

The National Weekend.

Since 1929, North Americans of Welsh descent have traditionally gathered at a single location during the labor day holidays to celebrate their Welsh origins in entertainment and group singing. In 1992 the gathering was in Kansas City, Mo, in 1993 it will be in Wilkes Barre, PA and in 1994 will be in Bellevue, Wa. The event is being organized and hosted by the Puget Sound Welsh Association, who already have begun organizing the many facets of the weekend.

Traditionally, the activities begin on the Thursday night with an opening ceremony followed by an informal entertainment session in which people from the audience rise to present song, poetry, comedy etc. This is called the Noson Lawen. The evening is designed to create an informal and friendly atmosphere to open the weekend.

On Friday there are through the day seminars discussing some aspect of Welsh activity, and tours to local places of interest. Also during the day, rehearsal sessions are held for persons who want to practice for the congregational singing on the following Sunday. A special group activity is planned for younger people so as to encourage the future generations to continue the Welsh heritage into their future. In the evening there is a banquet. In the past this has been followed by an after dinner speaker to close the evening. However, at Bellevue in 1994, (as there was at Kansas City) there will be a folk concert primarily given by a Welsh Folk group partly sponsored by the British Tourist Authority.

Through the day activities on Saturday are mainly a repeat of the Friday activities to allow people to attend as many different events as possible. The evening is the gala entertainment occasion of the weekend and in Bellevue we shall have a concert by The Llanelli Male Voice Choir from Wales. This choir will probably be giving concerts in Vancouver WA, Boise ID, Spokane and Seattle. This is an outstanding choir and are being brought back at the demand of our members following a successful concert in Seattle in 1990.

The Sunday activities begin with a morning bilingual Welsh/English service. The afternoon and evening are taken up with congregational singing sessions which are traditionally Welsh and called Gymanfa Ganu. In each session participants sing 16 of the best known Welsh Hymns in traditional four part harmony.

Our plans in Seattle are to present a strong North American/Welsh connection. The Pacific Northwest Region has considerable talent within its Welsh community and we plan to expose as much of that talent as possible to the North American Welsh.

The Thursday evening will have the theme of Welcome to the Northwest and will feature the Seattle Welsh Choir and Seattle Red Dragon Folk Band and other performers from Oregon, Idaho British Columbia and Washington.

The direct connection to Wales will be through the folk group and choir and also probably with one or two speakers at the Friday and Saturday seminars. This connection to Wales is very important for the success of the occasion.

Bringing talent from Wales is expensive. We anticipate that we shall obtain support from some sources and we are communicating with the Welsh tourist authority and airlines in order to obtain sponsorship. The budget of these gatherings amounts to more than \$100,000. We wish to initiate a founders club which would generate money to help to support the festival. Bringing the festival to Washington State and to Bellevue will undoubtedly help promote the standing of the state as a destination venue for tourism and support of ethnic activities within America.

LARRY A. JONES
Attorney at Law

Seattle, Washington 98102

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November 24, 1993

Alan Upshall
President
Puget Sound Welsh Association
P O Box 19344
Seattle WA 98109

Dear Alan:

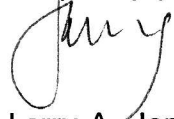
I was pleased to receive the preliminary information on the National.

I would like to join the Founders Club. I think the tee-shirts look great, but I am more interested in the potential for advertising my law practice. (Naturally, publicity to Puget Sound folk is more valuable than to out-landers, although I realize that it may not be possible to separate these.)

Since my advertising budget is tight, what can you tell me about the size of the thank-you in the Festival program, or other publicity that can be had, for various levels of contribution?

Thank you.

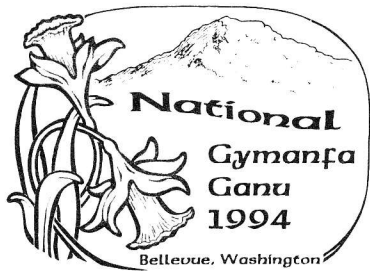
Very truly yours



Larry A. Jones

write back: buy advts + consider being sponsor

Replied Copy to you



Wyn

Puget Sound Welsh Association
National Gymanfa Ganu
Bellevue WA, September 1 to 4, 1994
Hon. Chairperson, Joel Pritchard, Lieutenant Governor

11 December 1993

Larry A. Jones
Seattle WA 98102

Dear Larry

Many thanks for your letter and interest. The Founder's Club was created to allow persons to be acknowledged by contribution and we have had a good response from people.

Separate from the Founder's Club, we are creating a weekend booklet which will contain advertisements. Wyn Morgan is the responsible committee member. At this time it is anticipated that full page (7x5) advertisements will cost between \$250 and \$300, with suitable reductions for half page or ~~full~~ page. We can make the copy, but would naturally prefer it ready made if possible.

Alan

You can contact Wyn at _____ e. Bothell, WA 98011.

Once again thank you for your interest and we shall of course keep you informed of our activities throughout the year.

Best wishes

Alan Upshall, President and Chairman

Dear

We are glad to be able to send you this T shirt, following your generous contribution into, and membership of, the Founder's Club for our National Gymanfa Ganu festival, September 1 through 4 this year. The Founder's club has now about 30 members and has raised over \$2,500 for our funds. If you joined the club at the sponsor or patron level we shall be writing to you later in the year to offer the selection of seminars and other events which will be available to you through membership.

We are proud of this T shirt and the design, especially since it was generated by Carolyn Bell, one of our members. It might interest you to know that these T shirts have been on display through Wales and have generated much interest. We were cunning enough to give one as a souvenir to each member of the Welsh trade delegation that visited Seattle last year. Sir Wyn Roberts, Minister of State for Wales, wears his proudly.

I look forward to seeing you at our St. David's Day celebrations on March 6.

Sincerely and Diolch yn Fawr iawn for your support.

Alan Upshall