Y Ddolen

Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Hydref, Tachwedd, Rhagfyr 2025 Volume 43, Issue 4 October, November, December 2025

Annual PSWA Holiday Party & Annual General Meeting

PUGET SOUND WELSH ASSOCIATION will hold its holiday potluck party on **Sunday November 16th from 1-4 PM**.

Mary Lynne Evans will host the party in her home in the Wedgwood Neighborhood in Seattle.

Email your RSVP to pswa@PugetSoundWelsh.org for exact address.

As required to maintain our 501(c)(3) status we will have a short Annual General Meeting to report on the organization, give a tantalizing taste of 2026, & vote for your Board.

[PSWA is still looking for volunteers to join the Board, so please contact President@PugetSoundWelsh.org to indicate your interest today!]

THEN we will launch into a delicious Welsh potluck lunch complete with Welsh cakes, wassail (both alcoholic and nonalcoholic), and music galore.
Bring your hymnals, Christmas carols, thanksgiving, and pub songs.

Please bring a dish to share and beverages of your choice.

A jolly Welsh time will be had! (Home before dark.)

Mary Lynne said she just got a note from the Mari Lwyd, who threatens an appearance.

We have such a good time together! Mark your calendars to be there!
Let us know if you need a ride when you RSVP.

Make your own Mari Lwyd gifts:
https://welshgiftshop.com/collections/calennig-new-year

SAVE THE DATE FOR ST. DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATION 2026!

Saturday, February 28, 2026

Ballard First Lutheran Church, Seattle, WA

Our PSWA Annual Picnic

By Laura Lovell (Photos Credit: Chris Mooreddrall)

On August 10, we celebrated our annual summer picnic at the home of board members Chris Moreddrall and Jill Moore. There were about fifteen of us, who gathered for a relaxing afternoon of conversation and delicious food.

Ellen Webber did the honors, as she always does, on the grill. I'm beginning to wonder, is it her last name that creates the magic? Anyway, it is always delicious! Old friends and acquaintances caught up on each other's doings, the sun shone, and all had a pleasant time.

The only thing that was missing was singing, which some of us sorely missed. There wasn't a favorable quorum there to allow for all the parts, but otherwise it was great.

Thanks to Jill, Chris, and Nick for their generous and warm hospitality! And, maybe next year someone will step up to do grill duties. Let's give Ellen a well - deserved rest!

The Best Stories Come From *The Drunken Daffodil* Pub

By Mary Lynne Evans and Gwen Weinert

We met at our favorite (virtual) pub on September 21st to hear stories from our members. They ranged from the classic to the contemporary, with an impressive number of historic tales told by descendants of Welsh pioneers.

Ellen Webber was the Zoom expert who ran a flawless session. Gwen Weinert assisted Mary Lynne with planning the meeting, which was about storytelling in general. We began with an introduction by Mary Lynne, who reminded us that stories are set in real places and time, as described in the book Where The Folk by Russ Williams.

Gwen started with a reading about Rhiannon and Pwyll from the *Mabinogion*. Alwyn Vymeister told us about a Welsh minister and his wife, members of Alwyn's family, who met with the native tribes in Patagonia and befriended them during the 1800's. There were great photos!

For a dramatic change in atmosphere, we heard Ellen Webber tell about a hair-raising drive up a one-way mountain road in Ireland's Coner Pass. Mary Lynne was her brave passenger, and they lived to tell the tale. Next, we heard from Chris and Val Ensor, who had recently toured Saint Fagan's and Conway Castle and made a great video. This was followed by an account of enjoying tea with relatives by Jill Moore.

We heard from our treasurer, Chris Mooreddrall, who is working on fixing the broken Enumclaw to Buckley bridge. It was wonderful to hear the planning details for this project. Another ancestor story was told by Heidi Hyatt Scoby about a lifeboat crewman who single-handedly saved people in nineteenth-century Wales, completely without modern technology!

A little detail from our trip to our virtual pub; a person wore a funny t-shirt that said, "I don't know" in Welsh (Dw'i ddim yn gwybod). This would prompt people to ask what it meant in English.

We had a great time at the Drunken Daffodil, and plan to do Storytelling again this winter. Once more, our members will be invited to join in the fun, and we want to hear your stories this time!
[Please contact pswa@PugetSoundWelsh.org to participate in planning or storytelling!]

Meet Your Board: Joel Ware IV

Our favorite Santa Claus, is a Christmas baby—born on December 25!

His family valued learning and encouraged young Joel. When he was four years old, they gave him an alarm clock and a screwdriver just so he could learn from taking it apart. Joel says that he has enjoyed unscrewing things ever since.

After high school, Joel decided on the US Air Force and was sent to language school at the Presidio of Monterey. Soon after, he and his grade-school sweetheart, Kayla, were married and stationed in Okinawa for three years. Joel operated radios on classified combat missions flown all over Southeast Asia, flying over 500,000 air-miles!

They returned to Bellingham in 1972 and both attended Western Washington State College (now WWU). Joel received what was an unusual degree at the time, a Bachelor's in Computer Science. The couple soon moved to Phinney Ridge in Seattle and Joel signed on with Boeing, where he worked for forty years until retirement.

In 1983 Joel spied an interesting ad in the back pages of a New Yorker magazine: A Welsh Dragon Tie was advertised for sale at David Morgan's tiny Welsh shop in a Ballard industrial area. Joel visited the shop and met the charming Morgan who encouraged him to join the Welsh language learners' group. That year, Joel became a founding member of the Seattle Welsh Choir, being the only male tenor in the tiny choir at many rehearsals.

In 1985, the Puget Sound Welsh Association (PSWA) was formed, with Joel's wife Kayla as its first President. Joel and Kayla worked tirelessly to build the Association, and in 1994 PSWA sponsored the annual Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, now known as NAFOW.

In 1999 Joel joined the newly-formed North American Welsh Choir, and was off on choir tours and concerts to destinations across the US, Wales, Argentina, and Canada.

Joel proudly volunteers with many organizations besides PSWA, some of which include: The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Classic Airstream Club, and several women's Roller Derby leagues, where he is a non-skating official.

Joel was known as *coch barf*— "red beard" – but somewhere in the 1990's, his beard turned Santa white and he found a role he loves; coming full circle to honor his Christmas birth date.

St. David's Day 2026 Planning

-By Joel Ware

St. David (Dewi Sant) is the patron saint of Wales, remembered each year in song and poetry, and so PSWA is pleased to announce that our annual St. David's Day Celebration will be held in Ballard, at **Ballard First Lutheran Church**, on **Saturday**, **February 28th, 2026**.

We look forward to great acoustics for singing, wonderful special music offerings, and fine Welsh fellowship and merriment for all at the Te Bach which follows.

All are welcome to attend - admission is complimentary with donations graciously accepted. *[Editor's Note: Greeters and behind the scenes help is sought now to ensure the event runs smoothly for all! Can you join us?]*

If you wish to memorialize someone at this St. David's Day, please contact us right away.

How do Welsh people eat cheese?.....Caerphilly!

In Memory of Elizabeth Menzel

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Margaret Gambill** for her thoughtful gift made in loving memory of her mother, Elizabeth Menzel. **Elizabeth Menzel** was a long-time member of PSWA and steadfast supporter. Her legacy will continue to support the mission of the Puget Sound Welsh Association. Diolch yn fawr, Margaret.

North American Festival of Wales in Ottawa (Through Rain & Shine!)

By Mary Lynne Evans

"Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye!" The sonorous voice of the Ottawa town crier, resplendent in high red boots, tri-cornered hat, braid and gold buttons, and a walking stick, boomed over the audience. "Ottawa welcomes the North American Festival of Wales." The Mayor of Ottawa, the British High Commissioner, and an Elder of the First Nations officially opened the ceremonies with a warm welcome to over 400 participants from Canada, the United States, Wales, and Patagonia. National Anthems were sung, and the sun shone.

The festival is held annually over Labor Day weekend in various cities in the US and Canada, and is attended by people ancestrally associated with Wales along with other Welsh-loving folk.

The celebrations included gala banquets, heritage awards, several grand concerts with the finest talent from Wales, limerick, singing and reciting contests, late night pub singing with a vibrant men's chorus from Wales, language practice, Sunday morning worship, seminars on the history and personages of Welsh importance, immigration stories, book presentations and signings, storytelling, silent auctions, lessons in harp and voice, production of Welsh plays and films, and the Wales and Canada Women's Rugby Match. A market place served tea and Welsh cakes. One afternoon a street fair treated the audience of citizens of Ottawa and attendees of the conference to food, clog dancing, singing, and a Welsh jazz brass band. The skies opened and poured rain on the sturdy Welsh and friends, but they weren't daunted. The last day was spent in a glorious Gymanfa Ganu Session, with 400 voices gathered to sing Welsh hymns in a way most people have not heard hymns sung. The festival always ends with the singing of "Till we meet again," all participants holding hands. These are now friends for perpetuity.

If you have not attended one of these annual gatherings, it is a bucket list event. My heart is warmed by seeing friends I have met there, my ears are ringing with music, my step is lightened with cultural knowledge, and I am renewed to walk back into this crazy world we live in. Next year's festival will be held in **Springfield, Massachusetts**, by the Welsh Society of Western New England (**www.WelshWNE.org**). Plan to go!! **www.FestivalofWales.org** *(The limerick contest was won by our own Ellen Webber! See separate article.)*

Bronn Journey Concert Schedule

www.bronnjourney.com

Get into the Christmas spirit with an evening or afternoon of Bronn Journey on harp, accompanied by an ensemble of flutes, clarinet, piano, and percussion. With choir "Breath of Aire." See website for CDs, samples, and concert information.

Visit Bronn and Katherine's YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/user/bronnjourney

- ►**Silverdale – December 17th**
- ►**Mt. Vernon – December 19th**
- ►**Everett – December 20th**
- ►**Auburn – December 23rd**

Welsh Dragon stencils to download, print and use for pumpkin carving like the one my niece did to the right:
https://americymru.net/gaabi/blog/836/free-printable-welsh-pumpkin-stencils-for-halloween-dragon-patterns

South Sound Night Out of Hŵyl

South Sound group is still on a hiatus while Chris is working out of town. We hope to have word of future meet ups as well as the annual Christmas Party soon! If **you** would like to host a Night Out at a local restaurant or your home, please contact: **southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org.**

Remembering Wyn Morgan

-Alan Upshall

Sadly, we report the passing of Wyn Morgan (Challenger). Wyn was born in Ystalyfera, near Swansea, Wales. With her husband Mike, she emigrated to Winnipeg, and the family later moved between several cities in North America before settling in Bothell in 1988.

Wyn and Michael soon joined up with Côr Cymraeg Seattle becoming an integral part of the choirs' activities. She was a member of the core planning team for the very successful Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu (now called the North American Festival of Wales) which PSWA hosted in Bellevue in 1994. An annual summer Mint Julep party hosted by Wyn and Mike was a special occasion enjoyed by the Society members.

Wyn enjoyed poetry very much and wrote many poems herself, some reflecting on her life in Wales. At the opening concert of the 1994 Bellevue National Gymanfa Ganu, Wyn read her poem about growing up in Ystalyfera. After the concert, a lady came forward, weeping and enthusiastic that Wyn's poem had brought back all her own memories of the town.

Wyn passed peacefully on August 18 at the age of 89. She will be remembered and missed.

Autumn & Winter Dates of Interesting Welsh Customs

-Karyn Davies

October 31st - Nos Calan Gaeaf (Winter's Eve)
November 1st - 1st day of Winter
November 5th - Guy Fawkes Day (Bonfire Night)
December 21st until Twelfth Night – Hela'r dryw (Hunting the wren)
December 24th - Noson Gyflaith (Toffee Night)
December 25th (3AM – 6AM) – Plygain (church carol singing)
December 25th until Twelfth Night – Mari Lwyd visitations
December 26th - Gŵyl San Steffan &
Curo Celyn (Holming/Holly beating)
December 31st - Nos Galan Road Races (celebrating Guto Nyth Brân)
January 1st - Calennig (New Year's Gift)
January 14th - Hen Galan (Old New Year according to the Julian calendar)
January 25th - St. Dwynwen's Day (Patron Saint of Lovers)

To learn more about these customs, watch short videos, and listen to music:
https://nation.cymru/feature/uncover-amazing-welsh-winter-traditions/

PSWA Board Members & Elected Officers

Joel Ware IV, President
President@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Mary Lynne Evans, Vice President
PSWA@PugetSoundWelsh.org

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

Laura Lovell, Secretary
PSWA@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Ellen Webber, Membership Secretary
Membership@PugetSoundWelsh.org

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

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

Bob Matthews, Member at Large
PSWA@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Gwen Weinert, Co-Editor
PSWA@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Jill Moore, Member at Large
PSWA@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Alan Upshall, Archivist
Archives@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Cyflaith (Treacle Toffee) *makes about ¼ lb (100g)*

Ingredients:

4oz (100g) butter		A drop of milk
6oz (175g) Demera sugar	2Tbsp treacle	A drop of vinegar

Method

1. Melt the butter, sugar, and treacle in a pan.
2. Bring the ingredients to the boil and add the drop of milk and then stir in the drop of vinegar.
3. Continue cooking for a further 10 mins or until the toffee is set.
4. Test for setting by putting a few drops of the toffee mixture into cold water. When it is set it will harden at once.
5. Pour the mixture into a greased tin and mark into squares.
6. Leave in a cool place to set and when it is cold, break the toffee into pieces.

Winning Limerick Entry – Festival of Wales 2025

-Ellen Webber

Here is my winning entry as selected by the audience from the top 5 entries. The starting line choices were: *The Maple Leaf flag flew on high…* or *Said a foolish young lady from Wales…*

Said a foolish young lady from Wales
I think I will go have some ales
She took off her top
Propositioned a cop
And found herself touring the jails

Breakfast Aboard The Queen Mary – May 5, 1958

-JoAnne Matsumura

Good Morning

R.M.S. "QUEEN" MARY — Monday, May 5, 1958

BREAKFAST

Juices: Prune — Tomato
Apples — Oranges
Compote of Prunes — Stewed Figs
Rolled Oats — Oatmeal Porridge
Corn Flakes — Grape Nuts — All Bran
Fried Fillet of Codling and Lemon
Findon Haddie in Cream
Eggs: Fried, Boiled and Scrambled
Broiled American and Wiltshire Bacon
Grilled Country Black Pudding
COLD: Roast Sirloin of Beef — Fresh Oxford Brawn
Mustard and Cress — Sliced Tomatoes
Buckwheat and Griddle Cakes
Maple and Golden Syrup
White and Wholemeal Rolls — Toast — Hovis Bread
Lemon Scones
Preserves — Marmalade
Tea — Coffee — Chocolate — Cocoa — Ovaltine
Horlick's Malted Milk — Fresh Milk
Passengers on Special Diet are especially invited to make known their requirements to the Chief Tourist Steward
Speciality Foods for Infants are available on reque

Cunard Line

This *Good Morning* breakfast menu offered a variety of choices that would last you well into a midday meal, giving you time to enjoy the amenities offered in the various areas of entertainment, or maybe just a nice lounge on deck - enjoying scenery or other types of entertainment offered. With a capacity of nearly 2000 passengers, on this, "One of the world's largest superliners," there is plenty of entertainment.

The Queen Mary left New York April 23, 1958. One can travel around the world, then home crossing the Atlantic via the Cunard Line.

The Cunard line offered famous food for different cultures, fun and service to make the crossing an 'extra' vacation on the way--
--for about $24.00 per day.

This British Ocean Liner, The Queen Mary, had her Maiden Voyage May 27, 1936 and served passengers to 1967. Built by John Brown & Co., in Scotland, and operated during that time by The Cunard White Star Line. In World War Two it was used as a troopship. The vessel was retired and became a hotel and tourist attraction docked at Long Beach, California.

We welcome your contributions of relevant articles, news, announcements, events, and photos:
Newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org

⚠DEADLINE FOR NEXT SUBMISSION: January 20th

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) $_____

Membership is annual from Jan 1 through Dec 31

Thank you for your prompt renewal!

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

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE WA
PERMIT NO. 1996

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/

Y Gwyliau sy'n dod a'i gelyn glas,
A'i gyflaith, a'i bwdin, a'i ŵyddau bras
Daw'r plant i enyn chwerthiniad iach
I'r aelwyd gynes yn Nghymru bach

- Trebor Mai, y Cymro, 18 September 1890

(English Translation)

The holidays bring their bright foe,
With taffy, pudding, and fat geese in tow,
The children arrive with healthy cheer,
To the warm hearth in little Wales here.