

LATE WINTER/EARLY SPRING 2017



WSWNE

Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd
Gorllewinol

Welsh Society of Western New England

Website: WelshWNE.org

Email: WelshWNE@gmail.com

FaceBook: [WSWNE](#)



Annual St. David's Day Luncheon

Sat., March 4, 2017 at 11:00AM - 3:00PM

Nutmeg Restaurant, East Windsor, CT

Join us at 11AM for pre-lunch conversation and drinks with a cash bar. Prior to lunch there will be time to shop at our tables: Welsh notecards, t-shirts, book bags, mugs and more. There will also be a Welsh "Tea Cup" auction.

Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon, following a video message from the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones. The presentation this year is by Illtyd Barrett, owner of the SUNKEN HUNDRED (Cantre'r Gwaelod) restaurant in Brooklyn, NY, and we'll sing the Welsh National Anthem.

LOOK OUT FOR OUR FLYER IN THE MAIL TO RSVP

St. David's Day Luncheon - details

Saturday, March 4, 2017, 11:00am to 3:00pm
at the Nutmeg Restaurant, 297 S Main St, East Windsor, CT
(860) 627-7094: On route 5 in South Windsor, CT

- 11am - Social hour with cash bar & hors d'oeuvres
- Gather with old friends and meet new ones
- Video message from the First Minister of Wales.
- Have your photo taken with two of our WSWNE members in Welsh National Dress
- Find your Welsh roots on our Map Board
- A Welsh "Tea Cup" raffle
- Shop for Welsh items at our tables
- A short Annual General Meeting

Program by brothers Illtyd and Dominic Barrett, Owners of SUNKEN HUNDRED (Cantre'r Gwaelod) restaurant in Brooklyn, NY titled "Bite of the Apple" - starting up a Welsh restaurant in New York City.

Meal price: Member \$29; Guests \$31; Children (under 16) \$16
Price includes hors d'oeuvres, lunch, tax and gratuity.
Prime Rib is priced at \$3 additional.

The flyer & RSVP will be in the mail.

The flyer contains menu choices, directions to the Nutmeg, and the RSVP form.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE 6 NATIONS CUP

The European nations of Wales, England, Scotland, Ireland, Italy and France play in an annual competition called the “**6 Nations Cup**” since it was formed in 2000. A Grand Slam is when a nation beats the other 5 nations on their way to the title. In 2016,

England won the Cup. The four “Home Unions” of Wales, England, Ireland and Scotland also play for the “Triple Crown” which they win by beating the other three teams. The 6 Nations Cup will be played this year from February 4 to March 18, 2017. Check the web site for more details: www.rbs6nations.com



The WALES games are as follows:

Feb 5: 9:00am (EST) v. Italy

Feb 11: 11:50am (EST) v. England - Watch with us!

Feb 25: 9:25am (EST) v. Scotland

March 10: 3:05pm (EST) v. Ireland - Watch with us!

March 18: 9:45am (EST) v. France.

Two of the WALES games can be watched at the home of Susan Davies Sit in Glastonbury, CT; please bring a \$5 donation fee to help cover streaming costs. Please email WelshWNE@gmail.com to RSVP.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS: March (no workshop in March), April 8, and May 13, June 10, 2017 (Saturdays):

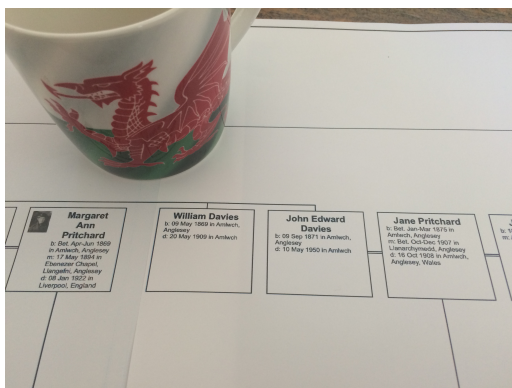
Our Genealogy Group
meets monthly to learn how
to research Welsh roots.

Meets 10:00am-5:00pm.

Bring your Welsh family tree
and a lunch dish to share.

Info: email

WelshWNE@gmail.com.



VIIST "IRELAND'S GREAT HUNGER MUSEUM", Hamden, CT

Save the potential date: Sunday May 28 (to be confirmed):

meet in Glastonbury, CT to carpool at 2:45pm or meet at the Museum at 3:30pm for a self guided tour (**free admission**).

The Museum "seeks to educate audiences of all ages about the underlying political, social, economic and historic causes to the Great Hunger, and the magnitude of the disaster on Ireland and its people. The museum contains the world's largest collection of Great Hunger-related art by noted contemporary Irish and Irish American artists as well as a number of period paintings by some of Ireland's most important 19th-century artists." Pub dinner following the museum visit. To RSVP email WelshWNE@gmail.com.

DUES ARE DUE.....

The 2017 dues for the Welsh Society of Western New England are due by St. David's Day (March 1). Please see the last page of this newsletter for Membership form, dues amounts, and mailing address - or better still, bring them with you to the St. David's Day Luncheon.

WELL-READ DRAGONS

***Everything I Found on the Beach* by Cynan Jones.**

Cynan Jones is a noted Welsh writer. In this book, readers meet a Welsh fisherman; Grzegorz, a Polish migrant worker; and Stringer, an Irish gangster. They all want the chance to make their lives better. One kilo of cocaine and the sea tie them together in a fatal series of decisions. (2011, Parthian Books in Wales, CoffeeHouse Books in U.S., available on AbeBooks, Amazon Books and mmlink.org)... reviewed by **the Wisconsin Welsh Society in 2016**

WHAT HAS WSWNE BEEN UP TO?

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON,

December 2016

Members and guests of the Welsh Society of Western New England (WSWNE) celebrated the coming of Christmas and another new year on December 3 in the cozy Library Room of the Nutmeg Restaurant in East Windsor, CT. The holiday colors of the Christmas tree in the corner and the poinsettias on the mantle were soon complemented by the red and green of our Welsh flag and festoons of red bunting spelling out Nadolig Llawen above the welcoming fire.

Beginning at noon, old friends and new greeted one another as they sampled cheese, crackers, and crudite. Many explored the sales table with items from Wales; a warm looking scarf proclaiming "Cymru am

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Byth” was among the first items to find a new home. Others browsed the information table and display board or considered which basket of Welsh-related items they would most like to win in the tea-cup auction.

WSWNE President, Susan Davies Sit, officially welcomed the assembly and asked Mark Spencer to provide the invocation; it included good wishes to all, but particularly to all the people of Wales. There followed the annual popping of traditional British Christmas crackers, donated by members Magdalen and Glyn Dowden, with the usual merriment evoked by the donning of colored paper crowns and the calling out of enclosed riddles. The luncheon followed, this year set out buffet style. It was delicious and was followed by homemade Welsh Cakes by Beth Roberts Brown and Shirley Gilmartin.

Before introducing the featured speaker, President Sit asked for help in finding a new Massachusetts venue for next year’s Christmas event. All major WSWNE luncheons were held in Connecticut this year because no proposed Massachusetts restaurant met our needs.

She also introduced new member Warren Morgan and referred everyone to the newsletter and website (WelshWNE.org) for details on other announcements.

Our speaker, Thomas Leigh, a Scottish Gaelic language instructor from the Callanish School of Celtic Arts, gave a fascinating talk on the



history of Celtic Languages. He presented an impressive breadth and depth of information about the origins, spread, and comparative features of the various languages associated with the people of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, plus Breton and the Isle of Man's language of Manx. His many-faceted prepared remarks stimulated an extensive question and answer period. Links to YouTube videos of both Thomas Leigh's presentation and the lively Q & A are posted on our website: WelshWNE.org.

After winning tickets were drawn for the three baskets of Welsh-related items, the afternoon concluded with the singing of the Welsh song "Deck the Halls" and the Welsh national anthem, "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau".

By Edward Brown, WSWNE Board member.

AROUND OUR WELSH AMERICAN WORLD



Want to learn
some Welsh?
Try the website
SSIW...

Cymdeithas Madog is excited to announce that registration for 2017's Cwrs Cymraeg in Sienna College, Albany, NY is now OPEN at www.madog.org!

The next week-long Welsh language course is July 16-23, 2017. Visit www.madog.org for registration and scholarship information. The scholarship application deadline is April 1, 2017.

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NAFOW

The North American Festival of Wales (sponsored by the Welsh North American Association, the largest Welsh cultural organization in North America) will be

held this year in Rochester, NY on August 31 - September 3, 2017. Check out the details at www.NAFOW.org.

North American
Festival
of Wales



Gŵyl
Gymru
Gogledd America

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK
AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

If you've never been before, this is your chance, because it's drivable: no airfare required! We will be carpooling, so email WelshWNE@gmail.com to secure your seat in one of the cars. If you can drive, please let us know. Cost for gas, per person, will be about \$20.

Highlights this year are: The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir; John Owen Jones, an award winning West End & Broadway performer who has released three albums; Sera, a bilingual singer/songwriter from Caernarfon, Wales; seminars, such as Welsh language, music, dance, films, customs etc; the 86th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu; Informal singing and tours; The Marketplace and Tea Room; and Eisteddfod.

Event hotel is the Hyatt Regency, Rochester. Call 585-546-1234 for reservations, mentioning "North American Festival of Wales 2017" to receive the discounted rate of \$119/night plus taxes for a king, double, triple or quad room.

NOTES FROM WALES

Welsh Connection in “Game of Thrones”

From a Welsh newspaper by David Powell, comes a report that the weaponry used in the hit show Game of Thrones has been supplied by The Knight Shop International Ltd. based in Mochdre, Colwyn Bay, North Wales (this Editor's home village). The company also supplied armour for the movie Maleficent. The Managing Director has his own fight school: the Red Dragon Longsword Academy.

Santess Dwynwen (Died AD465)

Anglesey has a number of famous saints, and while they were not canonized, the Church in Wales honoured them. One is Dwynwen, she was regarded as the saint of lovers, and she was a daughter of



Cross of St Dwynwen
Photo by Gary Matthews, UK

King Brychan. Legend has it that Prince Maelon fell in love with Dwynwen but she rejected his advances. She prayed to God and was granted three wishes - that she would never marry, that all requests she made on behalf of lovers were

accepted, and that Maelon be released from a magic potion she had given him.

Dwynwen's holy well can still be seen at Llanddwyn on Anglesey. Although badly damaged in the nineteenth century, the well has a reputation of being used by lovers to resolve difficult relationships, as well as having healing powers. For the romantic amongst you, St. Dwynwen's Day is January 25, an equivalent of St. Valentine's Day.

“The Essence of Anglesey” by Brace Griffiths

Forest of Borth

A 4,500-year-old forest is slowly being revealed from beneath the sands of a Welsh beach.

At low tide in the bucolic Welsh coastal village of Borth, what appear to be rocks are revealed on the beach. But these seemingly standard stones are actually the remains of a petrified forest.

In 2014, bits and stumps of such tree species as oak, ash, and birch were uncovered after a massive storm removed tons of sand from the beach. Carbon dating has placed the old plants as having lived around 1,500 BCE.



The anaerobic nature of the local peat was able to preserve the remains. In addition to the tree stumps, as the *Guardian* reported at the time, the remains of a walkway were found by members of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, who were patrolling the site after the storms looking for newly other newly uncovered relics. **The forest has become associated with the longstanding myth of a sunken civilization known as Cantre'r Gwaelod, a sort of Welsh Atlantis.** It is believed by devotees of the lost city that the buried forest may be a part of the mythical land. Even before the storms uncovered much of the old forest, human and animal tracks preserved in hardened peat were already being discovered in the area. While Cantre'r Gwaelodis may live in the realm of fantasy, the Forest of Borth may be a good indication of the truth the legend was based on. (AtlasObscura.com)

Editor's Note: the new Welsh restaurant in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn, NY is named Sunken Hundred (Cantre Gwaelod) and has photos of the forest on the wall. See their website for more about this legend. (sunkenhundred.nyc)

Flintshire's pilgrimage site

One of the many holy wells scattered across Europe, Winifred's Well (or St. Winifride's Well) has been visited by the faithful for over a thousand years after it was created by a martyr's lopped off head. As the story goes, Winifred, daughter of a wealthy Welsh

citizen and sister of fellow Saint Beuno, was being romantically pursued by a man named Caradog. Winifred was not interested in the man's advances and when she finally refused to lay with

him, Caradog lopped the young woman's head off. Where her head hit the ground, a natural spring instantly sprung. Poor Winifred was thankfully resurrected thanks to the saintly prayers of her brother, but the spring remained. Pilgrims who visited the miraculous spring claimed that the waters healed any number of ailments and a proper structure was built around the site some time in the 12th century.

The legend aside, it is known that Winifred was a real personage and the current structure built over the spring that bears her name seems to have replaced an earlier structure. The current medieval chapel was built in the 16th century and has seen such famous faithful grace its arches as Kings Richard I and Henry V. With pilgrims visiting the well for its healing waters for over a thousand years that we can confirm, a tradition that has been unbroken during its existence, the well also claims to be the oldest active pilgrimage site in all of Britain.



While the aging medieval chapel still covers the bubbling well waters, the site has added a shallow wading pool in the courtyard that is filled directly from the well. Visitors can actually bath in the holy waters and towel off in the innocuous cabanas. Despite a violent origin, Winifred's Well is a peaceful site that allows for relaxation that might be more healing than the magic waters. (AtlasObscura.com)



WSWNE NEWS

NEW PURCHASE for WSWNE via the Heather Roderick Norwood Memorial Donation Fund

Previously, a portion of the Heather Roderick Norwood memorial donation made possible the purchase of a high quality large projection screen, so that WSWNE event speakers' presentation images on Welsh-related topics can now be seen clearly by people attending our events.

Another portion of the Heather Roderick Norwood memorial donation has made possible the purchase of a dedicated video camcorder, so that WSWNE event speakers' complete presentations on Welsh-related topics can be seen and heard,



as high quality videos on our YouTube channel via our Website (WelshWNE.org) not only by WSWNE event attendees, but by people around the world. The camcorder purchased is a Sony HDRCX405 Camcorder that records 1920x1080 Full HD video; it has a Zeiss wide-angle lens with 27x optical zoom. Also purchased were two 64GB memory cards and an accessory kit including high quality protective case, floor and table tripods, spare battery, battery charger, and more.

A huge thank you to Board Member and tech guru Edward Brown for the research that went into buying just the right camera at just the right price... good hunting Ed!

St Patrick of Wales?

March 17th marks the day those of Irish descent wear green and the children make shamrocks, all in the name of Saint Patrick. But who was this Irish lad who spurred the beloved international holiday? Well, it turns out he wasn't really Irish at all.

Legend has it that Patrick was kidnapped from Northern Wales by Irish pirates when he was 16 and taken to Ireland, where he was sold into slavery. After about seven years, he managed to escape. Following a short stint back home, Patrick decided to return to Ireland as a missionary. He later became a priest and a bishop and spent the rest of his life in Ireland, before passing away on March 17, 461.

The church in Northern Ireland began, in the 600's, to celebrate him as a saint and his following spread from there. Little is known about him, though, apart from two very short but revealing letters in Latin that he wrote about his life and work in the late 400s AD.

"I think what the letters reveal are a man who worked incredibly hard, who was full of self-doubt, and yet who kept going year after year." said classics professor Philip Freeman of Luther College in Iowa.

Thanks to: Globalnews.ca

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WSWNE NEWS is published by the Welsh Society of Western New England, Inc.

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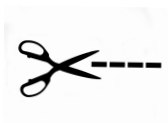
WELSH SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW ENGLAND
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

WSWNE is organized by many volunteers, but we incur expenses by hosting events, publishing the quarterly newsletter, presentations, publicity and insurance. Please consider joining WSWNE to support our work.

Membership levels reflect only your level of support. All levels receive the printed newsletter 3-4 times per year and discounts at our events.

Memberships are "per household" (family at same mailing address) and are valid March 1- Feb 28. Pro-rated memberships are possible, please contact mary.Pallos@Singulus.com.

If you wish to support WSWNE with a membership, please forward your dues to Mary Pallos, WSWNE, 1542 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033.



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___\$10 (Student), ___\$25 (Miner's Lantern),
___\$50 (Daffodil), ___\$100 (Red Dragon)

(Membership value only reflects your level of support; benefits are the same for each level.)

Name(s)_____

Address_____

Tel # _____

Email address (PRINT!) _____

What topics or activities are of interest to you?

Please tell us about your Welsh connections or Welsh roots?

Newsletter February, 2017

For Treasurer's use only: Date rec'd: _____