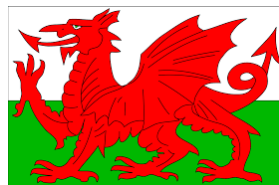


The Welsh Society of Western New England



Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd Gorllewino

Website: WelshWNE.org / Email: WelshWNE@gmail.com / FaceBook: WSWNE

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sat. Nov 16 - Genealogy Workshop

Sat. Nov 23 - Welsh Conversation

Sat. Dec 7 - Annual Christmas Luncheon

Tues. Dec 17 - Genealogy & Xmas Tea

Sat. Dec 28 - Welsh Conversation group

January - NO Genealogy

Sat. Jan 25 - Welsh Conversation group

Sat. Feb 1, 8, 22 - 6 Nations Rugby

Sat. Feb 15 - Genealogy Workshop

Sat. Feb 22 - Welsh Conversation group

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

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

Sat, March 7 - St. David's Day luncheon

Sat. Mar 14 - 6 Nations Rugby

Sat. Mar 28 - Welsh Conversation group

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



11AM to 3PM - Saturday, Dec 7
at the Storrowton Tavern, West
Springfield, MA on the Eastern
States Exposition campus.

11 AM Social hour: meet old
friends and new.

Cash bar with complimentary hors
d'oeuvres of cheese, crackers, and
vegetable crudités, followed by the
festive luncheon, complete with the
popping of British Christmas
crackers!



There will be Welsh festive music playing and tables decorated in the Christmas tradition.

Shop for wonderful Welsh gifts at our merchandize table, with special items brought from Wales by our members: children's books and Welsh tapestry coin purses are both bound to sell like hot Welsh cakes, and one lucky person will win a year's subscription to NINNAU, the North American Welsh newspaper.

"12 Days of a Welsh Christmas":

The program will include part of Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales* spoken by Glyn Dowden, our resident Dylan, Welsh winter poems & fables plus personal stories of our Christmas memories in Wales. We will close the afternoon with a Welsh carol and, of course, the National Anthem.

Following the luncheon: EXTRA! EXTRA! From 2 - 4 PM, please enjoy a complimentary visit to "Yuletide": Storrowton's annual winter holiday festival which features their 18th & 19th century seasonally decorated buildings. The Village is bursting with holiday delights such as musical performances, storytelling, old-fashioned craft demonstrations & blacksmithing. Find unique holiday gifts and decorations in the Christmas Shop, and get hot chocolate in the Sweet Shoppe. (www.storrowtonvillage.com)

See page 14 for the luncheon RSVP form.

See page 3 for driving directions.



Consider giving a Christmas gift!

To keep up with news from Wales and North America, please subscribe to NINNAU: the North American Welsh newspaper. 6 issues per year at \$30 per year, or digital for \$20.

[www. NINNAU.com](http://www.NINNAU.com)

Directions to Storowton Tavern, West Springfield, MA.

Storowton Tavern is on the Big E (Eastern States Exposition) grounds, near Gate 2.

To reach Gate 2, **using GPS, enter 1535 Memorial Ave, West Springfield, MA**, or "Big E Gate 2," but NOT 1305 Memorial Ave (the business address on their website and Google search result).

From the North

Take I-91 South to exit 13B, to Rte. 5 South, to Rte. 147 West (Memorial Avenue) to Big E grounds Gate 2 (about 1.6 miles on the left).

From the South

Take I-91 North to Mass. Exit 3, to Rte. 5 North, to Rte. 147 West (Memorial Avenue) to Big E grounds Gate 2 (about 1.6 miles on the left).

Enter through Gate 2 and continue straight on the Avenue of States (with parking on both sides). Storowton Tavern will soon be seen on the left. Walk through the wooden arch with Storowton Tavern sign above; follow the brick path around the side of the building to the main entrance.

ENTER
THROUGH
THIS
WOODEN
WHITE
ARCH.



Venues for the next three NAFOWs so we can plan our trips!

2020 - Philadelphia, PA (4 hour drive or \$140 train)

2021 - Ottawa, Canada (6-7 hour drive or \$500 flight)

2022 - Pittsburgh, PA (8 hour drive or \$330 flight)

Prices are approximate.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS

Our Genealogy Workshop meets monthly to learn how to research Welsh roots. Meets at 10:15am - 5:00pm. RSVP, email WelshWNE@gmail.com. Bring a lunch dish to share and your current family tree, no matter how small, to get started.

- **Sat. Nov 16** - Regular Workshop
- **Tuesday, Dec 17** - Regular Workshop followed by our Genealogy Christmas Afternoon Tea

- **January** - NO WORKSHOP THIS MONTH
- **Sat., Feb 15** - Regular Workshop
- **Sat., March 14** - Regular Workshop at 12 noon - 5PM following the 10:15AM Rugby game (see below)

RUGBY WORLD CUP....RESULTS

Wales fought hard to be the top of the group D, with wins against Georgia, Australia, Uruguay and Fiji. As top of the group we played France in the quarter final on October 20. After a nail-biting win we played South Africa in the semi-final on October 27 and sadly lost, after a hard fought game.

RUGBY 6 NATIONS CUP - 2020

Rugby's greatest championship between Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France and England will take place over seven weekends in 2020, beginning on Fri. Feb 1st. Wales will be defending their 2019 win! Want to see it? Check the schedule:

Feb 1st (Sat) 9:15AM - **Wales v Italy, watch with us**

Feb 8th (Sat) 9:15AM - **Ireland v. Wales, watch with us... and....**



Winter 2019

Feb 22nd (Sat) 11:45 AM - **Wales v. France, watch with us**

March 7th (Sat) 11:45am - **England v. Wales**

March 14th (Saturday) 10:15AM - **Wales v. Scotland, watch with us.**

MUST RSVP: email WelshWNE@gmail.com

WSWNE NEWS

SHERRY WILLIAMS

Sherry passed away on September 30, 2019 after an illness that took her away from us far too soon. Sherry was Vice President of The Welsh Society of Western New England and for several years a Board member. She had been a WSWNE member for over fifteen years. She enjoyed every minute of her involvement in the day-to-day activities of WSWNE, as well as trips to Welsh festivals, concerts, Welsh language classes, watching Wales play rugby, and Welsh genealogy workshops. She had travelled to Wales and attended an Eisteddfod with her cousin Ethne Philips in South Wales. She will be missed by her WSWNE sisters and brothers very much.



CROESO/Welcome to new members:

- **Forrest Jones**, a Navy man, likes learning languages and speaks Welsh. His family came to the USA in the 1800's and were farmers until recently. Forest has recently been relocated to CA.
- **Isabella and Joseph Leake** of Vernon, CT are Welsh language learners, and have joined to be part of our language group. Isabella also enjoys the music and literature of Wales, as well as Welsh food and cooking.

Welsh Language Weekend 2020

Hosted by the Welsh Society of Western New England
during Wales Week/New England 2020

Saturday, Feb 29 - Sunday, March 1, 2020

Taught by Robert Jones, Welsh Language teacher

Saturday 10:00am - 12:00pm - Beginner level class

Saturday 1:00pm - 3:00pm - Intermediate level class

Saturday 3:30 - 5:30pm - Advanced level class

Saturday 7:00pm - Pub dinner & Welsh conversation

Sunday 9:00am - Breakfast at the hotel & Welsh conversation

Location: TO BE ADVISED (Near Hartford/South Windsor, CT)

Discounted hotel rooms will be available for both Friday and Saturday.

Costs: You may sign up for more than one class:

1 class: \$15 / 2 classes \$25 / 3 classes \$35

See sign up form on next page

Questions: Email InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com.

See website at WelshWNE.org

Robert Jones has worked in education for more than 25 years. He has taught language courses in French, German, Spanish, and Welsh, as well as English composition and rhetoric, and world literature and linguistics. In addition to teaching Welsh at the college level, he has also taught the language in a variety of community settings, and for Cymdeithas Madog's

Cwrs Cymraeg, where he is the curriculum coordinator. He now works for System Administration at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Open SUNY / SUNY Online, supporting students and faculty in online learning.

He currently lives in Princetown, New York, with his spouse and three Cardigan Welsh Corgis (Marigold, Hibiscus and Wisteria).



If you wish to sign up for one or more of the Welsh language classes, please let us know by mailing this in:



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NAMES: _____

CELL PHONE #: _____

EMAIL: _____

CLASSES: Beginner ____ Intermediary ____ Advanced ____

COST: You may sign up for more than one class:

1 class: \$15 / 2 classes \$25 / 3 classes \$35

**Please make check payable to WSWNE and mail to:
Mary Pallos, WSWNE Treasurer, 1542 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033**

by Monday, February 24, 2020.

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WALES WEEK / NEW ENGLAND 2020

WSWNE continues to support Wales Week WORLDWIDE, a celebration of Wales around the world. Dates will be **February 22 - March 7, 2020** - yes its actually 2 weeks, as one week is just not long enough! Wales Week events will be held in London, Dublin, Newcastle, Paris, Melbourne, Manchester, New York, New England, Chicago, Dubai, Washington DC, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Pittsburgh, Thailand, Toronto, Ohio, Michigan, Essex and....more to be added.

In 2019, Wales Week Paris held 4 events, ranging from social, cultural and business orientated activities. That's it, no more. And so that week was promoted as Welsh Week Paris - and why not! In New York there were some 7 events held, here in New England we held 10 events, Essex 4, Melbourne 7 ... and so on.



Winter 2019

These organizing events serve varying purposes - be it simply for celebration around the time of St David's Day, or to use the time of 'heightened Welsh-ness' to promote / support Welsh products, services, and international and local profile.

So it's about noise - creating as much Welsh noise as possible. Here in New England, there will be events in Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

If you're involved in the arts, business, the media, in sport, food, public life, academia, our heritage, or in technology, entertainment, tourism, the environment or whatever - and you have a connection to Wales - through Wales Week in New England we can create some great exposure for you, and you'll be helping us to continue building the events program - it's a win-win. Ultimately the job of Wales Week In New England will be to shout about what you're doing and get your messages in front of as many people as possible.

So, if you're interested in running an event, or have some ideas that you'd like to discuss, please contact us at WalesWeekNE@gmail.com. We are also on Twitter [#WalesWeekNE](https://twitter.com/WalesWeekNE).

Shane Williams, ex-Rugby player, and Dan Langford of Wales Week Worldwide at the Wales Week Worldwide event in Tokyo, during the World Cup.



WSWNE MEMBERS MEET COR Y PENRHYN IN WALES

One of the wonderful things that happened during our genealogy trip, and there were many, was the chance to meet with members of Côr y Penrhyn, in anticipation of the choir visit for a concert in 2020. The meeting took place at Bethesda's ZIPWORLD café, where we had a fruitful meeting with about 10 of the choir members, sharing news, funny stories, and plans for the concert.

Winter 2019

Susan Davies Sit, Tom Williams, Beth Roberts Brown, Malden Pritchard, Evan Williams (Concert co-ordinator) and Alun Davies of Côr y Penrhyn.

www.corypenrhyn.cymru



CÔR Y PENRHYN CONCERT

Saturday, August 29, 2020 - West Hartford, CT at 5:00PM

This amazing 45-strong Male Voice Choir from Bethesda, Gwynedd, are on

their way to perform at NAFOW 2020, and we are honored to have them here in West Hartford, CT for one performance.

More details will follow in 2020, but save the date, and bring your friends and family.

If you wish to offer your support, please contact us:



Welsh Cake baking/set-up/publicity/parking, or as a sponsor.

COINCIDENCES IN WALES

Coincidence: "a remarkable concurrence of events or circumstances without apparent casual connection. Synonyms: accident, chance, serendipity, fate, destiny, providence."

Several occurrences on our recent trip to Wales fell into this category. In fact, almost every day we six were reminded what a small world this is and how we are all connected by only 6 degrees of separation.

Each of us traveled to the land of our roots with hopes, if not expectations. And each of us was rewarded in many ways.

On our first full day, it had been agreed to visit Rhosllanerchrugog in search of Mary Jones Pallos' father's birthplace, and visiting the Penuel chapel where her grandfather had been choir director for several years. While we were at the Miners' Institute, at which we'd stopped on a whim, a couple joined us and they were introduced as Myrddin and Perry Davies, members of the Penuel chapel. Introductions were made all around while Mary explained her reasons for being there. She checked her phone and showed Perry a number and asked if she knew who that was. Perry's response, "Why do you have our number in your phone?" At which point Mary explained that she has their whole family tree in her phone because her sister-in-law has been best friends with their niece Janice since college. At this point it was discovered the two families were connected! I think we all cried with her. They took us to the Chapel where we chatted for over an hour, then to their lovely home for tea and home-made Bara Brith. Another coincidence in this small world.

Upon arriving at "The Corwen Old Police Station," our first AirB&B, we were greeted by our hosts. Before they left, they suggested we visit one of the local pubs, The Harp, as Phil the publican is interested in people outside of Wales who are learning the language. So, after dinner on our second night we walked down the main street to visit Phil in the Harp. After taking our orders, Phil asked where we were all from. That question led to him telling us he has a cousin who lives in New York state. Well, since Beth Roberts Brown grew up in Granville, New York, she asked where. Bronwyn lives in Ithaca, says Phil. Bronwyn Quirk, Beth and Sue asked? Yes, do you know her? Yes,

Winter 2019

we met at NAFOW a few years ago and have been in touch ever since.
Smaller world!

On our way from Corwen to Conwy we stopped for lunch at the Cross Foxes

pub and met up with Beth Roberts Brown's cousin Sue and her husband Joe. After introductions, it was discovered that cousin Sue was born in the same nursing home in Colwyn Bay as was our Susan Davies Sit,



6 genealogists in Conwy: Beth Roberts Brown, Susan Jenkins Meers, Mary Jones Pallos, Gail Ellis, Evan Williams, and Sue Davies Sit

and that she had lived in Colwyn Bay where her father was a policeman.
Small world!

Susan Jenkins Meers and Paul Edwards became acquainted through Terry Davies, author of two books on the Marine Families and Boating history of Borth, Wales. Terry, who is a subscriber and contributor to NINNAU, saw a picture of Susan in an issue of NINNAU. He connected the Jenkins name with a very old family of mariners in Borth, and knew that Paul Edwards was connected to the same family. So, he contacted Paul, telling him he thought he might have found a cousin of his in the United States, and put them in touch. They share 2x great grandparents, David (b.1788) and Elinor Williams (b.1790) Jenkins. And now they share a very rich history and love of the seaside village of Borth. They had a wonderful visit and lunch with Terry and his wife Mandy, and were able to thank him in person for acting on that hunch. What makes this so special is that Susan has two Jenkins lines, and the one she carries is her maiden name which comes from the mining valleys of south Wales.

Not only is Paul Edwards of Upper Colwyn Bay cousin to Susan Jenkins Meers, but he and his wife, Jane, started their married life in Mochdre, and spent many fun and satisfied evenings round the corner at the Mountain

Winter 2019

View Pub, which at that time was managed by Susan Davies Sit's parents, Ian and Betty Davies. He recalled how proud Ian was when they renovated the pub and had had a new stainless steel kitchen installed. Ian had given Paul a tour of the kitchens. Paul and Jane now live just a few miles away over the hill, and have very fond memories of Sue's dad and mom. Paul also is no stranger to Mary's

Rhosllanerchrugog, as he had lived there over the post office as a boy while his father was postmaster. Coincidences galore!

One of the highlights of our trip was getting to spend time at the National Eisteddfod, held in Llanrwst

this year. We had volunteered to spend time in the WNAA tent, and as

Susan Davies Sit was volunteering there, a gentleman walked in with his elderly mother. He proceeded to tell Susan about an article he had recently read in NINNAU about a woman who was researching her ancestors in the small town of Llandyfrydog on Angelsey where his mother was born and still lives. He was very surprised when Sue identified herself as the author of that article. This resulted in an offer of hospitality whenever Sue returns for more research, including a tour of the village and a visit to the farm, Ynys Fawr, where her 3 x great grandfather had lived.

What are the chances: our group was listening to local Brynmawr historian, Eifion Davies, as we toured chapels and limestone and iron ore mines in the area. Beth Roberts Brown was shown a music CD called The Boy From the Top of the Hill, which Eifion had been involved in crafting and as she looked at the musician names on the CD jacket, she sees a familiar name. She asked Eifion if Huw Williams was a local performer, as she knew a Welsh musician and clogger called Huw Williams who was part of the folk group Crasdant. Beth had seen the group at NAFOW years ago and again at a Welsh folk night in Utica, NY. Huw Williams is also the father of Bethan Williams and manager of her dynamic Welsh group Calan that Beth has seen in concert



The 6 genealogists at the Eisteddfod.

Winter 2019

and met at festivals here in the USA. Could he be the same Huw Williams? Eifion's expression confirmed he was the very same.

Two of my over-used sayings in life are "why?" And "I don't understand". Then I remember we're not called to understand, but we are called to receive. And when we are willing to receive and accept with open minds and hearts, amazing things happen.

by Susan Jenkins Meers, WSWNE Vice President

WINE AND WELSH CHEESE TASTING

Twenty-seven members of WSWNE and the Rhode Island Welsh Society met up at the Stonington Vineyard in southern CT on September 28th to celebrate Owain Glyndwr Day. After a rousing four-part story of Owain Glyndwr's life and victories, we enjoyed tasting Welsh cheeses (from UK Gourmet in Newtown, CT: ukgourmet.us): Snowdonia Cheeses' Green Thunder, Little Black Bomber, Harlech, Red Storm, and Amber Mist, as well as Caerphilly Cheese. Along with these wonderful Welsh cheeses we tasted 6 wines from Stonington Vineyards, four whites, a rosé, and a red. We flew Owain Glyndwr's flag and enjoyed meeting new friends and new members too!



Annual Christmas Holiday Luncheon

Dec. 7, 2019 at Storowton Tavern, Springfield, MA

MENU

Caesar Salad with Bread Rolls

Choice of:

CAPE CODDER

Chicken Stuffed with Cranberry bread stuffing with a demi-glaze

OR

BROILED SALMON

OR

YANKEE POT ROAST

OR

EGGPLANT ROLLATINI (Vegetarian)

Above all served with Twice Baked Potato and Butternut Squash

CHILDREN'S MEAL (Chicken Fingers and Fries)

Followed by:

WELSH CAKE ICE CREAM& COFFEE or TEA

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Names of all attending Christmas Holiday Luncheon 2019:

_____ Phone #: _____

# of CAPE CODDER	_____	# of MEMBERS @ \$30.00	_____
# of SALMON	_____	# of GUESTS @ \$33.00	_____
# of YANKEE POT ROAST	_____	# of CHILDREN'S MEALS @ \$12	_____
# of VEGETARIAN	_____		
# of CHILDREN'S MEALS	_____	TOTAL CHECK	\$ _____

Please make check payable to WSWNE and mail to:
Mary Pallos, WSWNE Treasurer, 1542 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033
by Wednesday, Nov 27, 2019.

AROUND OUR WELSH AMERICAN WORLD

Visit to the US South

Wales Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, recently visited Texas, Alabama and Georgia, to promote Wales as a study destination, build civic and education partnerships, and secure agreements and opportunities for Welsh students, academics and organizations.

NEWS FROM WALES

STAR WARS movie being filmed in Wales

Wales is set to be home to yet another big production - Amblin Television's Brave New World, starring Solo: A Star Wars Story actor, Alden Ehrenreich, Downton Abbey actress Jessica Brown Findlay and also Demi Moore.

Series one of Brave New World, based on the Aldous Huxley novel, will bring directing legend Steven Spielberg's television company to Dragon Studios in Llanharan, near Llantrisant, as well as other locations across South Wales.

Hans Solo actor, Ehrenreich - who is taking on the role of John the Savage in the show - has been spotted enjoying a visit to Cardiff Market, as principle photography has already begun on the project. (From Wales Online and Fly2Wales.)



Beautiful Beddgelert by Susan Davies Sit, 2019

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

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Chaplain: Vacant

Past President: Dr. Tom Bernard (MA)

Founder: John Dixon (MA)

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

Honorary Founding Member: Shirley Keifer (CT)

Honorary member: Trey McCain (Wales)

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WSWNE Membership Form

PLEASE MAIL to Mary Pallos, WSWNE Treasurer, 1542 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033 (check made out to WSWNE, membership year begins March 1st, per family):

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

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

Names (list household members):

Address _____

Home phone # _____

Cell phone # _____

Email address (**PLEASE PRINT**) _____

Your Welsh Interests: _____

Newsletter Winter, 2019: For Treasurer's use only: Date received: _____