

JULY 2017

WSWNE MINI-NEWSLETTER

Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd Gorllewinol

Welsh Society of Western New England

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES

- Carpool from Glastonbury, CT at 8:30AM on **Thursday Aug.30, returning on Sunday, Sept 3.**
- See email sent to all members in July for more details. ONE room at conf. hotel available!
- Check their website NAFOW.org for full Festival itineraries, hotels, seminars, concerts.

BRUNCH IN NEW YORK CITY, WELSH CHURCH SERVICE, TE BACH and NOSON LAWEN: **Sunday, September 10**

Carpool with us in rented mini-vans from Springfield, MA or Glastonbury, CT to New York on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 9:45AM.

- Welsh Brunch at the Sunken Hundred (Cantre'r Gwaelod) Restaurant in Brooklyn.
- 3pm Welsh Congregation of New York church service at Rutgers Presbyterian.
- 4pm TE BACH (a little Welsh afternoon tea) at 4pm
- 6- 8pm Noson Lawen, to be confirmed, (literally, a Happy Evening) of Welsh music, poetry and readings before the drive home.

Please email WelshWNE@gmail.com to offer to sing/read AND/OR to book seats in the mini-vans, specifying which pick-up point. Transportation costs expected to be \$30 per person. **MUST RSVP** to WelshWNE@gmail.com by September 4 at the latest, stating which carpool you would prefer (Springfield, MA or Glastonbury, CT)

SAVE THE DATE: CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

11AM to 2PM - Saturday, Dec 2, 2017 at the Storowton Tavern, Springfield, MA

Storowton Tavern at the Storowton Village Museum, 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089 (at the Eastern States Exposition campus).



GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS: August 26, September 30, October 14 (**date change!**), November 18, and December 16, 2017 (Saturdays): Our

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Welsh Genealogy Workshop meets monthly from 10:15am-5:00pm, come for the day or part thereof. Bring your family tree and a lunch dish to share. Workshops are a free benefit for members. Info and location: WelshWNE@gmail.com.

August Workshop will include a 1 hour presentation on “How to use Genealogy and Family History Societies to further your research”.

September Workshop will include a 12 noon-1PM presentation on “Making the most of Massachusetts records” by Dave Robison from the Western MA Genealogy Society.

WHAT HAS WSWNE BEEN UP TO?

WSWNE VISITS IRELAND’S HUNGER MUSEUM, HAMDEN, CT

Located in Hamden, CT and run by Quinnipiac University, this is the first museum in America dedicated to the Irish Famine of 1845-1852. The art museum attempts to explain the suffering. We visited as a group in June, 2017.



The entrance of the museum reflects the stones and materials found in an Irish cottage including the colors, especially the slate and dark woods. First we perused some 17 & 18th century art, depicting Ireland and its struggles then watched a film that gave us some background on the *Great Hunger*. A beautiful stained glass window captured our eyes upstairs and reflected farm life before and after the *Great Hunger*. Also, bronze statues titled the *Leave-Taking*, the *Famine Cart* (see photo left), the *Famine Ship* and *The Victim* tugged at our heartstrings.

It is said that the Irish foolishly depended on the potato crop, it being the only crop they depended upon. There were 1M deaths, and 2M people fled. After the potato blight, there were adequate resources to feed the people within Ireland, but the British Government refused to close the ports to stop the export of food and livestock. Up to 75 percent of Irish soil was devoted to wheat, oats, barley etc that were grown for export and shipped abroad.

(<http://ighm.org/learn/about-the-great-hunger/0>

By the way, if you're ever in New York City you can visit the The **Irish Hunger Memorial**, which is located at the corner of Vesey Street and North End Avenue in the Battery Park City neighborhood of Manhattan. The memorial is a plot landscaped with native vegetation transported from the western coast of Ireland. (Wikipedia).

Following this sombre but enlightening visit, our group drove to a local Irish pub, which only felt fitting. As we walked in a group of Irish musicians, fiddles raised, were playing. We enjoyed a meal together and talked about the world at large and enjoyed each other's company.

by Susan Davies Sit



NOTE: Next printed newsletter mailed late August/ early September