



# Y Ddolen

Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Gorffennaf, Awst, Medi 2022

Volume 40, Issue 3

July, August, September 2022

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Sunday, August 14 2pm to 4pm**  
PSWA annual picnic at the home of Gwen Weinert in the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle.

**Sunday, August 28**  
**South Sound Annual Picnic**  
**Sunday, August 28, 2022 12:00PM**  
**9222 Veterans Dr SW, Lakewood, WA 98498**

## TBD

The overnight field trip to Welsh cemetery, Almira, WA is still on the planning boards. Keep tuned in to this space for details!

Please mail [events@pugetsoundwelsh.org](mailto:events@pugetsoundwelsh.org) for RSVPs and for further details.

## PSWA Membership Dues Requested

Membership runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> unless you are a Lifetime Member.

<http://pugetsoundwelsh.org/membership.html>

Pay by PayPal or credit card or print the membership form and mail with check/money order to:

PSWA  
P.O. Box 27725  
Seattle, WA 98165

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[Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org](mailto:Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org)

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

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT SUBMISSION: August 15<sup>th</sup> 2022.**

**Email to: [newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org](mailto:newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org)**

## Help Wanted

**PSWA Members interested in learning about becoming a Board Member:**

**Contact: [President@PugetSoundWelsh.org](mailto:President@PugetSoundWelsh.org)**

## President's Message 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2022

Hello to all my fellow PSWA friends,

The first half of this year is rapidly coming to a close at the end of June. Despite COVID, we have had a very active time in 2022. We had a wonderful virtual St. David's Day Zoom meeting with our old friends Storyteller Peter Stevenson, musicians Ceri Owen-Jones and Elsa Davies. All three of these have visited Seattle in the past. Peter gave a Crankie Box lesson at Gwen Weinert's home. [*A Crankie Box is a device for scrolling pictures to accompany the telling of a story - Ed.*] Else and Ceri played fiddle and harp. It was lovely to see them again, even with the time lag between here and Wales. (See articles on these events in this edition of Y Ddolen.).

For our virtual Pubs, we recently had a stirring presentation by Chris Ensor on Welsh trains and a heart-strings-tugging session on hiraeth. Eric Bowen from Bellingham said, "how can one not be homesick for Wales. It is so achingly beautiful." In both sessions we were joined by members and former members living across the United States, and several relatives and friends of our members in Wales. One of the Welsh attendees to the hiraeth pub now lives in London and attended from there. About half way through she said, "Now look what you have done! I want to go home now."

We had a presence at the City of Lacey Cultural Heritage Festival, thanks to Joel Ware. On June 4<sup>th</sup>, we were the featured presenters at the Black Diamond Welsh Day at the Black Diamond Museum. Joel and Kayla Ware, Malcolm and Karyn Davies were instrumental in making everything work. Gwen, grandson Owain, and his father and brother journeyed to Black Diamond and were part of the Mari Lwyd skit. Laura Lovell and Kevin Gow played fiddle, flute, and accordion to close the session with Welsh tunes.

One of the Black Diamond organizers said it was the best Welsh presentation yet. PSWA donated a Welsh flag they could have for the Museum.

A stunning array of events! Diolch yn fawr iawn to everyone who worked hard to make these a reality. This society is a joy and an inspiration to me. May it live and prosper for another 150 years.

Coming up in the future we have a picnic for the South Sound Group on August 28, (see this newsletter), and we are in the planning stages of hosting the PSWA annual Welsh picnic (since 1850's held usually in Seattle.) Gwen Weinert has graciously offered her house in Seattle for the event. Stay tuned for more info on that.

And in addition, we have the Almira Graveyard Project. As you may remember, a completely Welsh cemetery was "found" in a wheat field near Almira, Washington. We were notified, and your board talked about what our role could be with this new find.



you can imagine, this trip takes some planning, and we are deep into that right now. We will let you know when we have a potential date, and a trip description for the weekend. We tentatively plan on carpooling over, and would love to hear from any of you who might be interested in going. We will stay overnight in a small motel close to the site. Please get in touch with me, [President@PugetSoundWelsh.org](mailto:President@PugetSoundWelsh.org) with questions and ideas.

After much fact finding and discussion, your board decided we should make a weekend trip to Almira, (close to Coulee City) in Eastern Washington, meet descendants of this unique Welsh "colony", originally chartered by a Welsh group in Chicago. We then plan to collect some oral histories, sing together, and re-establish memories and recognition of this settlement. Our next task is to clean up the cemetery. It is small and the task looks quite doable. Our initial contacts with the wheat farmer who owns the field are very positive. He is anxious to give us right of entry. He has contacted several of the descendants and we are talking with them about our visit. It should be fun, invigorating, musical, and a totally unique project for our society.

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/77108/welsh-cemetery/photo>

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Hwyl, Mary Lynne

## Saint David and Zoom

By Gwen Weinart

One of the best things we enjoyed as members of PSWA was the wonderful celebrations of the life of Saint David. We crowded into various church halls and sanctuaries and listened to stories of Dewi Sant's life, heard poetry and music to inspire us, and sang some hearty hymns together. We judged who won the annual limerick completion and then enjoyed a generous and truly delicious Welsh tea. Old and new friends chatted and caught up with the news. There was even a shop where one could buy Welsh items. It was good to be in a room full of Welsh people, decorated with flowers and Welsh flags.

Then Covid invaded our lives, and for two hard years, we knew we could not meet in person. In response, Puget Sound Welsh Association continued our traditions with the help of Zoom virtual technology. We have kept our faithful audience and performers, and added new a new set of participants from all over the world.

This was our second year of celebrating our sixth century Saint with the help of twenty-first century technology. We were lucky to hear poetry and music from Wales and Canada this past February 27<sup>st</sup>, a great blessing to our members and friends. Mary Lynne Evans began the proceedings by speaking about the pandemic and what it has done, then giving us a moment of silence to remember our lost members.

The program for this virtual celebration began with long-time member Jennifer Nightingale reciting her poem "Lament for the Collective Voice" which was written for this occasion and captures the hardships of the pandemic. Next, Margie Hunt reminded us of Dewi Sant's life and work, and his instruction "Gwnewch y pethau bychain mewn bywyd" or "Do ye the little things in life". Then it was time to zoom to Wales for a story from the poet, filmmaker, storyteller and painter Peter Stevenson. He told us a story about a woman who lived on a beach, and it was a thought-provoking tale indeed.

I was now time for some music. We zoomed to Wales again and heard from Deuair, a duo consisting of Ceri Owen-Jones and Else Davies, singing and playing the harp and fiddle in a merry live performance. Afterwards, we sang along to our choir's 1999 rendition of Cwm Rhodda, and renditions of Rachie and Calon Lan. Hopefully, each person in the Zoom audience sang with gusto.

The Limerick competition was up next, ably handled by Ellen Webber. As always, they were funny and clean. Ellen also handled the raffle

Hefina Phillips, our Welsh teacher, fellow Côr Cymru member, and Welsh language advocate, read two poems for us, *Hon* by T.H. Parry and *Welsh History* by R.S. Thomas. Hefina lives in Toronto, and was our Canadian presence at the celebration.

Finally, we sang the Welsh National Anthem and enjoyed some socializing among the audience and presenters before it was time to go. Many thanks to our great members, Mary Lynne, Board President, Bob Matthews, Master of Ceremonies, and Ellen Webber, Technical Director. We hope to see everyone at next year's Saint David's Day, in real life or virtual. Meanwhile, stay safe and do the little things as Dewi Sant asked us to do!

## Welsh Heritage Day at Black Diamond Museum

By Mary Lynne Evans

Welsh Heritage Day was celebrated at the Black Diamond Historical Museum on June 4, after a Covid hiatus of several years. The museum volunteers, visitors and members of PSWA gathered at 1:00 PM for a presentation on Welsh Christmas customs. PSWA was pleased to have been invited.

After rich coal deposits were identified in Jones Lake area, in 1882, Morgan Morgans, well respected superintendent at the then California based Black Diamond Coal Company was charged with getting a new mine up and running. The area lacked a seasoned work force, and so Morgans offered incentives to Welsh miners and their families to move from Nortonville, California, to Black Diamond. As the California gold rush waned, approximately 120 people moved into the Washington area from 1882-1884. Advertisements were put in Welsh newspapers, and soon Black Diamond hosted many Welsh families homesteading and mining.

PSWA is proud to be connected to these early miners and to Black Diamond. When talking about our program, we settled on a unique Welsh Christmas custom, the Mari Lwyd, to spotlight Welsh culture. This odd combination of Christmas and

Halloween was known by many of the early miners in Wales, including those in Black Diamond. And the custom continues in parts of Wales up to the present day.

Between Christmas and New Year's Day, Welsh families may find a ghostly, ghastly visitor on their doorstep: a horse's skull held aloft by a person draped in a sheet. The skull is festooned with bells and ribbons. She is accompanied by some handlers and various hangers on. The horse knocks on the door of the house and when the owners open the door, the horse's entourage initiates a poetic musical slam. The horse group sings a stanza asking for food and libation. The owners of the house taunt the horse and refuse to admit her. Several musical stanzas are exchanged, and the entourage earns admittance only after winning the slam. The horse is let in, cakes and ale are shared, and the party continues. [Please see an earlier article in *Y Ddolen* on the Mari Lwyd at [http://pugetsoundwelsh.org/Yddolen/YDDOLEN\\_JulyAugSept18.pdf](http://pugetsoundwelsh.org/Yddolen/YDDOLEN_JulyAugSept18.pdf) - Ed]

PSWA explained the rite, showed film clips of the tradition being performed last year, and then handed out the stanzas to the audience. Suddenly a Mari Lwyd appeared on the scene. There were audible gasps from the audience. But with prompting, the audience participated in the ritual. One half of the audience recited the Mari's pleas. The other half acted as the owners of the house. After the appropriate performance, the Mari was "let in."

President Mary Lynne Evans told the audience how the association made the Mari Lwyd from a paper-mache kit, and learned and performed the songs for their Christmas party several years ago. The association has had fun with its reenactments of the Mari.

The presentation closed with Gomer Evans, past Mayor of Black Diamond, and direct descendent of the Welsh miners, giving a stirring remembrance of his family and their early life as members of the Black Diamond work force and the influence of the Welsh on the community. Questions and answers were exchanged, and the audience adjourned for drinks, treats, and homemade Welsh cakes made by members of the Black Diamond Historical Society.

Many members of the PSWA family participated in the day's events. We were pleased to be asked to participate and look forward to next year's Welsh Heritage Day. Thank you to the [Black Diamond Historical Society!](#)

## The Lacey Cultural Celebration

*By Joel Ware, IV.*

PSWA presented virtual online content at the Lacey Cultural Celebration, observing due caution during the time of COVID. Next year, we hope to do more online content, plus also set up a booth onsite, since we have found this festival helpful in public outreach in previous years.

The Cultural Celebration was held at Saint Martin's University Fieldhouse, Saturday March 12, 2022, 10am - 6pm, where thousands of people attended in-person this year. It is organized by the City of Lacey, Parks, Culture & Recreation, who states:

*"The mission of the Cultural Celebration is to share the traditions of our various ancestries in a positive and cohesive manner. Resource groups must be a social group representing the culture of a single ethnicity."*

Our proposal for the Celebration stated:

*The Welsh people in America are tied together by their shared cultural heritage practices which include choral singing, hymn fests, Welsh foods, dancing, poetry, and other arts.*

*Examples of these will be presented in our online booth, together with photos of Welsh countryside and buildings which make us remember the homeland fondly - known as "hiraeth".*

PSWA clearly qualifies here, and we have set up informational booths both onsite and online in past years. PSWA Virtual Booth content was online during March and April, and we hope to enhance this content next year with more videos, more local photos, and local music!

PSWA virtual booth content in 2021 and 2022 was curated by PSWA Vice-President Joel Ware, IV.



## North American Festival of Wales

For the first time since 1976, the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) returns to the City of Brotherly Love. Originally rescheduled for 2020, organizers were forced to reschedule because of the Pandemic. The 2022 festival co-hosted by the Welsh Society of Philadelphia (the oldest Welsh Society in North America) looks to be back and better than ever. The headquarters hotel is in the heart of the theatre district on the Avenue of the Arts. Events will take place at the hotel, at nearby theatres and include the 90th National Gymanfa Ganu at the spectacular Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr, Pa. The weekend starts early with a Wednesday evening reception and performance from award-winning Welsh baritone John Ieuan Jones. Thursday tours give a choice of exploring the Welsh tract or walking some of Philadelphia's historic sites. The Opening Concert celebrates the Urdd's Centenary as they bring over some of the finest young talent from Wales today. An extensive seminar program will cover topics from the history and language to literature and music as well as looking at Wales today. A Theatre production on Alice Paul celebrates the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage.

2022 sees 20 years of Cinema Wales at NAFOW, enjoy contemporary Welsh programming including documentaries, dramas, and a feature film. Friday's Awards Banquet celebrates the contributions of Edward Morus Jones to Welsh North American life as he receives the North America Wales Foundation's Heritage Medallion. Welsh tenor and Osbourne Roberts winner Dafydd Jones will entertain the crowd after dinner. Saturday evening's Grand Concert features London-based Welsh choir Eschoir. Under the direction of Port Talbot native, Mike Williams, their contemporary take on Welsh classics and modern flare will keep the audience entertained and they are sure to join attendees in the hotel bar for a pint and some more singing at the end of the night! Sunday sees attendees traveling out to Bryn Mawr, a part of Pennsylvania that was settled by Welsh Quakers in 1686. The 90th National Gymanfa Ganu will be held at the Church of the Redeemer and directed by Mike Williams joined by festival accompanist David Enlow. Hotel reservations can be made now and are at the very reasonable rate of \$129 per night. Festival registration is open, so save the dates, August 31-September 4, 2022. Additional festival information and reservations can be made by visiting: [www.nafow.org](http://www.nafow.org)

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## Wales in the FIFA World Cup

*Gorau Chwarae Cyd Chwarae ("The best play is team play")*

FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) has six continental governing bodies for football (soccer), one of which is the Union of European Football Associations. UEFA itself has 55 members, including Wales. The Wales national football team, known appropriately as The Dragons (Y Dreigiau) is controlled by the Football Association of Wales (FAW) which was founded in 1876 – the third oldest national football association in the world.

Football fever is hitting Wales with its qualification for the FIFA World Cup as they play UEFA Nations League matches. The Dragons' first and only showing at the World Cup was in 1958 when they reached the quarter-finals. Led by new Team Manager, Rob Page, and Captain, Gareth Bale, Wales are currently ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the world as of June 23, 2022.





Image: Huw Fairclough/Getty Images (no copyright infringement is intended)

Welsh national folk singer, Dafydd Iwan, now age 78, has seen a resurgence of his song *Yma o Hyd* ("Still Here") first released in 1983, with the song recently hitting #1 on iTunes. A song about the survival and resilience of the Welsh language, it has become the unofficial anthem for the Wales national football team.

"*Er gwaetha pawb a phopeth / Ry'n ni yma o hyd*" ("In spite of everyone and everything / We're still here")

An emotional Dafydd Iwan sang his song live in Cardiff before a 2 – 1 win over Austria (watch here and see if you don't get goosebumps: <https://youtu.be/iLXtflXFczk>) and sung again before (and after) a 1 – 0 win against Ukraine to secure their World Cup appearance: <https://youtu.be/8myOjzAMS6c>.

Latest UEFA Nations League matches:

June 1, 2022 – Poland 2 – 1 Wales

June 8, 2022 – Wales 1 – 2 Netherlands

June 11, 2022 – Wales 1 – 1 Belgium

June 14, 2022 – Netherlands 3 – 2 Wales

Next matches under Nations League A:

Belgium – September 22, 2022

Poland – September 25, 2022.

Upcoming 2022 FIFA World Cup Group B matches to be played in Al Rayyan, Qatar:

United States - November 21, 2022

Iran – November 25, 2022

England – November 29, 2022

## Welsh Railway Achievements

By Christopher Ensor

Many of us have traveled by train to and within Wales. For example, on the main line from London to Cardiff or a ride on a heritage railway. But do we know what a rich history the railways of Wales really have?

Here are some examples:

- 1804 marks the world's first railway journey powered by a steam locomotive. It ran 9 miles from the ironworks at Penydarren to the Merthyr–Cardiff Canal. A replica of the locomotive designed by Richard Trevithick is at the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea.

- In the 200 years since the South Wales Valleys went from being the birthplace of railways, through having one of the most intense freight systems in the world to a



Photo Credit: Amgueddfa Cymru / National Museum Wales

dramatic decline. In the 1960's drastic British government cuts made getting around Wales by public transport extremely difficult and time consuming. One example was the train journey between Carmarthen and Aberystwyth. A one-hour ride became 6 hours involving travelling into and back out of England.

- From the 1970's volunteers throughout Wales worked to reinstate and preserve the railway heritage and to boost the tourist economy. Today Wales has 3 railway centers and museums, 5 standard gauge and 14 narrow gauge railways, 4 miniature railways and 3 electric tramways.

In addition to the being the country where the first steam powered railway journey took place, Wales boasts a number of other remarkable railway achievements:

- The Snowden Mountain Railway that opened in 1896 is the only rack railway in the whole UK.
- The longest tunnel in the UK is the 4.5 miles Severn Railway Tunnel connecting Wales and England.
- The longest railway station name in Europe is in Anglesey: Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlantysiliogogoch (St. Mary's Church in a Hollow by the White Hazel close to the Rapid Whirlpool near the Red Cave of St. Tysilio). This is also the longest URL address in Guinness Book of Records.
- North Wales has 12 different working heritage narrow gauge railways. Known as The Great Little Trains of Wales, Trenau Bach Arbennig Cymru, these used to move quarried slate and minerals, but now give rides to tourists. One of the 12, the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway, is the oldest surviving railway company in the world. It is also the UK's longest heritage railway. It runs 25 miles from Caernarfon to Porthmadog.

Since 2020 these, other heritage Welsh railways and attractions have struggled to survive the challenges of COVID restrictions. I plan to share the history of a remarkable standard gauge heritage railways based at Llangollen and what it is doing to recover from COVID in the next edition of Y Ddolen.

This article is drawn from a presentation I made at the PSWA "Drunken Daffodil" virtual pub get-together on March 20, 2022

## **PSWA Member Introduces Welsh Tune to Music Guild of Fort Nisqually Living History Museum**

*By Laura Lovell*

Bob Mathews, one of our board members, was instrumental in introducing a Welsh tune to the music guild at the Fort Nisqually Historical Museum. He played the tune with the other members of the Guild at the recent meeting of the group.

The Historical Museum, located in Point Defiance Park is connected with Tacoma Metro Parks system. Bob is a volunteer there, and like other volunteers, dresses in period costumes of the 1850's and assumes a character who might have lived during that time and place.

To explain the purpose of the Music Guild, I can't do better than to quote from the Bob's description of the group:

"The Fort's Music Guild, led by Robyn Burns, provides music for period dances and for other events at the fort. Our music mostly comes from the music and dances of the Oregon Trail, but the workers at the Fort at the

time came from all over America and the British Isles, so a full range of music is available, so long as it is no later than about 1850. We get together once a month to meet and play, and are available throughout the year for dances and special events”.

He then added: “At our last meeting I played *Fwyn Seren Fain Swy* which I learned from Kevin’s Twmpath. I hope that this tune will be adopted by the Guild, and am grateful for your and Kevin’s scholarly support for the tune’s date.”

Here I must interject that the scholarship part was my husband Kevin’s. All I did was sit in bars playing tunes with people, but that was important to getting him the information he needed. It’s a long story and was fascinating to me, but only interesting to folk music geeks. Any of you who want to know the details, communicate with me. It was a lot of fun to research this.

Welsh tunes dance tunes are not commonly known much in the general British Isles / American communities. The tune is a lovely waltz, and Bob hopes it will be adopted as part of the group’s standard repertoire.

There are many wonderful Welsh jigs, hornpipes polkas and waltzes that deserve a wider adoption by traditional folk musicians and my hat is off to Bob for sharing this fine tune with others!

Bob is also searching for evidence of Welsh people in the area in the 1850’s and if any of you have any information about that, he wants to hear from you.

To find out more about the Fort Nisqually Museum check out: <https://tinyurl.com/m37ysnhr>

## South Sound Night Out of Hŵyl Group Annual Picnic

**Sunday, August 28, 2022 12:00PM**

We are back to our original location at American Lake Park: **9222 Veterans Dr SW, Lakewood, WA 98498**

Family-friendly! We will eat when the majority of picnickers show.

If you don’t see a Welsh flag when you arrive and you see an open table, please grab it and we’ll be there shortly!

Potluck style: please bring something to share. The Davieses will bring a bucket of fried/baked chicken so we don’t end up with a potluck of all desserts (hmm...no complaints here!).

Bring your own: drinks, chairs and/or blankets, special dietary foods, kayak/canoe, floatation device, beach towel, sunscreen, and shades.

We will supply: all utensils, plates, cups, paper towels, one small table in case we cannot secure one.

Hope to see you there! Please RSVP to: [SouthSound@PugetSoundWelsh.org](mailto:SouthSound@PugetSoundWelsh.org) with how many in your party.

The Welsh Mathematician Robert Recorde, born in (about) 1510 in Tenby, introduced the ‘=’ sign in 1557 in his book *The Whetstone of Witte*.

## 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 2022 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 \$19.95 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$19.95\* each. Indicate how many of each size and color:  
Steel Green: \_\_\_\_ LG \_\_\_\_ XL \*Limited quantities; Email for availability: [membership@pugetsoundwelsh.org](mailto: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** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Information (please print):

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please mail this form with payment to: **PSWA, PO Box 27725, Seattle, WA 98165**



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*Photo Credits: Karyn Davies*

