



Y Ddolen



Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

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Ionawr/Chwefror January/February

2007



Seattle Welsh Women's Club
& The Puget Sound Welsh
Association's

St. David's Day Celebration
Gwyl Dewi Sant

March 4 2007 **at 2:30pm**

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
111 NE 80th Street, Seattle, WA

Our program this year will include tenor John Owen of Boise as our special guest soloist, the Welsh Folk group Dinas o Frain (City of Crows), members of our own Seattle Welsh Choir and concert pianist Zanna Smith. Tom Gething, director of the Seattle Welsh Choir, will lead us in a few familiar Welsh songs.

A Welsh Tea (Tê Bach) and Welsh Craft Sale after the program. Admission is free, but donations are greatly appreciated.
Everyone is welcome.

*St. David said 'Do the little things'
('Gwnewch y pethau bychain')*
Is still a well-known phrase in Wales

Y Ddolen has a new Editor.

Along with the New Year Y Ddolen has a change of editorship. Susan Cook, who has performed sterling work as the editor for the last 10 years, has decided to pass the baton over to Gerri Parry.

Susan took over as editor from Cynthia St. Clair when Cynthia moved to Bellingham and she has over the last 10 years kept us all up to date with the Welsh activities both here in the Puget Sound and in Wales. She was honored by PSWA and the Seattle Welsh Women's club for her dedication and support to the Association and once again here we sincerely thank her very much for her contributions to the Welsh cause in the region.

Diolch yn fawr iawn Susan and all success in your future endeavors. We of course look forward to still seeing you at our St David's day celebrations and at our other Welsh gatherings.

Please send content for the Y Ddolen to Gerri at gbakerparry@aol.com, (206) 524-0854 5760 mail to 60th Ave NE Seattle WA 98105

Mark Your 2007 Calendars

January 28	"The Welsh In WA "Exhibit
January 28	South Sound Night Out
February 6	Martyn Joseph Concert
February 9	Welsh Women's Meeting
February 18	South Sound Night Out
March 4	St David's Day Concert
March 18	South Sound Night Out
April 15	South Sound Night Out
May (to be decided)	Annual Potluck
June 24	Bryn Seion Gymanfa Ganu

Seattle Welsh Women's Club

~Carol Jones

The Welsh Women will meet:

Friday February 9th at the Bellevue library at 11:30, bring a sack lunch.

Sunday March 4th St David's Day Set up. Meet at St Andrews Episcopal Church to start setting up for the Tê bach at 12:30 in the kitchen downstairs.

Friday, March 9th at the Bellevue library at 11:30, bring a sack lunch.

We are finalizing plans for our Annual St. David's Day Celebration on March 4th 2007.

As always we will need donations of goodies for the Tea afterward and help in the kitchen is always welcome. The women (and a few good men) will start setting up for the tea downstairs at St Andrews at 12:30.

New Traditional Welsh Dance Music Book Published

~Kevin Gow

Twmpath - Traditional Welsh Dance Music is a newly published collection of 103 Welsh dance tunes. *Twmath* in Welsh means a hump, mound or knoll that at one time functioned as a stage where musicians sat and played for the community to dance. Today, the word has come to mean the event itself.

Welsh dance music is little known outside Wales. Although ancient manuscripts exist in the libraries and universities in Wales, little has been published in this country. For example, *Dros y Gareg* (Over the Stone), one of the tunes, in *Tympath*, possibly dates from 1485 when Rhys Bodychen led the men of Anglesey to and from the Battle of Bosworth."

The book is available through Dusty Strings in the Fremont district of Seattle.

Welsh singer songwriter Martyn Joseph at the Tractor Tavern

~Karyn & Malcolm Davies

Tuesday February 6 at 8pm at the Tractor Tavern in Ballard. Ticket price \$10

Although this is not a PSWA sponsored event there is interest in seeing a PSWA contingent attending to support Welsh artists. It should be a most enjoyable evening.

Excerpts from www.martynjoseph.co.uk.

"His touring work and appearances over the years, on both sides of the Atlantic, have helped to establish this gifted and gracious Welshman as one of the foremost singer/songwriters of his generation. As Janis Ian said of sharing a stage with Martyn 'I loved working with him. I loved listening to him, I'd love to work with him again, anytime, anyplace'. Martyn's particular strength is in the lyrical narrative of his songs, be they contemporary protests against injustice and inhumanity, a musical psalm to the fulfillment and fragilities of love, or a piercing précis of social history, 'it's the song that can soothe, explain, and even in a small way save us'. In this manner he carries on in the tradition of the six string balladeer as both catalyst and interpreter of our raddled and rewarding times, our personal and communal stories sung out loud in the spirit of Woody Guthrie, Ewan MacColl, Hank Williams and Bruce Springsteen. That tradition, and sound, that thankfully still emerges from The Hallowed Hobo's Hall of Fame." Listen to clips of his songs www.martynjoseph.co.uk

For more information and tickets go to: <http://tractortavern.citysearch.com/>

Or call The Tractor Tavern (206)789-3599

South Sound Night Out and Other Upcoming Events

~Karyn & Malcolm Davies

Join us for HWYL...dinner, dessert, drinks, or just conversation...and maybe if we're all lucky some Welsh singing in the parking lot if a certain duo happen to join us and bring their instruments!

Please RSVP by 12pm the day of our meet so your spot is reserved: Malcolm or Karyn Davies or or_grown@yahoo.com or 360.893.7256. Ask for the "Welsh Association" if you arrive late and don't see us.

January 28, 2007 6:00 pm at a new location for you "further Northerners"!!

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar Restaurant, 1842 S Commons, **Federal Way**, WA 253.839.2828 (I-5 Exit S 320th St, West to The Commons Mall on the Left).

February 18, 2007 6:00 pm back to our old standard...

The Ram Restaurant & Brewery 10019 59th Ave SW, **Lakewood**, WA 98499. 253.584.3191 or <http://theram.com/wa-lakewood.php> for directions.

March 18, 2007 6:00 pm

The Ram Restaurant & Brewery 10019 59th Ave SW, Lakewood, WA 98499.

April 15, 2007 6pm

The Ram Restaurant & Brewery 10019 59th Ave SW, Lakewood, WA 98499.

Irish Cottage Faire

<http://www.cssps.org/pages/events.htm>

March 10, 2007 at the Thurston County Fairgrounds Expo Building, Lacey, WA

*The Welsh are once again invited to participate in this 2nd Annual Event sponsored by the Celtic Society of South Puget Sound. Any musicians, singers, choirs, dancers are encouraged to contact Josh Amos SSoundCelt@hotmail.com as soon as possible. A Welsh Information Table similar to our Highland Games Booth will be present as long as we have a few people committed to helping set up/man/tear down. Contact Malcolm or Karyn Davies at or_grown@yahoo.com or call 360.893.7256 if you're interested in helping.

2007 Bellingham Highland Games

<http://www.bellinghamhighland.org/>
June 2-3, 2007 at Hovander State Park, Ferndale, WA.

*If anyone is interested in seeing the Welsh represented at this annual event, we've been invited once again. The organizers would love to see our Welsh Information Booth there as well as providing time and space on the Celtic Stage for musicians, singers and dancers. Contact the website above to indicate your interest in the Celtic Stage events as soon as possible so the

organizers can schedule your choir/group/solo! To manage a booth at the Games, we'll need at least 6 able-bodied people available to split the days (Friday set up/Saturday and Sunday/tear down). Contact Malcolm or Karyn Davies at or_grown@yahoo.com or call 360.893.7256.

61st Annual Pacific NW Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering

<http://www.sshga.org/home.htm>

July 28-29, 2007 at the King County Fairgrounds, Enumclaw, WA

*As long as you're interested, we'll have our Welsh Information Booth present at the Highland Games in Enumclaw! Thanks to all who've helped in the past. We look forward to another fun weekend flying Y Ddraig Goch

Celtic Christmas Faire Thanks

Thanks to all who participated in the Celtic Christmas Faire in Lacey yesterday. Your involvement was much appreciated by the organizers and the vendors also loved selling so many Welsh items to you! The Welsh music added a wonderful touch that has been missing from "Celtic" events.

Theresa Clarke got up early and helped set up and organize the tables and talk to the people who stopped by, Dinas o Frain (Kevin and Laura) played a musical set which was a delight to hear, Cor Cymraeg members ventured from Seattle and beyond to share their talents with some excellent Welsh numbers, and Nerys Jones lent her beautiful voice--even with kids in tow.

We hope you enjoyed yourselves and found the participation to be rewarding. The Spring Faire is just around the corner (March 8th) and they would love to have us all back. There will be other events all next year where your talents and WELSHness will be greatly appreciated...stay tuned. Next Celtic Christmas Faire is only a year away!! So plan now!

For those of you who could not attend, we are sorry you missed such great talent and hope you can attend next year. Again, we thank all of you for working so hard to make the Welsh presence at the Faire so lovely.

Welsh Course Online

~Karyn Davies

The first ever online Welsh language learning course is now being offered by the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at the University of Rio Grande, Ohio.

The first 15 weeklong course has been highly successful and the Madog Center are now offering a second course which will start shortly. The non-credit fee for the course is \$229.

If you are interested contact Dr. Tim Jilg, (740) 245-7186 or email tjilg@rio.edu for details. For information about how the course works: <http://faculty.rio.edu/tjilg/classnotes.htm>

For a sample of the course:

<http://madog.rio.edu/lingo/sample.htm>

Dr. Timothy Jilg, Cyfarwyddwr/Director.
Canolfan Madog ar gyfer Astudiaethau Cymreig/
Madog Center for Welsh Studies
Prifysgol Rio Grande
University of Rio Grande
Rio Grande, OH 45674
(740) 245-7186 email: welsh@rio.edu

1st Annual Welsh Lessons and Carols at Bryn Seion Welsh Church

~Megs Patton

Bryn Seion Welsh Church in Beavercreek, Oregon, had a special Christmas service this December 24th. With the help of talented new members to the congregation, this service, called "Lessons and Carols," involved readings in both Welsh and English as well as songs in both languages. Bev and Bill Ratajak were primarily responsible for organizing and arranging the service.

As well as playing the organ, Bev also sang soprano in a duet with Chris Jones as tenor in "Mary's Song." Chris Jones and Matthew Stowell also played the guitar while the congregation learned the Welsh words and sang "Ganwyd Jesu." Those were just two of the highlights in the hour-long service. Several members of the congregation spoke both the Welsh and English versions of passages relating to Christmas from the Bible.

Instead of having the traditional potluck after the service, Christmas cookies, coffee, and tea were served in the teahouse. A good time was had by all. The congregation is looking forward to next year and is hoping we can establish this as a special annual Christmas tradition at Bryn Seion as well as the Gymanfa Ganu in June.

St Dwynwen – for Welsh Sweethearts

~from www.historic-uk.com

St Dwynwen's Day is celebrated in Wales on 25 January. She is the Welsh patron saint of lovers, which makes her the Welsh equivalent of St. Valentine

Dwynwen lived during the 5th century and was one of the prettiest of Brychan Brycheiniog's 24 daughters. Dwynwen fell in love with a prince called Maelon Dafodrill, but unfortunately her father had already arranged that she should marry someone else.

Dwynwen was so upset that she could not marry Maelon that she begged God to make her forget him. After falling asleep, Dwynwen was visited by an angel, who appeared carrying a sweet potion designed to erase all memory of Maelon and turn him into a block of ice.

God then gave three wishes to Dwynwen. Her first wish was that Maelon be thawed; her second that God meet the hopes and dreams of true lovers; and third, that she should never marry. All three were fulfilled, and as a mark of her thanks, Dwynwen devoted herself to God's service for the rest of her life.

She founded a convent on Llanddwyn, off the west coast of Anglesey, where a well named after her became a place of pilgrimage after her death in 465AD. Visitors to the well believed that the sacred fish or eels that lived in the well could foretell whether or not their relationship would be happy and whether love and happiness would be theirs. Remains of Dwynwen's church can still be seen today.

The popularity and celebration of St Dwynwen's Day has increased considerably in recent years. In 2003 The Welsh Language Board had bilingual English-Welsh cards printed to be distributed by Tesco stores throughout Wales.

So why wait until St Valentine's Day to make your romantic feelings known, when you can wish your loved one 'dwi'n dy garu di ' (I love you) three weeks earlier?

Now & Then

~*Seattle Times*

In the Pacific Northwest Magazine in the Seattle Times, there is a continuing segment focusing on photos of Seattle called Now & Then written by Paul Dorat.

In the Sunday December 10th 2006 Pooling Our Resources there is a photo of the view of the water reservoir on Capital Hill 1910.

It notes that the “steeple left of center, tops the otherwise hidden Welsh Presbyterian Church that was then at the southeast corner of 10th Ave East and John Street”

There is not much of the church showing, but it caught the eye of a few PSWA Members who spotted it. To see the photo go to: seattletimes.com/pacificnw and search the archives for Welsh or Pooling Our Recourses.

Not-So-Daffy Daffodils

~*AARP Bulletin, January 2007*

The fields of daffodils that bloom every spring in the Black Mountains of Wales are not only beautiful—they may help fight Alzheimer's disease, too. A compound, known as galantamine, that is extracted from daffodils and other plants is used in high-end prescription drugs to slow the development of dementia. Scientists found that Welsh daffodils appear to be especially prolific producers of galantamine. Trevor Walker, a biochemist with the research firm Alzeim, in Powys, Wales, told the BBC that he hopes to produce a less costly generic version of the compound.

Cwrs Cymraeg 2007

~*Brian Parry*

Maybe one of your New Year's resolutions was to really knuckle down and learn to speak Welsh? If so, then the following is for you. This years Cwrs Cymraeg will be held 22-29 July, at Sage College, Albany NY. Cleverly subtitled Cwrs yr Ymerodraeth (The Empire Course), the language intensive course, with instructors from both Wales and the US, provides seven levels

from absolute beginner to the most advanced. The cost for an adult resident is \$790, which includes all meals from dinner on Sunday evening 22 July, to breakfast on Sunday 29 July. Scholarships are available. To obtain additional information log on to www.madog.org or contact the registrar, Shirley McKee, at registrar@madog.org.

A Funny Thing Happened While Passing the Forum

~*Brian Parry*

I recently spent two weeks in Italy on a business trip and on the way home (via Dagenham of course) spent part of the day playing tourist in Rome. With limited time, my traveling buddy and I (coincidentally Mr. Davis) only had time to hit a few of the biggies. As we were walking down to the Coliseum, we passed the spectacular and extensive site of the Forum. On a wall, there were seven plaques showing the growth and extent of the Roman Empire. The first had a small area around Rome as white, while the rest of Europe was black. (Any connection with cowboy hats in US films?) Plaque number 2 has more white, which gets progressively bigger until number seven is reached. Number seven is almost all white, with a notably exception being North Wales. So, even though the Romans did murder most of the Druids on Anglesey, they themselves apparently never considered North Wales part of their Empire. One of their legions, while in retreat, did leave a red dragon in the Vale of the Clwyd, so they were there, but apparently never stayed.

Jones' Set new Guinness World Record

~*Wales International Center - New York*

Nov 3, 2006: The Joneses set a new Guinness World record tonight when 1224 of them gathered together for a celebration and concert at the Wales Millennium Center in Cardiff, Wales. The Joneses comfortably beat the previous record for the same surname gathering of 583 set by the Swedish Norbergs.

Over 250 Joneses took part in the concert including the pop star and ex-Bond girl Grace Jones and the opera stars Dame Gwyneth Jones and Gwyn Hughes Jones. The concert was

filmed for broadcast on Welsh television channel S4C.

Jones is the most popular surname in Wales. Originally, people in Wales were named after their father's first name and Jones is a corruption of "son of John" or "ap Sion" in Welsh.

The 2001 US Census numbered 1,544,427 Joneses in the USA, making Jones the 4th most popular surname in the USA after Smith, Johnson and Williams (another Welsh surname).

Cardiff Film Festival

~Wales International Center - New York

The annual international Cardiff Film Festival opened in Wales November 8th. The festival featured over 80 films from all over the world including work by six Welsh directors and one Welsh-American director, Justin Golding, whose movie *God's Forgotten House* is set in a children's home in Harlem, New York.

The festival follows hot on the heels of an announcement that Lindsay Lohan will play Caitlin in a John Maybury movie named *The Best Time of my Life* about the wife of Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, Caitlin Thomas. *The Best Time of my Life* joins a number of contenders in a race to produce a feature film about the Thomases. Also in the race, and currently in financing stage, is *Caitlin* to be directed by Marc Evans and starring Michael Sheen as Dylan Thomas (Tony Blair in *The Queen*); Miranda Richardson as Caitlin; and Pierce Brosnan as John Malcolm Brinnin.

Frank Lloyd Wright

~Wales International Center - New York

The company that created the Jones Jones Jones extravaganza for S4C is currently in the USA filming a program about Frank Lloyd Wright for broadcast on S4C's arts program Sioe Gelf. Gethin Scourfield from Cwmni Da and architect Gwyn Lloyd Jones will be in Illinois, Wisconsin and Arizona over the next few weeks filming the documentary.

Gwyn Lloyd Jones is a young Welsh architect who won the 2004 Gold Medal in the annual RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects)

competition with a thesis on Frank Lloyd Wright.

Every year from 1935 onwards Frank Lloyd Wright traveled between his two homes – Taliesin North in Wisconsin and Taliesin West in Arizona. In his thesis, Gwyn Lloyd Jones examines how FLW has influenced the American landscape – and what would be revealed if one was to recreate this journey today.

The film follows Gwyn on his journey. Beginning in Chicago, he will introduce the audience to the young Frank Lloyd Wright and his early influences. He will then travel to Spring Green, to visit Taliesin and the Jones Valley as Gwyn takes us deeper into the story, explaining the Welsh connection and the spiritual and emotional succor Frank Lloyd Wright took from the "God Almighty Lloyd Jones" clan. From there Gwyn will retrace part of the annual pilgrimage between Taliesin and Taliesin West, examining how Frank Lloyd Wright has influenced the American landscape.

Arriving in Scottsdale, Gwyn will visit Taliesin West and we see the Taliesin Fellowship in action today as he discusses Frank Lloyd Wright's enduring legacy.

"Hen Wlad" Hendrix Style

The following has been circulating around the Internet lately. Read the whole story and hear the recording and judge for yourself:

<http://www.thereddragonhood.com/pages/jimi.html>

When record producer Dave Chapman acquired the old Crouch Hill recording studios in London's Stroud Green in 1994, he came across an old tea chest full of eight-track analogue tapes dating from the 1960s and 70s.

One evening in May 2004, finally nearing the bottom of the chest, Chapman was listening to a track by a band called the New Flames. As the New Flames tune ended, he discovered that a wild and emotional arrangement of the Welsh National anthem, Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau, played on a distorted electric guitar, had been tacked onto the end of the tape. Although Chapman was from Essex, the playing caused the hairs on the back of his neck to stand up, especially as it sounded just like Jimi Hendrix.

With some investigation Chapman found that it was entirely possible that the recording was of Hendrix,

Hendrix played at a festival in Germany on 6th September and returned to London immediately afterwards. He jammed with Eric Burdon and War at Ronnie Scott's on 16th September and was almost certainly in London when the New Flames recorded their track on 10th September. He died in his sleep at the Samarkand Hotel in London on 18th September 1970. He was 27 years old.

We would know exactly who made the recording if we could find Viv Williams, formerly of Crickhowell, Powys. He must now be about 64 years old. If you know his whereabouts, please let us know.

PSWA T-Shirts

Shirts are Gildan brand Steel Green and come in sizes from S-XXL. For a \$15.00 donation* (plus \$3.00 S&H) to the Puget Sound Welsh Association you will receive a PSWA t-shirt.

Send check or money order to: PSWA,
P.O. Box 19344 Seattle, WA 99109-0344

Include shipping cost, size and your address for USPS delivery or pick up your shirt in Seattle at the Parry's house or in Orting at the Davies' house. Alternatively, they will be made available at all South Sound Nights Out and other PSWA events. To see the shirts in living color, go to:
<http://www.pugetsoundwelsh.org/home.html>.

***T-Shirt donation does not apply to membership dues.**

PUGET SOUND WELSH ASSOCIATION (PSWA) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PSWA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization (501c(3)). Contributions may be tax-deductible. Your membership dues include a subscription to PSWA's newsletter, *Y Ddolen*.

Check your mailing label for your membership renewal date. If you move, please let us know your new address as soon as possible - the Post Office charges to forward bulk mail. For memberships outside the U.S. or Canada, please add \$5 for a 1-year membership, \$50 for a life membership. *Diolch yn fawr iawn*/thank you very much!

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT TO PSWA, P.O. Box 19344, SEATTLE, WA 98109.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____

Phone (evening) _____

Email _____

- PSWA T-Shirts: \$15.00 donation +\$3.00 P&H per t-shirt (indicate how many & size)

___ SM ___ MED ___ LG ___ XLG ___ XXLG

- To Sponsor a T-shirt for a Queens Dragoon Guard in Iraq \$15.00 + \$3.00

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