessary to forgo the 2020 North American Festival of Wales in Philadelphia. This is only the second time in 91 years that the festival has been suspended; the first being 1943-45 during WWII.



The Welsh North America Board has succeeded the Welsh North American Association in rescheduling the Philadelphia venue and return in 2022 where much of the original program will go ahead. Details will be posted as available but look forward to Cor y Penrhyn, John Ieuan Jones, Hogia'r Bonc, and more joining us.

The planning team are putting together a Virtual NAFOW Labor Day Weekend 2020 Online Program, which will feature many aspects of the 2020 festival and provide a preview of the program planned for the 2021 NAFOW in Ottawa. The lineup will include Welsh music artists, a mini lecture series sponsored by the Welsh Government, and recitation of the winning poems from our new Eisteddfod poetry competition. Refer to the www.nafow/eisteddfod.org for information about this competition.

Plans are under way for NAFOW 2021 in Ottawa. Hotel reservations for Ottawa can be made starting sometime in September and details will be announced as soon as they are available. We will, of course, keep members and friends of the Welsh North America Association informed of details. If you are not on our email list, go to the website and ask to be included.

The Virtual North American Festival of Wales will be available to watch at your leisure on www.nafow.org from September 4 through September 30, 2020.

o 2000 fed Gal

"Everyone here? Good. Meeting topic: Setting world record for shortest meeting. All in favor say aye. Ayes have it, Meeting over."

Board Members Sought

-By PSWA Board

Your Puget Sound Welsh Association Board has room for a few more enthusiastic members! With the Annual General Meeting coming soon – before the end of 2020 – any Member interested should contact President@PugetSoundWelsh.org to inform the President of your intent to self-nominate. You may also nominate Members (assuming you have their permission and contact information).

The Board meets at least quarterly via conference call (most recently via online Zoom Meetings) and you may call in or video into these meetings depending upon your ability. We discuss PSWA's budget, plan annual events (St. David's Day Celebration, Picnic, AGM, Noson Lawen, Christmas Party) as well as coordinate support for other events/activities (Grace Lutheran Church's Gymanfa Ganu, Black Diamond's Welsh Heritage Day, South Sound Night Out of Hŵyl, Language Group, Highland Games and Ethnic or Celtic Festivals/Faires).

Puget Sound Welsh Association functions solely at the pleasure of our generous Membership. Without you, there would not be a Puget Sound Welsh Association to organize and coordinate social events for members and the public, highlighting Welsh customs, heritage and music. A functioning Board is essential to the well-being of the organization and this Board could use a few of you to help contribute to our stated mission of preserving the history and promoting the cultural heritage of the Welsh in the Puget Sound region and throughout the state.

Won't you consider volunteering a few hours here and there, bringing fresh ideas and different perspective to your PSWA? We hope to hear from you before the upcoming Noson Lawen/Annual General Meeting (date to be announced)! Diolch yn fawr iawn!

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)	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	Member from Jan 1	^{ership} is annual through Dec 31
Donati	ons			
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	Welsh Music CD Total number of CDs x \$15 \$			
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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 www.facebook.com/PugetSoundWelsh/

Welsh Words of the Quarter: Hardd (harth) 'th' as in then – Beautiful. Heulwen (hile wen) – Sunshine. Cynhaeaf (kun hai av) – Harvest. Ysgol (uhs gol) – School. Traeth (tr aye th) 'th' as in think – Beach. Tafarn (tavarn) – Pub/Tavern. Nofio (novio) – To Swim/Swim. Cynnes(Kuhn-ness) – Warm (weather). Medi (meddy) – September. Nos da (no s da) – Good night. Ty bach (tee bach) 'ch' as in Bach – Toilet

