



# Y Ddolen

Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Ionawr, Chwefror, Mawrth 2022

Volume 40, Issue 1

January, February, March 2022

## Mark Your Calendars!

**Sunday, January 16th 2 PM**

Online: *Drunken Daffodil* Virtual Pub (Zoom)

**Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**

*Hosted by WNAA*

Online: Welsh Lovespoon discussion by Dave Western



**Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**

*St. Dwynwen's Day*

**Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**

*Hosted by WNAA*

Online: "The Best Leek & Potato Soup" Cooking Class

**Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 2PM - 4PM**

Online: St. David's Day Celebration (Zoom)

**Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

*Hosted by WNAA*

Online: Women's History Month presentation by Meddych Nain

## PSWA Board Members & Elected Officers

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- Chris Mooreddrall, Member at Large  
[Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org](mailto:Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org)

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

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT SUBMISSION: April 20<sup>th</sup> 2022.**

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

## Call To Action!

>Former Board Members interested in contributing to PSWA as the Association's Treasurer; PSWA Members interested in learning about becoming a Board Member

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

## 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



## Letter from the President

The Eve of Christmas Eve 2021

The long nights, the full moon, all the Christmas lights, more this year than I remember, the biting cold, the creches— I am plunged into the season.

Sometimes this season overwhelms me. I need some contact with like-minded folks to help me get through the winter months. That contact for me was our Christmas Noson Lawen, held December 19th. The fifth in our series of virtual pub meet-ups, it was attended by folks from the Puget Sound region and even Connecticut. We had a good time with the readings of Dylan Thomas' [A Child's Christmas in Wales](#), telling of folktales, original poetry in Welsh, favorite poetry from famous Welsh writers, recorded songs from our own Nerys Jones, a personal essay by a Welsh woman explorer read by one of members, and a Chinese song on the erhulu. Our Mari Lywd also attended. She is holding up well, being at least four years old now. A fair amount of chatting filled the spaces between acts. We sang together. This celebration lifted my spirits and I hope yours, if you attended.



If you missed, several announcements were made.

1. We will be holding our St. David's Day celebration this year on line by Zoom again. Last year it was a smash and we are working to make it the same this year. Stay tuned for it. It will be held on Sunday, February 27th from 2-4 pm.
2. Our society has been noticed by the Welsh North American Association (WNAA [www.wnaa-nafow.org](http://www.wnaa-nafow.org)) which includes Welsh associations in Canada, United States, and some guests from Patagonia and Wales itself. Chris Mooredrall's Virtual Pub bara brith baking seminar was attended by David and Mona Matthews from Calgary, Canada. David is the president of the WNAA and we were pleased that they could attend. I received a call soon after the pub asking if our association would do another cooking show for the WNAA in February 2022. They want a presentation on how to make potato leek soup. Chris Mooredrall, who is becoming the Welsh Chef for us, has agreed to do it.

We need your help. Do you have any Welsh potato leek recipes? Do you have tips for how to make it? Do you have any memories of it from your families? Would you like to be part of the presentation?

Get in touch with me at [president@pugetsoundwelsh.org](mailto:president@pugetsoundwelsh.org) if you would like to be part of this.

3. I received a call out of the blue in late November. It was from an anthropologist who lives in Electric City, Washington in the eastern part of the state. He had noticed that a small parcel of land was up for auction from the county, foreclosed for non-payment of taxes. The parcel was located outside of a nearby small town at the edge of a wheatfield. Being a true, curious anthropologist, he visited the two acre parcel and found that it was a graveyard for early settlers in the area. All the graves were of Welsh people. He told me he was not aware of the Welsh connections in the area, but he thought someone should know about the site and the impending sale. He got our name from our website and called to let us know about the parcel.

I took the information to your board, and we discussed it. The board has authorized the society to do a bit more research on the parcel. We will be contacting Grant County to see the status of the parcel. We will also be contacting the local historical societies and the Methodist Church in the area since, the site housed a church at one time. We will be trying to identify the graves and follow up on the Welsh names to see if any families still reside in the area. We will also do research on the protection of gravesites under state law. And we will try to reconstruct when Welsh folk came to area and why in the hopes to get a fuller picture of the graveyard. In the spring, we may make a field trip to the area and perhaps organize a cleanup of the graveyard.

Why are we interested? We feel the site should be noticed and preserved in some way. We would like to write several articles which have been solicited for publication from *Ninnau*, the North American Welsh Newspaper. We are honored to have been asked by them to write up our findings.

This is all still unfolding; including what the role of the PSWA might be in the future of the area. Do any of you have relatives from this area? Are you familiar with the Welsh settlement of the area? Does anyone have historical, anthropological, genealogical training and/or knowledge which might help guide us? This is our first venture into a project like this. Anyone who would like to join in this unique effort to preserve Welsh heritage is welcome to get in touch with me or anyone else on the board. We would love your involvement.

So, I am happy to report your Association continues to be vital and energetic. It is the goodness, spirit, and imagination of this society that I find so inspiring and unique. Thank you for helping me get through the dark days and nights. May I wish you all the best for these holidays.

Nadolig Llawen, Blwyddyn Newydd Dda. Adymuniadau gorau ar gyfer 2022.

Mary Lynne Evans, President.

## St. Dwynwen's Day

Celebrated on January 25<sup>th</sup> – a day of romantic gestures and gifts to loved ones, Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen, is the Welsh “St. Valentine’s Day.”

Wales’ patron saint of lovers, Dwynwen was beautiful and in love; however, it was not allowed to be. A 5<sup>th</sup> century princess in love, a father’s refusal, an anguished prayer, angelic visitation, wishes, the founding of a convent, and a life dedicated to praying for troubled lovers - check out Cadw’s free e-book on this Welsh heroine:

<https://tinyurl.com/2kzdskr> or watch the story here: <https://youtu.be/mGi61oy7Tew>

To celebrate St. Dwynwen’s Day:

make your very own virtual love spoon and email to a friend or lover

<https://museum.wales/lovespoon/>

print out a free Dydd Santes Dwynwen card to give to a loved one (scroll to the bottom of the page)

<https://www.visitwales.com/info/history-heritage-and-traditions/st-dwynwens-day>

send an e-card to a friend or sweetheart

<https://www.welsh-american-bookstore.com/index.php/st-dwynwen-s-day/rwcard/1/>

make a batch of Welsh cakes to share

<https://www.visitwales.com/things-do/food-and-drink/welsh-food-and-recipes/traditional-welsh-cakes-recipe>



## WALES ON TRACK TO QUALIFY FOR THE FIFA WORLD CUP 2022

The Wales national football team is closing in on a spot in the World Cup held in Qatar November 21 – December 17, 2022. With a draw against Belgium in November, Wales will be at home for the semi-final held in March 2022.

FIFA World Cup Play-Off Semi-Final: Wales V Austria \* Thursday, March 24, 2022 \* 19:45 \* Cardiff City Stadium

International Football Competition:

UEFA Nations League: Poland V Wales \* Friday, June 3, 2022 \* 19:45 \* TBC

UEFA Nations League: Wales V Netherlands \* Monday, June 6, 2022 \* 19:45 \* TBC

UEFA Nations League: Wales V Belgium \* Friday, June 10, 2022 \* 19:45 \* TBC

UEFA Nations League: Netherlands V Wales \* Monday, June 13, 2022 \* 19:45 \* TBC

UEFA Nations League: Belgium V Wales \* Thursday, September 22, 2022 \* 19:45 \* TBC

UEFA Nations League: Wales V Poland \* Sunday, September 25, 2022 \* 19:45 \* TBC



# GUINNESS SIX NATIONS 2022

All kick off times to be confirmed



## ROUND ONE

Ireland v Wales, Saturday Feb 5, Dublin

## ROUND TWO

Wales v Scotland, Saturday Feb 12, Cardiff

## ROUND THREE

England v Wales, Saturday Feb 26, Twickenham

## ROUND FOUR

Wales v France, Friday March 11, Cardiff

## ROUND FIVE

Wales v Italy, Saturday March 19, Cardiff



## Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant

Saint David's Day commemorates the patron saint of Wales on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The only native-born patron saint of the nations in the British Isles, Saint David (Dewi Sant) was born in Pembrokeshire around 500 A.D. He was a renowned preacher, teacher, and miracle worker who founded monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Brittany, and England. He died March 1<sup>st</sup> in 589 A.D. and buried at St. David's Cathedral.

St. David's Day has been celebrated since 1120 after Dewi was canonized by Pope Callixtus in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. As of the year 2000, the National Assembly for Wales have recognized St. David's Day as a public holiday. It is traditional to wear a leek or daffodil, eat traditional Welsh food like cawl, and for women and children to wear traditional Welsh dress. Parades are common in many cities and towns across Wales.

## Annual Welsh Limerick Contest

-Ellen Webber

It's time for the 2022 edition of the popular Puget Sound Welsh Association Limerick contest! Here are this year's starting lines:

**A fisherman afloat in his coracle**

**A Sunday school outing to Barry**

**A dashing old gent from Mwmbwls**

Please submit your entries to Ellen Webber at [membership@pugetsoundwelsh.org](mailto:membership@pugetsoundwelsh.org) with **both your real name and a bardic name** that will be used when submitting the entries to our impartial judge. If you submit multiple entries, please use the same bardic name for each one. The **deadline for entry is February 15**, with the winners announced at St. David's Day Celebration.



*Two men who arrived late at a crowded theatre in Cardiff could not find a seat and had to stand at the back. Getting tired after the first act, one of them shouted loudly at the beginning of the interval, "Mr Evans' house is on fire!" They immediately had the choice of nineteen vacant seats.*



## A New Study of Welsh Heritage in Seattle

-Alan Upshall

In March, PSWA Treasurer Ellen Webber, forwarded me an email from the secretary at the Pacific Northwest Quarterly Journal asking if we could provide copies of some old Seattle Welsh photographs for an article being written by Dr. Robert Llewellyn Tyler that had been submitted for publication. I contacted the author and found out that he had written an article about Welsh heritage in Seattle and that he would like to embellish it with some appropriate photographs. I sent him five pictures from our archive collection and they all appeared in the published article, together with a recognition of PSWA. Dr. Tyler was born in Wales and has written about Welsh immigrant communities across the globe.

The article is 17 pages long and entitled: 'Culture maintenance in an Immigrant community, The Welsh in Seattle 1890 -1940' (Pacific Northwest Quarterly, Fall 2020. Pages 134-147). It is a very comprehensive piece of research and covers many aspects of the Welsh community and its presence within a growing Seattle and some of the surrounding districts. Much of the information is gathered from immigration records and census data with supporting material from newspapers, both local to Seattle and national by way of the predominant Welsh newspaper of the times, *Y Drych*.

A short summary of this article is not easy to write as it covers so much ground, but in many ways it expands on much of the information that we have available within our archives. There is a detailed discussion of the large eisteddfod held in Seattle in 1890 but, surprisingly to me, very little about the even larger Welsh eisteddfod held at the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition in 1909. Using the census information, the author illustrates the lives of Welsh immigrants and families that were not part of the Welsh Mainstream which, as we know, centered around the musical and religious aspects of traditional Welsh Culture. This Welsh culture was very strong early in the last century, even though the Welsh formed a small proportion of the population, but the article also illustrates that there were many Welsh people in Seattle who only joined that culture at the traditional heritage events such as to celebrate St. David's Day. This leads to a discussion of the integration of the Welsh people into Puget Sound society and the consequent loss of the Welsh language amongst the later generations as the primary glue for maintaining a vigorous cultural identity. The conclusion is reached that it is this loss of language coupled with the significant decline in 'new immigrant blood' that led to a gradual erosion of the prominence and vigor of a community. This is a decline that the Welsh community in Seattle has experienced but it is rewarding that Dr. Tyler has taken the time to document and identify a good factual basis and argument for the conclusion.

If you would like an electronic copy of the article please contact [Archives@PugetSoundWelsh.org](mailto:Archives@PugetSoundWelsh.org). We have had permission from the publication to make it available to our members.

### FIND THE WORD IN THE PUZZLE

*Words can go in any direction.*

*Words can share letters as they cross over each other.*

**CARIAD**

**CARU**

**SWS**

**CWTCH**

**CUSAN**

**CALON**

**DWYNWEN**

**CENNIN**

**RYGBU**

**MAWRTH**

**DEWI**

**GAEAF**

**SANT**

**IONAWR**



# A Potted History of the North American Festival of Wales

-Alan Upshall

Every year, over the Labor Day weekend, many of the Welsh of North America (US and Canada) accompanied often by people from Wales and Patagonians of Welsh Descent, congregate at a North American City for four days of Welsh flavored camaraderie, entertainment and to sing. When did this all start? After all the Welsh have had a presence in North America for a very long time.

Just about every Welsh group in North America has at some time or other held a Gymanfa Ganu, the congregational singing of hymns traditional in Wales and spawned by the religious revival that had a great hold in Welsh Communities. Many groups still hold on to this traditional experience. And it was a Gymanfa Ganu that was the genesis of the modern day North American Festival of Wales.

In 1929, The St. David's Society of Youngstown, Ohio decided to have a Labor Day trip to Niagara, NY, and a hold Gymanfa Ganu there. Word of the venture got around and on that day about 2,000 Welsh people showed up on Goat Island and sang their hymns, in apparently spectacular fashion, in competition with the roar of the Niagara Falls. Immediately afterwards the founding of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association (NGGA) was announced which became responsible for holding the day trip events at Niagara Falls from 1930 to 1932.

In 1933 the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Gymanfa Ganu (NGG) ventured as far west as Chicago and it became a 2-day affair. It was the first to have a choral concert. The full title of the event was the fifth 'Annual National GG and Welsh Music Festival.'

In 1949, for the first time, the NGG ventured to the 'far west' when it was held in Salt Lake City, which at that time was celebrating the centenary of the 1849 arrival of a group from Wales. This was the first 3-day event with a reception held on the Friday and a local tour on the Monday. A Nosen Lawen was the format for evening entertainment on each day.

In 1952 it was reported that 4,500 people attended the evening Gymanfa Session in Milwaukee. Interestingly, at this gathering the NGGA board rejected a proposal to include an eisteddfod into the program on the grounds that it would not '*harmonize with the spirit of the NGG.*' (How times have changed.)

In 1953, in Rochester, New York, E. J. Hughes became the first Gymanfa director to be brought over from Wales.

1955 Salt Lake City became the first to hold a 4 day event NGGA event.

In 1971 the name of the NGGA was changed to Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association (WNGGA) with the event now being called the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu (WNGG), commonly known in North American Welsh circles as the 'National.'

1975, the first Welsh choir, The Morryston Orpheus Choir, was brought from Wales to give the Saturday concert.

In 1988, in Baltimore, the up and coming Opera star Bryn Terfyl performed. It should be noted that by this time the presence of Welsh personalities contributing to the weekend was becoming well established, although a male voice choir did not attend every year.

In 1984, the Portland, Oregon organizing committee established the first full day program of seminars, and ten years later, in 1994 in Bellevue, WA, an eisteddfod was included which has now become a regular part of the program. Also, in Bellevue for the first time, tours were offered for the day before and day after the National. These were a huge success and the practice has continued.

In 2001 The Board agreed to change the title 'WNGG' to 'North American Festival of Wales' in recognition of the changed and changing Welsh diaspora. Richmond B.C. in 2003, was the first 'Festival' to be held under that banner.

It took 8 more years to complete the transformation when in 2011 the name of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association was changed to The Welsh North American Association.

Most of this information was obtained from a book by Col Alf Reese, former president of the WNGGA and which can be found on the People's Collection Wales web site (<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/> Search Alf Reese).

# PSWA Membership/Renewal, Donations, T-Shirts, & Red Dragon Band CD

**Annual memberships renew each January.** Your contributions entitle you to a subscription to *Y Ddolen*, our wonderful quarterly newsletter, and provide vital support for our St. David's Day celebration and other activities through the year. In addition to our sponsored events, the Puget Sound Welsh Association acts as a valuable resource for anyone interested in Welsh culture, language, and music. Questions? Contact Ellen Webber.

## Annual 2021 Memberships/Fees

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

Membership is annual  
from Jan 1 through Dec 31

## Donations

- General Fund Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Memorial Scholarship \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Memorial Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of (Name): \_\_\_\_\_

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

- PSWA T-Shirts** Total number of shirts \_\_\_ x \$19.95 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\$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: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_



PSWA is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization 501(c)(3). Contributions may be tax-deductible.

Please mail this form with payment to: **PSWA, PO Box 27725, Seattle, WA 98165**



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 Stay in touch with other members across the Puget Sound and Washington state, keep up to date with events and activities, and post relevant events/information to the discussion forum. Read interesting news and historical posts. Share what you find.  
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**Welsh Words of the Quarter:** *\*always slightly trill the ‘r’* **Calon** (cal on) – Heart. **Cusan** (key san) – Kiss. **Sws** (soos) ‘oo’ as in ‘look’ not ‘cool’ – Kiss. **Cariad** (cah ree add) – n. Love. **Caru** (cah ree) – v. Love. **Gaeaf** (guy av) – Winter. **Mawrth** (mau-rth) ‘th’ as in thin – March. **Dŵr** (doo r) ‘oo’ as in ‘cool’ not ‘look’ – Water.  
*\*Suggestions welcome for next quarter’s words! Please submit to Newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org*



“...do the little things...”