



Y Ddolen

Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Hydref, Tachwedd, Rhagfyr, 2022 Volume 40, Issue 4 October, November, December 2022

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, December 4
AGM and Christmas party
President@pugetsoundwelsh.org
for further details

November 21, 2022 2 PM ET
USA Vs WALES World Cup Soccer
Keep tuned in for details!

Please mail events@pugetsoundwelsh.org
for RSVPs and for further details.

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

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

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

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT SUBMISSION:
December 20th 2022.**

Email to: newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Help Wanted

PSWA Members interested in learning about
becoming a Board Member, Contact:
President@PugetSoundWelsh.org

President's Message, Fourth Quarter 2022

Our September project at Almira was wonderful and several of the participants have written their thoughts for this edition. I will not add to that except it was an honor to clean the gravestone of David Griffith, age 28. I won't forget this weekend. And the event has generated notes from two Welsh descendants in Washington State who did not attend and read about it in the Moses Lake news article by Joel Martin. They wish to be included in further Welsh events. Very gratifying.

PSWA was ably represented at the North American Festival of Wales in Philadelphia over Labor Day weekend. Joel and Kayla Ware, Ellen Webber, Gerri Baker Parry, Alan and Greta Upshall, Evans and Carol Paschal, and I attended. Gerri was given an award noting her service and diligence to the North American Welsh community, as she has been for many years. This generated much applause and gratitude. Eric Bowen and Owain Weinert submitted poems for the poetry contest. Alan and Greta sponsored a wildly popular limerick contest. Evans had done hours of work on the program, as he so ably does each year. PSWA is noticed as vital and energetic!

The board of the Welsh North American Association, of which I am a member, are busily planning for a unique 2023 NAFOW in Lincoln, Nebraska. If you have never attended one of our gatherings, I urge you to think ahead and plan on coming.

My deep thanks to:

Almira participants: Judy Evans Lindhag, Nancy Evans, Cindy Williams Rhodes, The Edwards, Jeanne and, Andrew Kinney

And also, to: Gwen Weinert, Laura Lovell, Joel Martin, Leslie and Doug Erickson, Kay Jones Veal, Brian Carstensen, Joel Martin, former PSWA member, and currently on staff of the Moses Lake Newspaper, and to ren Orsen, the Coulee City resident who alerted me to the historical Almira cemetery.

Looking forward to November and December events: We are considering a November pub and our Holiday Party is Dec.4, 2022, 2-5 pm. We will have wassailing, singing, yummy potluck food, and good camaraderie. I look forward to hosting you in my house. We will have further information on address when we get closer to the event. Keep in touch.

Mary Lynne Evans, President, President@pugetsoundwelsh.org

Wales in the FIFA World Cup

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

Wales will play the United States on Monday, November 21 at 2:00 PM EST (11:00 AM PST) on the second day of competition. Mary Lynne and Ellen Webber are getting material from the Welsh government for publicizing this. More to come. which we will send out in a email blast as the time draws nearer
PSWA is working on a program for this event, and will have material for a watch party. Stay tuned!!

Our Trip to Almira by Gwen Weinart

The graveyard and church before the building was demolished. Photo credit: Leslie Erickson



Laura Lovell, Mary Lynne Evans and I drove to Almira together. We left at two in the afternoon and headed east on I-90. It was a warm day. Mary Lynne provided water and snacks, and except for a few bathroom breaks, we drove straight through to our destination.

We were quite tired by the time we turned off I-90, but it was time for my first surprise. We found ourselves traveling through Sun Lakes State Park, which combines beautiful lakes, majestic mountains and basalt cliffs. I had no idea that we would find such dramatic scenery near our destination. I had been thinking along the lines of British cornfields punctuated by farmhouses!

We came to Wilbur, Washington quite late, and found the Welsh waiting for us at the Willows Motel. They had a wonderful meal laid out for us, and we ate the generous spread with great enthusiasm. We made plans for the next day and fell into bed.

Saturday was our day for cleaning the cemetery. We drove to the wheat field where it was located. I stood in the cemetery and turned around to see the horizon. The wheat had been harvested and reseeded, and the fields went on forever.

The cemetery had been cleaned up for us by the local folks, but there still was plenty to do. The Welsh community in eastern and western Washington got busy and tombstones became legible once more. We had a picnic lunch in the middle of a road, next to the spot where the Welsh settlers picnicked. Then we explored the richness of the local history museum, which they opened especially for us.

We were made so welcome by our generous hosts. They were so kind to us, and that was my next surprise. We came out of nowhere and they gave us their all.

I am glad I went on this trip. It was a long journey by our standards, but think of those Welsh immigrants that had to cross an ocean, then half a continent by wagon or railway to get to Almira. They arrived when the climate was wetter, and set up their farms. They had their church and each other, but little else.

I am glad that we met these strong, generous people, the Welsh settlers of eastern Washington. They made us so welcome and we would love to meet them again.

Almira Community Responses:

Judy Lindhag

My name is Judy (Evans) Lindhag. My great-grandparents (Francis and Sarah Evans) homesteaded northwest of Almira prior to 1892. To this day, I'm not quite sure what drew them to this particular area. They went on to raise a total of nine children before divorcing in the early 1900's - an event unheard of back then!

As painful and embarrassing as the divorce was to the family, I'm grateful because it was the court documents that led to me to a more in-depth understanding of their lives.

Approximately two miles downhill from their two-story salt block home, was the Welsh Zion Calvinistic Methodist Church flanked on one side by the cemetery.

Throughout my childhood, my paternal Grandfather (W. L. Evans) would encourage us each fall to return to the area of his homestead. As he reminisced, us kids would be running around picking fall blossoms, dried grasses, and sage cuttings. Is there any one of us that doesn't regret not paying attention or recording those tales of the past?

Here I now am pushing 70 and living nearly 80 miles away, but my roots grow deep. My family affiliation and pride go even deeper.

Somehow, I became the "Keeper of the Stuff!" Old family photos, stories, mementos, all headed my way. These treasures made me a sort of family historian. Maybe that's why I felt a responsibility to do a little upkeep each year to the ancestral cemetery? I don't know, but over those 69 years, my efforts (and those of my family) were sporadic at best.

Kay Jones Vea, age 92

I grew up in Almira and was happy to read in the newsletter (*Y Ddolen*) that PSWA was interested in cleaning the historic cemetery in the wheatfields between Almira and Wilbur. I remember the cemetery as a child. I remember a lot about life there. I especially remember winning a prize in one of the Eisteddfods of the colony. I was six years old and won for singing in the church which was located right next to the cemetery. We sang a lot in the church.

My grandparents, John Meredith Jones and Mary Hughes Jones came from Wales to area in the 1890's. They homesteaded two miles from Almira. The farm is still in the family. It is farmed by my nephew Jeff Cochran and his wife Bonnie. I am still involved in selling the wheat from this farm, even today.

I wanted to come to this work party so my daughter and her husband and I made the road trip from Woodinville to Almira, I went to the cemetery on Saturday morning and greeted the people who came to clean. I knew the parents of many of the younger generation Almira folks. I even knew Brian Carstensen, owner of the field where the cemetery is located, as a boy.

We must thank Judy Evans Lindhag for her work party two weeks before the PSWA came out. The cemetery was so overgrown that no one could get in to even see the gravestones. There were holes and collapsed graves and thick weeds over 4 feet high. Nancy Evans mowed so much. But with their work and the PSWA volunteer work, it looked really good when we left it on Saturday.

I actually don't have any ancestors buried in the historical cemetery. It was not used much after 1900. My grandmother was one of the first people in my family to die in 1910. She was buried in the new Almira town cemetery. Still it was good to see it so shiny.

I stayed over until Sunday morning. I was asked to play Welsh hymns at the Sunday service of the Almira Congregational Church. I loved playing those hymns. We sang Calon Lan with them. I came armed with my Welsh hymnbook. I sang in the PSWA choir for many years in Seattle so knew all those hymns.

It was a good weekend and I got to see my sister, who still lives in Almira.

South Sound Report

Karyn Davies



Small Turnout for South Sound's Annual Picnic

A sunny day at American Lake! It was a nice chance to finally meet up with friends we had not seen in many months or several years! Good company and good food – chicken, corn soufflé, chocolate brownies, veggies, fruits, potato salad, chips, and corn bread.

Hope to see more smiling faces next year!

South Sound Night Out of Hŵyl

November 13th – 3:00PM Annual Movie Matinee.

*New venue: Pierce County Library, Summit Branch 5107 112th St E, Tacoma, WA (East of Parkland - Hwy 512 east from I-5 to Canyon Rd E; south on Canyon to 112th St E, on the right past

the shopping center). Join us for the movie or meet us at 5:00PM at Shari's Restaurant for dinner or pie!

Dinner/drinks/pie 5:00PM at Shari's Café & Pies 10904 Canyon Rd E, Puyallup, WA.

Movie to be announced – watch PSWA's Facebook group page for movie survey.

December 11th – 4:00PM Annual Christmas Party.

Elmer's Restaurant 7427 S Hosmer St, Tacoma, WA.

Join us for our annual Christmas party! Enjoy your own dinner, dessert or drinks while we visit, make ornaments, and enjoy a Welsh-themed gift exchange.

Please RSVP to southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org so we know how many to expect for each date.

Gerri Baker Parry receives North America Wales Foundation Award

At the 2022 North American Festival of Wales held this year in Philadelphia, Gerri Baker Parry was honored at the North America Wales Foundation Awards Banquet with induction into "The Order of Ivorites" in recognition of her "outstanding work, distinguished service, support and loyalty" in the Welsh American community. A surprised Gerri is shown here flanked by presenters Jeanne Jones Jindra and Megan Williams. Well done, Gerri!



Photo Credit: Sarah Koch

Hiraeth: The “Welshist” Emotion

Eric Bowen

In the Welsh language are words not found in English for emotions that may be peculiar to the Welsh people, or at any rate, are not commonly felt or talked about among English speakers. Almost certainly, the most archetypal of these is *hiraeth*, the word limply translated into English as “longing,” a term inadequate to capture the full meaning of the Welsh. Hiraeth was the topic at a recent PSWA virtual Welsh pub; the lively discussion was worthy of being summarized and written down, which I humbly attempt to do here, with a few additional observations of my own thrown in.

Among the definitions for the word are “deep longing for a place and time irrevocably lost,” “a Welsh concept of longing for home,” and in Welsh itself, “Teimlad o alar, gofid a cholled am fod oddi cartref neu o golli rhywun” (“feeling of grief, sorrow and loss for being away from home or loving someone.”).

The word has very old – even ancient – roots, as can be seen in the cognate words in related languages: Cornish *hyreth*, Breton *hiraezh*, Old Irish *sirecht*. As Welsh split from Cornish and Breton some 1500 years ago, and from Irish even earlier, the word evidently goes back at least to the arrival of the Celts in the Anglo-Celtic Isles.

Certainly, the word crops up frequently in Welsh literature, poetry, and song. Context offers clues to the shades of meaning and feeling, so that we may better understand the word.

Kate Roberts in *Traed mewn Cyffion* (“Feet in Chains”) speaks of a lead character feeling **hiraeth** for her home which she had left, a straightforward use of the term.

Waldo Williams wrote this in *Cofio* (“Remembering”):

Mynych ym mrig yr hwyr, a mi yn unig,
Daw **hiraeth** am eich 'nabod chwi bob un;
A oes a'ch deil o hyd mewn cof a chalon,
Hen bethau anghofiedig teulu dyn?

So oft at evening's end, when I'm alone,
Great longing comes, and fills my heart and mind
To know ye, every one, and to remember
The old, lost ways of all of humankind.

Here is something subtler: hiraeth as a feeling for a time beyond recall. Williams allegedly wrote these lines while contemplating the 5000 year old cromlech (stone age megalith) at Pentre Ifan, near his home.

Hiraeth is the theme of a song by that name:

Hiraeth mawr a hiraeth creulon,
Hiraeth sydd yn torri 'nghalon,
Pan fwy' dryma'r nos yn cysgu
Fe ddaw hiraeth ac a'm deffry

Hiraeth great and hiraeth cruel
Hiraeth is breaking my heart
When in the depths of night I slumber
Then comes hiraeth and awakens me.

By these lyrics, we see hiraeth not as some sweet nostalgia, but a deep pain.

Seeing how the word *hiraeth* is used, one begins to realize it is a feeling less common in England and America, and deeper, more poignant than the English term “longing.” To get a full understanding of the word and the feeling, we need to take a look at the land and culture from which it springs – and how these give rise to *hiraeth*.

It’s helpful to look at some other Welsh words and concepts related to the feeling; I will focus on *bro*, *cynefin*, *iaith*, and *cymuned*. *Bro* – commonly translated as “land” or “region” – in Welsh connotes also the feeling of connection to the land. *Cynefin*, translated as “habitat,” is an even stronger term for connection with the land, clearly meaning land with which one interacts. Both words, with their connotations, appear in this verse of the song “Adra” by Gwyneth Glyn:

Fy **nghynefin** yw fy nefoedd,
A **bro** fy mebyd yw fy myd
My habitat is my heaven,
And homeland of my childhood is my world.

And of course, the land is one of aching beauty, with the brooding mist upon the hills and mountains overlooking the sea. Indeed, the rural folk of Eryri / Snowdonia speak of the “*mynyddoedd yn llawn hiraeth*,” “mountains full of longing.”

Iaith – “language” – is another piece of the equation. Truly, the Welsh feel differently about their language than do we speakers of English about ours. For speaking Welsh is a badge of identity and belonging. Any American who has made the effort to learn and speak some Welsh has probably experienced the sudden acceptance and welcome that the Welsh extend to those who share their language; certainly I have, on multiple occasions. The language carries with it a sense of place, community, and belonging.

Cymuned, or community, is a key Welsh concept, one that goes deeper than the American understanding of the word. My wife and I got a serious introduction to Welsh *cymuned* when we visited a pub in Llansawel, Dyfed. Curious about the lost Americans, the locals invited us to join them at their table and began to regale us with stories about their village. “My family has lived here for six generations; this land is part of me, and I’m a part of it.” Continued another, “We don’t always see eye-to-eye, but if anyone here is in trouble, the rest of us will rally around to help out.” And the real clincher: “*Mae tri chant ohonom yn y dre yma*,” began our host, “and we know each other down to the length of our inseams.” They proved their point when I mentioned someone I had met in the village twenty-seven years earlier. “Oh, you really must go say hello,” said one, checking his watch; “in fact, if you leave now, you’ll catch her at the bridge on her way to play bingo at the Black Lion.” And there she was.

So picture living in your *bro*, your *cynefin*, with its misty mountains rising above your village, meeting your *cyfeillion* / companions at the pub, chatting in *yr hen iaith* / the old language and sharing a sense of *cymuned*, knowing and being known by all there. Dafydd Iwan described this in his song “*Pam Fod Eira’n Wyn*”:

Pan fydd geiriau fy nghyfeillion
Yn felus fel y gwin,
A'r seiniau mwyn, cynefin,
Yn dawnsio ar ei min.
Pan fydd nodau hen alw
Yn lleddfu fy nghlyw,
Rwy'n gwybod beth yw perthyn
Ac rwy'n gwybod beth yw byw!

When my friends’ words
Are sweet like wine
And the sounds of homeland
Dance on its edge
When the notes of an old tune
Bless my hearing
I know what it is to belong
And I know what it is to live.

Now, picture being taken out of that *cynefin*, your *bro*, separated from the *cymuned* of your *cyfeillion*, giving up your *iaith* to speak the language of the conqueror in England or America. You don't just feel longing. You feel your identity, your heart have been ripped out. That is *hiraeth*.

Epilogue

Is there such a thing as *national hiraeth*? For once the Celtic Britons, the “proto-Welsh,” occupied all of Britain from Edinburgh south to Kent and Cornwall. Then the Anglo-Saxons drove the Britons into Wales, a small corner of what was once theirs. Had they held their island, what would the Britons have become? Would they, not England, have become a great sea-faring nation, trading around the world and spreading their language and culture? “...it was not the will of God that we should perpetually hold the government of [Britain],” lamented King Cadwallader, contemplating the overwhelming invasion of the Saxons. As the Welsh struggle to maintain their old language, culture, and identity even in their own small corner of the island, one can sense the feeling of *hiraeth* for what they could have been.

My Favorite Welsh Railway

by Chris Ensor

In the last PSWA (Puget Sound Welsh Association) newsletter “*Y Ddolen*” I shared some Welsh railway highlights and achievements. This time I'd like to tell you about one Welsh heritage railway that is special to me and why I'm anxious to return there.

The Llangollen Railway (Rheilffordd Llangollen) is a volunteer-run standard gauge heritage railway in Denbighshire, North Wales. Val Ensor and I are members. It runs 10 miles from picturesque Llangollen with its Dee Bridge built in 1345 and many other attractions to Corwen: The route follows the Ruabon to Barmouth line alongside the River Dee. It's an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The original line opened in 1865. Llangollen was already a popular place for tourists. Due to UK government rail network cuts the line closed in 1964. But a preservation society was founded in 1972 tasked to reopen part of the line. Progress was slow due to limited funds. Llangollen Station reopened in 1975 with 60 feet of track. The first trains ran to Berwyn in 1986, on to Carrog in 1996 and the full 10 miles to Corwen in 2014

The railway has a family focus including Thomas the Tank engine and Santa Weekends.



Black 5 locomotive 45337 as “Goliath” Thomas Weekend Llangollen Station, Oct. 2014. Photo Credit: Chris Ensor

Pre-COVID, daily services ran in the summer and weekends over the winter months over the full length of the line using a variety of steam and diesel traction. In 2021 having made a loss in three consecutive years - in part due to the loss of revenue caused by COVID restrictions - the railway company went into receivership. Operation of the railway was handed over to the Llangollen Railway Trust. Services resumed in July 2021 to a reduced timetable.

As well as being a member of the Llangollen Railway Trust I am a part-owner of Black 5 locomotive 45337 This restored steam locomotive built in 1937 first came to Llangollen to haul steam services in 2011. In October 2014 she was part of the inaugural run to Corwen: the first train since 1964. Soon after 45337 went on tour, returning to Llangollen in 2016 for maintenance work. She then ran on the line for twelve months that included her 80th birthday in 2017. See 45337 run [here](#).

Unfortunately, soon after this celebration a hairline crack discovered on the throat plate of the boiler. This forced a withdrawal from service. A full 10-year overhaul was agreed to take place at the locomotive workshop at Llangollen. But, due to various delays the work did not start. Then the workshop closed for good in 2021. So 45337 was moved 73 miles by road to Bury, Manchester for the overhaul in Jan. 2021. By Aug. 2022 some minor jobs have been done by volunteers. The major overhaul work is under negotiation .



Celebrating the 80th Birthday of 45337 at Llangollen Station 2017.

Photo Credit: 26B Railway Co. Ltd. Used with permission.

Do you have a favorite Welsh heritage railway, perhaps in North Wales? Here is a as full list of [UK heritage railways](#) by region (scroll down for Welsh listings). These railways need our support. Please visit one and enjoy a ride when you next travel to Wales.

Poem

Owain Weinert, 2022

Wales, you are a land of
stones: slate cut from the earth, always cutting back,
piled high in castle towers to claim you,
in long strings to keep the sheep in
rebels: fighting through ages to keep you free,
across the bryn with your bows drawn tight
still fiercely claimant even though the tyrants won
songs: few of which I know,
all of which I wish to learn.
your rivers yet sing them clear
dragons
mists
stories, Wales, you are a land of a thousand stories.
May I tell you mine?

PSWA Picnic 2022

Gwen Weinert

We had a great picnic at Gwen's house, with delicious food, sparkling company and perfect weather. Fourteen of us got together and talked, ate and drank, and relaxed on a lovely Sunday afternoon.

Laura Lovell was our adept planner and organizer. Ellen Webber was our Chef de Barbecue, and many delicious sides and desserts rounded out the meal. Chris Mooreddrall made an ingenious dessert of boozy plums, cream and an oatmeal crust which took the form of a Welsh dragon.

We enjoyed the companionship, and also were surprised and happy to have a visit from long- ago members, Andrew and Sally Bell, who recently moved back to Seattle, across the street from Gwen.

Thanks for all who joined us! Now, onward to our Christmas party!

Welsh Onion Cake (Teisen Winwns)

Ingredients

2 pounds potatoes (new type, i.e. Yukon Gold)

2 yellow onions (medium onions, peeled and finely chopped)

Salt and ground black pepper, to taste

1/2 cup butter (4 ounces)

Peel and thinly slice the potatoes.

Preheat oven to 375F. and butter an 8-inch cake pan. Line it with a circle of parchment paper, buttered.

Arrange some of the potato slices evenly in the bottom of the pan and sprinkle some of the onion on top; season with salt and pepper.



Photo Credit: recipezazz.com

Reserve 2 tablespoons of the butter and dot the onions/potatoes in pan with tiny pieces of the remaining butter.

Repeat these layers and finish with a layer of potatoes.

Melt remaining butter and brush over the top.

Cover with foil and bake for 1-1 1/2 hours, until tender and golden. Let stand for 10-15 minutes, covered.

Carefully invert potatoes onto a warmed plate and serve.

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

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Retail Products – *prices include shipping/postage (\$15 if picked up at events)

- PSWA T-Shirts** Total number of shirts ___ x \$19.95 \$ _____
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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 \$ _____

Membership Information (please print):

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

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Nadolig Llawen a Blwydden Newydd Dda!

*Photo Credits:
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