The Welsh Society of Western New England

Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd Gorllewino

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

OWAIN GLYNDWR:

WINE AND WELSH CHEESE TASTING

Friday, September 16th, 2022 at 4:30PM - 7:00PM



We are excited to hold our annual Owain Glyndwr celebration at the beautiful setting of Lost Acres Vineyard, 80 Lost Acres Road, North Granby, CT for a fan favorite: a Wine & Welsh Cheese Tasting. 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 Collier's, Caerphilly and more,

complimented by crackers, fruit, breads, chutneys and, of course, a tasting of several of Lost Acres' wines.

- ☆ Owain Glyndwr presentation
- **☆ Welsh Cheeses** with support by UK Gourmet, Bethel, CT
- Wine Tasting at the vineyard
- ☆ Complimentary wine glass to take home
- Remaining whole Welsh cheeses will be available to purchase.



Online payment may be made via https://www.welshwne.org/events/owain-glyndwr-2022 or RSVP with check (\$25 per person, payable to WSWNE) by SEPTEMBER 12th, 2022 to: Edward Brown, 10 Grandview Drive, Westfield, MA 01085RSVP with check (\$25 per person, payable to WSWNE) by SEPTEMBER 12th, 2022 to: Edward Brown, 10 Grandview Drive, Westfield, MA 01085. ALL ATTENDEES MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED.

CALAN - Performance in Hartford, CT

Oct. 20, 2022 at 7:00pm



We are pleased to announce that the Welsh Folk Band CALAN is coming to the Meeting House Presents at the Unitarian Society of Hartford, 50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT at 7:00 pm.on Thursday, October 20, 2022.

Wales-based group Calan's music has ancient roots and while untraditionally traditional they also raise the international profile of traditional Welsh music. Get used to this: Accordion, Fiddle, Pipes, Harp, and the percussive sound of Clogs are the new Guitar, Bass, and Drums.

To date, Calan has gone from busking in the streets of Cardiff to introducing Welsh traditional music to curious music fans in the UK, Belgium, Italy, France, and on several tours of North America, playing festival shows on huge stages to tens-of-thousands, as well as at local folk club shows, unrestricted by sound systems, while standing on tables and jumping off chairs.

The musicians making these old sounds new, blasting their way through the old reels, jigs and hornpipes, include **Calan** vocalist, accordionist, and wearer of the clogs, **Bethan Williams-Jones**, who sings in both English and Welsh, and learned her style of award-winning clog dancing from her father, who was also a champion. Plus **Patrick Rimes** (Fiddle, Whistle, Pipes) and **Sam Humphreys** (Guitar), **Rimes** was a junior Celtic Welsh fiddle champion for three years running. **Humphreys** started out playing electronic pop and rock music before discovering the magic mix of folk and modern styles he brings to **Calan**. Rounding out **Calan** is **Shelley Musker Turner** on Harp, who studied the

harp starting at the age of seven, (Solomon – Sain Records)
The concert is supported by the Welsh Society of Western New England and we will be serving traditional Welsh cakes during intermission with the generous support of member, and Welsh-born, Helen Coates of the Copper Kettle Bakery copperkettlebakery.com.



Ticket info: https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5522765

Tickets also sold at the door, if not sold out. Open seating.

Bring your friends and family! More details on <u>WelshWNE.org/events</u> and our FaceBook page (WSWNE).

GENEALOGY-ON-ZOOM

When: Twice a month: Mondays at 11:00AM

How: To be added to our ZOOM Welsh Genealogy group: email InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com

PLUS: Coming this Fall: September 12: We are excited to see you in person (fully vaccinated persons only please) where we learn how to research Welsh roots. Meets 11:00am - 5:00pm. Come for the whole day or part thereof. For info and to RSVP, email InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com. We will also be on Zoom

InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com. **We will also be on Zoom that day from** 11:30am -1pm, drop in to "visit" and participate!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September Every Tues - Welsh conversation-on-Zoom

September 14 & 28 - Beginners Welsh Conversation-on-Zoom

Sept 12 & 26 (Monday) - Welsh Genealogy-on- Zoom.

Sept 16 (Friday) - Owain Glyndwr Wine and Welsh Cheese, N. Granby, CT

Oct. 10 & 24 (Mon.) Genealogyon-700m

Oct. Every Tuesday - Welsh Conversation-on-Zoom

October 12 & 26 -

Beginners Welsh Conversationon-Zoom

October 20 (Thursday) - CALAN Folk Band live in Hartford, CT

Nov. (every Tuesday)- Welsh Conversation on Zoom

November 9 & 30 -

Beginners Welsh Conversationon-Zoom

Nov. 14 (Mon.) Genealogy-on-Zoom

December 10 - (Sat.) Christmas Holiday Luncheon

December 14 ONLY -

Beginners Welsh Conversationon-Zoom

WELSH CONVERSATION-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.

Where: On-line every Tuesday at 5:30PM THIS SESSION IS CURRENTLY FULL but please join the waiting list.

Beginner Welsh: every other Wednesday at 5:30pm for 60 minutes. **NOTE: This is not a class**, though there will be a little homework.

How: To be added to either of the above ZOOM Welsh Conversation groups, please email us at InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com.

Please indicate which group you'd like to join.

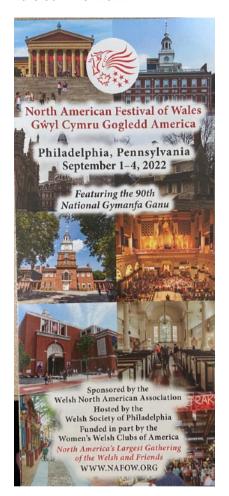
NINNAU

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.

WSWNE is looking for help!

Newsletter Assistant Editor - previous newsletter experience would be helpful

Please email <u>InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com</u> if you are interested in this volunteer position.



NEWS FROM OUR WELSH AMERICAN WORLD

North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) 2022

Aug 31- Sep 4, 2022 in Philadelphia, PA

Join us at NAFOW this year to experience hiraeth and enjoyment: Music and singing;

Attend a seminar about Wales' history, language, coal industry, Heddwch Nain Mamgu, geography, politics, poetry, opera and literature;

Enjoy banquets and presentations; sing with us at the bar on Saturday night; listen to a Welsh choir pull at your heart-strings.

Last minute? We are car-pooling, so be in touch as soon as you read this!

InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com

http://festivalofwales.org

Future NAFOW locations; NAFOW 2023 in Lincoln, Nebraska NAFOW 2024 in Pittsburg, PA

Annual Christmas Holiday Luncheon -save the date!

Sat., Dec. 10th, 2022.

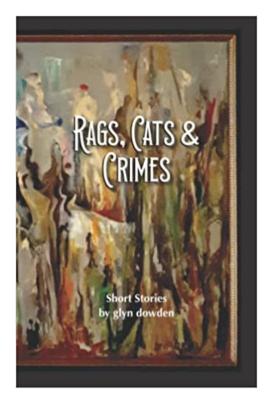
The annual festive Christmas Holiday Luncheon will be held at the beautiful Storrowton tavern, in West Springfield, MA. There will be a social hour to renew our friendships at 11-12 noon followed by a luncheon with Christmas crackers, a room full of decorations, music and a visit by our very own MARI LWYD! More on WelshWNE.org/events soon!



READ-DRAGON BOOKS

By member Glyn Dowden
Rags, Cats & Crimes: Short Stories
by glyn dowden. A selection of
fictional short stories. This book is in
addition to my other three books up
on Amazon, namely, two poetry
books and a book of essays - Talking
To My Wall During Covid. You can
access these books just by typing in
my name on the Amazon books site.

This book of short stories come from ideas gathered over a lifetime, from friends, relatives, acquaintances, and strangers that have passed through my life. Ideas spring forth from many mouths and suddenly one has a



scene, a character, and a story pouring onto a page—some funny, some sad, some disturbing—but I hope you will find them all entertaining.

10 Welsh Women Who Changed The World

by Hisdoryan.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 # 8 in the series of the initial ten:

#8. Emmeline Lewis Lloyd - British alpine mountaineer

Emmeline Lewis-Lloyd (1827-1913) was a true trailblazer and pioneer.

Emmeline and her friend Isabella Straton were two of the rare women who climbed the Alps and Pyrenees in the 1860s and 70s. In fact, it is believed that Emmeline was the second ever female alpine mountaineer in Europe (after Lucy Walker of Liverpool).

Late Summer 2022

Isabella was the eighth woman to climb Mont Blanc. In 1870 she and Isabella became the first women to climb Monte Viso and the following year they made the first ascent of Aiguille du Moine near Chamonix. The summit is at an altitude of 3,412 m and it requires climbers to abseil on the descent.



Head guide, Emmeline Lewis-Lloyd, Jean Charlet and Bessie Lewis-Lloyd – alpine climbers

HEDD WYN

Hedd Wyn (born Ellis Humphrey Evans on 13 January 1887 – 31 July 1917) was a Welsh poet who was killed on the first day of the Battle of Passchendale during

World War 1. He was posthumously awarded the bard's chair at the 1917 National Eisteddfod. Evans, who had been awarded several chairs for his poetry, was inspired to take the bardic name Hedd Wyn, *Blessed Peace*, from the way sunlight penetrated the mist in the Meirionnydd valleys.

Born in the village of Trawsfynydd, Evans wrote much of his poetry whilst working as a shepherd on his family's hill farm. His style, which was influenced by romantic poetry, was dominated by themes of nature and religion. He also wrote several war poems following the outbreak of war on the Western Front. The war inspired Hedd Wyn's work and produced



some of his most noted poetry including *Children of Trawsfynydd*, *The Black Dot* and *It will not be forgotten*.

Hedd Wyn was a pacifist and did not initially enlist for the war, the Evans family were required to send one of their sons to join the British Army, 29 year old Ellis enlisted rather than his younger brother Robert.

In 1917 he came home on 14 days leave and wrote the poem *Yr Arwr* (The Hero) on the table by the fire. It was such a wet year he stayed for another 7 days, and this made him a deserter. The military police took him to jail, then onto the war in Belgium. Because he left in such a hurry he forgot the poem on the table, he wrote it again on the journey, he finished his National Eisteddfod entry and signed it Fleur de Lys and sent it by Royal Mail around the end of June 1917. He was fatally wounded in the first few hours into the Third Battle of Ypres 31 July 1917.

On the 6 September 1917, the Chairing of the Bard ceremony took place at the National Eisteddfod in Birkenhead Park, England. After the adjudicators announced the entry submitted under the pseudonym Fleur de Lys as the winner, the trumpets were sounded for the winner to identify themselves. After 3 such summons, Archdruid Dyfed solemnly announced the winner had been killed in action 6 weeks earlier. The empty chair was draped in a black sheet. It was delivered to Evans' parents in the same condition. Archdruid Dyfed said 'the festival in tears and the poet in his grave'

The chair had been hand crafted by a Flemish craftsman, Eugeen Vanfleteren, a carpenter born in Belgium, who had fled to England on the outbreak of the war and settled in Birkenhead, England......by **Begw Arian**

Post Script: Visitors to North Wales can see the Bardic Chair at Hedd Wyn's childhood home: Yr Ysgwrn near Trawsfynydd. Follow the signs for Yr Ysgwrn, stop at the visitors center to buy tickets and join the tour of the house, just up the road. Website: https://yrysgwrn.com

PORTMERION

Portmeirion is a tourist village near Porthmadog North Wales, designed and built by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis between 1925 and 1975 in the style of an Italian village. Colourful Riviera inspired houses, ornamental gardens and campanile are a beautiful pocket of madness like no other. Sir Clough was an ardent environmentalist who wanted to create a functional and attractive private village that would act as 'propaganda for good manners' and show how a naturally



beautiful site could be developed without spoiling it. The village is compact, but his clever use of arches, slopes and window sizes make it seem larger than it is.

The village of Portmeirion has long been the source of inspiration for writers and television producers. Noel Coward wrote Blythe Spirit whilst staying here; George Bernard Shaw and H.G. Wells were frequent visitors, as were the Beatles. Used as the location of many TV and film productions, Danger Man, Dr Who, Top Gear, to name a few. But it most famously played the starring role as 'The Village' in the series The Prisoner,

starring Patrick McGoohan. The programme epitomised the counter-culture vibe of the late 1960's and Portmeirion provided the perfect canvas for the psychedelic storyline. Now a cult classic, fans continue to visit Portmeirion, which hosts annual Prisoner conventions.

There have been many movies filmed around North Wales, Sir Clough used to visit the sets and incorporate some of the props into Portmeirion. The Inn of Seventh Happiness was filmed in Beddgelert, and a gold painted Buddha is now located in the village square.

Aside from iconic architecture, scenic surroundings and vast woodland gardens, Portmeirion is home to hip hotels, a huddle of historic cottages, a spa and award winning restaurants.

If you you are a fan of Portmeirion pottery, it was Sir Clough Williams-Ellis' daughter Susan Williams Ellis who started that company in 1960.



by Begw Arian

MEET OUR MEMBERS: BETH ROBERTS BROWN

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



I live in Westfield, MA, a small city in the Pioneer Valley nestling up to the foothills of the Berkshires, with my husband Ed; our two adult daughters and their families live nearby. We are transplants from Utica and Granville, NY. My professional life was spent in nursing and librarianship, now retired.

Q. Tell us about your Welsh family history here in the US..

My paternal Welsh family lived in North Wales in the areas of Bangor (Jones and Jones), Llanllyfni and Penygroes (Rowlands and Williams), and Cwm Dyli

(Roberts and Roberts). I am most familiar with my Cwm Dyli family that left Wales via Liverpool around 1860, arriving in New York City and found their way to Blissville, VT. Here, David and Catherine Cwm Dyli started their family, worked the slate and helped build the Welsh church. At one time the family lived in Spruce Gum, West Pawlet, VT not far from David's quarry where he was killed when a block of slate fell on him. Generations of the family still live in New England and New York State.

Q. In what ways have you nurtured your Welsh connections over time? After family elders and then my Dad died I began to realize I knew very little of my Welsh history so I started asking questions and traveling back home to Granville where I met cousins I never knew.. They gave me tours of my hometown through the eyes of a previous generation. In questioning my aunt she said the family was referred to as the Cwm Dyli Roberts, but no idea why. Another observation being most cousins and uncles were over 6 feet tall as was Nain. Cemeteries gave away secrets. Nearby Poultney, VT had an active Welsh Society, Welsh Room at Green Mountain College and an active Welsh community. Over time I collected and shared my childhood memories about walking to church with Nain, Taid returning from work covered in slate dust, his lunch bucket no longer shiny, my great great grandmother running away to America with the hired hand,

Late Summer 2022

St David's Day dinners with special raisin bread that I assume was bare brith, gamanfas and eisteddfods.

Q. How are you enjoying your involvement in the Welsh Society?

In 1999, Jack Dixon sent an e mail asking if anyone had any interest in belonging to a Welsh Society. Shortly thereafter, an informational meeting was held and a society formed. We are now so fortunate to have such a warm and friendly group interested in friendship and all things Welsh. Over time our numbers have grown and our programming expanded to include all aspects of our rich Welsh heritage including history, literature, webinars, genealogy, language, holiday celebrations, afternoon teas, watching rugby games and more. Since Covid, Zoom has allowed us to stay connected. My past contributions have included being secretary, participating in genealogy and language groups and being dressed as the 'Welsh Lady' at events.

A History of Wales in 10 Objects

#1 The Red Book of Hergest (Llyfr Coch Hergest)

(<u>wales.com</u>) Although it's named after a place in England – Hergest Court in Herefordshire, where it sat out the Elizabethan Age – the Red Book is the most important medieval manuscript in the Welsh

Important medieval manuscript in the Welsh language. It's best known for containing the Mabinogion, a collection of the earliest Welsh prose. Its stories introduce a rich cast of characters, including many strong women. There's the flower maiden Blodeuwedd (eventually turned into an owl for betraying her husband, Lleu Llaw Gyffes), the expert horsewoman Rhiannon, and Branwen, the princess whose unhappy marriage destroys two nations. By the time a scribe had painstakingly written the tales out at the end of the 14th

century, they would already have been centuries old; but their themes of murder, heartbreak, ambition and loss are timeless.

Image: The flower maiden Blodeuwedd: Dyluniad / Illustration: Jonathan Iarll De Pyper. © Hawlfraint y Goron / Crown Copyright

COMING IN THE WINTER ISSUE:

5 WSWNE members and a friend traveled to Wales, in the summer of



2022, it was a genealogy and touring trip. We will tell our story with photos (If we come back!).

We travelled to:

Llangollen

Rhosllanerchrugog - to erect a headstone on Mary Pallos' grandmother's unmarked grave Llanwrst - visit Ty Hwnt i'r bont for afternoon tea,

Trefriw Woolen Mill and Gwydir Castle

Betws-y-Coed - for the walking, shopping and lunch

Cemaes, Anglesey - beach walks, Standing Stones, seafood and cemeteries

The Lleyn - the views, small villages & good food

Cricceth - Llewelyn's Castle and the Wales Coastal Path

Aberystwyth - Steam train to Devil's Bridge

and Tregaron - for the Eisteddfod

Cardiff - St. Fagans and more.

OWAIN GLYNDWR

No name is so frequently invoked on Wales as that of Owain Glyndwr (c. 1349-1416), a potent figurehead of Welsh nationalism ever since he rose up against the occupying English in the first few years of the fifteenth century. Little is known about the man described in Shakespeare's Henry IV, Part I as "not in the roll of common men." There seems little doubt that the charismatic Owain fulfilled many of the mystical medieval prophecies about the rising up of the red dragon. Glyndwr was a member of the dynasty of northern Powys and, on his mother's side, descended from that of Deheubarth in the south. The family had fought for Llywelyn ap Gruffydd in the last war and regained their lands in northeast Wales only through a calculated association with the powerful Marcher lords.

Wales in the late 14th century was a turbulent place. The brutal savaging of Llywelyn the Last and Edward I's stringent policies of subordinating Wales had left a discontented, cowed nation where any signs of rebellion were sure to attract support. In 1399-1400 Glyn Dwr ran up against his powerful neighbor, Reginald de Grey, Lord of Ruthin, an intimate of the new king, Henry IV. There are



indications that Glyndwr made an effort to contact other disaffected Welshmen, and when he raised his standard outside Ruthin on 16 September 1400, his followers from the very beginning proclaimed him Prince of Wales. The response was startling and may have even startled Glyndwr himself. Whole populations scrambled

to make their peace. Over the Winter, Glyndwr, with only seven men, took to the hills.

But in the spring of 1401 as the Tudors snatched <u>Conwy Castle</u> by a trick, Owain's little band moved into the centre and the south. It was during 1401 that Glyndwr became aware of the growing power of the rebellion as men of higher rank began to defect to the cause. In his letters to south Wales he declared himself the liberator appointed by God to deliver the Welsh race from their oppressors. The English king, Henry IV, despatched troops and rapidly drew up a range of severely punitive laws against the Welsh, even outlawing Welshlanguage bards and singers. Battles continued to rage, with Glyndwr capturing Edmund Mortimer, the earl of March, in Pilleth in June 1402. By the end of 1403, Glyndwr controlled most of Wales. The twelve-year war which ensued was, for the English, largely a matter of relieving their isolated castles.

In 1404, Glyndwr assembled a parliament of four men from every commot in Wales at Machynlleth, drawing up mutual recognition treaties with France and Spain. At Machynlleth, he was also crowned king of a free Wales. Disaster struck in 1408 when the castles of Aberystwyth and Harlech fell to the forces of the king, and Glyndwr's own family was taken prisoner. The Welsh nation that had existed for four years took once more to the woods with its prince once more an outlaw. Owain, with his son Meredudd, were at large throughout 1409. No one knows what happened to Glyndwr, but, like Arthur, he could not die; he would come again. Henry V, the new king, twice offered the rebel leader a pardon, but the old man was apparently too proud to accept.

Gwyn A. Williams, "When Was Wales," Penguin Books, London, 1985. Wales - The Rough Guide, Mike Parker and Paul Whitfield, Rough Guides Ltd, London, 1994.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES 2023 - NEBRASKA:





Start planning now for NAFOW, Labor Day Weekend, 2023!

The North American Festival of Wales is coming to Lincoln, NE

In 2023, for the first time ever, Lincoln, Nebraska, will host the NAFOW, a four-day celebration of Welsh culture featuring concerts by leading artists from Wales, lectures and many more events. The Comhusker Marriott hotel will be the headquarters for the festivities, Lincoln Airport



St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Lincoln

is conveniently located only 15 minutes from downtown, and Omaha is only 40 minutes from Lincoln via Interstate 80. An affordable Omaha-Lincoln shuttle will be available during the event. The traditional *Gymanfa Ganu* (Singing Festival) will be held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, directly across the street from the Comhusker.

In addition to the Nebraska State Capitol, other Lincoln attractions include:

collection of fossil elephants.



Nebraska State Capitol

University of Nebraska State Museum

- The region's premier natural history
museum features the world's finest

Museum of American Speed —
Dedicated to preserving and displaying
artifacts of American automotive history.
Sunken Gardens — Listed by National
Geographic as one of the 300 Best
Gardens to Visit in the USA and Canada.
International Quilt Museum — The
world's largest public collection of quilts.

See other side for details about our NAFOW tour of Welsh sites in Nebraska and Kansas! >>>



itackson16/CC BY-SA 4.0 Michael F. James/CC BY-SA 4.0

Tour of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre and historic Arvonia, Kansas.



Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre, Wymore

Also planned for the festival is an optional trip to the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project in Wymore, one hour south of Lincoln on US Highway 77, as well as Welsh sites in Kansas.

The "Welsh Capital of the Great Plains," Wymore was home to a significant Welsh community, and is home today

to the Welsh Heritage Centre which incorporates the largest Welsh-American archive in the country, a historic one-room school and a railroad museum. The nearby Bethel Cemetery is the final resting place of many of the original Welsh settlers.

On the way to Wymore, we can visit the **Homestead National Monument** in Beatrice, which commemorates the passage of the Homestead Act of 1862, and includes historical exhibits and an original settler's cabin.

The trip will then travel south to **Arvonia**, **Kansas**, established in 1869 by Welsh settler, John Mather Jones, and once home to more than 700 residents. The lovingly restored Arvonia School, Calvinistic Methodist Church and



Historic Arvonia School

Town Hall are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Emporia, Kansas was heavily settled by Welsh immigrants in the late 19th century. Many came to mine coal, although others were farmers and entrepreneurs. After an overnight stay in Emporia, we will return to Lincoln. More details about our tour will be available in the coming months as the NAFOW schedule takes shape.

For more information and updates, please visit festivalofwales.org

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2022-2023):

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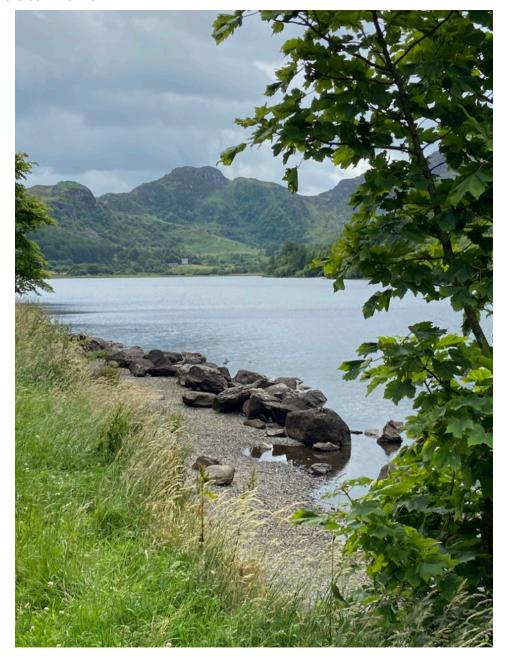
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WSWNE Membership Form for mailed-in checks: PLEASE MAIL to Mary Pallos, WSWNE Treasurer, 1542 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033. Check made out to WSWNE. Membership year begins March 1st, one per family at same address. Check website to pay by credit card on-line.	
Today's date:	NEW MEMBER: RENEWAL:
Names (list household members)	:
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Your Welsh Interests:	
N'letter Late Summer, '22: For Tre	easurer's use only: Date received:



Llyn Crafnant, above Trefriw, Conwy valley, north Wales. The lake, 18 acres and a cottage were donated to the town of Llanrwst in 1896 by Richard James..

(By Susan Davies Sit, July 2022)