

The Welsh Society of Western New England

Cymdeithas Cymreig
Lloegr Newydd
Gorllewino



Website: WelshWNE.org / Email: WelshWNE@gmail.com / FaceBook: [WSWNE](https://www.facebook.com/WSWNE)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. Feb 8, 22 - 6 Nations
Rugby

Sat. Feb 15 - Genealogy
Workshop

Sat. Feb 22 - Welsh
Conversation group

Wed. Feb 26 - Penderyn
Whisky and Sea Salt Tasting

Sat. Feb 22 - Sat. March 7 -
WALES WEEK IN NEW
ENGLAND 2020

Sat. Feb 29 - Sun. March 1 -
Welsh Language CLASSES

**MARCH - Daffydd, Daffodils,
Dues!** Our treasurer reminds
us that our dues are due!
Please send yours in by March
1st or bring to March 7
luncheon. See page 10

Sat. March 7 - St David's Day
luncheon

Sat. Mar 14 - 6 Nations Rugby

Sat. Mar 28 - Welsh
Conversation group

Sat. April 18 - Genealogy
Workshop

Annual St. David's Day Luncheon

Sat., March 7, 2020: 11:00AM - 3:00PM at
the Nutmeg Restaurant, East Windsor, CT

Join us to celebrate St. David's Day at 11AM for pre-lunch conversation & drinks from the cash bar, with hors d'oeuvres including cheese platter and vegetable cruditee. Gather with old friends and meet new ones. There will be time to shop at our tables: Welsh mugs, ties, music, children's books, keychains and more. **You could also win a bottle of Penderyn Whisky or Welsh Gin.** Have your photo taken with two of our Board members in Welsh national dress, and find your Welsh roots on our map!

**The presenter this year is SIMON HAYES,
from Wales and Rhode Island, of the
ØRSTED COMPANY. His talk is entitled,
"THE POWER OF WIND ENERGY IN
WALES AND NEW ENGLAND".**

Wind energy has become the preferred solution for our renewable energy needs across the world, and in Wales it is the leader in providing energy. Join us to learn how Wales, and now New England, are working to solve our energy needs with wind power.

Lunch will be served promptly at 12:00 noon, following a video message from the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford. There will be a brief Annual Meeting during



which the Board for 2020-2021 will be nominated. After the presentation, we will sing traditional Welsh songs accompanied by member Straford Wild on the guitar, and end with the Welsh National Anthem. If you are interested in joining the Board, or volunteering in any way, please email us at WelshWNE@gmail.com.

Please return the RSVP form (page 11) by Monday, March 2.

Directions to the Nutmeg Restaurant, 297 S. Main St, East Windsor, CT

From Hartford, CT and points south:

- Drive on I-84 East, then take Exit 53 to merge to US44 East.
- After 1.04 miles, take left onto Main St., Route 5/44 East.
- After 7.47 miles you will arrive at The Nutmeg Restaurant on right.

From Springfield, MA and points north:

- Drive I-91 South. Exit 44 to East Windsor, CT on Route 5.
- Drive 4.21 miles and the Nutmeg Restaurant will be on your left.

WSWNE EVENTS

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

There are no changes to our membership fees in 2020 - memberships are \$25-\$100 for all members living at the same address. Your fees are essential, as they are our only source of income to cover Society expenses for our newsletters and events. You may pay your fees at the St David's Day luncheon with cash or a cheque, or you may mail your check directly to our treasurer with the membership form (page 10.)

GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS

Our Genealogy Workshops meet every other month to learn how to research Welsh roots. We meet from 10:15am - 5:00pm, and you may come for the whole day or any part thereof. Bring your Welsh family tree information and a lunch dish to share if you can. For info and to RSVP, email WelshWNE@gmail.com.

- **Sat., Feb 15** - Regular Workshop
- **Sat., April 18** - Regular Workshop

PENDERYN WELSH WHISKY TASTING & LECTURE PLUS HALEN MÔN WELSH SALT TASTING - Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020



Where: M&R Liquors (upstairs) 206 Buckland Road, South Windsor, CT (opposite Evergreen Walk Mall)

When: Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Time: 4:00PM - 6:00PM

First we'll have a very interesting Halen Môn Sea Salt tasting with samples and a presentation, plus salt giveaways and bags of Halen Môn salt for sale. This will be followed by a lecture from Joshua Hatton of ImPex, the importer of Penderyn Whisky, about the making of

Penderyn. We will taste four Penderyn whiskies, and light finger food will be available.

RSVP (numbers attending please) to InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com. Wait? did I forget something? Oh, the cost? **ONLY \$5**. Bring your friends and family! **We need to know how many people are coming so RSVP please...**



RUGBY - 6 NATIONS CUP - 2020

Rugby's greatest championship, between Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, Italy, and England, will take place over seven weekends in 2020, beginning on Saturday, Feb 1st, with Wales defending their 2019 win. Want to see some of the games? Check our schedule:

Feb 1st (Sat) - Wales v Italy

Feb 8th (Sat) - Ireland v. Wales

Feb 22rd (Sat) - Wales v. France

March 7th (Sat) - England v Wales.

March 14th (Sat) - Wales v Scotland.

To watch with us, email WelshWNE@gmail.com to RSVP.





Kicking off this month is **WALES WEEK IN NEW ENGLAND 2020**, with similar promotions taking place in London, New York, Washington, New Mexico, Los Angeles, Ottawa, Chicago, Newcastle England, and Paris, among others. It's our chance to promote Wales and Welsh history and culture globally. Here in New England there are Welsh events being held as follows:

• **Welsh Society of Western New England:** Genealogy Workshop, Welsh Language Classes, St. David's Day Luncheon, Welsh Conversation Group, Penderyn Whisky and Halen Môn Sea Salt tasting and lecture, and watching the 6 Nations Rugby games live.

- **Rhode Island Welsh Society:** St. David's Day Lunch.
- **Poultney Area St. David's Society:** St. David's Day Dinner and Welsh Church Service
- **UK Gourmet, Bethel, CT:** daily promotion of Welsh products and food
- **The Copper Kettle:** promotion of delicious Welsh Cakes
- **Cymrodorian Boston:** St. David's Day Event

A section of our own website has all events listed - WelshWNE.org.

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' grand-daughter

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).

MAGICAL STRINGS HOUSE CONCERT - Sun., April 19, at 2pm in Glastonbury, CT

The Seattle, Washington Celtic harp and hammered dulcimer duo *Magical Strings* (Philip and Pam Boulding) will perform a special WSWNE house concert at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 19, in Glastonbury, CT.

Since 1978, Philip and Pam have drawn a loyal following worldwide, captivated by their energetic arrangements of Celtic music and their own engaging compositions which intertwine Celtic roots with classical and world music.

With their Celtic harps, hammered dulcimers, whistles, concertina, and

button accordion, they have performed throughout the United States, as well as Canada, Ireland, and Japan. They have recorded 21 albums on four labels.

Hear them capture the poetry of the enchanted Celtic lands in their haunting original compositions like *CROSSING TO SKELLIG* <https://youtu.be/AZ6eTZmFems> or their ringing jigs, reels, and hornpipes <https://youtu.be/1tO2Ji-CoX4>.

Their warm and playful presence is perfect for a house concert. Imagine just you and a few other folks spending an afternoon with them in an intimate living room setting. Light refreshments will also be available.

Early paid reservations (\$20 per person) are the only way to be sure of a seat, since there will be so few available! The home address of the host and parking details will then be provided. Direct questions to InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com.

To reserve your seats, first RSVP to InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com. Put Magical Strings on the subject line. Include your name, phone number, and the number of reservations requested. You will receive a reply with the payment instructions, house concert address, and parking details. Then follow the payment instructions as soon as possible; receipt of your check is what insures your seats for the concert.



CÔR Y PENRHYN CONCERT

Saturday, August 29, 2020 at 5PM - West Hartford, CT: Save the Date!

This 45-strong Male Voice Choir from Bethesda, Gwynedd is on its way to perform as the featured choir at the 2020 North American Festival of Wales in Philadelphia, and the Welsh Society of Western New England is honored to host them here in West Hartford, CT for **one performance only**.

Tickets will be on sale starting in June 2020, and more details will follow, but please save the date. Discounted hotel room rates will be available for out of town guests.

The choir has its roots in the slate quarrying village of Bethesda in the Ogwen Valley, which lies on the edge of the Snowdonia National Park. The choir can trace its origins back to the

1880's when a united choir was formed from a number of smaller groups that existed on the various galleries or levels in the mighty Penrhyn Slate Quarry. Indeed, that choir travelled to Chicago for the World Trade Fair in 1893 under the name Penrhyn Male Choir. When the choir was originally formed, most of the choir members were slate quarrymen, as a workforce of almost 3000 were employed at the quarry, but that number has now shrunk to under 200 and the choir has to draw its members from all walks of life.

The Penrhyn Male Choir is one of the busiest in Wales, with around 30 concerts a year, and has taken part in numerous projects with other musicians, dancers and artists. Its latest CD called "Gwlad" contains a catholic and eclectic selection of songs from all over the world, although the emphasis, naturally, is on native Welsh music.

In 2015, they again travelled to America, and sang at the Washington National Cathedral, Poultney, Vermont, and Columbus, Ohio, as part of the North American Festival of Wales. As part of this visit, the choir created a musical presentation of video, images, and narration which tells the story of quarrymen from Bethesda who emigrated to America during the "Streic Fawr" or Great Strike at the Penrhyn Quarry which lasted for 3 years (1900 - 1903.) The choir intends to use this presentation as part of its concerts, and we look forward to it.

If you would like to help with the concert, and we do need it, please contact us (Welsh cake baking/set-up/ushering/parking.) Do you live in a community where you could post a flyer? If you own a company or work for one which might like to buy an advert in the concert program, please be in touch by email: WelshWNE@gmail.com. Tickets will be available on June 1, 2020.



A little History: The Welsh Wars of Edward 1- John Edward Morris

Trivet gives a description of the massacre near Conwy in the third week of January 1295.

'The Earl of Warwick, hearing that the Welsh were massed in great numbers in a certain plain between two forests, took with him a picked body of men-at-arms, together with crossbowmen and archers, and surprising them by night, surrounded them on all sides. They planted the butts of their spears on the ground, and turned the points against the charging cavalry so as to defend themselves from their rush. But the earl placed a crossbowman between each two men-at-arms, and when the greater part of the spear-armed Welsh had been brought down by the bolts of the crossbows, he charged the rest with his squadron of horse, and inflicted upon them a loss greater, it is believed, than any which had been experienced by them in the past wars.'

Edward decided to construct a second bridge across the Menai, this time in the vicinity of Bangor. On 7 February the first payment of £8 was given to Master James of St. George then at Conwy, towards the cost of making 'clayes' and pontoons in the Wirral, and buying pitch and other items at Chester. Master James returned to England, and on 4 March a messenger was dispatched to him on the Wirral, 'or elsewhere where he makes the king's pontoons, to take all the boats he can find in Wirral and elsewhere on the coast to carry the pontoons to the king at Aberconwy'. As the work continued throughout the month, Master James and Master Richard, the Engineer, ordered the felling of 2300 trees belonging to the abbot of St. Werburgh's and others in the forests of Cheshire. At the beginning of April, Master James was in Bangor supervising the assembly of the bridge, and on the 10th the King was able to use the new structure to cross to Anglesey.

Edward made Llanfaes his headquarters for the next twenty-six days, inspecting the site and making arrangements for a castle to be built on a new site by the port, two miles to the west of the town. Building work restarted at Caernarfon on Sunday 5 June.

Edward returned to Beaumaris on 10 July, to inspect the progress of the works. A few days later he crossed back to the mainland, rode past Garth Celyn, and started what was to be his last ever journey out of Wales. As security, Edward took one hundred and seventy hostages, and despatched them to various castles throughout England. According to the Dunstable annalist, Edward warned the Welsh people that he would exterminate the entire nation if they ever presumed to resist his authority again.

Sir Henry Latham's galley and the other ships in his naval force remained in the Menai Strait until mid-July, after which time the fleet was disbanded. A reward of five hundred marks was offered to anyone who brought to the king, alive or dead, the 'Madok ap Lewelin qui se fist prince.'

John de Havering was commissioned, as Justiciar of North Wales, to maintain law and order and to supervise the work of the castle building. Within two months he petitioned to receive the five hundred marks as he then held Madoc ap Llywelyn in custody.



Sun 07 Feb



WALES

KO
10:00
EST



IRELAND



WALES TRIP FEBRUARY 2021

SEE TWO 6 NATIONS RUGBY GAMES !!!
(12 nights in South Wales and Scotland with lots of free time)

So..... we had this great idea.... travel in February 2021 to Cardiff, Wales and Edinburgh, Scotland to see two 6 Nations Rugby games! Crazy? Maybe, but it's on! Tentative plans:

- Travel from Hartford/Springfield airport to Cardiff, via Dublin, on the evening of Thursday, February 4th 2021, arriving morning of Friday, Feb 6th.
- Watch Wales v Ireland on Sunday Feb. 7th in Cardiff. Spend a total of 7 nights in the Cardiff area.
- Travel by plane on Thursday, Feb 11th to Edinburgh, Scotland.
- Watch Scotland v Wales on Saturday, Feb 13, with a total of 5 nights in Edinburgh.
- Fly back from Edinburgh to Hartford via Dublin on Tuesday, Feb 16th, arriving the same day.
- Spaces are Limited so don't delay in signing up.

So..... if you are even remotely interested in this trip, you must RSVP to WSWNE Secretary Mark Taylor at: marktaylorfromwales@gmail.com so we can begin planning.

The cost is estimated to be approximately \$1790 per person and includes rugby tickets, hotel accommodation, vehicle rental and all flights.

(cost is approximate and may vary slightly)



Sat 13 Feb



SCOTLAND

KO
11:45
EST



WALES



A little more History: Early Humans in Wales

The Neanderthals

The first evidence we have for humans in Wales comes from the site of Pontnewydd Cave (Denbighshire). Here, excavations have identified the remains of an early form of Neanderthal that lived around 230,000 years ago. Neanderthals were hunters, and their tools show that they needed to get close to their prey in order to kill. Neanderthal skeletons excavated around Europe have a very high number of broken bones, suggesting that they may often have come off the worst from these encounters.

The Neanderthals at Pontnewydd Cave made tools using the local stones picked up near the cave, including cutting tools, scrapers, and hand axes. Hand axes have been discovered at Coygan Cave in Carmarthenshire - a site now destroyed by quarrying.

Climate change

Coygan Cave was used briefly as a lookout point by Neanderthals some time between 60,000 and 40,000 years ago. The cave was then used as a den by hyenas as the last glacial age began. It is possible that this deterioration in the climate is the reason for the extinction of the Neanderthals, who died out around 35,000 years ago.

Modern Humans

In 1823, William Buckland of Oxford University discovered a skeleton in this cave in South Wales. The bones were stained red and were accompanied by bracelets and shell beads. Buckland believed that the body was that of a woman, who had lived during the Roman period. Modern science has now proved this appealing theory to be wrong, as the skeleton actually belongs to a 25 year old man buried 26,000 years ago.

Modern humans, like us, first appear in Europe about 60,000 years ago. Our appearance is marked by the use of new types of stone tools made from long thin blades struck from a block of flint. These blades were much more versatile than those of the Neanderthals.

Around 18,000 years ago the ice sheets began a slow retreat, and the animals and people returned. We believe they had returned by around 14,500 years ago, but the earliest evidence from Wales dates to around 12,500 years ago at caves such as Paviland and Hoyles Mouth.

With the end of the last glacial period, about 11,500 years ago, the evidence for people living in Wales increases greatly and changes in character. This date is used to mark the end of the Early Stone Age (*Palaeolithic*) and the start of the Middle Stone Age.

by <https://museum.wales/articles/2007-05-11/The-Cave-Men-of-Ice-Age-Wales/>



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2019-2020):

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

Vice President: Susan Jenkins Meers (CT) (860) 334-5119

SJMeers43@gmail.com

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

Secretary: Mark Taylor (860) 303-1625 marktaylorfromwales@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE (2019-2020):

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

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

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

Magdalen Dowden (MA) (508) 888-1583 magdalendowden@sbcglobal.net

Glyn Dowden (MA) (508) 888-1583 glyndowden@sbcglobal.net

Chaplain: Vacant

Past President: Dr. Tom Bernard (MA)

Founder: John Dixon (MA)

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

Honorary Founding Member: Shirley Keifer (CT)

Honorary member: Trey McCain (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, one per family at same address):

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

Today's date: _____ NEW MEMBER: ___ RENEWAL: _____

Names (list household members):

Address _____

Home phone # _____

Cell phone # _____

Email address (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Your Welsh Interests: _____

Newsletter Spring, 2020: For Treasurer's use only: Date received: _____

RSVP: ST. DAVID'S DAY LUNCHEON March 7, 2020

Price includes hors d'oeuvres, lunch, tax and tip.

Lunch Menu

Leek & Potato Soup with Fresh Baked Rolls

Choice of Entree:

Salmon in a Basil Jacqueline Sauce OR

Grilled Chicken with Wild Mushroom Ragu OR

Vegetarian Eggplant Parmesan OR

Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus (add \$3) OR

Children's meal: Chicken Fingers & Fries

& Apple Strudel with Coffee or Tea

All above served with vegetable and potato

Members: \$30; Guests: \$33; Children under age 12: \$18
(Prime Rib plus \$3). Includes hors d'oeuvres, lunch, tax and tip.



Names: _____

Contact phone#: _____

- Menu Choices: # _____ SALMON
- # _____ CHICKEN
- # _____ PRIME RIB (+\$3)
- # _____ VEGETARIAN
- # _____ CHILDREN'S MEAL (age 12 & under)

_____ MEMBERS @ \$30 (or Prime Rib \$33) = \$ _____

_____ GUESTS @ \$33 (or Prime Rib \$36) = \$ _____

_____ CHILD @ \$18 = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

TICKET QUESTIONS? InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com

**Return by Monday, March 2, 2020. Check payable to WSWNE to:
Mary Pallos, 1542 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033**

Summer valley in Carrog, near Corwen, North Wales, August 2019 by Susan Davies Sit

