

Y Ddolen

Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Gorffennaf, Awst, Medi 2023

Volume 41, Issue 3

July, August, September 2023

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, August 13th 1PM

***Combined Puget Sound Welsh Association
& South Sound Night Out Group
Annual Picnics***

Lakewood, WA

Our picnics this year will be combined and we will meet at the home of Chris Mooreddrall.

You are asked to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert.
PSWA to provide main dish.

**For carpooling, address, and driving instructions,
please RSVP to Gwen Weinert: events@PugetSoundWelsh.org**

We look forward to seeing you there for great food,
heartwarming singing, and a good time!

1930
Seattle Welsh
Picnic
Woodland Park



Letter from the President

Hello, Dear PSWA Members,

This note is from my phone on the road. Please excuse its inadequacies. On June 30th I will join the North American Welsh Choir in Manchester for a tour of Wales. We will be singing in castles, churches, an archeological site, a school for music performance, on the steps of Parliament, and the University of Wales chapel. We have been practicing for a year, mostly over Zoom, and eagerly awaiting this tour with director Mari Morgan and 59 other members from 18 US states and 3 Canadian provinces.

You, too, could be part of this choir and its musical magic and madness. It is a volunteer choir. If you are interested, drop me an email for contact details. Cor Cymru Gogledd America <https://corcymrygogleddamerica.com/>.

As a precursor to the Wales tour, I left Seattle on June 14 for four days in Iceland and sixteen days in Ireland. Iceland was pristine, primeval, and compelling. I would like to compare notes with folks. Ireland is a country of wonders such as bog bodies, The Book of Kells, ring forts, The Troubles, the Irish War of Independence, manor houses, perennially grey skies, and uilleann pipes and fiddle in Foxy's Hardware Store, bicycle shop, and pub. A fine combo if you ask me.

But soon, I will be home, and am looking forward to the annual picnic (see newsletter for time and place). This is an especially important gathering as we are, sadly, saying goodbye to Malcolm and Karyn Davies. They are moving from the Puget Sound region and boy will we miss them!! We wish them all the best and want to celebrate their years of service, friendship, and hwyl. Please come to say a fond farewell.

Thinking of you all.

Hwyl am nawr.

Mary Lynne Evans

Two Trips To Ramp Up Summer Fun

-by Gwen Weinert & Owain Weinert

Thanks to our PSWA webmaster, Gerri Parry, we readers of *Y Ddolen* can learn of the interesting activities of other Welsh heritage organizations in the United States. Here are two she found, one quite close to us in Beaver Creek, Oregon, and the other in Lincoln, Nebraska. For either event, you will be most welcome, and you will build some great memories for 2023.

The first event is Bryn Seion Gymanfa, and a description of the activities is a tempting reason to consider going. The program is full of lovely Welsh things, and it is only a four hour drive from Seattle. Hotels are charmingly low-priced, if you want to stay the night. Our beloved PSWA member, Nerys Jones, will be directing the program.

The second event is further away and would be a greater time commitment, but what a wonderful offering of talent and history! The North American Festival of Wales is holding this event in Lincoln, Nebraska, for the first time.

To learn more about these opportunities to celebrate your Welsh heritage, please go to these links: for Bryn Seion Welsh Church 85th Annual Gymfana, www.BrynSeionWelshChurch.org and for the Festival of Wales, www.nafow.org.



Photographer credit: unknown

June 30, 2023 L to R: Rebecca Perkins, Ellen Webber, Joel Ware IV, Mary Lynne Evans, and Mayor of Conwy and Constable of the Conwy Castle, Eva Roberts. We just returned home July 12, 2023. Fabulous reception in Wales; full houses and standing ovations for each of our eight concerts.

WALES MEN & WOMEN REPRESENT IN SPORT



To get you in the mood, just listen to Wales fans sing *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau* (from OUTSIDE the stadium):
<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/IZdT6iMrSwM?feature=share>

World Cup of Darts – With a 10-2 victory, **Gerwyn Price** and **Jonny Clayton** celebrate a second World Cup in Frankfurt for Wales! <https://nation.cymru/sport/watch-the-moment-wales-won-the-world-cup-of-darts/>

European Games – *Taekwondo* gold won by **Jade Jones** in the women’s under 57kgs in Poland. Two time Olympic gold medalist, Jones won gold at the World Taekwondo Grand Prix in June as well.

GB Rugby Sevens Men’s Welshmen **Thomas Glyn Williams** and **Morgan Williams** helped secure a silver win while **Jasmine Joyce** represented Wales on the *GB Rugby Sevens Women’s* team which clinched a gold!

Boxing was represented with a bronze by Rosie Joy Eccles in the Women’s 66kg.

Shooting – Mixed Team Skeet shooter Ben Llewellyn and teammate won a bronze.

Women’s World Cup Football – Wales missed out qualifying, but the women played a friendly early July against Women’s World Champs, USA, and held to only a 2-0 defeat.

World Cup Rugby - 9th ranked Wales is in Pool C with Australia, Fiji, Georgia, and Portugal. ■Wales V Fiji Sunday, September 10th 12 Noon (PST). ■Wales V Portugal Saturday, September 16th 8:45AM (PST). ■Wales V Australia Sunday, September 24th 12 Noon (PST). ■Wales V Georgia Saturday, October 7th 6AM (PST). Quarter-Finals will be October 14-15, Semi-Finals October 20-21, and Final on October 28th. **Look for FaceBook Group postings and/or emails for watch parties.**

EURO 2024 - With two losses to Armenia and Turkey in June, Wales FA (the national football team) remaining matches become more important for qualification. ■Latvia V Wales September 11th 11:45AM (PST), ■Wales V Croatia October 15th 11:45AM (PST), ■Armenia V Wales November 18th 6AM (PDT), ■Wales V Turkey November 21st 11:45AM (PDT). Two international matches scheduled against Korea Republic (September 7th) and Gibraltar (October 11th). **Look for FaceBook Group postings and/or emails for watch parties.**

Men’s Road Cycling – winner of three World Championships and two Olympic gold medals for track cycling, 2018 Tour de France winner, and numerous road stage races, **Geraint Thomas** selected to lead the GB Men’s Road Team in August at the UCI World Championships in Scotland. Trivia: Fans begun singing a version of *Titw Tomos Las* by Hogia’r Wyddfa and singer-songwriter Max Boyce has penned a poem in honor of the Tour de France win called, “The Boy Who Climbed a Mountain.” Listen to *Titw Tomos Las* here: <https://youtu.be/XIni2DrPGXk>
British National Road Championships time trial winner, **Josh Tarling**, is the youngest to win at only 19. 41.1km finished in 48m50s, Tarling came in 63 seconds ahead of the number two!

FIND THE WORD IN THE PUZZLE

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

ADERYN (bird)

CERDDED (to walk/walking)

GWERSYLLA (camping)

LLYN (lake)

TONNAU (waves)

AFON (river)

CRAGEN (shell)

GWYLAN (seagull)

NOVIO (swim)

TRYCHFILOD (insects)

ARFORDIR (coast)

MWYNHAU (to enjoy)

PYSGOD (fish)

TYWOD (sand)



Eirin Sbeislyd gyda Chaenen, aka Spiced Plum Flummery

- by Chris Mooredrall

It is summer time, so how about a Welsh dish? I made this dessert for last year's annual picnic, and for me it is always perfect. This dish does have alcohol in it, but that is optional. Flummery stems from the Welsh word, lymru, which is a way of cooking oats in water until they are jelly-ish, although this is not how this particular recipe is made.

I know there is a similar recipe to mine in the book Traditional Welsh Home Cooking by Annette Yat, which is a nice book to have in my opinion. But this is my recipe:

12 nice sized ripe plums (Red and/or Black)
1 ½ cups heavy cream
4 tbsp oatmeal
3 tbsp honey
3 tbsp sugar
¾ tsp mixed apple spice
⅛ tsp nutmeg
Optional 3 tbsp Welsh Whiskey

1. Quarter Plums and remove pits. Put ⅓ cup of water into a pan with plums and spices.
2. Bring to Boil. Cover and cook on Medium-Low until plums have softened and thickened.
3. When soft remove from heat and stir in sugar and leave aside to cool.
4. Add oatmeal to a hot frying pan to toast until golden (this wont take long). Let cool.
5. Spoon the Plum mixture into your dish/dishes and chill in the refrigerator.
6. When the dishes are chilled, whip the cream until thick but not yet stiff. Add the honey to the cream, or if you are using whiskey blend the honey and whiskey together and then add to the thickened cream and whip until you reach soft to stiff peaks.
7. Stir in 2/3rds of the oatmeal gently so as to not deflate the whipped cream,
8. Put whipped cream mixture over top of plum mixture, then top with the rest of the toasted oatmeal.
9. Put back into refrigerator until ready to serve.

Note: This also works for other fruits, but I recommend this as plums are in season- at least at my house!
This recipe should serve 4... or 1 very greedy person. Let me know if you tried this!

Black Diamond Welsh Heritage Days Photos



[Photos by K.Davies -Left to Right: Black Diamond Museum, Organist Joyce Hopkins; PSWA Treasurer Chris Mooredrall; PSWA President Mary Lynne Evans]

Black Diamond Welsh Heritage Day: Gomer Evans, Jr.

-Laura Lovell [Photos of Gomer provided by Sherri Evans]

September 18, 1927 – May 10, 2023

On June 3rd, the Black Diamond Museum held its annual Welsh Heritage Day, and PSWA was there with our own Mary Lynne Evans. She gave a wonderful talk about a prominent member of the town who was of Welsh descent.

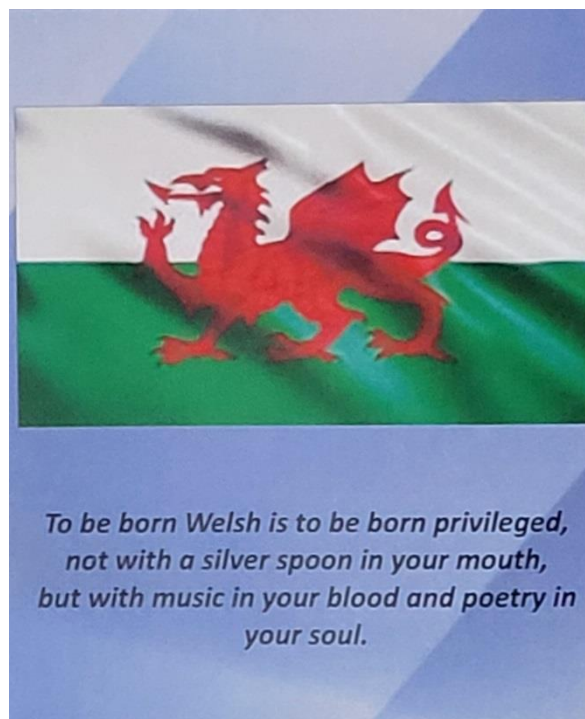
His name was Gomer Evans, and Mary Lynne had the pleasure of interviewing him before his passing in May of this year.

Gomer was employed at the Black Diamond mine, and held the important position of Fire Safety Officer. Like many of the Welsh employed at the mine, he was entrusted with supervising and training new employees, many of who were new to mining. This must have taken a lot of people skills, since the workers at the mine came from many different places, and many spoke English imperfectly. Gomer was evidently a larger than life character (in stature as well as personality!). A LOT of folks in the audience knew Gomer and contributed stories about his life.

The small auditorium's walls are covered with beautiful old photographs of family groups, which got me thinking about how difficult it must have been for people from different countries and cultures to work together and all stay safe while doing such dangerous work. It would be important for a supervisor to be able to manage them with a minimum of strife. According to Mary Lynne's presentation, Mr. Evans was quite adroit at this, and seemed to have been held in esteem by most.

There was an old harmonium at the museum (what other kind is there?), expertly played by Joyce Hopkins to accompany us as we sang hymns. Afterwards, we enjoyed a scrumptious tea, and altogether it was a pleasant and entertaining occasion.

Kudos to Mary Lynne for her presentation, and to Gomer's daughter Sherrie Evans for giving Mary Lynne her blessing on it.





Owen Griffith - Interred at Black Diamond (WA) Cemetery

-By JoAnne Matsumura (Reprinted with permission from April 2008 Black Diamond Historical Society newsletter.)

Those who study family history know the importance of searching for the Family Bible for those important names and dates. Some Family Bibles might reveal more than you expected. It happened to us here at Black Diamond Historic Museum.

The Society has on display several large old Bibles in a showcase. In our work of preservation, and examination of the 1874 Welsh Bible revealed the Prayer Card "In Loving Remembrance of Owen Griffith, Died September 20, 1905, Aged 62 Years, Interred at Black Diamond Cemetery, September 23rd, 1905." The Prayer is printed in Welsh.

Through the kindness of Professor Wyn Thomas at Swansea University in Wales, secured by Louise McNally and her parents, the Prayer was translated. We learned the prayer is of the Old Welsh dialect. The prayer follows.

Welsh

"Ffarwel i chwi gynt gerais,
Ni ddaw'ch cwmni, ni ddaw'ch gwedd,
Ni ddaw'r goreu o'm cygeillion
Ond i'm danfon hyd y bedd.
Pan ddel angeu, chwi ffochwch ymaith.
Da i mi fod genyf dduw:
Ffrynd a lyn pan fyddwy'n marw,
Hwnw garaf tra f'wyf byw."

English

"Farewell to all of you whom I previously loved
Neither your company nor your visage
Nor the best of all of you my friends
Can do more than escort me to the grave.
When death comes you will flee
It is good. I have God
A friend who will stick by me when I die
It is he I'll love whilst I live."

Union M High School 1915 – The First Graduating Class

-JoAnne Matsumura

This June 18, 1915 UMHS Commencement Program was for Union M High School of Black Diamond, WA. The senior graduates were Charles Williams, Florence Harries, Ivy Davies, and Anna Davies.

This delicate document tied with a silk pink ribbon includes; Principle F. W. Griffiths and class roll, President Charles Williams, Secretary Florence Harries, Treasurers Ivy Davies and Anna Davies. The Class Motto: "Finished yet beginning."

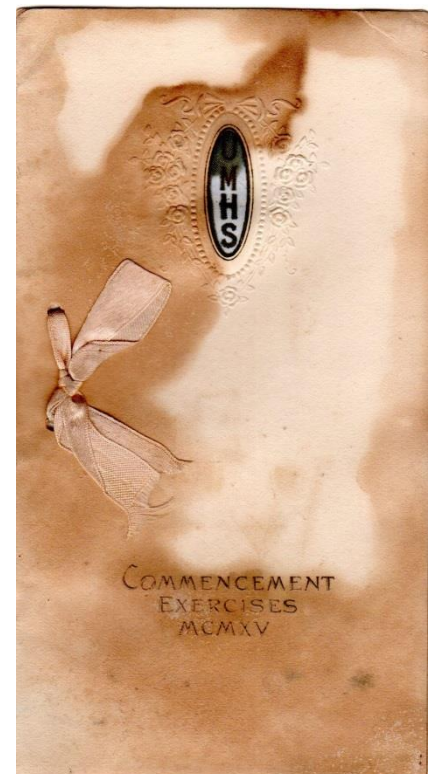
The elders of Black Diamond stated the 'U' must mean a Labor Union and the 'M' surely must mean miners, after all it was a mining town and there were United Mine Workers living all around.

In 1899 the Washington State Legislature developed Union High Schools so that schools within the State could receive State funding and to help relieve the financial burden upon the various cities.

A consolidation is not the same as becoming a Union High School. The word Union means all grades above the eighth grade. Qualifying to be a Union High School was a lengthy and difficult process. One Washington State school had only one student above the eighth grade and was not considered a qualifying school and received no funding.

New measures of the State Legislature also provided schools with a process to dissolve their Union High School Status. And by June 1918 the Union M High School of Black Diamond had changed their name to Black Diamond High School.

To today's community's graduating seniors, your perseverance is applauded and congratulations to you on your achievements. Dreams can and do come true!



Bryn Seion Welsh Church 85th Annual Gymanfa Ganu (Welsh Singing Festival)

-Gerri Parry

Sunday, September 24, 2023 at Bryn Seion Welsh Church
Located at 22132 S. Kamrath Road, Beaver Creek, Oregon 97004

www.BrynSeionWelshChurch.org

In 1935, Park Pritchard of Seattle, grandfather of Seattle harpist Bronn Journey, conducted the first Gymanfa Ganu at Bryn Seion Welsh Church. Bronn's mother Betty and aunt Gwladys have shared their memories of friendships and bonds formed between the Seattle Welsh Community and the Welsh of Portland and Beaver Creek Oregon. In the book *Conversations with the Puget Sound Welsh* it is said that buses would pick up people up at several stops make the trek to participate each year for a weekend of picnics, singing and fellowship. [Book can be found at www.peoplecollection.wales with a search of the site for 'Seattle conversation.'] Indeed, there are group photos of these times and in some you can pick out the bus driver who is still wearing his cap for the photo. Even now, 139 years since it was built, you have a sense of what it was like in those days many years ago, as it seems that you walk back in time to another simpler time. Whether you have Welsh heritage or not, you will be very welcome at this cultural event.

11:00 am: Traditional church service enjoy lunch at one of several restaurants nearby.

2:00 pm: First session of the Gymanfa Ganu: Nerys Jones, director;
Geneva Cook, organist; with musical guests.

4:00 pm: A bountiful Welsh Tea at the Beaver Creek Grange (\$12.00)

6:00 pm: Second session of the Gymanfa Ganu

The North American Festival of Wales.
Celebrating North American Welsh culture
for over 90 years. www.nafow.org

Get your rooms reserved now at the
[Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel](#)
(last day to book: August 7, 2023).

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North American
Festival of Wales
Lincoln, Nebraska

August 30 - September 3, 2023

Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel

Room Rate: \$114 - \$134

www.nafow.org

Featuring Robat Arwyn, Ifor ap Glyn, Dylan Morris,
Rhys Meirion, Gwawr Edwards, and Steffan Lloyd Owen



Call To Action!

> Members interested in contributing to PSWA as a Board Member, Contact
President@PugetSoundWelsh.org

> Y Ddolen Co-Editor for one or two issues each year. Contact
newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Y Profiad Gymreig / The Welsh Experience

Moments the describe a nation

Eric Bowen

Chapter One: Roots, and an introduction to spoken Welsh

My father passed down to me a family legend about our roots in Wales, one that has been handed down in America for generations. Part of the legend holds that every generation, one of us American Bowens returns to Wales to renew our ties with the old country. And so I took the journey in 1987 to find the village our ancestors came from. The village, Kittle in the Gower Peninsula in south Wales, is a tiny place - a few houses clustered around a general store. After discovering that a distant cousin of mine owned the store, and having a chat with him, I checked into the bed-and-breakfast next door. My host, hearing of my family connections to the village, drove me down to the village church, a stone structure dating from the 12th century, where there was a Bowen tombstone emblazoned with the same coat of arms I had seen on my Aunt Margaret's seal ring.

The following morning, my hostess, one of about 50 Welsh speakers left in the Gower, opened up about her life:

“My mother was Welsh, and my father English. I was born in 1914, and shortly thereafter my father went to the War, returning when it was over. My first memory of him was of an angry stranger, shouting at my mother in an unknown language. He was outraged that his daughter was being raised speaking a barbarian tongue, and could speak no English.”

I could still see the little girl's hurt in the eyes of this 73-year-old woman. Yet her experience was that of a nation. Having conquered Wales, England passed laws stripping the Welsh language of legal status and discouraged its use. In the 1870s, the English built schools in Wales, sent the Welsh children to them, where they were beaten if caught speaking their native language. Thereafter, the language, which at the time was still spoken by the great majority of the people of Wales, went into a sharp decline, as generations of schoolchildren were taught to be ashamed of their tongue.

So as an American tourist, what could I say to this elderly lady? “Gee, that's awful. What a shame”?

No.

But rather this: “Teach me some Welsh, Mrs. Miller.”

“Now then. Here we have llaith, bara, and menyn,” she said, pointing to the milk, bread and butter, “and to eat with, we have cylllell, fforc, a llwy.” I repeated the words. And so began my journey into becoming conversant in the language of my ancestors.

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We welcome your contribution of relevant articles, news, announcements, events, and photos:
Newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org

DEADLINE FOR NEXT SUBMISSION: September 20th

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) \$ _____
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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
Dark Green: ___ SM ___ MED ___ XL *Limited quantities of XL; Email for availability.
- Welsh Music CD** Total number of CDs ___ x \$15 \$ _____
Y Ddraig Goch, Traditional Welsh Folk music of Wales: \$15* each

Make check payable to PSWA

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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