



Y Ddolen



Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Visit www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

Medi / Hydref September / October 2008

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



A Special Concert for PSWA by Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg

(Vale of Glamorgan Comprehensive School)

St Andrews Episcopal Church
111 NE 80th St., Seattle, WA. 98115
Friday, October 24, 2008 7:00 pm
General admission \$5.00 at the door
Children under 12 free

A very talented and versatile group of 60 students, ages 15 through 18 from Barry, Wales, are touring the Pacific Northwest. The group includes a boys' rugby team and girls' field hockey team, all are also members of the school choir. We are pleased that they wish to treat us with a special performance while visiting in Seattle. Amongst them they have a drama group, a harpist, an orchestra, soloists and traditional Welsh dancers. This promises to be a most enjoyable evening.

For information call: (206) 524-0854 or email: gbakerparry@aol.com.

Other stops on the 2-week tour include Aldergrove BC, Vancouver BC, Nanaimo, BC, Shawnigan Lake, BC, Victoria BC, White Rock, BC

MARK YOUR 2008 CALENDARS

First Sunday of each month: Harp Circle & Celtic Music at the Dubliner Pub 2:00pm

Oct. 10th - Welsh Women meeting, 11:30

Oct. 19th - Ysgol Bro Gyfun Morgannwg concert 7:30 Cambrian Hall, Vancouver BC

Oct. 24th - Ysgol Bro Gyfun Morgannwg concert 7:00 St Andrews Episcopal Seattle, WA

Oct 26th - 6pm South Sound Night Out of Hwyl

Nov. 2nd - Gymanfa Ganu at Cambrian Hall, Vancouver BC,

Nov. 12th - PSWA Board Meeting 7:30pm

Nov 16th - 6pm South Sound Night Out of Hwyl

Dec 6th - PSWA Christmas Party, 4:30 pm

Dec 14th - Celtic Society of South Puget Sound's, Celtic Christmas, Thurston Co. Fairgrounds Expo Hall

Next Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, November 12th 2008, 7:30 p.m. at the Parry's
206 524-0854 gerribp@hotmail.com

Please consider involvement on the PSWA Board of Trustees. The Board meets informally 4-5 times per year and as needed by telephone. Your involvement will help spread the duties and help keep PSWA a vibrant and active group, able to function effectively and efficiently

Many of PSWA's key organizers will be off to sing with the North American Welsh Choir in Patagonia, Argentina. Because of this, there will be no PSWA Gymanfa Ganu this year.

Christmas Potluck date has been set:

December 6th, 4:30 pm
at the Upshalls
7049 NE 163rd St,
Kenmore WA 98028
(425) 488-7288

More details will be in the
November newsletter.

Seattle Welsh Women's News

~Carol Jones

Welsh Women Meetings are held at 11:30 am on the second Friday of each month in the Bellevue Library located at 1111 - 110th Ave NE Bellevue, WA 98004 unless otherwise noted. Bring your lunch. Contact Carol Jones 425.882.2825

October 10TH. We will continue 2009 St. David's Day plans and watch the second of six installments of the 1976 Welsh mini series *How Green Was My Valley* starring Stanley Baker and Sian Phillips.

South Sound News

~Karyn & Malcolm Davies

Night Out of Hwyl meets monthly at the Ram Restaurant & Brewery 10019 59th Ave SW, Lakewood (253)-584-3191. (unless otherwise listed)

October 26th 6pm

November 16th 6pm

RSVP for South Sound Activities by noon the Saturday prior to meeting: Malcolm Davies or grown@yahoo.com or 360-893-7256.

We wanted to pass along the latest word from the 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards. *For those who didn't know, the QDG are regularly stationed in Germany. As soon as we hear from them in Afghanistan, we'll pass along how to support the guys.*

From: Jerome Tyson, August 10, 2008,

To: Malcolm and Karyn,

All is well over here in Germany, we have just about completed all of our training for Afghanistan and we will all be out there over the coming

months. We are all on leave at the moment so I am trying to catch up with a little family time as our training has meant a lot of time away. I have also got a charity cycle ride to take part in at the end of the month from Lands End to John O Groats, which I am looking forward to. Thanks very much for all of your support, it's nice to know that there are people over the world that support what we are doing and I will e-mail you once we are over there. Take care and thanks again.

Jerome and the rest of the QDG gang.

Choir Invitation Reminder

Cor Cymraeg has been asked to sing at a celebration of Celtic music with the St Andrews Society. Please contact Tom Gething if you are interested and available for some singing with the choir. This is also a chance to practice for the St. David's Day performance. The date they've chosen is February 13 and the program would begin at 7:30 p.m. It would be fun to get together.

Contact Tom Gething: 206.523.6234
thomasgething@hotmail.com

North American Festival of Wales

~Gerri Parry

Each year I attempt to write a recap about the North American Festival of Wales to include in Y Ddolen and each year I run out of time. All I can say is that once again the dozen or so people who attended from the Puget Sound and Portland area were treated to a lovely time reacquainting with old friends and being wonderfully entertained in Chicago. For full coverage of the 2008 Festival of Wales please read the October issue of Ninnau, North American Welsh newspaper (<http://www.ninnau.com/>). And start making plans for the 2009 Festival of Wales in Pittsburgh PA for Labor Day weekend.

If you have never attended a Festival of Wales because it is so far away, you are in luck. Portland Oregon has been chosen for the year 2010. Plans are in the preliminary stages, but we will keep you posted.

Castles of Wales VI

~Benton Williams

Chepstow Castle competes with Harlech in popularity probably because it was begun in 1067, just after the Norman Conquest. William the Conqueror asked his

henchman, Lord William Fitzosbern, to start building it. He was not beyond stealing bricks from nearby Roman Fort Caerwent. The castle perches high over the river Wye and became a key launching place for the various invasions into Wales to subdue those troublesome Welsh insurgents. The castle is unusual in that it is constructed in terrace fashion. Just standing in the great hall can conjure up the events of long ago. William died in 1071 and the castle passed by marriage to William Marshall c. 1200, who brought it up to date with windows, towers and walls. It set the style for other castles. In 1245 Marshall's sons, made several improvements. By 1300 Roger Bigod had completed more towers, kitchens and latrines, which leads one to wonder how they managed before that time. The castle was attacked again in the Parliamentary Wars, which must have kept Oliver Cromwell pretty busy going around blowing up castles. Chepstow survived and is noted for its collection of exhibits.

Minutes of Puget Sound Welsh Association Board Meeting, 9/9/2008

Six members present: Brian Parry, Gerri Parry, Alan Upshall, Jackie Cedarholm, Robert Smith, Theresa Clark.

Matters Arising: Review of proposed changes to by-laws, specifically, changing "board of trustees" to "Board of Trustees"; deleting references to constituent groups; editorial changes to reflect how Society is run; 10 Board members to assure adequate representation; 5 people to constitute a quorum; agreement to elect new officers at the Annual General Meeting. Approved.

Election of Officers: In accordance with bylaws changes, officers were elected. Brian Parry remains President; Robert Smith was named Vice-President; Theresa Clark was named Secretary; Alan Upshall continues as Treasurer. Gerri Parry continues to handle membership, newsletter, and website. Moved, seconded, passed.

Wilkeson Centennial: Reviewed an email from the inviting PSWA asked to by the Centennial Committee to participate in their parade, as well as providing a Welsh choir for their celebration on July 18, 2009. Gerri proposed displaying the Welsh Heritage panels and Brian suggested presenting the

DVD on Welsh Heritage and Culture offered at the Highland Games. The matter is still under discussion.

Ysgol Bro Morgannwg: This group of young people from Barri wants to sing in Seattle as they travel in Canada and the U.S. to play rugby and sing in various places. More planning and detail needed before final decision. Gerri will check on availability of St. Andrew's, \$5 from attendees to offset cost of renting church was suggested.

Old Business: Welsh Day at Black Diamond on June 6, 2009, the PSWA Welsh Heritage Panels will be on display, and possibly craft items from PSWA. Vivian Harper has volunteered to handle the Welsh table and craft sales.

We discussed a proposed Internet forum for PSWA. Facebook was suggested as the means for this. More information is needed, Karyn Davies, has offered to administrate the account. The hope is that a forum will promote cohesion for PSWA members.

The North American Festival of Wales will be held in Pittsburgh 2009 and in Portland in 2010.

Alan Upshall volunteered to serve as chair of the North American Festival of Wales Eisteddfod and is working on publicity and procurement of suitable prizes.

Discussion held about current location of the post office box for PSWA. Queen Anne is an inconvenient location, suggestion that we change to the Lake City post office.

Plans for the PSWA Christmas party at Alan and Gretta Upshall's, subject to approval by Gretta. Date is December 6, 2008, 4:30 p.m. and suggestions of a potluck and a movie.

Next Meeting: The next Board meeting is set for November 12, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Parry's.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Clark, Secretary

A Welsh Renaissance

~Theresa Clark

Brian Parry and Malcolm Davies offered a new presentation at the Scottish Highland Games in July that strengthened the Cymric presence of the Puget Sound Welsh Association. Entitled *Welsh Culture and History*, the 45-minute seminar offered an interesting overview of Wales.

As Brian's narration shepherded the audience through each slide, Malcolm facilitated the timing and progression of each section and its sound effects for a perfectly coordinated effort. Welsh language phrases and a map of the old Welsh kingdoms that showed locations and geographical areas provided a fascinating contrast to the Wales of today. Yet another slide showed viewers how the Celts migrated first into central Europe and then further up into Britain. Brian supplemented the Celtic migration by offering a clear explanation how the defeat by the Roman armies pushed the Celts northward. He also mentioned the Founding Fathers of Wales, which included Cunedda and Maccsen Wledig, who later declared himself emperor.

Brian did a good job of including some frequently asked questions, of which the most common is, "Where is Wales?" Well, our audience certainly knew the location of Wales by the time the presentation was over! And as Wales comes forward in her identity through devolution, we can point with increased pride to an ancient land whose people have survived much.

The small tent in which people viewed *Welsh Culture and History* held an audience of about 20 people. They were very attentive, expressing appreciation of Wales as a Celtic nation, and applauded most enthusiastically!

After the presentation was completed, we returned to the Welsh booth. A number of volunteers from PSWA ensured smooth set-up and takedown of the tent, and also the shared opportunity for everyone to enjoy other exhibits, food, music, and competitions. Our booth held the customary attractive arrangement of materials that included PSWA fliers, *Ninnau*, *Cambria* magazine, Sing4Wales cards, and assorted travel brochures. A good collection of quality books covered the topics of Welsh history, surnames, genealogy, and language learning. The attention-catching items and attractive arrangement in our Welsh booth were perfectly set off by Gerri Parry in her national costume, as well as Malcolm and Karyn in their Welsh kilts.

Many visitors expressed interest in their Welsh heritage, asking questions about surnames, geographical areas, and pronunciation. Others had

travel stories to tell and enjoyed general chat about the culture. One tall gentleman had to duck in order to exit the tent and inquired, "Why is your tent so low?" In reply, I easily scooted my five-foot tall frame outside the booth and quipped, "Because most of the Welsh are short!"

The weekend was filled with the swirl of bagpipes and the sway of kilts from every clan. The crowds enjoyed Highland games, Scottish dancers, dog competitions, harpists and other musicians. Among the musicians, of course, were the famous Wicked Tinkers and their shenanigans! When people needed a rest, there were lots of benches, chairs, and tables at which to relax with pasties, beer, ice cream, scones, and many other delicacies to tempt the palate. The overall feeling was one of making the human connection, and it's inspiring to experience the sense of themselves possessed by the Scots.

The Scottish Highland Games provide a visible, important way for the Puget Sound Welsh Association to promote a Welsh presence in this region. There are lots of people out there we could recruit! But we need a renaissance of our talents and activity level to make that happen. Working together in community is an enriching and rewarding effort. It's the commitment, work, involvement, and love that binds the Welsh community together and gives it life.

Fron Choir Busks its Way to Glory

~Submitted by Phil Humphreys from BBCnews

Male voice choir steal the show. It might not have the glitz and glamour of the world's most famous music halls and prestigious award ceremonies. But the Froncysyllte Male Voice choir are on their way to being crowned Britain's best... buskers.

The choir from near Wrexham are said to have "wiped the floor" in The Culture Show's Busking Challenge, beating the likes of the Charlatans and Supergrass.

The Culture Show has been running the busking challenge since October 2007, and every week a different band or singer is asked to busk in public to become "unfamous" for 15 minutes.

Executive Producer of the programme, Eddie Morgan said: "The Fron Choir just blew people away and have stolen the show."

"I never would have guessed that a male voice choir, of relatively senior citizens, would win the Busking Challenge, way ahead of the likes of some of the top rock bands and singers in Britain like *Supergrass, the Charlatans, Moby and Roisin Murphy*.

"But quality is quality and the choir's performance in Chester was brilliant. They are worthy winners." The choir was dubbed the world's oldest boy band,

With a combined age of nearly 4,000 years, the Fron Choir, based near Wrexham, has risen to worldwide fame since they were spotted by the manager of boy band *Blue at a Wedding*.

Their debut album, *Voices of the Valley*, went on to sell more than half a million copies and remained at number one in the classical chart for 11 weeks.

They were also nominated for the Classical Brits best album award in 2007.

**The Fron's Director, Ann Atkinson is a long time friend to PSWA. Ann sang at our 2008 St. David's Day Concert last March See the full story and see a video clip of there street performance at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/7523993.stm*

Trebor Edwards President of the Royal Welsh Show

excerpts taken from Daily Post, by Andrew Forgrave, ~Submitted by Eileen Wyke

How could he imagine, this young man of 16, just out of school and going cap in hand to the bank manager for a loan, the way things would turn out?

How could young Trebor Edwards know that one day his new chicken enterprise, on Taid's rented farm, would spawn a 1,000-acre beef and sheep enterprise and see him feted as a Royal Welsh Winter Fair supreme champion?

And when he was younger still, in awe of his sister's piano skills and touring local chapels with the family singing troupe, could he have possibly conceived the five gold discs his untutored voice would eventually command?

Trebor, now 68 and still living in Betws Gwerfyl Goch, near Corwen, appears slightly bewildered by the success he has made of his life. Modest to a fault, he is at pains to make light of his

achievements. "The bank manager still owns a large slice of the business," he quips....

...Trebor Edwards, who left school at 16 with little more than an ardent passion for farming, has been made president of this year's Royal Welsh Show. "It is a big honour, it's something I never expected to come to me," he says.

"When the phone rang to tell me the news, I couldn't believe it. I thought someone was pulling my leg."

As president, his duties include wearing a borrowed bowler hat during the Royal Welsh, buying new outfits for wife Ann and heading up RWAS Clwyd's fundraising appeal. Proceeds will go towards a new food hall at the showground....



A royal visit by Princess Anne helped swell numbers at the 2008 Royal Welsh Show.

...Now regarded as one of the best cattlemen of his generation, a lot of the credit must go to his sons, both of whom began exhibiting livestock as Young Farmers. In fact it was his sons' instinct for competition that first brought him into regular contact with the Royal Welsh Show in the late 1970s.

Recommended as 2008 president by Gwyn Hughes, Brookhouse, Denbigh, he is now steeling himself for a hectic week of hand-shaking, small talk and even singing (in the sheep sheds and chapel on the eve of the show)...

...Now, as he navigates the biggest challenge of his life, that fabled tenor voice is still going strong and its owner is still pinching himself how things have turned out.

Trebor has been invited to sing many times at our St David's Day celebrations, he and his wife Ann are very special friends to PSWA.

Read the whole article **EVER THE SHOWMAN** at: <http://www.dailypost.co.uk/farming-north-wales/farming-news/2008/07/17/ever-the-showman-55578-21354816/>

Keeping up With the Jones

~Wales International Center NY, NY

Gavin & Stacey, a British comedy co-written by Welsh actress Ruth Jones and starring Welsh actors Ruth Jones, Joanna Page and Rob Brydon, premiered on BBC America on August 26 and has had an excellent review from the New York Times Arts section. It will run on Tuesdays at 8:40 pm for 13 weeks featuring both series one and two.

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*The Attraction of Onlookers - Aberfan: the Anatomy of a Welsh Village* by internationally renowned New York artist Shimon Attie can now be viewed at the Jack Shainman Gallery in Chelsea, New York.

Attie was commissioned to travel to Aberfan, Wales, and to create a piece of art to mark the 40th anniversary of the Aberfan tragedy when, in October 1966, most of the village's children were lost when a coal waste tip slid onto the village school.

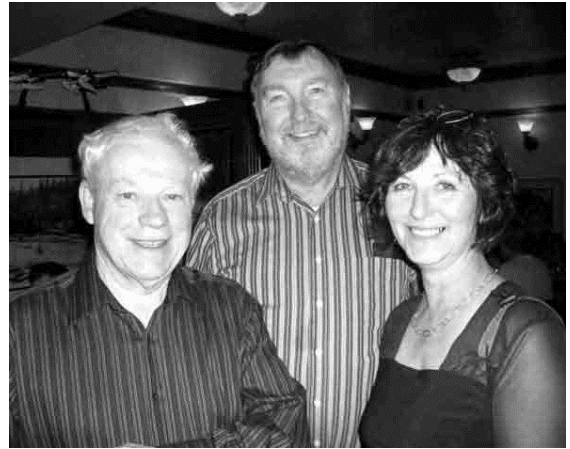
Within hours of the disaster the village lost its privacy having become "famous" as the village that lost its children and forever identified with the disaster, Aberfan has found it difficult to move on.

Attie spent six months in Aberfan filming the inhabitants and has created a unique, forward-looking work of contemporary art that he hopes 'might help Aberfan take its rightful place, 40 years on, as a Welsh village among other Welsh villages.'

The world premiere of the exhibition has been made possible by the Welsh Assembly Government in New York; the St David's Society of the State of New York; the St George's Society and by generous individual donations.

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## The Llanelli Choir in Vancouver BC



Brian and Gerri with tenor Teifryn Rees at the Red Lion Pub

"We'll Keep a Welcome" was the title of a joint concert given by the Llanelli Male Voice Choir and the Vancouver Orpheus Choir. This was a top-notch performance by both choirs who each has their own unique style. Highlighting the evening were the outstanding solo performances by Eifion Thomas, Adele O'Neil, & Teifryn Rees and the choirs were joined by the Vancouver Welshmen's Choir for the finale. A rendition of *Con te partirò - Time to Say Goodbye* by Adele and Eifion stayed in my head long after the concert was over.

"We'll Keep a Welcome" wasn't the half of it. On Thursday we had a warm up with a *Noson Lawen* at Cambrian Hall visiting with many friends of the Vancouver Welsh Society. Then Friday night we attended a reception for the choir at Grenville Thomas' Red Lion Pub in North Vancouver we were treated to singing, recitation and high spirits.

We met yet again for an *afterglow* following the concert in a pub down the road. The singing attracted a young man from the "disco" next door and it left him speechless. While Betty & Janet up from Portland sipped shandies, Liz & Maryann from Tacoma were beaming with pleasure, surrounded "Llanelli boys".

Then home to the after-afterglow with our gracious hosts Kathy & Neville Thomas, on into the wee hours around the dining room table. We left Vancouver exhilarated and exhausted, as always.

The Llanelli choir flew home on Sunday. While I snoozed (Brian drove) on our drive back to Seattle, I imagined that they found a new audience and were still singing their way back to Wales.

## Red Dragon Band CD's

In 2000, with funds from a grant from the PSWA scholarship fund, the Red Dragon Band (Jackie Cedarholm, Phil Ages, Birgit Ages along with special guest Bronn Journey) recorded and produced a CD of traditional Welsh tunes. The CD is graced by the colorful artwork of Carolyn Bell who has tended the PSWA Crafts table for many years. The CD has been reissued and is available for \$12.00 donation\* (plus \$3.00 S&H) to the Puget Sound Welsh Association.

## PSWA t-shirts

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

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 the website.

**\*Donations for t-shirts or CD's do not apply to membership dues. Please use form below to order.**

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](http://www.pugetsoundwelsh.org) .**

### 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 will not forward bulk mail and it will be returned to sender at a cost to PSWA. We will make every attempt to redeliver with the correct address if possible. If you have missed an issue because of a vacation hold or address change, please let us know right away. 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.**

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| _____                                         |        |

- PSWA T-Shirts: \$15.00 donation +\$3.00 P&H per t-shirt (indicate how many & size)
- \_\_\_ MED \_\_\_ LG \_\_\_ XLG
- CD: Band Y Ddraig Goch, Traditional Welsh Folk Music of Wales: \$12.00 donation +\$3.00 P&H

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**PUGET SOUND WELSH ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY**

|                                 |                          |              |                           |                               |                                  |
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