

WSWNE mini-newsletter update

Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd Gorllewino

Web: WelshWNE.org /Email: WelshWNE@gmail.com /FB: [WSWNE/](https://www.facebook.com/WSWNE/)Cell:860.987.7097

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sat. Jan 12 - Genealogy -
DNA All-Day Workshop

Fri. Feb 1 - Live Stream
RUGBY (see below)

Sat. Feb 9 & March 9 -
Genealogy Workshop incl.
Live Stream Rugby (see
below)

**Wed. Jan 10, Feb 13, March
13, April 10** - Pub Trivia
Nights - Join us!

Sat. Feb 23 - Live Stream
Rugby (see below)

**Feb 23 - March 9 - WALES
WEEK IN NEW ENGLAND**

**Sat, March 2 - SAVE THE
DATE:** St David's Day
luncheon

Sat. March 9: Genealogy

Sat. April 13 - Genealogy
Workshop

Sat/Sun. April 27-18 -
Daffodil Fest. in Meriden, CT

**Sun. May 19 - SAVE THE
DATE:** Dylan Day NOSON
LAWEN



BLYWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA!

Happy New Year from your Welsh Society! This Society exists because of you and your love of Wales. We are growing in membership and hosting many Welsh events this year. It's going to be a great 2019!

TRIVIA NIGHT: "THE RED DRAGONS"

Wednesday, Feb 13 , March 13 and April 10th at the Yarde Tavern, 1658 King Street, Enfield, CT (Close to the MA state line)

Join us! Several WSNWE members join up at the Yarde Tavern in Enfield, CT as the team "The Red Dragons" for a Pub Trivia night... We enjoy each other's company while sharing a meal together and beating all the other teams... sometimes! We look forward to another Red Dragon Team Trivia Night....at 6PM for dinner, Trivia starts at 7PM.... & if you can, wear red! RSVP to WelshWNE@gmail.com

GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS:

Our Genealogy Workshops meet monthly to learn how to research our Welsh roots. Workshop meets 10:15am-5:00pm: come for the day or part thereof. Bring your family tree and a lunch dish to share. Members, \$5. Non-members - first Workshop complimentary, further workshops \$10 per session. Info & location: email WelshWNE@gmail.com.

- **Sat., Jan 12 - DNA Day** - One-on-one with Nikki Hall of DNARootssearch.com and President of the Welsh Society of Western NY. **Must RSVP.**
- **Sat., Feb 9** - Regular Workshop. We'll break off at 11:45am to watch Wales v. Italy 6 Nations Championship RUGBY

RUGBY - 6 NATIONS CUP - 2019

Rugby's greatest championship between Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, Italy and England, will take place over seven weekends in 2019, beginning on Fri, Feb 1st. Want to see some of the games? Check our schedule:

Feb 1st (Fri) 3:00PM - **Wales v France**, (watch live: WelshWNE@gmail.com to RSVP)

Feb 9th (Sat) 11:45AM - **Italy v. Wales**, (watch live with us: email WelshWNE@gmail.com to RSVP). This is also Genealogy Workshop day. We'll break off our research to watch the game. Join us for both or either event!

Feb 23rd (Sat) 11:45am - **Wales v. (them) England** (watch live with us: email WelshWNE@gmail.com to RSVP).

March 9th (Saturday) 9:15AM - **Scotland v. Wales**. This is also Genealogy Workshop day which will begin at 11:00am. Join us for both or either event! Must RSVP.

March 16th (Saturday) 10:45 AM (TBC) - **Wales v. Ireland**. \$5 fee per person/per game towards the live-streaming service fee. See <http://rbs6nations.com>.



WALES WEEK IN NEW ENGLAND

The Wales Week in London initiative is the annual celebration in London of all things Welsh around the time of St David's Day.

The WALES WEEK umbrella brand helps stimulate and coordinate the promotion of activities during the St David's Day fortnight to promote Wales in as broad a way as possible **all around the World**. "We find a vision of Wales Weeks occurring at the same time across the globe really appealing - together we could create some awesome Welsh noise via social media through sharing and amplifying each other's activities - and help to develop increasingly positive perceptions

about Wales, the Welsh, our modern international profile, our culture, values and heritage." (Dan Langford, Chair, Wales Week in London.)

Therefore our Society has chosen to accept this challenge and we are working to bring **WALES WEEK in NEW ENGLAND** under this worldwide umbrella. Wales Week in London started in Feb / March 2017, when they had over 50 different events; and in 2018 they had 80 - the website with details already confirmed for St David's Day 2019 can be found here: www.walesweek.london - so far there are over 60 events / activities in the program.

For **WALES WEEK IN NEW ENGLAND**, we have brought in UK Gourmet, the Copper Kettle Bakery, the Vermont/ New York Slate Valley Welsh, and other Welsh Societies to publicize our individual events under this one umbrella. If you have ANY suggestions of businesses and groups who may like to participate in this free publicity, please be in touch with Susan at WelshWNE@gmail.com.

ANNUAL DYLAN DAY.....

The Scots have Burns Night and Wales has "Dylan Day". The Welsh

Government and Literature Wales announced in 2014 that from then on, May 14 in Wales would be known as "Dylan Day". Dylan Thomas' granddaughter Hannah Ellis broke the news in 2014 at an event at the National Library of Wales.

The Welsh Government says Dylan Day is aimed at building on the legacy



of the *Dylan Thomas 100 Festival* and came in response to requests to establish a day to remember Thomas' life and works. May 14 is the date on which *Under Milk Wood* was first read on stage at The Poetry Centre in New York in 1953 (Wales ONLINE)

.....& THE 2nd ANNUAL NOSON LAWEN

Sunday, 19 May 2019 at 5pm to celebrate Dylan Day

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 drink together! Join us! Sign-up at WelshWNE@gmail.com. Details on-line in February on the web site WelshWNE.org.

WSWNE NEWS

Celebrating with Plygain at the Christmas Luncheon

It was that wonderful time of year again. 2017's Christmas luncheon was such a success, it was decided to return to the cozy and warm atmosphere of the c.1789 Storrowton Tavern which was once owned by John Atkinson, a revolutionary war veteran. Attendance was high with old friends and new, reflecting a resurgence of interest in our Welsh roots and an overall love of Wales.



Member May Howes



Performers: Straford & Andrea Wild

Siblings Straford and Andrea Wild joined us from Upstate New York and Portland, Oregon, respectively, for a celebration of seasonal music accompanied by guitar.

For many of us, it was the first experience of the Welsh traditional hymns of PLYGAIN (pronounced Pl-ga (long i)-n. This is an old tradition in Wales, dating from the 16th century, of singing from 3-6am on Christmas morning. In these early hours, men gathered in rural churches singing, mainly unaccompanied, three or four part harmony carols in a service that went on for three hours or so. In later years women and children joined in Plygain services. When families



WSWNE Founder Jack Dixon and his wife Roe

returned home in the wee small hours, children usually returned to bed while festivities were prepared. It wasn't until after these services that family celebrations of Christmas Day commenced and the feasting would begin. The two Plygain sang at the luncheon were soulful, and they pulled at the hiraeth of our hearts. Straford and Andrea were warmly applauded and celebrated.

Our Welsh merchandise table featured many new exciting items. One winner luckily took home a chopping board depicting Penmon lighthouse off Anglesey, designed by Welsh artist Josie Russell, along with some Welsh cheese by Snowdonia Cheese

Company. Two lucky winners won our Welsh bags full of treasures from the "Land of Our Fathers". It was a glorious day of celebration of the season, our Welsh heritage and history.



Nadolig Llawen and Blwyddyn Newydd Dda, everyone.....By Susan Jenkins Meers

Our youngest guest Matthew draws the winning ticket

Note from the President, Susan Davies Sit:

An important paragraph in my after-Christmas lunch notes was omitted by me in error. Call it nerves, but the fact of the matter is that I missed saying some thank yous to some very important people. I want to extend my thanks right here:

"Thank you to Ed Brown, the manager of today's event for all you did to make today run smoothly and for videoing the day. It will appear like magic on our website soon. Thank you to Jason Ellsworth for loaning us his speaker. Thank you to Don Sit our AV guy, Leslie Spencer our photographer, Mark Spencer our newsletter proofreader and printer liaison, and to the entire WSWNE Board for all that you do to help make this Society so special."

EMPORIA, KANSAS' OLDEST HOME

On the eve of the American Civil War, a Welsh immigrant couple began gathering material for a home of native stone near the Cottonwood River south of Emporia. Today, that home is the oldest residence in Lyon County, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Richard Howe was born in 1826, at Newton, South Wales. His wife, Sarah Evans Howe was born in 1823, in Wales. They married in 1854, and that same year they sailed from Liverpool to New York, and then settled in Canada. They moved in 1858 to Kansas, occupying the wintry cabin on the Cottonwood River.

"In 1858 they built a 3-room, up-and-down house on the site now occupied by the home of their daughter, Mrs. Sarah Owen," reported the Emporia Gazette in 1921. "Before this house was built, the Howes lived for a part of their first winter in a cabin on the Cottonwood, so open that, when they awoke one morning, their bed was covered with snow." The newspaper relates that during this snowy morning baby Robert was placed in his high chair while his father held an umbrella over him, while Sarah swept the snow from the bed.

The cabin was called the "Fowler shanty," according to research by the Lyon County Historical Society, and was so named for the Welsh family that owned the property and offered its use to newcomers.

Later, the Howes made plans for a stone farmhouse, in an area where other Welsh immigrants had settled, in the rich bottomlands of the Cottonwood River. Although local hardwood for the floors and interior had been gathered in preparation for the build, the Civil War intervened and construction was delayed. Stonemason Richard Howe is listed in the local draft registry for September 1863. "By October, 1867 the home was nearing completion, and the Emporia Gazette reported that it "is now enclosed, and will soon be occupied by Mr. Howe."

The Welsh were among the least populous of the minority populations drawn to the region, according to the Encyclopedia of the Great Plains. About 8,000 Welsh immigrants were recorded in the Nineteenth Century on the plains in the United States and Canada. Many of the Welsh immigrants were miners, but others—such as those that settled near Emporia—were farmers, or aspired to be.

In Lyon County, Welsh immigrants represented about a quarter of the population from 1850 to about 1870, according to the historical society, with most settling near Emporia. Davies notes that many of the Welsh were known for their piety, and the churches they built became the focus of their cultural life. This was true as well of Emporia, where Richard Howe was a trustee of, and worked as a stonemason on, the congregational church.

The most information on the Howe family and their stone house, however, is in the Oct. 29, 1925 Gazette article. It includes a description of the house: in the parlor was a fireplace of “generous proportions” and from a hook there hung a copper kettle, which was brought from Wales. “The mantel is adorned by two tall brass candlesticks, also brought from Wales, and an old-fashioned Seth Thomas clock.”

Sarah Evans Howe, Richard’s wife, died in 1896, at the home. “She was devoted to her home,” the Emporia Daily Republican noted, “and was a woman who possessed a kind disposition and was loved and respected by all who knew her.” In 1906, the Gazette reported on Richard Howe’s eightieth birthday party. “Mr. Howe is a hale and hearty man,” the newspaper reported, “as is well known by most of the citizens of Emporia.” He told the newspaper correspondent a story about being called upon to defend Emporia from Confederate general Sterling Price, who raided Kansas in 1864. “One of the most interesting (stories) to the old settlers was the time all the able-bodied men in the place were called out to defend their homes, during the Price raid,” the Gazette reported. Richard Howe died in 1910. He was 83.

In 1986, the Howe House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. On Nov. 3, 1994, Sarah Genevieve Howe, the last grandchild of pioneers Richard and Sarah, died.

Edited from an article by the Welsh Society of Kansas. [Thank you WSK.](#)

WELSH SLATE REGION NOMINATED AS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE



The shattered slate quarry landscape of north-west Wales is to be nominated for world heritage status, a distinction enjoyed by sites such as the Great Barrier Reef, the Taj Mahal and the abandoned southern African kingdom of Mapungubwe. The UK government can put forward one site per calendar year to be considered for Unesco world heritage site status and on Tuesday the heritage minister Michael Ellis announced that it would be Gwynedd's slate landscape. The area is described as having "roofed the 19th-century world", with vast quantities of slate being sent around Britain as well as expanding towns across Europe, the US and Australia.

"Gwynedd's slate landscape is hugely important," Ellis said. "Its vast quarries and mines have not only shaped the countryside of the region but also countless buildings across the UK and the world. This is a crucial milestone on the road to becoming a world heritage site and the global recognition that brings. While the Unesco nomination process is very thorough, I believe this unique landscape would be a worthy addition to the list."

The landscape of quarries, mines, railways and villages will be formally presented as a nomination next year. The selection process culminates in a decision in 2021.

If successful, the landscape would be the fourth world heritage site in Wales, joining the Blaenavon industrial landscape, the 13th-century castles and town walls built in Gwynedd by King Edward I, and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. (TheGuardian.com)

Penrhyn slate quarry is one of several in north-west Wales that form part of the world heritage site status nomination. Photograph: RCAHMW/PA

NEW ATLAS BRINGS WALES' HISTORY ALIVE FOR CHILDREN

A new atlas created to teach Wales' children about the culture, geography and history of their nation was launched in November 2018. Available in Welsh and English, Wales on the Map, Cymru ar y Map has been created by author Elin Meek and artist Valérie Leblond and is now available in bookshops in the UK. The Society bought three for the Christmas luncheon and they sold out fast. **We will have three more of these books at our St. David's Day Luncheon.**

Valérie Leblond, who moved to Wales from France in 2007, and lives in Llangwryfon, near Aberystwyth, said she realised that there was a gap for this kind of book for her sons.

"The idea is to provide children – and grown ups! – with interesting and various facts about the country we live in, like history, geography, architecture, sports, culture, arts, and some odd anecdotes," she said. "The most interesting fact for me was about the Snowdon Hawkweed, which is one of the rarest plants on earth. It was also quite



Gresford Colliery

challenging to draw – as you can guess, there are not many pictures of it!”

The wealth of mythology and history related to each part of Wales meant that there was plenty that had to leave off the map as well, she says.

The book involved

creating around 500 individual paintings. They have now all been donated to the National Library in Aberystwyth.

“These pictures are all about Wales, and I thought they would be well looked after, and maybe of some use in the National Library’s collection, rather than getting damp, damaged and forgotten in a drawer at home,” Valériane Leblond said.

(Taken from article by Nation.Cymru, Americymry and Fly2Wales.com)

*CROESO/Welcome
to our new member :*

- **Beth Zbasnik** - Beth lives in eastern Ohio, and was searching for an active Welsh Society and found us! Her great grandfather David J. Davies was a coal-miner, who emigrated to Ohio. He was also a published poet. She is interested in Welsh food, and traveling to Wales. Look out for his poems in a future newsletter.

A Winter's Tale - A Poem By Dylan Thomas (...in part)

It is a winter's tale

That the snow blind twilight ferries over the lakes
And floating fields from the farm in the cup of the vales,
Gliding windless through the hand folded flakes,
The pale breath of cattle at the stealthy sail,

And the stars falling cold,
And the smell of hay in the snow, and the far owl
Warning among the folds, and the frozen hold
Flocked with the sheep white smoke of the farm house cowl
In the river wended vales where the tale was told.

Once when the world turned old
On a star of faith pure as the drifting bread,
As the food and flames of the snow, a man unrolled
The scrolls of fire that burned in his heart and head,
Torn and alone in a farm house in a fold

Of fields. And burning then
In his firelit island ringed by the winged snow
And the dung hills white as wool and the hen
Roosts sleeping chill till the flame of the cock crow
Combs through the mantled yards and the morning men

Stumble out with their spades,
The cattle stirring, the mousing cat stepping shy,
The puffed birds hopping and hunting, the milkmaids
Gentle in their clogs over the fallen sky,
And all the woken farm at its white trades,

He knelt, he wept, he prayed,
By the spit and the black pot in the log bright light
And the cup and the cut bread in the dancing shade,
In the muffled house, in the quick of night,
At the point of love, forsaken and afraid.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2018-2019):

President & Genealogy Workshop Coordinator:

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

Acting Vice President: (OPEN POSITION. Please join us!)

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 (2018-2019):

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

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

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

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: ___Vacant due to relocation of Hugh James___

Past President: Dr. Tom Bernard (MA)

Founder: John Dixon (MA)

Membership List, Email Manager, Newsletter Production: Mark Spencer (MA)

Honorary Member: Trey Mc Cain (MS & WALES)

=====



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 but can be prorated, call Treasurer, see # above)

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

Membership benefits are the same; dues amount reflects level of support.

Today's date: _____ **Names (list household members):**

Address _____

Home phone # _____

Cell phone # _____

Email address (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Newsletter January, 2019: For Treasurer's use only: Date received: _____



Cardiff City Center 2018 by Karl Smith, WSWNE Member