



Y Ddolen



Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Visit www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

Mawrth/Ebrill March/April 2007

Y Dolen/The Link is a bi-monthly newsletter for the Puget Sound Welsh Association

PSWA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Potluck

You are cordially invited to the Puget Sound Welsh Association annual social gathering.

Roast chicken will be provided along with condiments, utensils and punch, but you are by no means discouraged from bringing your favorites to put on the BBQ. Cross your fingers for nice weather so we can spread out on the lawn. Regardless of the weather we shall, as always, enjoy socializing with friends, merriment and possibly a bit of singing. We look forward to seeing you all again.

Date: Friday June 15th 2007
Location: The Parry's
5760 60th Ave. NE
Seattle 98105
Phone: 206.524.0854

Socializing:

6:00-6:45pm

Potluck:

6:45-7:45pm

Meeting & Group reports:

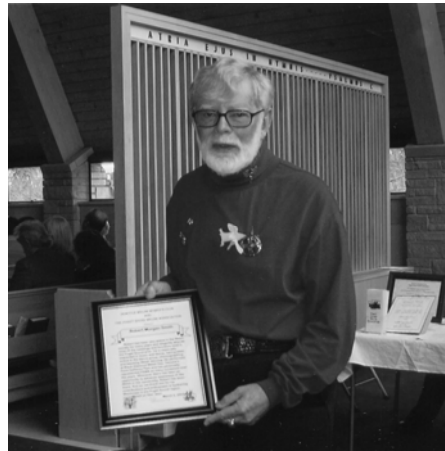
7:45-8:45pm

What to Bring: Yourself and salads, side dishes or chips, a special drink or dessert are always welcome to round out the meal.

Library, Room 4 at 11:30 am, and bring a sack lunch. We will enjoy a Welsh film.

The May meeting has been moved up a week to the first Friday, May 4. We will be going out to lunch in Snohomish, location yet to be decided. The time is 11:30, which allows time afterwards to visit the antique shops. Call Eileen Wyke, 425-746-7771, for reservations.

The June meeting will be Saturday, June 2, at the Black Diamond Bakery restaurant for breakfast or lunch, time about 10:30. Call Carol Jones, 425-882-2825, for reservations. This meeting ends the year's events and is held in conjunction with the Black Diamond Museum's Heritage Day.



St David's Day

~ Eileen Wyke

As is our usual St. David's Day custom, the Seattle Welsh Women's Club and the Puget Sound Welsh

Association joined together to honor a long-time member. 2007 honoree Robert Morgan Smith through the years has attended Welsh and other ethnic festivities, and has choreographed and exhibited Welsh folk dancing here in the Northwest. His programs highlight yet another aspect of Welsh culture.

Seattle Welsh Women's Club

~ Carol Jones

The Seattle Welsh Women's Club will hold its April meeting on Friday, the 13th, at the Bellevue



Washington Stories

~ Brian Parry

A years worth of hard work by some members of PSWA came to fruition on 28 January, when the *Washington Stories* exhibit opened at the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI). *Washington Stories* is part of the "We the People" project funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant and was sponsored by Humanities Washington, in collaboration with MOHAI and the Ethnic Heritage Council. PSWA was one of seven ethnic, tribal and community groups selected to prepare two large exhibit panels, telling stories of the Welsh presence and contributions to the cultural (and economic) life of Washington. The other groups participating were the Arab Center of Washington, the Black Historical Society of Kitsap County, the Croatian Fraternal Union, the Ethnic Heritage Council, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and the Tar Heels Project/Lincoln Theatre Foundation.

After a reception for Project Members, with music provided by an Andean folk group named Quichua Mashis, there was a three hour concert in the McEachern Auditorium where PSWA was represented by Cor Cymraeg and Dinas o Frain. The PSWA stories included the families of Jackie Cedarholm, Phyllis Jones and David Powell with quotes from the book *Conversations with the Welsh of Puget Sound*. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank them for sharing their stories and thank Jackie, Phyllis, Susan Cook and Gerri Parry for all the work they did in putting together, what I personally thought were the best panels in the exhibit.

Washington Stories Exhibit comprised of all 14 panels will only be at MOHAI until late February before embarking on a trip to several cities around Washington State.

The exhibit is then scheduled to visit areas of western, central and eastern Washington over the next few months:

Mar 2-Apr 8: Cowlitz Co. Historical Museum, Kelso
 Apr 20-May 20: Kittitas Co. Historical Museum, Ellensburg
 May 25-28: Northwest Folklife Festival, Seattle
 Jun 4-8: Norm Dicks Government Center, Bremerton
 Jun 15-Aug. 26: Yakima Valley Museum, Yakima
 Sept. 4-21: NW Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane

South Sound Night Out Presents...

~ Karyn Davies

- April 15, 2007 6pm
- May: No South Sound Night Out!

At the Ram Restaurant & Brewery 10019 59th Ave SW, Lakewood 253-584-3191

<http://theram.com/wa-lakewood.php>

*RSVP the Davies by 12pm that Sunday so your spot is reserved.

- June 23rd Saturday Afternoon Welsh Movie!
 2:45p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Lakewood Library
 6300 Wildaire Rd SW, Lakewood, WA 98499
 (253)582-6040
www.piercecountylibrary.org/branches/lakewood/Default.htm

Movie will begin promptly at 3p.m., early dinner or drinks to follow just north of the library at: Applebee's 10407 Gravelly Lake Dr SW, Lakewood, WA (253) 983-8884.

*RSVP the Davies for the movie and/or dinner by Saturday 8am

***RSVP for all South Sound activities to Malcolm and Karyn Davies: or_grown@yahoo.com or 360-893-7256**

Does anyone have any suggestions for activities or know of any events we can incorporate into the South Sound Night Out of Hwyl? Your thoughts and suggestions are always welcome! Feel like you're missing out on all the fun living further out? Host your own Night Out group and watch it grow! Planning is as easy as setting a day/time for your own night out and putting out the invite (with an RSVP request) and see who shows up!

**Mark Your 2007 Calendars: visit
www.pugetsoundwelsh.org for updates**

April 13	Welsh Women's meeting & movie 11:30am
April 15	South Sound Night Out 6:00pm
May 4	Welsh Women Lunch in Snohomish 11:30am
June 2	Welsh Women brunch at the Black Diamond Bakery & Restaurant 10:30am
June 2	Black Diamond Heritage Day 1:00pm
June 15	Annual Potluck & AGM 6:00pm
June 23	South Sound Night Out Matinee 3:00pm
June 24	Bryn Seion Church Gymanfa Ganu 1:45pm
July 28-29	Highland Games in Enumclaw
Aug 30-Sep2	NA Festival of Wales: Washington DC
Nov2-4	The Welsh Society of Vancouver BC 100 th Anniversary Celebration

Annual Heritage Day, the Black Diamond Museum, Black Diamond, WA, June 2nd

<http://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org/>

Bellingham Highland Games, June 2nd-3rd

<http://www.bellinghamhighland.org/>

Hovander State Park, Ferndale, WA

A few of you have indicated interest in helping setup/tear down and man the Welsh Information tent at the Games. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please reply quickly so we can determine if 2007 will see the Welsh make their debut in Bellingham! Check out the website if you're interested in any performing arts to represent the Welsh culture. Contact Malcolm and Karyn at or_grown@yahoo.com or 360-893-7256.

61st Annual Pacific NW Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering:

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

July 28th-29th at the King County Fairgrounds, Enumclaw, WA. Start planning now to be a part of the fun at our 5th year representing the Welsh at the Highland Games in Enumclaw! Check out the website if you're interested in participating in any of the athletics or performing.

**72nd Annual Gymanfa Ganu at
Bryn Seion Welsh Church**

Sunday, 24 June 2007

22132 S. Kamrath Road, Beavercreek, Oregon
Director, Rhiannon Acree of Long Beach CA,
accompaniment by Beverly Ratajak,

11:00 Am: Traditional church service

1:45 Pm: The first session of the Gymanfa Ganu

The Welsh Marketplace will be open in the Tea House. 4:00pm.: Hearty Welsh Tea at served at the Grange Hall, for a nominal fee

6:00 Pm: The Second Session continues with group singing and requests.

For more information call: Janet Figini (503) 630-5317 or Gerri Baker Parry (206) 524-0854

www.wapnw.org/brynseion.htm

Following a Dream: The Search for Thomas Harries, Welsh Renton Pioneer

~ Eric Bowen

Some years ago, I dreamed that I was walking in downtown Renton, my hometown. I stepped inside a corner grocery at 3rd and Wells, and suddenly found myself transported in time to the early 1900s. A small group of men stood around a counter, chatting amiably in Welsh. I was momentarily startled, but then reasoned that since Renton had a coalmine at the time, it only made sense that there would be Welsh immigrants digging the coal, as there were in Black Diamond.

I stepped outside, and found myself back in the present. A brief wave of sadness passed over me; *who remembers these Welsh immigrants now*, I thought, *their language and community in Renton?* A snatch of a Welsh poem ran through my mind: "A oes ach deil o hyd mewn cof a chalon..." ("Is there yet a trace in memory and heart...?") On our next trip back to Renton, my wife humored me and watched with amusement as I drove the streets, looking for anything that resembled the shop I had seen in my dream.

There the story might have ended, but a few weeks ago, my mother sent me a clipping from the Renton newspaper about a man from Wales, looking for lost relatives in Renton by the name of Harries. On a whim in a spare moment, I typed +Harries +Renton +Welsh into Google. Back came a link to a photograph of Thomas Harries General Store at 3rd and Wells in Renton, 1901.

Suddenly my interest was aroused. Through PSWA I tracked down Benton Williams, the honorable elder guiding light of the Seattle Welsh Choir, and asked him what he recalled of this man. Sure enough, Williams confirmed that Harries had come from Wales, and had been an active civic leader in Renton.

The coal mine was located within easy walking distance from his shop.

The Renton Historical Society added further details about the man's life. Born in 1866 in Glamorganshire, Harries moved to Newcastle, Washington in 1888, where he worked in the coalmines. After joining the Klondike gold rush of the late 1890s, he returned to Renton and opened a grocery store. Appointed Postmaster of Renton, Harries' store doubled as the town's post office, and he served for twenty-six years.

During the First World War, Harries directed YMCA relief work in Italy, having learned Italian from the immigrants in Renton. For his efforts, he was knighted by the king of Italy.

Returning home, Harries continued as an active businessman and civic leader. He operated a realty, participated in the Kiwanis club, was a member of Knights of Pythias (whose aim is to promote world peace), and for forty years played an active role in the Methodist Church, where Benton Williams remembered Harries for contributing to his religious education.

But while reading all this, I still wondered: had I seen in my dream a real moment, with real people chatting in Welsh in Harries' store? The clincher came in a line in Harries' 1945 obituary: "Welsh hymns were sung at the funeral."

Well, that did it. If there were still people who could sing Welsh hymns in 1945, there must have been a Welsh-speaking community in Renton while the coalmine was open, and Harries' store and post office would have been a natural meeting place.

"A oes ach deil o hyd...?" Oes -- there still is.

Dylan Thomas' Suitcase

~ We received this request via email from Anna Milton in Vancouver WA, anna@annamilton.com

I am the daughter of Sarah Milton who was a friend of Dylan's. My Mother started a Dylan group around the year 65/66 when she was in Seattle as an exchange teacher. She gave the newly founded society a suitcase of Dylan's that we had used to bring our belongings over in the Queen Elizabeth. In our family it was know as the "Salisbury" and I'm not sure why. I am a painter and had a thought it would be great to find the suitcase and put it in a painting. My mother's maiden name was Phillips. She

was known as Evelyn Phillips. If you know anything about the suitcase please let me know.

Thank you, Anna Milton,



Update on Membership Drive

~ Brian Parry

During a recent exchange of e-mails with Dave Parry (no relation we think?), President of the Welsh Tafia in Chicago, the consensus was

reached, that for Welsh societies in North America to survive, we need to attract new, younger members. I would like to report that I am pursuing that approach and would like to introduce PWSA's newest member, Megan apSchmidtzinsky. A special welcoming ceremony was held as recorded above. The picture shows a little cutie with short dark hair, no, sorry that's Grandma Gerri. The picture shows a tiny, little cutie with short dark hair, draped in a Welsh flag.

PSWA Collections Project

~ Gerri Parry

As a result of PSWA's participation in the Washington Humanities "Washington Stories Project" (mentioned on page two) with the help and guidance of the staff at the Museum of History and Industry, we have learned how to better manage our small collection of photos, documents, artifacts and oral histories relating to the Welsh in the region, in a manner that they can be preserved and available for future generations.

We had help in preparing release forms and collections policy that provides a simple but workable process for handling and making available these to the items membership as well as answering the "what if" scenarios for the future of these items so that they will not be lost in the "attic".

Also a bibliography has been started in order to identify published resources for referencing in future projects.

In researching for the Welsh in Washington State panels we have acquired more photos, artifacts and two more oral histories relating to the Welsh families who

came here. We will now begin the task of organizing, preserving and cataloging our small collection.

We are still working out a process to make items available to the membership. Although we are reluctant to loan out original materials, arrangements can be made to see them in person or by photocopy or CD that can be made available.

A copy of the PSWA collections policy or bibliography is available at any time. If you are interested in organizing or adding to the collections or help in identifying photos, please contact Gerri Parry.

We would like to acknowledge David Powell, Phyllis Jones, Rebecca Teeters and Gwen Helm for recent contributions. Listed are a few items that have been donated:

- Photos & stories of the Welsh farmers in Marshland near Snohomish
- Photos & stories of homestead and fishing Decatur Is. and Anacortes
- Book, *Harvest of Memories, the Life of a Western Wheat Farmer* by Herbert Williams
- Additional snapshots of early Welsh gatherings
- Welsh related Newspaper articles
- Annual report of 1923 for the Seattle Welsh Presbyterian Church
- Communion cloths from the Seattle Welsh Presbyterian Church
- Pair of child's size Welsh wooden shoes
- Sheet music & songbooks, of both Welsh and popular music, used for the Seattle Welsh Presbyterian Church and other Welsh gatherings.

Remember it is not only the vintage artifacts that are relevant, the 1960's, 70's and 80's are soon becoming history.

Dragoon Blog Found Online

~ Comment below was written by 'Blue' of the Queens Dragoon Guards. 50 PSWA t-shirts were sent to the QDG stationed in Iraq, Sept. 2006. Individual members have personally sent packages as well.

Hullo Guys,

I'll cut a long story short. I am from Wales as are a number of US citizens' ancestors. Via our Unit Website www.royalwelshregiment.org.uk the Welsh Society www.pugetsoundwelsh.org/ got in contact with us. They have been sending comfort parcels to my guys for about 10 months now, well done them.

Many Thanks, Blue

North American Festival of Wales, Washington DC August 30-September 2 2007

The 2007 North American Festival of Wales will be held just outside Washington DC, a city known for its many attractions, historical sites, monuments and cultural institutions located within 10 miles of the festival site. With our special hotel rate extended five days before and two days after the festival, this is a great opportunity to tour the storied US Capitol while enjoying the very best of Welsh culture and music. Hosted by the St. David's Welsh-American Society of Washington DC, the festival will take place at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, just five miles from Reagan International Airport.

The Grand Banquet on Friday will feature acclaimed soprano soloist Shannon Mercer, a celebrated operatic singer hailed as one of Canada's most promising young sopranos. The Grand Concert on Saturday will feature the Maelgwn Male Voice Choir. Legendary singer - songwriter Dafydd Iwan will perform at the Thursday night Opening Concert.

The 76th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu will be conducted by Trystan Lewis, the young and accomplished conductor of the Maelgwn choir.

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Festival Rates: \$102 valid from Aug 24th to Sept 5th call (703) 845-1010 or 1-800-HILTONS and mention either the North American Festival of Wales or the WNGGA in making your reservation to secure the festival rate.

For a complete schedule of concerts, seminars, films, eisteddfod entry form, hotel and travel information, visit the NAFOW website www.nafow.org or contact WNGGA Headquarters

PO Box 215 Hartland MI 48353 USA

Phone: 810 632-7850 FAX: 810 632-7805

wngga@comcast.net

Slaying a Dragon

The British government told a company that sells "Welsh Dragon Sausages" it must change the product's name or face legal action for making shoppers think it uses meat from real dragons, reports the *Daily Mail*. The government says it must include the word "pork" in the name.



Cwrs Cymreag Albany

~Andrew Welsh, Scholarship Coordinator

This years Cwrs Cymraeg will be held 22-29 July, at Sage College, Albany NY. Cymdeithas Madog has a scholarship fund available, resources are limited, but we do try to provide at least some assistance to anyone who needs it in order to attend the course.

The online scholarship application form is now up and ready for use on the Cymdeithas Madog web site (www.madog.org). The deadline for scholarship applications is April 21. Contact Andrew Welsh scholarships@madog.org for information

Welsh Films and Books

Ioan Gruffudd Stars in New Film's Lead Role

~ review by Theresa Clarke

Welsh actor Ioan Gruffudd provides a captivating performance in the newly released film, "Amazing Grace." Based on the true story of William Wilberforce, Gruffudd portrays the 50-year-long battle fought in Parliament and society against slavery in the British Empire.

Gruffudd's own intense personality merges with Wilberforce's passionate sense of vocation and draws the audience into his cause. Initially, Wilberforce struggles personally between choosing a life of spiritual pursuits or a life in politics. Friends help him to see he can resolve the matter by employing his faith *in* politics, and therein lays the key element of the story. One is irrevocably convicted by the morality and humanity of the abolitionist position.

The admixture of religion and politics is well done in its subtlety, political intelligence, and beauty of Wilberforce's persevering spirit. The spirit that drives Wilberforce onto a path of holding a minority position, suffering ridicule and mockery, enduring long hours of work and frequent attacks of colitis results in eventual victory. Gruffudd's intense delivery and commanding stage presence keeps his audience in constant suspense, almost to the point of sympathetic agony. The film's ending provides the relief of great catharsis as Parliament finally passes Wilberforce's legislation; even his enemies applaud him, albeit somewhat grudgingly. And

therein lays the perfect depiction of Christianity in action, the faithful execution of Amazing Grace.

The Last Sin Eater: A movie that recently did the art house rounds was The Last Sin Eater. Based on the novel by Francine Rivers and directed by Michael Landon Jr. for Fox Faith Movies.

The prologue tells of Welsh immigrants who settled in the Appalachian Mountains in the 1830's and bring with them a belief in the fabled Sin Eater, a shrouded figure who lives in the woods who comes to take on the sins of the departed.

The story involves ten-year-old Cadi who has lost her little sister, reconciling old superstitions with the Christian beliefs brought to the remote community.

"... slowly but surly the drama deepens, emotions testify and The Last Sin Eater arrives at an unexpected powerful and well earned conclusion.... None of this qualifies [it] as any kind of classic, but given the relative depravity of mainstream Hollywood, it's a pleasantly surprising when worthy alternative become available" *Three stars given by Jeff Shannon, Seattle Times movie reviewer.*

Staring Louse Fletcher, Henry Thomas, Elizabeth Lackey and Liana Liberato. The film has disappeared from theaters but will probably make it to DVD soon.

Oscar-winning actress Faye Dunaway has been drawn to the south Wales valleys to star in a homegrown horror movie *Flick*.

The Academy Award winner plays a one-armed detective called in over a murder at Newbridge Memorial Hall. She appears in *Flick* with Liz Smith - Nana from the BBC's *Royle Family* - and Leslie Phillips of *Carry On* fame. Filming is continuing over 10 days in Pontypool and Cardiff and locals have been invited to work as extras.

It is understood she was drawn to the Welsh project after seeing the script of Cardiff-born David Howard's debut feature film. The star apparently liked it so much she agreed to undertake the film at a lower rate than her normal fee of more than £1m.

The Welsh Girl: A book by the award-winning author Peter Ho Davies comes an ambitious and moving wartime romance. The *Welsh Girl* begins with a provocative but little-known fact of World War II: the British held German POWs in camps in remote Wales.

Y Ddolen [The Link] is published bimonthly by the Puget Sound Welsh Association. Views expressed herein do not imply Puget Sound Welsh Association endorsement. Annual subscription is included in the PSWA membership dues.

PSWA is dedicated to promoting and preserving the history and heritage of the Welsh in the Puget Sound region and surrounding environs.

**We welcome stories, articles and pictures of interest. Please send them to Gerri Parry:
(206) 524-0854
5760 60th Ave NE Seattle WA 98105
or gerribp@hotmail.com**

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.**

Welsh Websites: We frequently get requests to distribute to our membership Welsh related advertisements and promotions. Although PSWA does not endorse any, many are listed on the PSWA website. For a variety of interests click on LINKS at: www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

Featured Link of the Month:

The Big Welsh Challenge language course: www.bbc.co.uk/wales/learnwelsh/bigwelshchallenge/

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 _____

MEMBERSHIPS	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year single (\$10)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year family (\$15)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Life (\$100)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Overseas Postage	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Scholarship	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> T- Shirt Total	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Fund in memory of	_____
_____	_____

PSWA T-Shirts: \$15.00 donation +\$3.00 P&H per t-shirt (indicate how many & size)
 ___ SM ___ MED ___ LG ___ XLG ___ XXLG

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Y Ddolen
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V. President: [Currently Vacant] **Treasurer** Alan Upshall 425.488.7288
Membership Secretary Gerri Parry 206.524.0854

At Large Members: Jackie Cedarholm 206.774.4336 Robert Morgan Smith 206.546.9242

GROUP

BOARD REP

CONTACT

<i>Cor Cymraeg Seattle</i> (Seattle Welsh Choir)	Ellen Webber	206.522.9853	Rae Stevenson	206.789.7451
<i>Dawnsywyr Dewi Sant</i> (Welsh Folk Dance)	Robert M. Smith	206.546.9242	Robert M. Smith	206.546.9242
<i>Gweithdy Crefftau Gymreig</i> (Welsh Craft)	Elizabeth Miller	425.398.9020	Carolyn Bell	206.363.3589
<i>Events & Activities</i>	Brian Parry	206.524.0854	Gerri Parry	206.524.0854
<i>Seattle Welsh Women's Club</i>	Eileen Wyke	425.746.7771	Carol Jones	425.882.2825
<i>South Sound Activities</i>	Karyn & Malcolm Davies	or_grown@yahoo.com		360.893.7256
<i>Newsletter & Website</i>	Gerri Parry	gbakerparry@aol.com		206.524.0854