

Y Ddolen

Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Ebrill, Mai, Mehefin 2025

Volume 43, Issue 2

April, May, June 2025



Welsh Heritage Day – Black Diamond, WA

Saturday, June 7th 11AM - 3PM

<https://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org/events/welsh-heritage-day/>

The annual Welsh Heritage Day is held the first Saturday in June at the Black Diamond Museum:
**32627 Railroad Avenue
Black Diamond, WA**

Your generous donations to the museum allow Welsh Heritage Day to honor Black Diamond's rich Welsh history each year.



Presentation by the Puget Sound Welsh Association begins at 1PM.

Arrive early for food, stroll through the antique shop, shop the bakery or smokehouse, and tour the museum.



North American Festival of Wales
August 27-August 31
Ottawa, Ontario

Reserve your accommodations for NAFOW in Ottawa, Ontario Canada August 27-31, 2025

Registration for NAFOW is open.

Join the **NAFOW email list** to receive news & updates.



Seminars, including: *Savior of the Language: the Role and Impact of the 1588 Welsh Bible*; *A Boy's Childhood in Wartime Wales*; *Welsh Language I & II*; and *How to trace your Family History I & II* presented by the National Library of Wales

Comedy Night with Tudur Owen, Welsh writer, comedian, and broadcaster.

Storytelling Performance – *Tales from the Mabinogi Part I & II*

Marketplace Eisteddfod Competition Pub Night
Informal Singing Gymanfa Ganu

Gala Banquet: soloist Manon Ogwen Parry

Grand Concert: Cor y Penrhyn with Meinir Wyn Roberts



The Welsh of the West End, the Urdd, Pedair, Band Pres Llareggub, Cor y Penrhyn, Tudur Owen, Meinir Wyn Roberts & Manon Ogwen Parry

Registration Now OPEN!

Festival discounted rooms at the Delta Hotel Ottawa
www.nafow.org



Letter from the President



Happy Spring, Everyone!

I am so very pleased with our Association and its members, for great work on two recent events, and for one which is now in planning.

I am speaking, of course of the fine St. David's Day celebration we held on March 1st in Ballard, and the choir rehearsal of the North American Welsh Choir which we hosted on the very next weekend.

Both events were great fun for the participants, and both sustained Welsh culture by bringing Welsh music to our larger community. We also enlarged our community with new contacts, and new friendships, and enhanced our position to offer future events. And we continued our South Sound events too, with Bob Matthews hosting at Black Bear in April, then looking to hand off to a volunteer for a few months.

Of course, these events, and everything we do, depend upon our volunteers, and we have some wonderfully talented and dedicated people in our Association. We thank them for being so generous with their time, treasure, and talents to sustain and enhance our Welsh-American culture.

Our next big event will be the Welsh Heritage Day in Black Diamond, on June 7th. We first provided Welsh content at this annual event in 1998, so we have a longish tradition going there. This year, MaryLynne has brought forward an interesting concept on Welsh storytelling - read the related article in this issue and respond with your thoughts, please. Do you have something to share at Welsh Day?

Looking forward to more Welsh fun and music together -- see you all soon!

Joel Ware, IV
President, PSWA

Bronn Journey, Harpist

Bronn is a favorite of regional audiences here in the Pacific Northwest, and is known not only for his harp artistry, but also for his kind and generous nature. He writes:

Bronn is grateful for the encouragement that the Puget Sound Welsh Association has given him over the many years he has played his harp. [The Seattle Welsh Church] was the first group that asked Bronn to play his harp in front of an audience when he was 13 years old, now fifty years ago. Bronn's grandfather served as the choir director at the Welsh Presbyterian Church in Seattle, and conducted many Gymanfeoedd in the Northwest. Bronn credits his Welsh heritage as the reason he plays the harp.

Aaron Wells, Bass

Aaron is a longtime member of the Puget Sound Welsh community. He writes:

Aaron grew up in Tacoma where he sang in church and school choirs. He has traced his heritage through old American stock to Wales, as well as more recently through his great-great-grandfather from Aberystwyth. His passion for Welsh song grew from his heritage and from getting acquainted with the recordings of Bryn Terfel. He currently lives with his wife and daughter in Snoqualmie, WA.

St. David's Day

By Margie Hunt

About fifty people gathered to celebrate the birthday of St. David the patron saint of Wales, this year, on March 1st, right on his birth date! The Puget Sound Welsh Association sponsored the event, which was held at the Sunset Hill Community Hall in Seattle.



Eric Bowen started the festivities early in the day with a St. David's Day "Polar Bear Dip" in Puget Sound, arriving still soaking wet. "Phil's Fill-In Fiddlers" played Welsh music to greet everyone as they arrived.

The event officially began with Welsh Association President Joel Ware IV as the master of ceremonies. Margie Hunt shared a short biography of St. David. Aaron Wells, baritone, soloed "Y Mor Enaid", "Bugail Aberdyfi", and then "Dafydd y Garreg Wen" accompanied by Bronn Journey on the harp. Bronn also played several harp solo numbers.



The committee provided a sumptuous *te bach*. Many thanks to Board Members Ellen Webber, Laura Lovell and Jill Moore. The tea table was filled good things, including home-made Welsh cakes, *bara brith*, cookies, and of course, hot tea. Welsh-themed tables with fresh daffodils provided a place to enjoy them.

Laura Lovell led a short noson lawen. She entertained with Irish songs and fiddling, and Phil and Birgit Agis followed with their Folk Voice band. Eric Bowen read a poem. Ellen led the limerick contest and two

generous Welsh gift baskets were raffled.

The celebration concluded with hymn singing and *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*. Many thanks for the hard work of many people, celebrating our patron saint. A good time was had by all.



PSWA Limerick Competition 2025

By Ellen Webber

There were only four entries this year, all of them from our frequent winners. It doesn't make a lot of sense to continue a contest where the same people keep winning the prizes. **I know there are plenty of witty and creative minds in PSWA so convince me it is worth continuing the competition next year. Dethrone our regulars and take home the top prize!** Our esteemed judge selects the top three based on rhyming, the right meter for a limerick, storytelling, and humor. Hearty congratulations to everybody who submitted an entry.

1st Place - Donna Schultz

There once was a silly young lamb
Who relished his Welsh Cakes with jamb
Before you start yelling
Correcting my spelling
Be silent - I don't give a damnb!

2nd Place - Alan Upshall

A farmer who loved a good ale
Warm and clear, indian pale
Drawn fresh from the barrel
By a barmaid named Carol
A nod and a wink ends this tale

3rd Place - Karyn Davies

There once was a silly young lamb
Eating toast and strawberry jam
She sighed with such pleasure,
"it could only be better
with a slice of hick'ry smoke Spam!"

North American Welsh Choir Rehearsal

By Margie Hunt

On March 8th, the Puget Sound Welsh Association hosted a rehearsal of *Côr Cymry Gogledd America*— The North American Welsh Choir. The rehearsal was held at Ballard First Lutheran, and Steven Luksan, who plays for the Seattle opera, accompanied the singers. Ellen Webber chaired the refreshments. Gwen Weinert provided homemade tomato bisque and cheese sandwiches for lunch and afterwards hosted a potluck and *Noson Lawen* at her home.

The choir is led by Mari Morgan, originally from Llanelli, Wales. The choristers come from all parts of the United States and Canada. They meet online weekly and have occasional in-person rehearsals in different parts of the country. They are now preparing for a summer choir tour of the Canadian Maritimes.

We were honored to host the rehearsal. Seattle is far from the East Coast and Mid-West where many of Welsh descent live, and we appreciated their long journey to come here. We were glad to see old friends and make new ones.

Many thanks to the Puget Sound Welsh Association for stepping up to host.

[Email from Choir Director, Mari Morgan next page.]

Hey Côr Cymry who sang in Seattle,

What a marvelous time we had together in Seattle last Saturday [March 8th]. **Many thanks** to each one of you for your dedication, hard work, and fun camaraderie. I was thrilled with the work we managed to carry out during our rehearsal – and we have some lovely videos and photos to share to help remember the day (see below). It was an absolute pleasure to work with you and to reconnect with each other in song. It was also a treat to welcome the newest singers to our midst; **Croeso mawr** to baritone Aaron Wells and to tenor Paul Kawabori.

On behalf of us all, I would like to thank our **Seattle hosts** for the gracious hospitality that we received. There were so many details that went into the smooth running of the weekend allowing us to feel welcome, comfortable, and relaxed: homestays, rehearsal venue, excellent local pianist, snacks and coffee breaks, luncheon, and a great party – we were treated so well!

Diolch o galon to our Côr Cymry Seattle region crew of Mary Lynne, Joel, Margie, Ellen, Rebecca, Andrea, Nerys, Jane and Tammy. Thank you for a tremendous Pacific northwest welcome - you know we'll be back!

Diolch yn fawr iawn to you all –

Gyda chariad,
Mari x



Welsh Stories and Black Diamond Welsh Heritage Day

-Mary Lynne Evans

Black Diamond Welsh Heritage Day is scheduled for June 7th at the Black Diamond Historical Society in Black Diamond, Washington. <https://www.blackdiamondmuseum.org/events/welsh-heritage-day/> All Welsh folks are invited to come, sing, recite poetry, participate in Welsh traditions, and enjoy Welsh cakes. We can also continue to learn about the history of mining at Black Diamond.

The Puget Sound Welsh Association has been invited by the Black Diamond Historical Society to present a program for Welsh Heritage Day. What about a look at the Welsh tradition of storytelling?

I love Welsh stories; those tales passed from generation to generation, stuff of myth, legend, and folklore. But here's an electric idea: what if Welsh stories are not just made up, but have a basis in reality? What if the stories are really history? What if the stories are rooted on actual Welsh soil, in various places in Wales? Was there a lake where a Lady lived? What about the city flooded by the sea, where when the tide is low, bells can be heard tolling even today? Was there once a fog so dense it obliterated a whole village?

Storyteller Russ Williams from the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, (Llyfrgell Genediaethol Cymru), explores that very idea. He takes us on a Welsh Folklore Road Trip. Delving into the stories behind the myths, Russ looks at how they might have come about and asks us, what do they tell us about Wales past and present?

Russ presented his idea on March 20th over Zoom, sponsored by the National Library of Wales. If you missed this presentation, Puget Sound Welsh Association is working with Daniel Johnson from the library for a repeat performance perhaps via YouTube for Welsh Day on Saturday, June 7th.

Stay tuned as we explore these interesting ideas with our colleagues in Black Diamond, the staff of the Library of Wales, and each other. We will have more details as we flesh out our program.

If you wish to be part of the planning process, please get in touch with vice-president, Mary Lynne Evans at pswa@pugetsoundwelsh.org.

PSWA Activities: Request For Input

By Gwen Weinert

Dear PSWA Members: I was thinking about how much I have enjoyed our gatherings over the years. We have fun times together, and learn much about Wales and her culture. What could make our organization even better?

For me, it would be to increase the number of events we share throughout our region, the Puget Sound. I asked Karyn Davies for ideas, and got some great ones! Here they are:

Matinee movies or series that are Welsh-themed, set in Wales, or about Wales. Examples are Huw Edward's docu-series, "The Story of Wales," thriller series like "Hidden" or "Finding Faith," mini-series documentary "Hidden Wales," and movies in Welsh with subtitles like "Porc Pei" or "Hedd Wyn," or in English and set in Wales like "The Baker," "How Green Was My Valley," or "The Edge of Love." We could see these together in small groups according to geographic location. If you have a television and the internet, you could host an event in your home! Library meeting rooms also work for watching DVDs or casting from your smart device to the provided TV, but a library is not as homey.

Welsh Scrabble night is another idea. Welsh-English dictionaries allowed, meeting in pubs, cafes, libraries, or a home.

Noson Lawen are my favorite activity, and we could take this happy night to any restaurant, or pub with a side room we could use where the manager is open to a bit of entertainment. Also, a member's home is perfect.

We could meet in a park or pub and **celebrate an obscure Welsh Saint or holiday**, like Calon Mai (Heart of May), with a trivia competition about the subject of our gathering. The winners would get prizes, of course! Also, **potlucks** in parks would be delicious. And there **MUST** be SINGING!

How about **sports get-togethers**, at the actual event or on television? Recently, PSWA has been contacted by the Seattle Seawolves Rugby team and offered group discount for select matches at Starfire Complex in Tukwila. They have one Welsh team member, Huw Taylor, who played six years for the Dragons RFC. [See article in this issue.]

These are some great ideas from Karyn, but I'm sure you have some too. **Cooking** or **Welsh crafts instruction**, perhaps? Let us know what you would like to see happen! Send your thoughts to newsletter@pugetsoundwelsh.org. Diolch!

Seattle Seawolves Professional Rugby

PSWA was contacted by a representative of the Seattle Seawolves to invite our group to matches this season as a fundraising opportunity for the Association. See below for excerpts from the email:



The [Seattle Seawolves](#) and the overall MLR (Major League Rugby) has been around since 2018. We are located at Starfire Stadium in Tukwila, WA. The Seattle Seawolves won MLR championships back-to-back during the inaugural years of 2018 & 2019. In 2022 and 2024 the Seattle Seawolves won the MLR Western Conference Championships.

One of our more notable players Huw Taylor is a Welsh native and had 52 appearances over six seasons with the Dragons RFC in Wales, before he joined the Seawolves. The Seawolves community and I would love to see Welsh flags represented in our passionate & diverse crowd during our matches this season! Here is a [PSWA custom ticket link](#) that includes a 10% per ticket discount and this link can be easily shared and promoted throughout the PSWA community.

PSWA's discounted ticket link includes access to our matches on **03/29, 04/18, 05/02** and I can add more if needed after your community has reviewed the 2025 home schedule. The Seawolves also offer more customizable group fan experiences if that is something your community wants to explore once we connect further.

Home Schedule: Friday 4/18 7:30PM, Friday 5/2 7:30PM, Saturday 5/17 6PM, Friday 5/23 7:30PM, Sunday 6/8 6PM

PSWA Board Members & Elected Officers

Joel Ware IV, President
President@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Mary Lynne Evans, Vice President
Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Chris Mooreddrall, Treasurer/ South Sound
Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org
SouthSound@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Laura Lovell, Secretary
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Ellen Webber, Membership Secretary
Membership@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Gerri Parry, Member at Large
Webmaster@PugetSoundWelsh.org
Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Karyn Davies, Events/Co-Editor
Events@PugetSoundWelsh.org
Newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Bob Matthews, Member at Large
Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Gwen Weinert, Co-Editor
Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Jill Moore, Member at Large
Board@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Alan Upshall, Archivist
Archives@PugetSoundWelsh.org

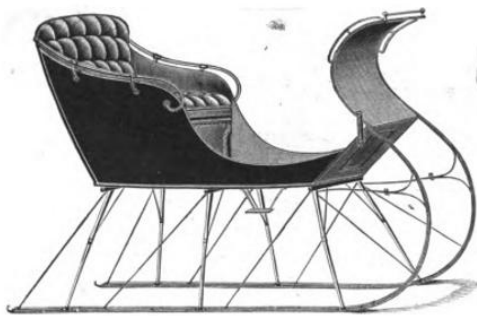
Mrs. Gilroy Ends 20,000-Mile Journey from Alaska to Wales

-JoAnne Matsumura (Transcribed verbatim from the Enumclaw (WA) Courier newspaper of September 6, 1907)

By her remarkable experience concluded by a 375-mile drive in a cutter from Valdes to Fairbanks, Mrs. Gilroy, a pioneer woman of the north, has in the past winter achieved a record for travel that few women have equaled, says the Seattle Times. She arrived in Fairbanks, meeting her husband, who had been looking after their interests on Little El-Dorado Creek in her absence. Going to Seattle and on her return trip she was accompanied by Willie, her 16-year-old-son.

Having made a success of her mercantile business on Fairbanks Creek, Mrs. Gilroy last fall decided to visit her aged father in their old home at Glassford (sic), North Wales. Accompanied by her son, she made the trip to Seattle by way of St. Michael. At Seattle the boy was put into school and she continued her long journey over the continent and across the Atlantic slope.

After a long visit with her relatives and considerable travel through Great Britain, Mrs. Gilroy returned to Seattle, and again joined by her son, started back north. Instead of taking the stage at Valdes she ventured forth in a conveyance of her own.



No. 31 Portland Cutter.

The cutter was not large enough to accommodate all the baggage, but with the ingenuity characteristic of Alaska women she soon overcame this. The baggage was loaded on a double-ender, and the cutter was then coupled on behind. This plan worked successfully, despite the fact that some of the heaviest weather of the season and worst drifts were encountered.

Editor's notes: A cutter was a small carriage that was very popular in the nineteenth century.

Glassford does not appear to be a village in North Wales, so we suggest the name could have been reported incorrectly and should be either Groesffordd, a village in Powys, or Glasffordd which is a street or area in Marian-glas, Anglesey.

South Sound Afternoon/Night Out of Hŵyl

Please RSVP by noon to SouthSound@PugetSoundWelsh.org so we know how many seats and tables to reserve!

South Sound is looking for volunteers to host get-togethers April through September!

Chris Mooreddrall is unavailable to host South Sound Nights Out or the South Sound Annual Picnic due to work commitments out of the area. The monthly get-togethers and picnic, which is typically held in August, will be canceled unless someone steps up to host and coordinate. Please consider volunteering!

The role of the host is simple: let PSWA know the dates, times, and locations you're available to meet with others. PSWA will handle the promotion via Facebook and email and will inform you of the expected turnout. In the rare event that no one shows up, you'll still have the opportunity to enjoy an afternoon or evening out! While we've had small gatherings in the past, we've never ended up without company.

Past venues have included The RAM, Black Bear Diner, and Manic Meatballs in Lakewood, Elmer's in Tacoma, and Bastard Pies in Olympia. When choosing a location, select one that encourages conversation and is centrally located for attendees traveling from areas such as Chehalis/Shelton in the south, and Burien/Kent/Bonney Lake in the north. Typically, these events are held on Sundays in the afternoon or evening, allowing for daylight driving.

If you're interested in hosting for one or more months, or in helping to organize the annual picnic, please contact SouthSound@PugetSoundWelsh.org. Feel free to reach out with any questions!

PSWA Membership/Renewal, Donations, T-Shirts, & Red Dragon Band CD

Annual memberships renew each January. Your contributions entitle you to a subscription to *Y Ddolen*, our wonderful quarterly newsletter, and provide vital support for our St. David's Day celebration and other activities through the year. In addition to our sponsored events, the Puget Sound Welsh Association acts as a valuable resource for anyone interested in Welsh culture, language, and music. Questions? Contact Ellen Webber.

Annual Memberships/Fees

- Individual (\$10) \$ _____
- Family/Couple (\$15) \$ _____
- Y Ddolen mailed to you (\$5) \$ _____
- Life (\$100) \$ _____
- Overseas Annual Postage (\$50) \$ _____
- Overseas Life (\$150) \$ _____

Help Wanted

PSWA Members interested in learning about becoming a Board Member

Contact: President@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Donations

- General Fund Donation \$ _____
- Memorial Scholarship \$ _____
- Memorial Fund \$ _____ In Memory of (Name): _____

Retail Products - *prices include shipping/postage (\$15 if picked up at events)

- PSWA T-Shirts** Total number of shirts ____ x \$19.95 \$ _____
\$19.95* each. Indicate how many of each size and color:
Steel Green: ____ LG ____ XL *Limited quantities; Email for availability: membership@pugetsoundwelsh.org
Dark Green: ____ SM ____ MED ____ XL *Limited quantities of XL; Email for availability.
- Welsh Music CD** Total number of CDs ____ x \$15 \$ _____
Y Ddraig Goch, Traditional Welsh Folk music of Wales: \$15* each

Make check payable to PSWA

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Membership Information (please print):

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____



PSWA is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization 501(c)(3). Contributions may be tax-deductible.

Please mail this form with payment to: **PSWA, PO Box 98131, Lakewood, WA 98496**



Y Ddolen | Puget Sound Welsh Association
 PO Box 98131
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www.pugetsoundwelsh.org



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Join the PSWA Facebook Group! ♦ “Like” the PSWA Facebook Page!
 Stay in touch with other members across the Puget Sound and Washington state, keep up to date with events and activities, and post relevant events/information to the discussion forum. Read interesting news and historical posts. Share what you find.
www.facebook.com/groups/pugetsoundwelsh
www.facebook.com/PugetSoundWelsh/

Saint David’s Day Trivia (answers upside down)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The city ‘St. David’s’ used to be called what?
<i>Meneva/Menevia (Mynyw)</i> | 7. David’s mother was also a Saint; what was her name?
<i>Saint Non</i> |
| 2. What type of strict diet did St. David follow?
<i>Vegetarian</i> | 8. Which Welsh castle has a stained-glass depiction of St. David?
<i>Castell Coch</i> |
| 3. What vegetable is the national emblem of Wales?
<i>Leek</i> | 9. Where is St. David buried?
<i>St. David’s Cathedral</i> |
| 4. How do you say Saint David in Welsh?
<i>Dewi Sant</i> | 10. True or False? St. David’s Day is always held on the first Sunday in March.
<i>False</i> |
| 5. St. David’s Day has been a national festival in Wales since what century?
<i>18th</i> | 11. True or False? Saint David has his own flag.
<i>True</i> |
| 6. What is the main ingredient of Welsh rarebit?
<i>Chesse</i> | 12. True or False? Leek pie is traditionally eaten on St. David’s Day.
<i>False</i> |