

Croeso! — Welcome!



The Welsh Society of Western New England ***Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd Gorllewino***

November 2023 WelshWNE.org WelshWNE@gmail.com FaceBook: WSWNE

A Message From Our President **Susan Davies Sit**

As I am writing this, we had the first frost of the season this morning and some of us in Connecticut and Massachusetts had snow yesterday morning too. Winter is coming! As we begin the slide into snow season, I am really looking forward to our annual Christmas Holiday Luncheon on Saturday, December 2, always a special and popular event. You can read about the music and quiz we have planned, inside this newsletter. The room at Storrowton Tavern is so cozy and inviting, I can't wait to see you there.

Our Welsh Society has grown so much the past few years as members join us from all over the USA and Canada, many to participate in our Welsh Genealogy workshops and our Welsh Conversation sessions. We are 80 families strong now, which is amazing. We do want to hear from you about what type events you'd like us to plan, which entertainment you'd like, which speakers to listen to, topics for Zoom presentations, etc. Please send your suggestions to us at WelshWNE@gmail.com.

Our Newest Members *Croeso — Welcome*

- **Ian Gresham** of Camden, ME
- **Janet Hudson** of Northampton, MA - Interested in Welsh immigrants into eastern Ohio & west PA arriving late 1800's; family were miners.
- **Elinor Kelliher** of Ludlow, MA - Lived in Aberystwyth for four years and attended a Welsh-language secondary school. My mother was Martha Davies who was very involved with WSWNE.
- **Sylvia Nelson** of Bainbridge Island, WA - Interested in Monmouthshire genealogy. My grandfather was born at Cwm Farm in Shirenewton.

Meet Our Member—Warren Morgan



My partner, Christin, and I live in the beautiful rural town of Leverett, Massachusetts. We are both retired from UMass Amherst Health Services where I worked as a family physician and administrator and she managed a busy multi-specialty clinic. In retirement, we find great joy in being with our four children and six grandchildren. We also enjoy the many types of birds (over 40 species) and other animals (deer, bear, coyote, porcupine, and even moose) that visit our property, as well as gardening, hiking, and kayaking.

During my childhood, I was made aware that my mother's English ancestors were very early settlers in America, but there was no discussion of my father's ancestral origin. When my father died, I became the custodian of four file boxes of his family records, tape recordings of oral history, and vague references to unknown Welsh ancestors.

My Father's trove of records also included a genealogical record going back only as far as the Civil War. About that time, I joined WSWNE and found friendship, inspiration, and guidance with members of the genealogy group. After hours of sleuthing, I found that my Welsh 9th great-grandfather (Miles Morgan) immigrated to America in 1636 and played a key role in the founding of Springfield, MA. With further work and great good luck, I was ultimately able to trace my ancestors in Wales to the year 970 in Glamorganshire. I hope to someday visit Wales and explore some of the areas where my ancestors lived.

Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 2nd, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM



Our Annual Christmas luncheon will be held at Storowton Tavern in West Springfield, Massachusetts.

11:00 AM Social Hour Meet friends old and new; enjoy cheese and crackers, crudités, and fresh fruit in our private room decorated in the Christmas tradition. Cash bar available. This year, our social

hour will include Celtic harp and flute accompaniment by the duo *Stringwynde*, our featured post-luncheon musical program presenters.

12:00 noon Festive Luncheon complete with the popping of British Christmas crackers. Please see insert in this issue for menu.

Musical Program featuring a special concert of seasonal Celtic music performed by the duo *Stringwynde*. Harpist Darhon Rees-Rohrbacher, is of Welsh heritage, a WSWNE member, and a long-time leadership member of the Welsh Society of the Capitol District in Albany, New York. The second member of the duo is flutist Melanie Chirignan. Both artists hold graduate degrees in music and their performance is sure to please.



Darhon will discuss various types of harps, including the iconic Welsh triple harp, and their significance to Welsh music as well as provide commentary about some of the pieces *Stringwynde* will perform.

Limericks Write your own Welsh or Christmas themed limerick to share or read one that we provide.

Pricing: Members \$34, Guests \$37, children's meal \$18

Reservation deadline is Saturday, November 25.

Please see the insert in this issue for directions and reservations.

For complete details, visit WelshWNE.org/events.

Owain Glyndwr Celebration

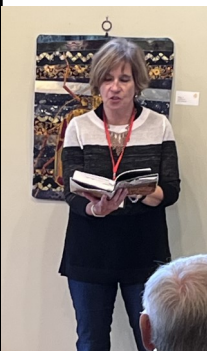
By Magdalen Dowden, WSWNE Board Member

On a sunny September afternoon, 28 members of WSWNE gathered at the beautiful Lost Acres Vineyard in North Granby, Connecticut where we celebrated Prince Owain Glyndwr Day, a tradition we have honored for many years now.

Owners of the vineyard, Michelle and Kevin, introduced us to a taste of six of their delicious wines while we sampled a selection of Welsh cheeses accompanied by red and green grapes, Welsh pickles, savory jams, and an assortment of breads and crackers.

I joined our President, Susan Davies Sit, in front of a display of the battle flags of Glyndwr. Together we read a short synopsis of Owain Glyndwr's revolt against the English Crown in an attempt to preserve Wales for the Welsh. He was the last true Welsh Prince of Wales.

The highlight of the afternoon was a presentation by WSWNE member Pam Petro who introduced us to her book, *The Long Field: Wales and the Presence of Absence, a Memoir*. This fascinating and highly entertaining book was published 2021 in the UK and named a Travel Book of the Year by *The Financial Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph*. It was also a finalist for the Wales Book of the Year Award.



Pam resides in Massachusetts, and her work has appeared in the *New York Times* and *Atlantic*, as well as several publications in Europe. She is a professor of creative writing at Smith College in Massachusetts and at Lesley University's MFA program. She is also co-director of the Dylan Thomas Summer School at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, where she is a fellow. If you wish to learn more about Pam, visit her website, pamelapetro.com. Her books, of which there are four titles, are also available at Amazon.

We all felt very privileged to listen to Pam read excerpts from her book. She also autographed copies for several of our members.

As always, a very pleasant time was had by everybody; we look forward to December and Yuletide celebrations with WSWNE.

Poetry

Many of you will remember Welsh-born Adele Evershed who read her Eisteddfod winning poem from the 2022 North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) at our St. David's Day luncheon in March. Adele won the Eisteddfod English Language Poetry Competition again at the 2023 NAFOW and has graciously shared her winning poem with us.



Hiraeth

(Something Lost in the Translation)

She came from Ystradgynlais / and was put in Mrs. Francis's class with me /
Mam said it was an outrage / that she'd never be able to swim in the A stream /
when she didn't have a word of English / but Mrs. Francis stood in the council
elections / for Plaid no less and spoke Welsh / so it sort of made sense

Mrs Francis never won / and when Dad read the results / he'd say / 'that woman's
twp' / he spoke Welsh you see / but only sparingly / like meat on our plates on
a Sunday / Mam was from Cardiff / too posh for chopping / her only Welsh in
the singing or praying / so I grew up with my bara beunyddiol / sopping in
dripping and Duw

Then I left for less greener pastures

All these years later / sitting in a poetry workshop / I'm part of a Connecticut
pastoral / all skittish deer / falling leaves / drinking an oat milk shaken espressos /
as I listen to a lady read her poem / it's called Hiraeth / and although she's not
Welsh / she had just come across the word in wiktionary / I feel an unsettling

The lilting way she speaks / splits the burlap / I have carefully wound around
myself / her soft stretched vowels soak my bareroots / and I am planted back /
in my Gran's cawl damp kitchen / with Bampi's lamp in pride of place on the
mantel / and it's all yck a fi / damn oh dee / I'll be there in a minute now

And for that longest minute I'm home

Y Wyddor—The Alphabet

By Christine McSorley

Welsh language workshop facilitator for Cymdeithas Madog and WSWNE

**a, b, c, ch, d, dd, e, f,
ff, g, ng, h, i, j, l, ll, m,
n, o, p, ph, r, rh, s, t,
th, u, w, y.**

I am a great believer that if you know the sounds the letters make, it will help you pronounce an unfamiliar word. Looking at the Welsh alphabet you can see that there are some letters missing like “q” and “z” but there are other letters like “ch” “ff” “ng” and “ll” that are unfamiliar.

Knowing the sounds works with languages like French or Spanish, and especially for Welsh. The Welsh language is quite phonetical.

“What you see is what you say”

If you know “Y Wyddor,” most of the time you have a great chance of saying the word correctly. Practicing “Y Wyddor” also helps to shift the mind to start speaking in Welsh as well as loosening the tongue and jaw, ready to speak Welsh.

To help with Welsh pronunciation, practice “Y Wyddor.” Choose words that start with certain letters and practice them. This practice can be done anywhere whenever you have a few minutes free.

Most of the sessions I facilitate incorporate reciting “Y Wyddor” and learning new words that begin with those letters, and perhaps creating a sentence to include a word starting with that letter.

I look forward to you joining me sometime to practice “Y Wyddor” by participating in Level 1 Welsh Conversation or if you have been learning for a year, join Level 2. See next page for details.

Zoom Activities with WSWNE

Welsh Conversation-on-Zoom

There is space in all three levels; if you would like to participate, please go to WelshWNE.org/events to sign up.

Level 1: Beginners Welsh Conversation

Twice monthly on Wednesdays from 5 to 5:30 PM

November 1 & 15, December 6 & 13, January 17 & 31

Level 2: Intermediate Welsh Conversation

Twice monthly on Mondays from 5 to 5:45 PM

November 6 & 20, December 4 & 18, January 8 & 22

Level 3: Intermediate Plus Conversation

Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 PM through December 12, reconvening January 9

Genealogy-on-Zoom

Mondays 11 AM to 12:30 PM

November 27, December 11, January 15 & 29

This group shares research tips, suggestions, and success stories.

Concurrent in-person meetings in Glastonbury, CT from 11 AM to 4:30 PM on November 27, December 11, and January 15 .

You must RSVP for in-person events at WelshWNE.org/events. Write to infoWelshWNE@gmail.com to request the Zoom link if you have not participated before.

North American Festival of Wales

Each year the North American Festival of Wales is held in a different location over the Labor Day Weekend. Future venues include:

2024 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2025 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

2026 Springfield, Massachusetts

Ninnau: Your Source for Welsh News

To keep up with news from Wales and around North America, please subscribe to Ninnau: the North American Welsh newspaper.

6 issues per year at \$30 printed or \$20 digital. www.Ninnau.com

Cofiwch Dryweryn



When the Cofiwch Dryweryn mural was vandalized in 2019, it prompted a spate of similar murals to be painted in solidarity with the original artwork sited on a wall near Llanrhystud in Ceredigion.

The original mural, which was quickly repaired by volunteers, commemorates the drowning of the village of Capel

Celyn and the Tryweryn valley near Bala in 1965 in order to supply water for the city of Liverpool. Eight hundred acres of land was drowned to create the Llyn Celyn reservoir, which included the school, the post office, the chapel and the cemetery.

The latest mural to appear is in Wymore, Nebraska, population 1,400, However Wymore's significance in the history of Wales is huge.

Wymore was founded in 1881 as a railroad town, on land donated by Sam Wymore. Known as the Welsh capital of the Great Plains, it became home to generations of immigrants from Wales, who continued their culture in day-to-day life, founding a Welsh-language church, school and cemetery, as well as preserving the Welsh traditions of poetry, dance, and music.

In 2000, the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre was founded to preserve the legacy of these early settlers. It has since expanded to include a museum, an archive of genealogical records, and one of the largest Welsh-language libraries in North America.

While one side of the building features a stunning mural depicting Welsh emigration from Wales to Nebraska, the other side has been blank – until now.

A Cofiwch Dryweryn was added to the building by Robert Humphries, who has been involved with the center for around a decade, as a board member, historical researcher, and Welsh-language translator.

Originally from Newport, he now lives in Wisconsin, driving 500 miles to Wymore several times a year. On his latest trip he came bearing a couple tins of paint.

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“On one wall, overlooking our memorial garden, we already have a stunning mural depicting Welsh emigration from Wales to Nebraska,” said Robert. “However, the wall on the other side has been blank for a long time.

“I was inspired by the popularity of Cofiwch Dryweryn murals in Wales in recent years, and have seen the original Tryweryn wall near Llanrhystud,” he said. “As a Welshman, I recognize the significance of the drowning of Capel Celyn and the symbolism of this message in our culture.”

Robert adds that he also took inspiration from the other Cofiwch Dryweryn murals in the US – one in Rio Grande in Ohio, which has ties with Wales through immigration and two in Chicago, both created by David Parry, the man behind the Welsh expat group Chicago Tafia.

“David stopped by the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre a few months ago and mentioned to me on Facebook that there was a perfect spot for one on that wall,” said Robert.

“So, a few weeks ago, while visiting Wymore, we broke out some red and white paint and made it happen! I painted the lettering, and the red background was painted by Gary Colgrove, husband of our board president, Gwenith Closs Colgrove. Her ancestors came to Nebraska almost 150 years ago. But she still stays in contact with cousins in Wales, and regularly visits.



“While at the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre we focus on the history of Welsh people who emigrated to the United States over a century ago, our Cofiwch Dryweryn mural connects us to the experiences of people in Wales today.”

You can learn more about the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre at GreatPlainsWelsh.org.

Article adapted from:

nation.cymru/culture/a-cofiwch-dryweryn-mural-has-appeared-in-a-remote-part-of-america/

Member Obituaries

Mary Jane Ewart passed away in the early morning hours of September 11, 2023, with her children holding her hands. She was 102 years old and is survived by her daughter Margaret, son Robert, and three grandchildren. A lifelong learner, Mary was a participant in WSWNE's Welsh conversation sessions.



Mary was born in Slatington, Pennsylvania, on January 5, 1921, the town to which her father emigrated from Wales. The family moved to Ohio and then to Carroll, Nebraska, to answer her father's ministry call. She was valedictorian of her high school and went on to study at Hastings College and Case Western University where she earned a Masters in Nursing Education. Specializing in Tuberculosis Nursing, she worked in a TB Sanitarium and taught at Yale University and later at Albany Medical Center. Her career led her to work for the National League of Nursing and to rise to Bureau Chief in the NYS Education Department. In this role, Mary traveled all over the world to learn about the educational systems of other countries.

Read Mary's complete obituary at <https://reillyandsonfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/762/Mary-Ewart/obituary.html#tribute-start>.



Jason Ellsworth peacefully entered Eternal life on Friday, September 22, 2023 surrounded by his loving family. Jason was born April 3, 1976, the son of Daniel Howe and Susan Jenkins Ellsworth. Born prematurely and weighing less than two pounds, Jason was given a less than 10% chance of survival. He did survive and became a larger than life man who touched thousands of lives through his courage, spirit, joy, sense of humor, and especially his music.

Jason was a gifted musician, singer, and songwriter. During his youth, he performed with Very Special Arts (VSA) which provides people with disabilities an outlet to showcase their artistic talents. Through VSA, Jason had the privilege to perform with numerous country artists including The Charlie Daniels Band, Alabama, The Gatlin Brothers, and Tammy Wynette. He also performed in many famous venues including The Kennedy Center, The Grand Ole' Opry, and The White House. Jason volunteered his time and talents at CRIS Radio for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

He is survived by his mother, WSWNE member Susan Meers, sisters Margaret and Elizabeth, nieces, and nephews. For the complete obituary, please see <https://smallandpietrasfuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/5279823/Ellsworth-Jason/index.php>

Welsh Cooking

Anglesey Eggs

6 small leeks, chopped and cooked

1 lb. (3¼ c) hot mashed potatoes

6 T butter

Salt and black pepper

1 T flour

4 oz. hot milk

3 oz. Cheddar cheese, grated

8 hard boiled eggs, halved

2 T fresh breadcrumbs

Grated nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350°.

Combine leeks, mashed potatoes, and 3 T butter in bowl. Season with salt and pepper before beating well. Place in buttered, ovenproof dish.

Reserve 1 T butter and a little cheese for sprinkling over the finished dish. Make cheese sauce by melting 2 T butter in a small pan. Add flour, stir and cook for 2 minutes over low heat. Stir in milk, add cheese. Simmer, stirring until thickened.

Arrange the hard boiled eggs over the potato and leek mixture. Pour the cheese sauce over. Mix reserved cheese with bread crumbs and sprinkle over the sauce. Dot with reserved butter and grate a little nutmeg over.

Bake 15-20 minutes until nicely browned. Serve with broccoli or peas.

Cream Scones

1¾ c flour

Pinch of salt

1 tsp baking powder

1 oz butter

1 egg

1¼ c sour cream

Combine flour, salt, and baking powder in bowl. Rub in butter until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. In separate bowl, beat egg into sour cream. Make a well in the center of flour mixture and pour in the egg and cream. Mix well and knead lightly. Roll out about ½" thick and cut into small rounds. Bake on a griddle or in hot oven for fifteen minutes.

*Recipes adapted from **Cymru ar Blât—Wales on a Plate** by Nerys Howell.*

NAFOW

By Susan Davies Sit, WSWNE President

I decided to go to the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) one day earlier than usual this year because I wanted to go on the planned tour on the Thursday. Boy, am I glad I made that decision.

We boarded buses in Lincoln, Nebraska bright and early for the hour's drive through fields and fields of corn and soy. Farms dotted the landscape with little else seen apart from the occasional small town.

Our first stop was at the Homestead National Historical Park ([nps.gov/home](https://www.nps.gov/home)). Too little time there but what an amazing hour. We learned

about the Native Americans who were displaced from their homelands and the people who were given free land on which to settle. Houses made of mud and/or wood were built and the land farmed. In 1862 The Land Act offered 160 acres of public land to Homesteaders. The further west you would go, the more land was given. Only about 60% of homesteaders



survived to become long term residents. Many farms failed, though in other areas crops grew well. Almost every state west of Pennsylvania had land homesteaded.



In the area now called Wymore, a large group of Welsh Homesteaders settled beginning in the 1860s. The first Welsh school was conducted in a private home until 1878 when land was donated for a school house. The one-room school house we visited was originally located about two miles south of Wymore at the

north end of the Welsh settlement centered on the Bethel Welsh church. This was the first school to be built by the Welsh community for the education of their children.

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Next we visited the Bethel Chapel cemetery where four descendants of immigrants stood by their ancestors' headstones in costume, telling their ancestor's life story while holding framed photos of their ancestors. It was not only wonderfully done, it was moving to hear their stories. This part of the trip was the highlight for many of us.

Our last stop was at the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre in Wymore (greatplainswelsh.org) which includes a custom-built archives building. Tornado-proof and temperature-controlled, it houses treasures from Welsh immigrants including clothing, Bibles, and documents from, for example, the former Welsh Society in Connecticut.



Susan Davies Sit and Pat Morris at the Welsh Heritage Centre

We hope to have a future Zoom presentation by a National Park Ranger to tell us these homesteading stories and share more about the Welsh immigrants to the Great Plains.

2023-2024 Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

President: Susan Davies Sit (CT) WelshWNE@gmail.com

Vice President: Annie Rodgers (MA) reikianne53@charter.net

Treasurer: Annie Rodgers (MA) reikianne53@charter.net

Secretary: Mark Taylor (CT) marktaylorfromwales@gmail.com

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Magdalen Dowden (MA), Newsletter Printing & Mailing

Glyn Dowden (MA) Diane Jeffer (NJ), Newsletter Editor

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Welsh Rugby News

By Howard Davies, WSWNE member

The 2023 Rugby World Cup is over with South Africa repeating as champions after a very close game beating New Zealand 12-11 in the final which was played on Saturday October 28th at Stade de France in Paris. The weather on the day was rainy and wet which meant the game would be played without much running rugby, a lot of kicking for field position and a tight physical game which more than suited the South African forwards who did just enough to win the Webb Ellis Cup for the 4th time in the history of the competition.

There were quite a few surprises in the initial group stages, the biggest one being Fiji beating Australia which meant Australia did not make the quarter finals for the first time ever. After the group stages, the quarter final knockout schedule saw Argentina beat Wales 29-17, Ireland lose to the New Zealand All Blacks 28-24, England beat Fiji 30-24, and South Africa beat the hosts, France, 29-28. In the Semi-Finals South Africa beat England 16-15 and New Zealand dominated Argentina and won the game 44-6 setting up the all-Southern Hemisphere Final.

As for Wales, even though the team was in transition with some young players gaining valuable experience they ended up surprising a few people by winning their group after beating Fiji 32-26, beating Portugal 28-8, totally dominating Australia 40-6, and finally beating Georgia 43-19, it set up a quarter final game against Argentina. Wales probably played their worst game of the tournament and ended up losing to the Pumas 29-17.



Wandering Our Website

By Ed Brown, WSWNE Webmaster

Be sure to visit the Welsh Society of Western New England often at www.WelshWNE.org. You'll find a full calendar of events, photos and videos from past events, profiles of members of our Board of Directors, previous newsletters, and a resources page with links to all things Welsh. We'll highlight a feature of our website in each issue of *Croeso*.

This issue's highlight: **WSWNE Event Videos**

Imagine returning to past WSWNE St. David's Day and Christmas event presentations you enjoyed ... or missed! Just go to our [Past Events Page](http://www.welshwne.org/news-past-events) at www.welshwne.org/news-past-events. The articles about luncheons and special ZOOM events, like *Welsh Food Stories* and *The A470 - Poetry Along the Road in Wales* include links to videos of the events.

Find all our YouTube videos together at the WSWNE YouTube Channel using the [Videos From Our Events](#) link in the Past Events-News menu (www.welshwne.org/event-videos). Be sure to revisit our Christmas 2022 musically merry Mari Lwyd reenactment while you are there.

A Few Welsh Christmas Phrases

By Begw Arian

Ydy Sion Corn wedi bod eto? Has Santa been yet? (Corn is a chimney pot and Sion is a Welsh version of John...John Chimney pot)

Pwdin Nadolig Christmas pudding

Oes pwdin arall os gwelwch yn dda? Dwi'n casau pudin Nadolig!

Is there another pudding on offer please? I hate Christmas pudding!

Paid a gadael I Anti Betty mwy o sieri

Don't let Auntie Betty have any more sherry!

Twrci : moron : ysgewyll Turkey : carrots : sprouts

Cer nol i'r gwely! Mae hyn rhy gynnar, hyd yn oed i Sion Corn.

Go back to bed! This is too early, even for Santa.

Pwy sydd eisiau buck's fizz? Who wants buck's fizz? (OJ & champagne)

Flwyddyn nesa, rydyn ni'n mynd bant. Next year, we're going away.

Sssh, mae dadcu yn cysgu. Sssh, grandpa's sleeping.

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Dda I chi gyd!

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!



Cardiff Castle, photo by Diane Jeffer, 2019