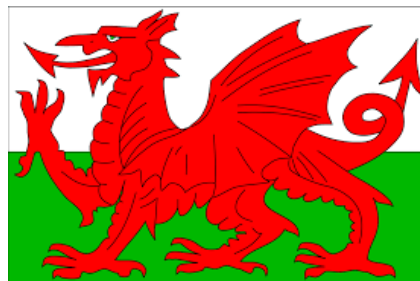


# WSWNE



**Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd  
Gorllewino**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sat., March 3 - St. David's Day Luncheon

Wed., March 14 - Pub Trivia Night

Sat., March 17 - Wales Rugby & Genealogy

Sat., April 7 - Genealogy

Wed., April 11 - Pub Trivia Night

Wed., May 9 - Pub Trivia Night

Sat., May 12 - Genealogy featuring "Parish Records"

May - date TBD, Noson Lawen

## Welsh Society of Western New England

Website: [WelshWNE.org](http://WelshWNE.org)

Email: [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com)

FaceBook: [WSWNE](#) Cell: 860.987.7097

## ST. DAVID'S DAY LUNCHEON

Sat., March 3, 2018

11:00AM to 3:00PM

Nutmeg Restaurant, 297 S Main St, East Windsor, CT

Join us to celebrate St. David's Day at 11AM for pre-lunch conversation and drinks from a cash bar, with hors d'oeuvres including a domestic and international cheese platter, crackers, and fresh vegetable cruditee with dip. Gather with old friends and meet new ones. Prior to lunch, there will be time to shop at our tables: Welsh notecards, t-shirts, mugs, Welsh ties, books and more. There will also be a Welsh "Tea Cup" auction of baskets filled with Welsh goodies. Have your photo taken with two of our Board members in Welsh National dress!

*Lunch will be served PROMPTLY at 12:00PM following a video message from the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones.*

*Please RSVP on the enclosed flyer by February 26, 2018*

Presenters will be: Helen Coates of the "Copper Kettle Bakery" titled "Welsh Cakes", followed by Margaret Lloyd, Welsh poet, on "Travelling on My Own Errands: Voices of Women from The Mabinogi".

## GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS:

Our Genealogy Workshop meets monthly to learn how to research Welsh roots. Meets at 10:15am - 5:00pm. Come for the whole day or part thereof. Bring your Welsh family tree and a lunch dish to share. For info, email [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com).

- **March 17** - 10:15-5PM, with Wales v. France Rugby game at 12 noon-1:30PM
- **April 7** - regular hours: 10:15AM - 5:00PM
- **May 12** - Workshop will include a presentation on "Research using British Parish Records"

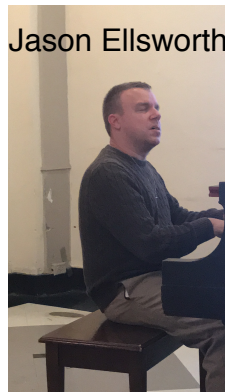
## TRIVIA NIGHT with "THE RED DRAGONS" TEAM

Wednesday, March 17 & April 11 at the Yarde Tavern, 1658 King Street, Enfield, CT (Close to the MA state line)

**We look forward to another Red Dragon Team Trivia Night....at 6PM for dinner, Trivia starts at 7PM & if you can, wear red!** Please join us as part of the team!  
RSVP please to [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com).



Jason Ellsworth



## NOSON LAWEN: May, 2018

In the tradition of Noson Lawen (literal translation *Happy Evening*), which has roots in rural Wales, we will share Welsh fables, poetry, readings, singing and music of our own choosing, while having a meal and drinks together!

Please check [WelshWNE.org](http://WelshWNE.org) for details soon.

## ST.DAVID'S DAY PRESENTERS:

### Margaret Lloyd, Welsh Poet

Margaret Lloyd was born in Liverpool, England, of Welsh parents and grew up in a Welsh community in Utica, New York. She received a PhD from the University of Leeds, England, and has published a book on William Carlos Williams' poem *Paterson*. *Travelling on My Own Errands: Voices of Women from The Mabinogi* is her fourth collection of original poetry. Her poetry honors include a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, several Pushcart nominations, a fellowship to the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, and residencies at Yaddo and Hawthornden Castle in Scotland where she finished *Travelling on My Own Errands*. Lloyd is Professor Emeritus at Springfield College, Massachusetts.



### Helen Coates, The Copper Kettle Bakery



Helen Coates of the Copper Kettle Bakery in Massachusetts will be presenting "Welsh Cakes" at the St. David's Day luncheon. Helen Says, "I grew up in South Wales, where early morning weekends were spent in the kitchen. My mum Eileen and grandmother Irene were kneading dough for bread and warming the griddle for our morning Welsh Cakes. I loved to help them cut the circles of dough. Even today, the smell of allspice and cinnamon takes me back to the warmth of that kitchen filled with love.

#### Helen Coates

My mother used to take me to a café in our village that served tea, Welsh Cakes. They filled every teapot with boiling water straight out of their giant kettle. I told my mum as a child: "One day, I am going to open a bakery and call it the Copper Kettle." We dreamed we would do it together. Living 3,000 miles away from each other made it impossible.

My mum passed away in June 2013. I found myself craving the taste of Welsh Cakes. I began griddling them every morning for my sons and then neighbors and friends. I realized I had found my calling and launched Copper Kettle Bakery. I cannot wait to tell you the rest of the story."

Note: Check them out and try them too at: <http://copperkettlebakery.com/>

## WHAT HAS WSWNE BEEN UP TO?



### Trip to the Catskills to see CALAN

In the fall, 6 members of WSWNE traveled overnight to the Empire State Railway Museum in Phoenicia, NY to hear the Welsh band CALAN

Jason Ellsworth, Susan Jenkins Meers, Susan Davies Sit, Beth & Ed Brown with CALAN after the show. Photo by Don Sit.

perform at folk night. It was Calan's third time at the venue and the

room was packed. We enthusiastically waved our Welsh flags on hearing their music, which is in both Welsh and English. Their new CD "Soloman" was signed & donated to WSWNE and will be auctioned at the St. David's Day Lunch on March 3, 2018. CALAN: Angharad Sian Jenkins, Alice French, Bethan Rhiannon, Sam Humphreys and Patrick Rimes, are: "musicians giving a fresh and vibrant sound to traditional Welsh music. With a contemporary and lively approach they breathe new life into the old traditions through their sparkling melodies, foot tapping tunes and spirited and energetic performances of Welsh step dancing.

They blast their way through some of the old favourite reels, jigs and hornpipes with fast paced and uplifting arrangements before melting into some of the most beautiful and haunting songs."

Their website is [calan-band.com](http://calan-band.com).

## The Annual Christmas Holiday Luncheon

December 3, 2017 saw an eager and excited gathering of Welsh men and women, friends and family at The Storrowton Tavern in West Springfield, Massachusetts. We came, as we do each year, to celebrate the holiday season with good friends, new and old, with good food and great entertainment.

**Master of Ceremonies: Edward Brown, Board member**

We explored Christmas and holiday traditions in Wales, presented by our dear friend, Jodee James. Jodee's concert featured songs in both Welsh and English of the winter solstice, Christmas and New Year's traditions, including Wales' mysterious Mari Lywd. Jodee has dedicated much of her career to making Welsh folk music a larger part of the Celtic music scene in America. Also enjoyed were the Welsh merchandise table and a lovely raffle basket. Both included many items brought from Wales by members, such as ties, books, and Christmas tree ornaments. We had a near Christmas record of 42 people attending, including



WSWNE founder John Dixon of Massachusetts. This year's venue was so successful it was decided to book it for the first Saturday in December 2018. Following our festive celebration, we were invited to make the rounds of the recreated colonial village of which The Storrowton Tavern is part, and we enjoyed the holiday decorations and demonstrations there.



**Glyn Dowden and Mark Spencer**

By Susan Jenkins Meers, Board member

## From the Central New Brunswick Welsh Society

### *THE MOTIVATION TO LEAVE*

The migration of families from southwest Wales is somewhat unlikely, given the very nature of this area. This was the very heart of Welsh life and culture, a decidedly rural area characterized by small free-holdings, hamlets and villages whose people were stubbornly Welsh and almost all unilingual Welsh speakers. What would drive these families to the uncertainties of crossing the Atlantic to settle in the wilds of British North America?

The answer lies in the economic and social conditions of Wales following the Napoleonic Wars. A recession in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century resulted in great poverty and unemployment in Wales. Wages fell because there were more workers than jobs, exacerbated by the replacement of people by new machinery and an increasing population. The protectionist Corn Law imposed high tariffs on imported grain which kept prices high. In addition, there had been a serious crop failure the summer of 1816 which was known as 'the year without a summer'. Heavy rains and cool temperatures led to crop failures and widespread famine with the price of food skyrocketing. Villages and towns could not support the vast number of poor families. People were dying of hunger and sickness. Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire were the hardest hit counties of Wales.

By the early 1800's, arable land in Wales had become depleted due to the continuous planting of grains during the Napoleonic Wars, with many farms no longer able to sustain families. Many families had already been forced off their farms by the Enclosure Acts which enforced the enclosure of common land and larger farm properties. These common lands had traditionally been available to small freeholders for grazing their stock and many were unable to pay the fees now charged for the use of this land. Others were unable to cover the cost of fencing their freeholds as required by the new laws.

The loss of their lands had a profound effect on Welsh freeholders who had a deep attachment to their land and an intense pride in their lineage. Land ownership gave them standing in their communities no matter how small the free-holding. Their pride in continued and unbroken hereditary property meant that the custom of *cyfran*, dividing the land amongst all sons on the death of the landowner, survived until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. While this reflected the deep-rooted Welsh belief in land ownership at all costs, it unfortunately also resulted in increasingly smaller free-holdings, with most farms being smaller than 100 acres. By the early 1800's there

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was no longer an ability to divide the lands, thus depriving the sons of freeholders of the means to acquire land.

Add the difficulties faced by the Dissenting churches, and small wonder that the *Albion* sailed with a full load of passengers. In North America, the Welsh emigrants could settle on their own land, worship in their own way and hopefully, provide a better future for their families.

**By Janet Thomas, Central New Brunswick Welsh Society**

*(Janet is Treasurer for both the Welsh Society and the NB Welsh Heritage Trust which is managed by the Society. The Welsh Chapel and cemetery is an historic site and she's assigned herself a project to 'map' the cemetery and record what is carved on each headstone. She is also the contact for other historical organizations such as museums and heritage groups who are looking for information on the Welsh presence in New Brunswick).*

## Gwydir Castle's 1624 Marriage Chest

An ancient Welsh marriage chest made for Gwydir castle has finally been returned after a 96 year absence. Carved with the Wynn family arms, it was lost in 1921 when the castle - and its historic contents - were put up for sale.

Present owners Peter Welford and Judy Corbett have spent years researching and locating items sold in the controversial sale, including the Grade -1 listed castle's 1640's paneled dining room, discovered in a warehouse in Brooklyn, New York.



It had been bought in the sale by American newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst, who planned to install it at San Simeon, his mock castle in California.

The wedding chest was made in 1624 to commemorate the marriage of the alchemist Sir Owen Wynn (3rd Baronet) to Grace Williams, the niece of Archbishop John Williams.

It has been bought from a private owner in the Wirral and the purchase has been made

Gwydir Castle today



possible by a donation by American benefactors John and Maureen Winn, who are passionate about Welsh history and culture and felt the chest should be returned to the home of their Wynn ancestors.

Ms Corbett said: We thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

“The chest is an important piece of early Welsh heraldic furniture and a Welsh relic of huge significance, and it is moving to think that it would have been at Gwydir when the house was sacked in two occasions during the Civil War. We are so happy to welcome it home.”

The owners are still on the hunt for the panelled room which was also bought by Hearst.

“We are in touch with the Hearst Trustees and they are looking in their warehouse and going through their records,” said Ms Corbett, who is a writer. “We are keeping our fingers crossed.”

Gwydir Castle, near Llanwrst, and its 10-acre garden, which is also Grade-1 listed, were established by the Wynn family about 1500.

In the 1570’s, Gwydir was home to Katherine of Berain, cousin to Elizabeth 1, and the castle has associations with the Babington Plot of 1586 and the Gunpowder Plot of 1605.

**Article by Mari Jones, North Wales Weekly News/Daily Post**

**Photo by Judy Corbett.**

## AROUND OUR WELSH AMERICAN WORLD



To keep up with news, both from Wales and around North America, please subscribe to NINNAU: the North American Welsh newspaper. 6 issues per year at \$30 per year at: [NINNAU.com](http://NINNAU.com). Copies will be available at the St David’s Day Luncheon

## North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW)

The North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW), sponsored by the Welsh North American Association, the largest Welsh cultural organization in North America, will be held in **Washington DC on Aug 30 - Sept 2, 2018**. See website [www.NAFOW.org](http://www.NAFOW.org). We have booked a total of 4 rooms (2 Queen



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beds in each).... need one? Email [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com).

If you've never been, this is your chance, because as in 2017, it's drivable! Email [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com) to carpool with us. Cost per person for gas and mini-van rental will be about \$85. We will need additional drivers too! Please sign up. One member found a flight to DC from Bradley for \$143, with free shuttle to the hotel. Check out [www.cheapoair.com](http://www.cheapoair.com).

Highlights are: ESCHOIR, a Welsh male choir based in London, opening concert by TRIO, a male vocal group from Snowdonia, and pan-celtic band Moch Pryderi.

Event hotel is the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria. To make your own reservations, mention "North American Festival of Wales 2018" to receive the discounted rate of \$103 / night plus taxes for a king, double, triple or quad room.



Moch Pryderi

Wales' National Eisteddfod 2018...will be held in Cardiff on 3-11 August, 2018. [gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk](mailto:gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk)

Eisteddfod 2019 will be held in Llanwrst, Gwynedd.

## WELL-READ DRAGONS

When Elizabeth Jane Corbett isn't writing, she works as a librarian, teaches Welsh at the Melbourne Welsh Church, and contributes articles to the Historical Novel

Review. Her debut historical novel, *The Tides Between*, was published by Odyssey Books in 2017. Elizabeth lives with her husband in a renovated timber cottage in Melbourne's inner-north. She likes red shoes, dark chocolate, commuter cycling, and reading quirky, character driven novels set once-upon-a-time in lands far away.

"In the year 1841, on the eve of her departure from London, Bridie Stewart's mother demands she forget her dead father and prepare for a sensible, adult life in Port Phillip. Desperate to save



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her precious childhood memories, fifteen-year-old Bridie is determined to smuggle a notebook filled with her father's fairy-tales to the far side of the world. When Rhys Bevan, a soft-voiced young storyteller and fellow traveller realises Bridie is hiding something, a magical friendship is born. But Rhys has his own secrets and the words written in Bridie's notebook carry a dark, double meaning.

As they inch towards their destination, Rhys's past returns to haunt him. Bridie grapples with the implications of her dad's final message. The pair take refuge in fairy tales, little expecting the trouble it will cause."

## WELSH BEERS COME TO THE U.S.A.

**Llandudno's Wild Horse Brewing Company in North Wales** are embarking on a Trans-Atlantic collaboration with a top American craft brewery and are swapping recipes with Iechyd Da Brewing Company from Elkhart, Indiana after striking up an intercontinental friendship online.

While Iechyd Da's beer – a sweet stout brewed with vanilla pods and cocoa nibs - is available here in North Wales, a Wild Horse beer will also be brewed over in the USA. Conwy-based artisan chocolatier Baravelli's will provide the cocoa nibs and vanilla pods for the brew.

The two breweries struck up a relationship after Dave from Wild Horse spotted a story about Iechyd Da – a name that links back to Chip's Welsh heritage - in an American brewing magazine. Their eye-catching name, a phrase which also appears in Wild Horse's branding, grabbed Dave's attention and the breweries linked up on social media.

Summer Lewis said: "My husband's family came to America from Wales many generations ago, so the ties aren't recent, but it's a fun and historical way to set us apart. I know our patrons will really get a kick out of us collaborating with a Welsh brewery." Patrick Glover, North Wales



**And on another Welsh beer venture with America**, The Sunken Hundred (Cantre'r Gwaelod) in Brooklyn, NYC is now selling "Tiny Rebel". Illtyd Barrett, owner, says: The New Year's present we've been dreaming of! Tiny Rebel Beer from Newport, Wales, just arrived! We are so chuffed to have Cwtch Welsh Red Ale (voted Champion Beer of Britain 2015) and Clwb Tropicana on tap. Come and see why everyone is raving about this brilliant Welsh brewery. Only in Sunken Hundred. Iechyd da, bois!

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2017-2018):**

**President & Genealogy Group Coordinator:**

Susan Davies Sit (CT) (860) 987-7097 WelshWNE@gmail.com

**Acting Vice President:**

Susan Jenkins Meers (CT) (860) 334-5119 SusanjMeers@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Mary Jones Pallos (CT) (860) 781-2302 Mary.Pallos@Singulus.com

**Secretary:** Mark Taylor (CT) (860) 303-1625 Salemzoo@snet.net

**MEMBERS AT LARGE (2017-2018):**

**Welsh Language Group:**

Beth Roberts Brown (MA) (413) 454-9476 supernain4@gmail.com

**Carpool Coordinator:**

Sherry Williams (CT) (860) 872-0949 Booksandbeads@comcast.net  
and

Ed Brown (MA) (413) 454-9477 edbethui@gmail.com

Shirley Gilmartin (CT) (860) 887-1794 dsgilm@comcast.net

Magdalen Dowden (MA) (860) 653-7668 magdalendowden@sbcglobal.net

Glyn Dowden (MA) (860) 653-7668 glyndowden@sbcglobal.net

Chaplain: Rev. Hugh James (CT)

Past President: Dr. Tom Bernard (MA)

Founder: John Dixon (MA)

Membership List and Email Manager: Mark Spencer (MA)

Web Site: Trey McCain (Honorary Member) (MS & WALES)

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**WSWNE Membership Form**

**PLEASE MAIL to Mary Pallos, WSWNE Treasurer, 1542 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033 (check made out to WSWNE, membership year begins March 1st, per family):**

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

**Today's date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Names (list household members):

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (PLEASE PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Spring, 2018: For Treasurer's use only: Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

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Photo of Fairy Glen Falls, Betws-y-Coed, Gwynedd, Wales by Erika Dawson Davies, November 2017

