

# The Welsh Society of Western New England

**Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd  
Gorllewino**

Website: [WelshWNE.org](http://WelshWNE.org) Email: [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com) FaceBook: [WSWNE](https://www.facebook.com/WSWNE)

Twitter: [@WelshWestNewEng](https://twitter.com/WelshWestNewEng)

## **OWAIN GLYNDWR : WINE AND CHEESE CELEBRATION**

**Not only Owain Glyndwr, but this unique opportunity to celebrate being together... a complimentary event for members.**

**Saturday, October 16th, 2021 at 2-5PM**

**(RAIN DATE Sunday, October 17th)**

**EMAIL US AT [InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com) with questions.**

We will be excited to hold our Owain Glyndwr celebration at the home of Susan Davies Sit and Don Sit in the form of an outdoor Wine & Welsh Cheese Tasting on the deck, with the Owain Glyndwr flag flying in October. Please also note the change of time. **ALL EXISTING RESERVATIONS WILL BE HONORED.**

We will share the story of Owain Glyndwr in both Welsh and English, while enjoying a variety of Welsh cheeses such as Snowdonia's Black Bomber, Harlech, & Green Thunder, plus Caerphilly and more, complimented by crackers, fruit, breads, chutneys and, of course, a tasting of several international wines by South Side Wine-Spirit Shoppe, of Glastonbury, CT.

**POSTPONED TO OCTOBER 16 DUE TO COVID DELTA  
VARIANT'S RISING NUMBERS. WE WANT TO  
ENSURE YOUR SAFETY.**

**This is a member event,  
and all family members residing  
at member's mailing address may  
attend for free. Members may also bring one or  
more guests at \$30 per guest.**

**FOLK MUSIC from WILD NOTES, an energetic and exuberant local, traditional acoustic group with roots in Celtic, French-Canadian, jazz and classical music, focusing on Welsh dances and songs. Their New England and Celtic reels, jigs, and hornpipes will delight everyone.**



**See their website here: <http://wildnotes.us>**

Soft drinks and water also served. Street parking and parking help available. **PLEASE CONSIDER CARPOOLING.**

Remaining whole Welsh cheeses will be available to purchase. Cash or check only.

***ALL ATTENDEES MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED  
(at least 2 weeks past your second dose).***

**RSVP by October 1st, is REQUIRED BY ALL, either by the RSVP form on the website <https://www.welshwne.org/events/owain-glyndwr-wine-and-cheese-celebration> or by mailing in the form which will be sent to you by separate email. Location will be given once RSVP is received.**

**ALL MEMBERS INVITED! If you live outside of New England, and therefore cannot attend, you will receive a small gift in the mail, so you too can enjoy a Welsh treat!**

**[InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com) for any questions.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

August Every Tuesday

– Welsh conversation-on-Zoom continues

September Every Tues -

Welsh conversation-on-Zoom

September 8 & 22

Beginners Welsh Conversation-on-Zoom

Sept 13 & 27 (Monday)

- Welsh genealogy-on-Zoom.

October - Every

Tuesday- Welsh conversation-on-Zoom

October 6 & 20

Beginners Welsh Conversation-on-Zoom

October 16 (Saturday)

- Owain Glyndwr Wine & Welsh Cheese.

December 4 - Annual

Christmas Holiday Luncheon, West Springfield, MA

## WELSH CONVERSATION GROUP-on-Zoom

**Intermediate Welsh:** If you are a Welsh learner or speaker looking for an opportunity to chat in Welsh in a casual, friendly setting, this is the place!. **NOTE: this is not a class.** We use imaginative weekly topics/questions which enable us to learn new vocabulary. **THIS SESSION IS FULL RIGHT NOW, but a waiting list is available.** On-line Tuesdays at 6:30PM

**Beginner Welsh:** every other Wednesday at 7pm for 30-60 minutes. **NOTE: This is not a class,** though there will be a little homework.

**How:** To join our ZOOM Welsh Conversation groups, please email us at [InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com).

**Specify which session you'd like to join.**

## WELSH GENEALOGY-ON-ZOOM

**When:** September 13 and 27 on- Zoom

**How:** Join our ZOOM Welsh Genealogy group: email [InfoWelshWNE.com](mailto:InfoWelshWNE.com) to be added to the email invitation.

## NINNAU

To keep up with news, both 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 at: [NINNAU.com](http://NINNAU.com).



## MEET OUR MEMBERS

### Leslie and Mark Spencer

#### **Q. Tell us a bit about your present family and work life.**

Mark is an electrical engineer, and works in his own company, building tools for the study of insect behavior, while Leslie has retired from both teaching and nursing and now enjoys painting and gardening.



#### **Q. Tell us about your origins in Wales and your immigration story.**

Mark's Bennion family ancestors originated in Hawarden, Flint County, North Wales, where they were tenant farmers on the Gladstone Estate, site of the medieval Hawarden Castle. While a young man working as an apprentice boiler maker in nearby Liverpool, John Bennion met early missionaries from the Mormon Church, and was baptized as a member shortly thereafter in 1842. Within a few months he wrapped up his affairs, and 8 days after marriage to Esther Wainwright, left all to sail for America and the gathering of the new church founded only a few years earlier. Landing first in New Orleans and then Nauvoo, Illinois, they eventually moved with the church body to Iowa, and finally walked across the plains to settle in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1847.

It is interesting to note that shortly after their arrival, John Parry and a group of 85 Welsh converts to the church were asked to form the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and some generations later in the 1920s, Mark's grandmother sang in this choir as a young woman.

Leslie's Celtic roots are the Dunn family emigrating from Scotland in 1891 to promote the new game of golf in America. Her great grandmother, Isabella May Gourlay Dunn, was considered the first woman golf professional here, traveling the country teaching and promoting the sport, designing golf courses, and writing golf instruction articles for the New York Herald. Seymour Dunn, Isabella's brother and author of the well known book [Golf Fundamentals](#), professionally taught and designed golf courses throughout this country and Europe.

**Q. Share your favorite aspects of Welsh culture.**

We love hearing the Welsh choirs and singers that sing with such passion. Leslie has traveled to Wales twice and truly enjoyed seeing the beautiful countryside.

**Q. Tell us how you are involved in the Society.**

We joined the society some years ago, and have enjoyed connecting with our Celtic roots ever since. Mark has been editing the newsletter, and Leslie captures, in photos, happy Society luncheon moments.

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**WSWNE is looking for help: these positions are available...**

- **Newsletter Assistant Editor** - previous newsletter experience would be helpful
- **Social Media Manager** - weekly posting on FaceBook, Twitter and Instagram (one or all)

Please email [InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com) if you are interested in these volunteer positions



**NEWS FROM OUR WELSH AMERICAN WORLD**

**North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) 2021,**

September 2-5, 2021 in Utica, NY

**Thursday, September 2, to Sunday, September 5.** As always, information at [NAFOW.org](http://NAFOW.org).

**NAFOW 2022 in Philadelphia, PA - road trip! Let's go!**

**NAFOW 2023 in Lincoln, Nebraska**

**NAFOW 2024 in Ottawa, Canada****NEWS FROM WALES**

## ANCIENT ENCAMPMENT dating back 9,000 years is unearthed in North Wales town



(Image: Aeon Archeology)

By Jez Hemming Local Democracy Reporter of NorthWalesLive

A county councillor's determination has led to the discovery of a 9,000 year-old encampment "on a par with the oldest proven mesolithic site" in Wales. The site, on Castle Hill, off Hylas Lane in Rhuddlan, yielded a total of 314 stone artifacts on a site which is believed to have been a sandy-ridge overlooking the floodplain of the Afon Clwyd.

Many of the finds were flakes of chert (hard, fine-grained sedimentary rock) and flint but rudimentary tools were also

discovered.

Expert Richard Cooke of Aeon Archaeology, who dug the site with his colleague Josh Dean, believes the artifacts came from a group which was passing through and made camp by the river more than 9,000 years ago. He said: "We found a lot of worked flint from the mesolithic period. There were three post holes, material from which was carbon dated at between 9220-9280 years old - plus or minus 30 years". He added: "They were well developed people who came before the first farmers."

Rhuddlan has the highest concentration of mesolithic sites in Wales and a dig in the 1970s at nearby Ysgol y Castell had been relatively fruitful at unearthing ancient artifacts. The plot is also near Twthill, the site of an 11th-century motte (mound) believed to be the site of the town's first castle.

More than 300 artifacts were discovered on the site, which was carbon dated and deemed "on a par with" Wales' oldest site in Pembrokeshire.

Among the finds were scrapers made of flint and chert, possibly used by butchers to cut meat and scrape hide, and microliths -



small shaped blades which were often used as cutting and slicing tools. There was also a "notch" - a small tool which could have been used to shape wood.

The tell-tale sign of this period, between 9,600 and 4,000 BC, was the use of small chipped stone tools (microliths) and retouched bladelets. They were also an artistic people, with examples of cave painting having been recorded in Spain and early hewn slabs made into rock constructions called megaliths.

## OWAIN TUDOR

Following the Deio Jones' report set in Benllech, Anglesey:

by Begw Arian

'During the Tudor times poets were the newsreaders of the day, sharing news with local people round the Croes Wion (Market Cross). Henry V was not very keen on the idea, invited the poets to his Castle and killed them; no news was shared in the area for years after.

Then someone came to the Croes Wion and started spreading news, a crowd of people gathered, Henry V became aware and went to see what was going on. He sent a person, or beast, called Rheibiwr Mawr to take the poet away. The crowd scattered and a young man came out to try and defend the poet, he succeeded and managed to defeat his attacker.

According to legend, the young man was Owain Tudor.'

This is what Begw Arian has found: The Croes Wion was noted as the site of a meeting place as long ago as 1414, being the site of Y Farchnad Fawr, a big market that drew crowds from the surrounding districts who would travel by land and sea to gather at the site.

<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/>



Benllech is now the 4<sup>th</sup> largest settlement on Anglesey, but was a poor straggling village with a few small cottages by the beach before the 1800's when it became a fashionable seaside resort.

Peasants were the poorest people in the medieval era and lived primarily in the country or small villages. Serfs were the poorest of the peasant class, were a type of slave, Lords/Barons owned the serfs who lived and worked on their lands. Farmers were a bit better off, some owned their own farms. Peasants could receive an education, if they could afford it; serfs were not allowed an education.

In the Middle Ages official news was communicated by messengers traveling across the land spreading the word of the king, or Queen, to others. The Church would also communicate information. Returning merchants, sailors and travellers brought back news; this was then picked up by peddlers and travelling players and spread from town to town. Rumours were also very common, people would talk, gossip in their villages.

Henry V was born in Monmouth Castle 1386, became King 1413 and died 1422.

In the year 1400, when Henry was 12, his father charged him to defeat Owain Glyndwr, various battles continued until 1409 with the fall of Harlech Castle to the English. (Owain Glyndwr never surrendered to the English, was never betrayed by his followers, he then disappeared)

Henry, even at this young age, had a ruthless reputation. In Wales in 1403 Henry took his troops looking for Glyndwr, could not find him so burnt villages and killed any prisoners that were taken. During the battle of Agincourt the city of Rouen was under siege, it couldn't support the women and children of the town. They were forced out of the gates, believing Henry would allow them to pass unmolested, Henry refused to allow this, the women and children died of starvation and cold in the ditches surrounding the town.

Henry was known to have 500 Welsh Archers during this Battle, mainly from Brecon and Monmouthshire. Again he didn't take prisoners; the opposition were killed even if they could provide a ransom.

Owain (Owen) Tudor was born 1400 in Penmynydd Anglesey to an aristocratic family. He joined Henry V's army, distinguished himself and eventually became involved in the King's court, possibly as keeper of the household for Henry's Queen .

-Henry was born in Monmouth Castle.



- Would have been in North Wales during his early years fighting Owain Glyndwr's army.
- Possibly in Wales recruiting Archers for Agincourt.
- Showed how ruthless he was by killing prisoners, women and children.
- Benllech had a Cross where people gathered on market days, drawing people in from surrounding villages by land and sea, possible travelling peddlers selling their wares and sharing news.
- Owain Tudor lived on Anglesey, was from an aristocratic family, may have owned lands nearby, and would certainly have known the Lord/Barons who owned lands around Benllech.
- Being part of Henry V's retinue could also have another reason for being in the area.

Due to the length of time that has passed since the event cited by Deio Jones it is impossible to find concrete evidence of the events. A piece of oral history passed down by Benllech families over the generations maybe?

Draw your own conclusions from the above evidence. - By Begw Arian

## 10 WELSH WOMEN Who Changed The World

by [Historyan.co.uk](http://Historyan.co.uk)

There is currently **no outdoor statue of a woman in the capital city of Cardiff**. But all that is going to change. A shortlist of five inspirational Welsh women from history was drawn up from an initial long list. Here is # 4 in the series of the initial ten:

### Katheryn of Berain – Welsh Noblewoman

Katheryn was born to Tudur ap Robert Vychan of Berain, Denbighshire and his wife Jane (who was the daughter of Sir Roland Velville – an illegitimate son of Henry VII himself!)

Katheryn is important in Welsh history due to her four marriages and her extensive network of descendants and relations. She is the



ancestress of several notable Welsh families who have played important parts in the history of Wales and Britain.

Her first husband was John Salusbury (yes, that same Salusbury family as William Salusbury, who translated the bible into Welsh). Their first son Thomas was executed for his involvement in the infamous Babington plot, which sought to replace Elizabeth I with Mary, Queen of Scots.

She then married Sir Richard Clough, rich merchant and spy for Elizabeth Ist. They married in 1567 and in the same year Richard built them **the first ever brick house in Wales**. After Richard's death 12 years later marriage to Maurice Wynn of the Wynns of Gwydir swiftly followed (the Wynns went on to hold important roles in the court of Charles I).

Katheryn's fourth and last husband was Edward Thelwall. But her legacy lives on in her VERY extensive network of descendants.

**(Note from Editor:** at least two of our members have Salusbury ancestors)

# PETITION for 'Snowdonia' and 'Snowdon' to be known as 'Eryri' and 'Yr Wyddfa'

North Wales News By **Gareth Wyn-Williams** Local Democracy Reporter



**View from Y Wyddfa**

A campaign calling for the nation's highest peak to be known only by its Welsh name is gathering pace after a 5,000 signature petition was presented to national park bosses.

Authority chiefs set up a working group to consider its future policy on Welsh place names.

Such calls, which would also see the park referred to as Eryri rather than Snowdonia, were prompted by Gwynedd councillor John Pughe Roberts who felt it would be "a real chance to make a statement on the need to protect our

indigenous Welsh place names".

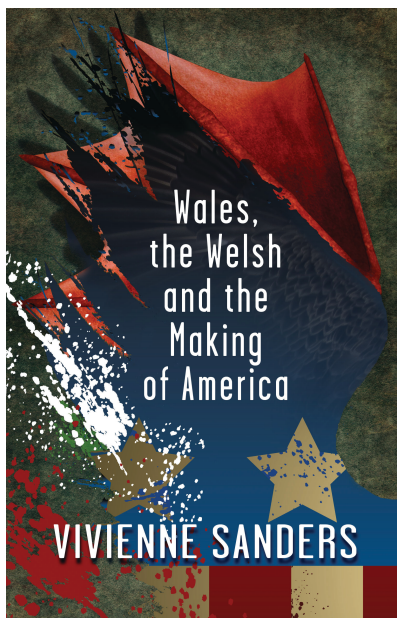
Previous efforts have been made to drop the English forms including one from language pressure group Cymuned in 2003, who claimed that the area only became known as Snowdonia due to Victorian day-trippers. But the park has now confirmed that it has been presented with a petition containing over 5,300 signatures from "around the world."

Elfed Wyn ap Elfyn of pressure group Cymdeithas yr Iaith, said: "Attacks on the Welsh language is something consistent, this is seen when house names and names for different areas of Wales are changed from Welsh. "I, and many others think that only using the names 'Eryri' and 'Yr Wyddfa' would be a positive step towards showing the importance of the Welsh language."

## WELL-READ DRAGONS:

# Wales, the Welsh and the Making of America

University of Wales Press



In 1971, Californian congressman Thomas M. Rees told the US House of Representatives that 'very little has been written of what the Welsh have contributed in all walks of life in the shaping of American history'. This book is the first systematic attempt to both recount and evaluate the considerable yet undervalued contribution made by Welsh immigrants and their immediate descendants to the development of the United States. Their lives and achievements are recounted within a narrative outline of American history that emphasises the Welsh influence upon the colonists' rejection of British rule, and upon the establishment, expansion and industrialisation of the new American nation. The book covers both the

famous and the unsung who worked and fought to acquire greater prosperity and freedom for themselves and for their nation.

[store.nbinternational.com](http://store.nbinternational.com) £11.99 paperback from the UK or e-book PDF same price.

## A New World Heritage Site for Wales

### *WalesOnline*

The slate landscape of north-west Wales has been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List, making it the fourth World Heritage Site in Wales.

First Minister of Wales Mark Drakeford said:

"Today's announcement recognises the significant contribution this part of north Wales has made to the cultural and industrial heritage not only of Wales, but of the wider world. Welsh slate can be found all over the world.

"The quarrying and mining of slate has left a unique legacy in Gwynedd, which the communities are rightly proud of. This worldwide recognition today by

UNESCO, will help preserve that legacy and history in those communities for generations to come and help them with future regeneration.”



Led by Gwynedd Council, the inscription is the culmination of over 15 years of hard work by partners

including Cadw to record, safeguard and recognise the living legacy of the slate landscape of Gwynedd.

Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, Dawn Bowden recently visited the National Slate Museum, and said:

"This is such fantastic news for the area and for Wales. Working on and submitting the bid has been a real team effort, and I'd like to thank everyone who has been involved. This news has made all the hard work worthwhile!

"Gaining World Heritage Site Status is an excellent celebration of the pride in our slate communities and a driver for future regeneration."

The new World Heritage Site is a serial property in six parts including spectacular quarry landscapes such as Penrhyn, Dinorwig, the Nantlle Valley and Ffestiniog. It also includes the National Slate Museum in Llanberis, Penrhyn Castle and the famous Ffestiniog and Tallylyn Railways, built to transport the slate from quarry to markets around the world and both later transformed through the dedication of volunteers into heritage railways.

The aims of the nomination were as follows:

- A thriving regional economy
- Vibrant and living communities proud of their community and heritage
- High quality, skilled employment
- Higher value tourism sector, all year round
- Continuation of the slate industry
- A sustainable and living landscape
- Celebrate the role of our slate heritage in the world
- Protect and enhance physical heritage

Full details of the new World Heritage Site can be viewed on its dedicated website: [Wales Slate: World Heritage Site Bid](#)



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

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Honorary member: Trey McCain (Wales)

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**WSWNE Membership Form for mailed-in checks:**

**PLEASE MAIL to Mary Pallos, WSWNE Treasurer, 1542 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033. Check made out to WSWNE. Membership year begins March 1st, one per family at same address. Check website to pay by credit card on-line.**

\_\_\_\$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: \_\_\_\_\_

N'letter Late Summer, 2021: For Treasurer's use only: Date received: \_\_\_\_\_