

Bothell, WA 98011
USA

26 September, 1994

J. Bryan Jones
Heulfryn,
Hen Golwyn
Clwyd LL29 9SN
Wales, Gt. Britain

Dear Bryan,

Now having recovered from the trip to Wilkes Barre and other work related activities, the publicity machine is gearing up. Now in second.

My recollection of our conversations was that I should write to you with information about the Gymanfa weekend next year so that you could place it in Enfys. I cannot recollect whether you wanted copy ready material or just facts. So I'll produce some of both for you to play with. The facts are in the flyers.

The main factors that I wish to play on this year are: the Eisteddfod, a new departure for the weekend, which I hope might appeal to people from Wales. We are trying to make tie in with The Welsh National in some way. This Eisteddfod hopefully also will appeal to the youth and I look for it as a way to encourage them to become involved more in North American Welsh activities. Also for the North American audience, the return of the Male voice choir. It has been four years since there was a good male voice choir concert at the National weekend. So here goes. Alter the following in any way that you think fit.

Annually, in North America, there is a Welsh festival called the National Gymanfa Ganu weekend. There have been 63 such gatherings, consecutive with the exception of the war years. The event is cosponsored by a local organizing society and the National Gymanfa Ganu Association. Spanning four days, the festival features many aspects of Welsh culture and heritage. Contributors are from Wales and North America. In 1994 this festival will be held in Bellevue, Washington and will be locally sponsored by The Puget Sound Welsh Association. The society is headed by Alan Upshall, a native of Ystrad Rhondda.

The American and Canadian Welsh are always keen to learn and understand what is current in Wales and on the program next year are some interesting seminars, workshops and concerts. Entertainers from Wales will be the folk group Plethyn, who will anchor a

Friday, 2 September will present tours to local places of interest and beauty and also seminars illustrating aspects of Welsh culture and current affairs. The evening will begin with a banquet which will be followed by a Folk concert featuring Plethyn. Through the day there will be continuous entertainment.

Saturday, 3 September will repeat the tours and seminars and continuous entertainment. The evening concert will highlight the Llanelli Male Voice Choir. Also on Saturday a traditional Welsh Eisteddfod will be held. This will attract singers and instrumentalists from both America and Canada, and possibly Wales. This is the first time a National Eisteddfod has been held in North America. There will be competitions in solo voice, choral and instrumental. The number of entries will determine if there will be individual competitions for different instruments, ages and voices.

Sunday, 4 September will feature a Gymanfa Ganu. Traditionally there are two singing sessions, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. The afternoon session will feature Mary Morris Mergenthal, editor of Y Drych as director, and the evening session will feature D. Eifion Thomas, director of the Llanelli Male Voice Choir.

Bryan, you could bring in a bit about the strength of the weekend in North America, with your observations from Wilkes Barre. We could then round off and encourage entries into the eisteddfod and vacations in Northwest America.

The 1994 North American National Gymanfa Ganu Festival promises to be an outstanding weekend full of spirit, hwyl and friendship. It will be a good opportunity for the Welsh to taste the spirit and hiraeth of the Welsh living overseas. It will also be a golden opportunity to sample the superb scenery of the Pacific Northwest of America with a vacation coupled with attendance at the weekend festivities.

For more information write to Puget Sound Welsh Association, P.O. E
WA 98109, USA.

If you need any more Bryan let me know. Fax

29.



Over Labor Day weekend (Sept. 1-4), Bellevue will be the location for a national event celebrating Welsh music and culture, the National Gymanfa Ganu ("festival of singing").

Why should the *Journal-American* be interested in this?

- All events are open to the public, and provide an appealing Eastside alternative to Bumbershoot
- The National Gymanfa Ganu is bringing nearly 800 people from all over the U.S., Canada, and Wales to Bellevue (Hyatt Hotel and Meydenbauer Center)
- There will be color (banners with the red dragon of Wales, and more), sound (Welsh music all weekend and lilting Welsh-inflected English, as well as the lovely sound of the Welsh language), Welsh crafts, and 10,000 homemade Welsh cakes [cookies]!

As you will see in the enclosed brief biographies of Eastside residents who are involved in this event, members of the Puget Sound Welsh Society are a diverse lot. However, we are all bound together by love of a culture that values music, language, and poetry.

Alan Upshall, president of the Puget Sound Welsh Association, will be contacting you soon to see how we can best help you cover this event and answer any questions you may have. If you wish to reach him immediately, please call him at work (442-6802) or home (488-7288).

I look forward to seeing you at the National Gymanfa Ganu.



National

Gymnastics

Cup

1994

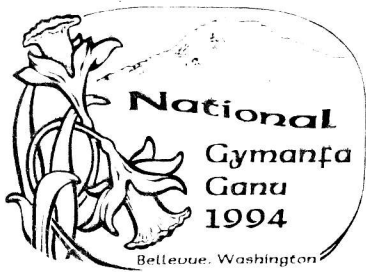
Bellevue, Washington

The red dragon flag of Wales will float over Bellevue, Washington, and the sound of more than 1,000 voices singing Welsh songs will ring out Labor Day weekend at the National *Gymanfa Ganu* (gum-AN-va GAH-nee, "festival of singing"). In addition to participatory singing, there will be a performance by the renowned Llanelli Male Voice Choir, a folk concert featuring the Welsh group Plethyn and the local group Magical Strings, a choral and instrumental music competition, seminars and tours, and a marketplace of Welsh goods.

The National *Gymanfa Ganu* is hosted this year by the Puget Sound Welsh Association (PSWA), organized in 1984 to promote and sponsor Welsh cultural and educational activities. Five distinct groups shelter under the PSWA umbrella: the Seattle Welsh Women's Club, *Dosbarth Cymraeg* (Welsh language class), *Cor Cymraeg Seattle* (Seattle Welsh Choir), *Band y Ddraig Goch* (Red Dragon folk band) and *Dawnsywyr Dewi Sant* (St. David's Dancers, a folk dance ensemble).

All events will take place in the Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, and are open to the public. Tickets will be available at the door, but advance purchase is recommended (send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and check to PSWA, P.O. Box 19344, Seattle, WA, 98109).

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| Sept. 2 | 9:00 p.m. | Plethyn and Magical Strings in concert (\$10) |
| Sept. 3 | 7:30 p.m. | Llanelli Male Voice Choir in concert (\$15) |
| Sept. 4 | 2:00 p.m. &
7:00 p.m. | Gymanfa Ganu (singing in Welsh and in English) (\$5) |



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

RADIO

August 1, 1994
FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
KILL DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 1994

Note: Alan Upshall, president of Puget Sound Welsh Association, and a native of the valleys of southern Wales, may be contacted at (206) 488-7288 for tape-recorded or live interviews.

10-sec

Enjoy a Welsh ethnic festival in Bellevue over Labor Day weekend—folk concert, male voice choir from Wales, Welsh goods and food. For more information, call (206) 488-7288.

20-sec

Enjoy a Welsh ethnic festival in Bellevue over Labor Day weekend—a folk concert by Plethyn [*pleth-in*] and Magical Strings, the rich harmonies of the Llanelli [*klaan-eeck-lee*] Male Voice Choir from Wales, congregational singing, Welsh goods and food. For more information, call (206) 488-7288.

30-sec

Enjoy a Welsh ethnic festival in Bellevue over Labor Day weekend, hosted by Puget Sound Welsh Association. You can hear a folk concert by Plethyn [*pleth-in*] and Magical Strings, the rich harmonies of the Llanelli [*klaan-eeck-lee*] Male Voice Choir from Wales, and congregational singing, all at Meydenbauer Center and open to the public—tickets available at the door. For more information, call (206) 488-7288.

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Dear Pastor, C...

We want to bring to your attention a very special musical event taking place over Labor Day weekend, which we think will be of interest to you, your choir, and congregation.

The glorious sound of nearly 1,000 voices singing Welsh hymns will ring out at the North American National Gymanfa Ganu (*gum-AN-va GAH-nee*, "festival of singing") in Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center, September 2-4.

In addition to the Gymanfa Ganu's four-part, participatory singing that gives the weekend its name and is the major event, there will be:

- A concert by the renowned Llanelli Male Voice Choir
- A folk concert featuring the Welsh group Plethyn and the local group Magical Strings
- A choral and instrumental music competition (*eisteddfod*)
- A tearoom where you can enjoy one of the 10,000 Welsh cakes we are making, and other light refreshments
- A marketplace of Welsh goods

The National Gymanfa Ganu is hosted in a different U.S. or Canadian city each year. In 1994, the Puget Sound Welsh Association (PSWA) is the proud host.

We hope that your newsletter editor will include information on the National Gymanfa Ganu in your August issue, and that you will find room to post the enclosed notice for your members to read.

Gymanfa details

If your congregation likes to sing hymns, the gymanfa ganu will be of particular interest to them. It will take place on Sunday, September 4, in Meyenbauer Center. There will be two gymanfa sessions, one at 2:30 p.m. and a second at 7 p.m. We'll sing 16 hymns at each session, in both Welsh and English, in four-part harmony. The \$5 admission charge covers both gymanfa sessions.

Many of the beloved Welsh hymn tunes are very familiar to U.S. congregations—"Jesus, Lover of My Soul" (*Aberystwyth*), "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (*Cwm Rhondda*), "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (*Diadem*), "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (*Hyfrydol*), and "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" (*Llanfair*), to name but a few. Those who don't want to sing are welcome to listen!

To order tickets or request a National Gymanfa Ganu brochure, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and check to Puget Sound Welsh Association to PSWA, P.O. Box 98109. For more information, contact Bob Matthews at