Y Ddolen

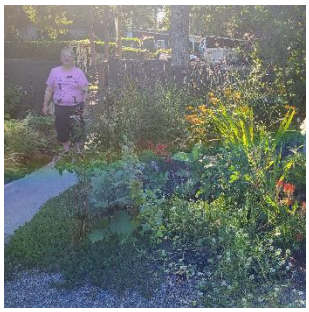
Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Gorffennaf, Awst, Medi 2025 Volume 43, Issue 3 July, August, September 2025

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, August 10th 1PM

Combined Puget Sound Welsh Association & South Sound Night Out Group Annual Picnics in Lakewood, WA



Our picnics this year will be combined and again at the Moore/Mooreddrall home and gardens.

Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share and your own beverages. PSWA to provide main dish.

For carpooling, address, and driving instructions, please RSVP to:
PSWA@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Join us for a relaxing time of Food, Fun, and Singing!

Look for the Welsh Flag on the house above the driveway. We have a large oak where our driveway is. You can park in the driveway, which can hold a few vehicles, or there is street parking in front of the fenced area as well as across the street a gravel parking area.

Festival Highlights

Wednesday: 7:00pm 'Taste of Wales' *
Thursday: 4:00 pm WELSH FEST on Sparks:
with The Welsh of London's West End, Pedair, Clog Dancing from the Urdd, & Band Pres Llareggub
8:00 pm Comedy Night*
Friday: 9:00pm Pub Night
Saturday: 7:00pm Welsh Male Voice Choir at Christ Church Cathedral *Cor y Penrhyn with Meinir Wyn Roberts**
Sunday: 2:00pm Community Hymn Sing at Christ Church
Taste of Wales, Comedy Night and Pub Night at the Delta Hotel Ottawa
**ticket required, available at the door*

Welsh Heritage Day 2025

Photos by Karyn Davies

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

The annual Welsh Heritage Day is held the first Saturday in June.

Margie, Laura, Joel

Sherrie

South Sound Group Needs Host(s)

By Karyn Davies

Dear South Sound Night Out of Hŵyl Group and Friends,

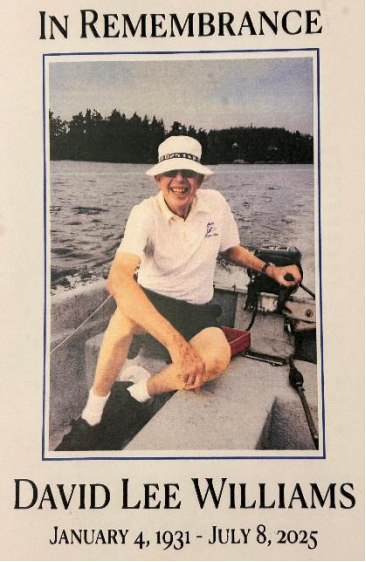
With Chris working out of the area, all meet ups are on hold. If you are missing these times to catch up for lunch or dinner, drinks, or dessert, we would love for you to consider hosting a Night Out.

Contact SouthSound@PugetSoundWelsh.org as soon as possible.

We do the contacts and get RSVPs. You suggest a location, a date, and a time. We let you know how many to expect and you show up about 10 minutes beforehand to secure a table with enough seats. If no one RSVPs by noon the day of, we will cancel.

If you want to host a game night (we suggest Welsh Scrabble with Dictionaries or Welsh Trivia), an informal singing/music session, a Welsh themed baking event, or potluck, we're in! If you can dream it, we will assist.

And if you're in the North Sound – we hope someone wants to start a North Sound Night Out Group!



Farewell To Our Friend Dave Williams

By Marjorie Hunt

Photo Credit: Mary Williams, circa 2012

Longtime Puget Sound Welsh Association member and Seattle Welsh Choir member David Williams has passed away.

PSWA offers our condolences to his wife, Mary, of 63 years and the rest of the family.

David was always a steady and cheerful presence in the choir, and we especially remember the great parties that he and Mary gave for Saint David's Day.

Seattle Times Obituary posted here:
https://replica.seattletimes.com/popovers/dynamic_article_popover.aspx?artguid=33a5bf00-c6e0-4ffe-a589-e30ff3229494&appcode=SEATTL&eguid=9f55f157-de70-4d3a-883b-c143bc17a6ca&pnum=120#

Meet Your Board: Mary Lynne Evans

By Gwen Weinert

Meet PSWA's 2025 Vice President! Mary Lynne was born in Baker City, Oregon, a small town on the Oregon-Idaho border. The community is situated between the high Blue Mountains with pine forests and Hells Canyon, one of the deepest canyons in Oregon. A ranching farming community, it is an iconic small town, which taught its citizens to ski powder snow, raise prize-winning Hereford bulls, hike everywhere, and to be honest. Everyone knew everyone else, and she treasures still close friendships.

Her parents took her to Yellowstone Park one family vacation which opened her eyes to "foreign" travel, and to her grandpa's farm in Green River Valley, western Washington. "Grandpa is Welsh, you know," she was told, but didn't really understand what that meant until many years later.

She liked college (University of Idaho) and majored in English and Music. Her hardest class ever, forcing her to tears during the final exam, was music theory. She considers her passing grade in the class one of her greatest achievements.

After college she taught drama, English, and humanities in high schools in Pullman, Washington, Boise Idaho, and Kent Washington. Summer vacations gave her chance to travel, which has resulted in her visiting 52 countries and 7 continents over the years. (However, she said she never felt like she truly belonged anywhere until she tracked down the farm of her Welsh grandpa in Wales, 10 years ago.)

In the meantime, she married, got a second degree in Community Development (School of Social Work), raised a family, sang in various choirs, learned to play piano, clarinet, piccolo, bagpipes, and oboe. She got beaten up by the five-string banjo though, and now is settling for the ukelele.

She and her family moved to Seattle where the parents worked as Urban Planners for the government and a consulting firm, which included a stint in Fairbanks Alaska, where they all moved for 18 months living in a house with water laden with gold and arsenic, 60 below winter, bear and moose in the yard, acquaintance with some Alaskans who didn't believe in land use planning, and many new friends.

The family moved back to Seattle where they worked on airport planning and city, county, and state land use plans. Their children, Heidi and Eric, graduated high school in Seattle.

Mary Lynne then had time to investigate her Welsh grandfather, and his immigration story from Wales to Halifax, Canada, and ultimately to Kent, Washington. She researched, wrote, and made a full-length video complete with a Welsh music sound track during COVID, and encourages other folks to tell their immigration stories. "We all stand on the shoulders of these sturdy, interesting people," she says.

She got involved with the Puget Sound Welsh Association, and served as president and now vice president. She is also on the board of the North American Festival of Wales and sings with Côr Cymry, the North American Welsh Choir. This choir, which rehearses online via Zoom, just returned from a five-concert tour in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Labrador.

"I am firmly in the grip of my Welsh heritage," she says. "It has become a pillar in my life. I hope to continue my association with PSWA for many years to come."

Drunken Daffodil Virtual Pub – Save The Date!

Join us at the "Drunken Daffodil," PSWA's virtual pub on **Sunday, September 21st at 2:00PM**. Members who have provided email addresses will receive a Zoom invitation via. *[Editor's Note: You can also join by telephone/ cellphone – no computer or smart phone required.]* **We are looking for storytellers** - stories can be about any subject, old, or new, and should not be longer than five minutes in the telling. Sign up in advance at pswa@pugetsoundwelsh.org. This is a bring your own bottle event! We look forward to seeing you in September!

Lead, Kindly Light

By JoAnne Matsumura

Henry Irving, a well-known British actor of the late nineteenth century, toured the United States during the1880's. He brought his entire troupe, sets and costumes from London to Seattle and performed in "The Crime of Dubosq" and "The Merchant of Venice."

It was September 20, 1893 when Sir Henry Irving performed at the Seattle Theatre, under John W. Hanna's management. He was accompanied by Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Terriss and his full London Company. "The audience gave his art full need of recognition by the most enthusiastic curtain calls."

The Seattle play was secured by James Keane, a theater promoter and businessman. Irving and Terry appeared before a packed house, which served them for their art. The play received rave reviews for the acting, elaborate, beautiful settings, and rich and historically accurate costumes.

Sir Henry continued to tour England and Wales as well as the New World.

His performances in South Wales brought him a special kind of appreciation when the people were pleased with the work of an actor. The audience would sing hymns at the close of a performance.

He was once playing in Swansea when he was surprised to hear the audience burst into "Lead, Kindly Light" when he appeared before the curtain in response to a call. At the close of the engagement, the great actor was deeply touched by the singing of "God Be With You Till We Meet Again," rendered in the most reverent manner. Back in London, Sir Henry Irving became very ill after collapsing after a performance. During his recovery it was feared that his next American tour might be abandoned. However, he showed some improvement.

Sir Henry Irving appeared at Bradford in "The Bells" and "Beckets" which was rendered with surprising dramatic power. After a "splendid" performance he expressed to the audience, "Into thy hands, oh Lord, Into thy hands" several times at the end of his performance. This is said to be his last utterance, as Sir Henry Irving passed suddenly after his collapse in the hotel where he died.

The Seattle newspapers were filled with pages of tributes. Sir Henry Irving's ashes were laid to rest at Westminster Abbey on October 18, 1905. England's Queen Alexandra sent a cross of lilies with her personal message of "Into thy hands oh Lord, Into thy hands."

Welsh Stories Told At Black Diamond Welsh Heritage Day

-By Mary Lynne Evans

Since its first Welsh Day in 1999 *[https://blackdiamondhistory.wordpress.com/2011/05/08/a-welsh-day-tribute/]*, the Puget Sound Welsh Association has supported the Black Diamond Historical Society in this annual celebration – many years as presenters. These programs have ranged from the Seattle Men's Choir singing in the street outside the Black Diamond Museum, to our most recent offering, a review of the book Where the Folk, A Welsh Folklore Road Trip by Russ Williams.

Williams related that the Welsh have a long history of storytelling. Our oldest document, the ***Mabinogion***, is a collection of the earliest prose stories in Europe. The manuscripts, c. 1350–1410, are eleven stories encompassing drama, philosophy, romance, tragedy, fantasy, and humor. Strictly speaking, the Four Branches of the Mabinogi are the main tales, with seven other associated stories. They include a classic hero quest, "Culhwch and Olwen," an historic legend, complete with glimpses of a far off time, "Lludd and Llefelys," and other tales portraying a very different King Arthur from later popular versions.

In addition to long documentation, Welsh stories have another unique feature; they are decisively tied to specific places, towns, lakes, mountains, roads, and coastlines. These are not tales with indeterminate placing. Not a "in a dark forest, an old woman lived in her tiny hut." Rather, "the man saw the beautiful woman rising from the lake Bala," or "it was close to the town of Dinas Emrys, on the site where Vortigern tried later to build his castle that…" Of course, stories are universal, but this tying of story to place seems unique to the Welsh.

The PSWA members told only a few of the stories in Williams' book: *The Hound of Beddgelert*, told by Gwen Weinert, *The Lady of the Lake*, told by Joel Ware, *The Fight of the Red and White Dragon*, told by Mary Lynne Evans, and *The Killer Ape* told by Laura Lovell.

Sharing Russ William's book with our audience was great fun. It is charmingly written, accessible, witty, and compelling. He not only recounts the stories in a modern vernacular, but also shows how these tales are not passé, not dead, but still being told, still being added to, still very alive. One of the audience members said, "I always cried when the teacher told the tale of the hound. I'm feeling teary now." Another said "I read recently that archeologists at Dinas Emrys carbon dated several piles of rubble to the time of Vortigern's castle, and discovered large pit nearby as told in the story of the dragons." And the stories persist into the future. People retold the stories to him and updated them: "and the ghost was only recently exorcised out of the pub at Dinas Emrys."

A lively discussion followed the presentation followed by an impromptu medley of folk songs and hymns by Aaron Moss, Owain Weinert, and Joel Ware - all to great acclaim. The audience closed the program with *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau.* We appreciate Black Diamond Historical Society and thank them for including us in their Celebration.

Russ Williams, *Where the Folk- A Welsh Folklore Road Trip* published December 23, 2024 is "a joyful travelogue" and available through Amazon.

Côr Cymru Returns From Eastern Atlantic Canada Tour

-Mary Lynne Evans

Côr Cymru Gogledd America, the North American Welsh Choir, sang its heart out on an 11-day concert tour of the Canadian Maritimes: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, St. Pierre, and Labrador/Newfoundland. The choir returned home on July 10,2025.

The 40-voice choir reached out to local audiences with a Welsh program extolling the spirit and the power of music to forge friendship, memorializing the importance of Welsh history, and calling for optimism for the future. Local choirs of the area were invited to perform half the program. Provincial anthems were sung along with the national anthems. Locals came out for lunchtime and full evening concerts with crowds ranging from 30 to over 200.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Home of Anne of Green Gables. Shared stage with Legion Choir of Charlottetown.
Halifax, Nova Scotia. (Canadian Museum of Immigration, special to several of the choir members because members of their family immigrated to and through Halifax.)
St. Pierre (islands of St Pierre and Miquelon). These islands are a territorial overseas collectivity of France. They are self-governing, and are not part of Canada. Shared stage with local Basque Choir, which sang in Basque.
St. John, Labrador/Newfoundland. Shared stage with Community Choir; filled the church— over 200 people.
Gander, Labrador/Newfoundland. Sang in the reception hall of the famous airport which sheltered numerous international flights, grounded globally after the September 11 attacks. The event inspired an internationally known musical, *Come From Away*, subsequently performed on Broadway. The choir was honored that the cast and crew of the play added an additional performance to accommodate our choir. There was not a dry eye in the crowd.

Puget Sound Members who joined the tour, Ellen Webber, Rebecca Perkins, Jane Reynolds, Tammy Fitting, Joel Ware, and Mary Lynne Evans, acclaimed the tour as "terrific, heartwarming." You too can join this choir, which meets virtually by Zoom, then in real life a few days before a performance. You can participate in the good will, love of music, and enjoyment of fellowship. **Please contact Director Mari Morgan at www.CorCymryGogleddAmerica.com or admin@chorusconnection.com.**

What's In Your Basement?

By Alan Upshall

There was a big surprise at the St. David's Day concert this year. We welcomed back our Welsh harpist Bronn Journey, but while Bronn was not the surprise, what he brought with him, in addition of course to his harp and wit, became the topic of the day.

Bronn's mother Betty Journey and her family were very prominent within the local Welsh community and were regular attendees at the Seattle Welsh Church, which was demolished in 1956. Jackie Cedarholm, a past president of PSWA and an avid supporter of everything Welsh, spent a lot of time trying to find records of the Welsh church but

she was never able to uncover any written records. In the 1990s PSWA undertook an Oral History project (can be found at www.peoplescollection.wales - search 'Puget and conversations') where several persons of Welsh descent were interviewed for historical information. Betty Journey was one of the people interviewed along with her sister Gwladys. In the project we uncovered much information along with a few photographs and membership booklets. Bronn's story on St David's Day was that while his mother passed away several years ago, his brother continued to live in her house. With his recent passing, Bronn was left to clear the house before the sale. In the basement were many boxes belonging to his mother. Before discarding he looked inside and found some records of the old Welsh Church. He brought two books recording the minutes of the sessions of the church from 1882 to1918. Most were hand written, with some of the most elaborate script one could ever see. The first of the books (1882 to1909) are from the church when located at 7th and Olive St. while the second (1909 to 1918) was from the new church at 10th and John St.

Bronn gave me the books to add to the PSWA archives and after scanning I wrote to Bronn to arrange the return of the books and he invited me to lunch at Andy's Fish and Chips in Snohomish. During lunch he said, "you know, after St. David's Day and talking to you, I went back to the basement and looked in more boxes and…" he bent down and rose with 5 more old leger books from the Welsh Church, recording information up to 1950. The ledgers contain records of the building, contributions, notices of marriages and more. Archiving of these documents became a priority as some are in pretty poor shape. The problem also was that they were too big to fit on to my scanner, but eventually I worked out a protocol for manually scanning with my iPhone and transferring those scans to the computer via email. The Ledgers are a mine of information about the church. I am sure they are not a complete record but Bronn has told me that there are no more church related documents in the basement. All of the ledgers can be read at www.peoplescollection.wales (search Seattle Welsh Church). Eventually, the ledgers themselves will be archived, along with all of the other PSWA documents, at the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center, Wymore, Nebraska (www.WelshHeritageProject.org).

Bryn Seion Annual Gymanfa Ganu & Portland Welsh Noson Lawen

By Gerri Parry

Sunday, September 28th, 2025
Bryn Seion Welsh Church, 87th Gymanfa Ganu

22132 S. Kamrath Road, Beavercreek, Oregon

Traditional Welsh Festival of Sacred Song
11 am ~ Regular Sunday Church service (no potluck)
2 pm ~ The Gymanfa Ganu with Nerys Jones, director; Geneva Cook, organist.
4 pm ~ A Welsh Tea served at the Beavercreek Grange ($15.00 adults, $8.00 for children under 18)

Saturday, September 27th ~ Welsh Society of Oregon
Noson Lawen, 5 -7 pm ~ check www.PortlandWelsh.org for details

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

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Gerri Parry, Member at Large
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Jill Moore, Member at Large
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Alan Upshall, Archivist
Archives@PugetSoundWelsh.org

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
Lakewood, WA 98496
www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

US POSTAGE

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/

Welsh History Trivia (answers upside down)

1. The first official National Eisteddfod was held in which Valley's town in 1861? *Aberdare*

2. Which warlike tribe occupying what is now south east Wales, fiercely resisted Roman conquest? *The Silures*

3. On the 8 May, 1648, which battle took place near Cardiff between Parliamentarians and Royalists? *The Battle of St. Fagans*

4. In 1550 Robert Recorde of Tenby invented which mathematical sign? *The equals sign*

5. What was the last name of the father and son who composed the Welsh National anthem in 1856? *James (by Evan and James James of Pontypridd)*

6. In which century did St David establish a monastery near the present city that bears his name? *6th century (550)*

7. Which medieval king codified ancient Welsh law, used for hundreds of years after his death? *Hywel Dda*

8. Which Roman emperor is hailed in Welsh mythology and the song Yma o Hyd? *Magnus Maximus*

9. Where was notorious 18th century pirate Bartholomew 'Black Bart' Roberts born? *Casnewydd Bach*

10. Poet Hedd Wyn was killed at which WWI battle? *Passchendaele*

11. Which Welsh dam was blown up in a secret test for the Dam Busters mission? *Nant-y-Gro*

12. What was the fate of famous Welsh rebel Owain Glyndwr? *Disappeared*