The Welsh Society of Western New England



Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd Gorllewino

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

Annual Christmas Holiday Luncheon

Sat., Dec.10, 2022 at 11:00 - 3:00PM

Enjoy a Welsh winter holiday celebrations with us!



Mari Lwyd, a Welsh folk custom set around New Year's Eve (https://trac.cymru/en/about-mari-lwyd/) will join us. Mari Lwyd is traditionally walked through the village by men folk to local houses, where they would request entry by singing verses.

The ladies , also singing verses, would be expected to deny them entry, and the two sides would sing back and

forth. If the lady of the house allowed them in, then they would be given food and drink.

Straford Wild, with Mari Lwyd, will sing traditional verses in Welsh and English to the lady of the house Annie Rodgers who will sing in return. Be ready to join in! Words will be distributed. We will record this to share with those living too far away to join us.



The afternoon will continue with guests sharing their Christmas memories from Wales and in the US, so please be prepared to join in if you'd like. There will also be Welsh winter tunes by **Straford Wild** on his guitar.

See insert for menu & RSVP or on WelshWNE.org/events, with credit card (no fees).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 1, 8 &15 Intermediate Welsh
Conversation-on-Zoom

November 7 - Welsh Genealogy-on- Zoom

November 9 & 16
Beginners' Welsh Conversationon-Zoom

Nov. 21 & 29 - Wales v USA and Wales v England: World Cup Football (Soccer) WATCH PARTY

December 6, 13 & 20 Intermediate Welsh
Conversation-on-Zoom

December 10 - Annual Christmas Lunch at Storrowton Tavern, West Springfield

December 12 - Welsh Genealogy in person & on Zoom

December 14 -

Beginners' Welsh Conversationon-Zoom

January 18 - Zoom Presentation: Gareth Jones-The Man Who Knew Too Much

February 18- March 4 - WALES WEEK NEW ENGLAND 2023.

March 4 - Save the date: St. David's Day luncheon

WORLD CUP FOOTBALL



Wales have reached the
World Cup for the first time
since 1958! Wales' World Cup
begins with the first group
round on Nov 21 with Wales v
USA at 2:00PM East Coast
time. We'll have a WATCH
PARTY sponsored by the
Welsh Government!

Wales v USA

1:00PM - 3:45PM on Monday, Nov 21 Vaughn's Irish Pub, 59 Pratt Street, Hartford, CT Wales v England 1:00PM - 3:45PM on

1:00PM - 3:45PM on Tuesday, Nov 29 Vaughn's Irish Pub, 59 Pratt Street, Hartford, CT

Bring your voices, and your support!

Third game: NOV 25 at 5:00AM v Iran. Too early for a Watch party!

WELSH GENEALOGY IN PERSON & ON ZOOM

When: Mondays at 11:00AM on Zoom on November 7 and also in person on December 12.

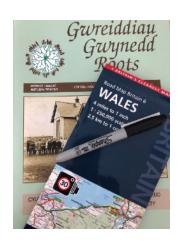
How: To be added to our ZOOM Welsh

Genealogy group email

InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com. Schedule:

WelshWNE.com/events.

PLUS: We will see you in person (fully vaccinated persons only please) Dec 12 - 10:30am - 4:30pm. Come for the whole day or part thereof. Info and to RSVP: InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com.



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, email us at <u>InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com</u>. Please indicate which group you'd like to join.

CROESO/Welcome to our new members:

- Rebecca Gilbert of MA, is interested in her ancestry, Welsh history and the language
- Roxanne Infante of Colorado; Welsh roots are her interest
- Beth Holden of CT, interested in language and genealogy
- Kay Gavin of the St. David's Soc of MN, interested in her Welsh roots
- Marianne Brinker from MA wants to further her spoken Welsh.

A SERIES OF ZOOM PRESENTATIONS: **COMING THIS WINTER:**

GARETH JONES - THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH

January 18, 2023 at 7:00PM (Wednesday) - A fascinating Zoom presentation by Margaret West.

Ms. West is from Rhayader, mid-Wales and now is a journalist based

in Washington DC. She was a founding producer of NPR's "Talk of the Nation". On the foreign

desk, she edited reports from Russia and Europe.

Gareth Jones was an investigative journalist who told the world about Stalin's 1932-1933. famine in Ukraine in which millions perished. The Zoom presentation is a fascinating look at the life and work of Gareth Jones, using

amongst other sources. his diaries that

he left behind in Wales. (Photo by thenationalwales.com)

Sign up for the Zoom, email: InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com





NATIONAL FOREST FOR WALES

On Sunday, February 5, at 1:00PM Eastern time A Zoom presentation direct from Wales by Erika Dawson Davies, Head of National Forest Programme, PMO Welsh Government. More details later!

To sign up for the Zoom, email: InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com

HIDDEN HISTORY - 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY: 390,000+ WELSH WOMEN SIGNED A PEACE PETITION



YR APEL
ODDIWRTH FERCHED CYMRU
A MYNWY AT FERCHED UNOL
DALEITHIAU YR AMERICA
THE MEMORIAL FROM WALES
SIGNED BY 390296 WOMEN IN
WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE
TO THE WOMEN OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA

February 16, 2023 @ 7:00PM EST (Thursday) - Ann Griffith & Susan Davies Sit, of Heddwch Nain Mamgu USA, present "Hidden History".

In 1924, a delegation brought the petition to American women and meeting President Coolidge was NOT the highlight of their trip. How did they gather those signatures and what's next in 2023?

For Zoom invite pls email InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com.

Ann Griffith is a native Welsh

speaker raised in Aberystwyth. She is the VP of the Washington DC St. David's Society and on the Board of Wales International/Cymru Am Byd and their President at the Eisteddfod in 2022. Ann has been involved with Heddwch Nain/ Mam-gu for over 3 years. She is excited to be



working on this peace project that has already started developing links between Cymru and the USA.



Susan Davies Sit, was born in Colwyn Bay, north Wales and is now living in CT. She was in the hospitality business in Wales, Greece, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. She is President of the Welsh Society of Western New England and a member of Heddwch Nain Mam-gu working on publicity and research.

THE A470 - POEMS FOR THE ROAD

February 26, 2023 at 2PM Eastern (Sunday), Zoom presentation: The A470 - Poetry Along The Road in Wales: with NAFOW
Eisteddfod Poem in the English Language Winner - Adele Evershed,

Sian Northey and Ness Owen, editors and translators & Cherry Potts, Director, Arachne Press Limited. The A470 is 186 miles from shore to shore through the backbone of Wales, linking north to south. Peaceful and picturesque or slow and never-ending: the road out of here, the road home, the beginnings of devolution? Glorious national parks, the road to the Royal Welsh Show and from seashore to slates, from forests to mountains. 51



Adele Evershed

original poems, translated into and out of Welsh, to create an entirely bilingual poetry collection. **Sign up for the Zoom, email: InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com .** And for more details about this book, please see page 9.

WITCHES OF LLANDDONA

Llanddona is said to have been to home to a family of witches, whose powers descended from mother to daughter.

According to legend, a boatful of men and women, all with Irish accents, was washed up on the coast of Anglesey, in Red Wharf Bay. The boat was without sail or oars and was sinking fast when it finally made it ashore. The locals were afraid and tried to drive the survivors back into the sea but one woman leapt ashore and struck the sand with her stick...wand? Fresh water immediately gushed out from the spot, and the locals, simple fishermen and their families, fell back in horror.

An agreement was quickly reached whereby the witches, for that's what they were, remain, provided they settled outside the village of Llanddona. The newcomers made themselves homes and quickly established themselves as a powerful force in the region. They bullied the villagers, lorded it around the place, paid for no goods in the shops or fields, just taking what they wanted.

They put charms and spells on farms and animals and charged to have them removed. The men – wearing distinctive red neckties –



became renowned across North Wales as smugglers.

The date of their supposed arrival at Llanddona is hard to pin down, some say it happened at the beginning of the 17th century; others stating it took place many years before or after. However visitors from the sea, usually unpleasant visitors, were, for many years an occupational hazard for all those who lived on the Welsh coast. The Vikings, the Normans and in particular, the Irish regularly attacked or invaded from the sea. During the Civil War in the 1640s there was

a constant threat of an Irish invasion, if the legend does date from 17th century it's clear that the fear of invasion lay behind its creation and continued popularity.

There is another possibility, however. It was 1736 before the Witch Laws were repealed and that lead to a situation where people who had previously turned to the State in cases of supposed witchcraft now took the law into their own hands.

One way of dealing with people suspected of being witches was to cast them adrift in an open boat without food or water, sails or oars.by Begw Arian

10 WELSH WOMEN Who Changed The World

by Historyan.co.uk

There was no outdoor statue of a woman in the capital city of Cardiff. A shortlist of five inspirational Welsh women from history was drawn up from a long list. Here is #9:

#9: Frances Hoggan - Welsh doctor.

Frances Hoggan (1843-1927) was a doctor from Brecon who played a significant role in the battle for women in the UK to study medicine in

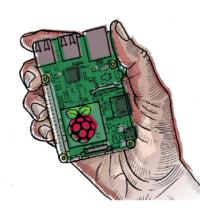


the nineteenth century. Barred from sitting the exams to became a doctor in Britain, Frances traveled to Zurich to study medicine. She became the first British woman to receive a doctorate in medicine from any university in Europe. She was also the first female doctor to be registered in Britain and – along with her husband – opened the first husband-and-wife medical practice in Britain.

If that wasn't enough Frances also tirelessly campaigned to promote sanitary education, the suffrage movement, female education and civil rights activism in the US. What a woman!

A History of Wales in 10 Objects

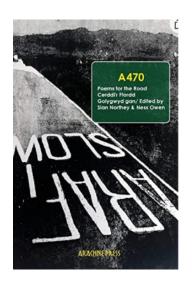
#2 - Raspberry Pi



In July 2017, the 10 millionth Raspberry Pi emerged from its production facility at Pencoed, near Bridgend. The inexpensive, credit-card-sized unit is now the best-selling British-designed computer of all time (and out of all computers worldwide, third only to the Apple Mac and the mighty PC). The Pi was originally

manufactured in China, until founder Eben Upton moved production to Pencoed's Sony UK Technology Centre in 2012, praising its "unparalleled manufacturing standards".

READ DRAGONS CORNER: A470 - Poems for the Road



Arguably the most famous road in Wales, the A470 is 186 miles from shore to shore through the backbone of Wales, linking north to south.

Peaceful and picturesque or slow and never-ending: the road out of here, the road home, the beginnings of devolution? Glorious national parks, bypasses, being stuck behind a certain lorry firm or worse, a caravan, the road to the Royal Welsh? From the seashore to slates, from nuclear power stations and fighter plane flypasts to forests and

mountains: Bwlch yr Oerddrws, Pen Y Fan. On the road or on a journey, there's no need to take the A470 too literally.

Be ydi'r A470 i chi - siwrne dawel trwy harddwch Cymru neu daith araf a diddiwedd? Ai hon yw'r ffordd i adael, neu'r ffordd adref, neu ddechrau datganoli? Parciau Cenedlaethol, ffyrdd osgoi, llusgo mynd tu ôl i lori neu waeth fyth garafán, y ffordd i'r Sioe Frenhinol? Traethau, chwareli, pwerdai niwclear, awyrennau rhyfel, coedwigoedd, mynyddoedd, Bwlch yr Oerddrws, Pen y Fan? Taith ddiriaethol ar y tarmac neu daith o fath gwahanol? Does dim rhaid dehongli'r A470 yn llythrennol.

51 original poems, translated into and out of Welsh, to create an entirely bilingual poetry collection. Edited by and translated by Sian Northey and Ness Owen, with additional translations from Siôn Aled. (Available on amazon.com)

One of the poems is written by Adele Evershed, originally from Porthcawl, now living in Connecticut. Ms. Evershed won the "English Language Poem" at the NAFOW Eisteddfod in September 2022. Ms. Evershed will join us at our St. David's Day luncheon to share some of her poetry.

About the Editors/Translators: Sian Northey is a freelance author, poet, translator and editor, grew up in Trawsfynydd, & lives in Penrhyndeudraeth in Gwynedd. Ness Owen lives on the island of Ynys Mon, off the North Wales coast, where she writes plays, poetry and stories in between lecturing and farming. Her poems have been widely published in journals and anthologies.

TRAVELS IN WALES

Five WSWNE members and a friend traveled to Wales, in the summer of 2022 for genealogy and touring, This is a series of articles about our trip in the hopes it will encourage you to visit Wales.

CEMAES, ANGLESEY

The Most Northerly Pub and the Oldest Church in Wales.



The pub with that prestigious claim is **The Stag** in Cemaes on Anglesey. It recently had a new tenant - the very energetic Gwyn Williams, himself born in, and a resident of, Cemaes. He even lives in the oldest house in Cemaes, the original Customs House. Gwyn

was a wonderful host to our group of Welsh Americans touring Wales and searching for our roots. The pub is not serving food yet (as of August 2022) but we can recommend the bar offerings, including flavored gins and a good selection of Marston's beers. Gwyn was excited to hear about our travels, our visit to the oldest church in Wales (more later) and about our Welsh Society in America. We found that Welsh people are especially impressed that we are learning Welsh over here in America. We traded business cards with Gwyn, and he offered to do a presentation for us on Zoom, maybe about the Oldest Church in Wales, where he is also the organist! His knowledge of local history is deep.

We had drinks with some locals with whom some of us debated American politics, we joined in the singing of Calon Lan, and heard that two of the locals, Sean and Gwenan of Cemaes, were getting married at the Oldest Church in Wales, Llanbadgrig, in a few weeks time. On Sunday we witnessed their banns being read at the new St. Patrick's church, whose vicar is the wife of the Archbishop of Wales. Cemaes was turning out to be quite a gem!

Cemaes is also home to one of the best Fish & Chip shops (Y Wygr - Pysgod a Sclodion) on High Street; and home to a great restaurant in the Harbour Hotel; delicious coffees and sandwiches at the Belle; and beautiful walks on the Wales Coastal path and on the <u>two</u> beaches.

Cemaes (originally spelled Cemais, meaning "bend" maybe because of the curved bay) is an old fishing village, situated west of Amlwch, and with a rich industrial history. That history is showcased in the local Cemaes Heritage Centre (Canolfan Dreftadaeth Cemaes) on High Street.

Stone age nomads (2500 - 2000BC) were the first people to call Cemaes home, followed by Celtic, Roman and Norman invaders. Welsh Princes built large homes nearby. In those middle-ages the north west part of Anglesey was called the Talybolion, and it is thought that Royal Apartments were located there, perhaps where Neuadd Farm is today. There is a letter written by Dafydd ap Llewelyn, the son of Llewelyn Fawr, whilst he was residing in Cemaes.

Cemaes was also called Porth Wygr. The sea, of course, has dominated Cemaes' history, first as an ancient fishing village known for its salted herring and later as a thriving port in the early 1800's when a small stone pier was built by local fishermen, which was destroyed in a storm and floods in 1828. By 1835 a new stone pier was designed and built by Ishmael Jones, a sea captain. Nearby Amlwch was also a busy port in the 19th century, shipping locally mined copper all over the world. It must have been very busy off the coast of northern Anglesey.

The Wygr Woollen Mill first started weaving Welsh spun blankets, stockings, serge and cloth in 1698 and operated until 1928. Local sheep farmers sold wool at 10 pence a pound to the mill and water from River Wygr fueled it. When Queen Alexandria bought "a roll of purple homespun for a dress" the owner claimed Royal Patronage. The footprint of the building is still there today. More prominent in

the village is the history of the Porth Wen Brickworks, on the outskirts of the small village, and was at its hight during the 19th century.

Porth Wgyr's harbor was built to provide shelter for ships, and to provide a base for fishermen to set the catch. Ship building also occurred in Cemaes with four ships being built between 1825 and 1840, employing sixty men. Coal was imported into Cemaes in the 1700's and limestone, marble, bricks, lime and



ochre were exported. The limestone and marble was used to build many of the public buildings in Liverpool.

Cemaes was host to the 1925 Eisteddfod and the Bardic Chair is one of two at the Heritage centre.

So, remember we said that Cemaes is also home to the oldest church in Wales? Eglwys Llanbadrig (the Church of Saint Patrick) is a very short drive from Cemaes, and is also accessible from Cemaes via the Wales Coastal path. The drive down a narrow country lane, ends at the church and a small carpark. The churchyard which is quite large and the church are on the edge of the Anglesey coastline, overlooking the Irish Sea. A stunning and breathtaking view.



The original wooden church was built in 440AD by a Celtic bishop called Patrick who was making a journey from Iona to Ireland, and where it is said he was shipwrecked and saved by locals. He took refuge in a cave with a nearby well. In gratitude to the local people for saving his life, he built the church. He was later to become St. Patrick

of Ireland. His cave and well are still there, marked by a plaque on the cliffs. The wooden church was replaced by a stone church in the 1100's.

It was in this churchyard that one of us scattered a portion of ashes for a friend back in Connecticut.

Services are held regularly in this church and as I said, Gwyn Williams of The Stag Inn plays the organ there.

Once I returned home, I found out that an ancestor was buried in this historic churchyard: Samuel Thomas who died in 1913. The vicar kindly found the headstone and sent me photos. So sorry I didn't know this before visiting. Samuel is resting in a spectacular spot! Add Cemaes and all her treasures to your next visit to Wales.

By Susan Davies Sit

https://cemaesheritagecentre.org https://cemaes.wales/organisation/the-stag-inn/

and....

FINDING THE FAMILY FARM IN WALES

On a beautiful summer day this past August, our group set out to find Cwm Dyli. In the past I had looked down from an overlook into Nant Gwynant Valley where I could see the pipes coming down from the lakes on Mt Snowdon to the hydroelectric plant. What a feeling of hiraeth. Now, in 2022, I desperately wanted to visit the farm in the valley and walk where the family lived, worked and went to chapel.

The narrow roads with no room for error dropped into the steep sided green valley. We eventually got to a pull off and decided not to descend any further for our safety and that of the rental car. Luckily, across the way was a farm house. I knocked but no answer. The house name said Gwastadanas which registered as a name I had come across in my genealogy. Walking to the side of the house a



sheep dog greeted us. No path to the valley floor but did see the pipes which had replaced the water which used to cascade down the mountainside. Returned to the car just as the owners of the farm house returned. We were assured to be on the right road and could drive down into Cwm Dyli. We drove further along this country one lane road, to the left hand turn down gravelly road.

We scrapped the idea to drive down but decided I would venture down. Walking

was nigh impossible but I bounded down the rutted path, crossed the bridge and ran up to the gate covered with posters but also had Cwm Dyli worked into the metal. A bit further along two young men asked if they could help. Once they knew my mission they seemed excited and had a question for me about a stone etched with BOBS 1908. Is this a person, a pet? Their boss greeted me and told me the meaning of Gwastadanas: flat land. I was assured that the power

plant was built on the very footprint of the family farmhouse. Just what I needed to hear to reinvigorate my quest to find

family connections. Wandering around I

saw stone ruins, a footbridge,

construction associated with the small power plant, and the Mt Snowdon hiking clubhouse called the Pinnacle. The day was ending, goodbyes were said and gates closed. Missing Wales already ... By Beth Roberts (Cym Dyli) Brown

NAFOW FIRST-TIMER

My first time at NAFOW was an amazing experience. I had hoped to bring my 95 year old mother but with COVID still looming large in her life, I made the trek by myself. I need not have worried about being alone in a big city. I received the typical Welsh welcome from every person I met there. I had

Zoomed with the Western New **England Welsh** Society during the pandemic and was hoping to see some of those members. Much to my surprise the very first person I met at registration was Susan Davies Sit. After hugs and salutations, I went on to meet her



husband Don who was speaking with a phone buddy of mine, Torrie Watkins. That was the beginning of new friendships, incl. six other WSWNE members!

I met women from a Welsh church in Toronto, (Betty Collingworth and Hefina Philips pictured with me) that is closing. It is a church where my great grandfather preached and where my mother was baptized in 1927. I met people from my local Welsh group who were very helpful in giving me information. I met a Welsh Australian woman who lives in the US now. Everywhere I went there were happy Welsh people to talk with, to eat with, to watch Welsh movies with, to learn Welsh history with, to listen to Welsh music with, to drink and sing with. I enjoyed the lectures, the presentations, the concerts, the movies, the dinners but most of all I loved the people. There was a closeness, a love, a connection among all of us When I told my mother that I thought I would be going next year to NAFOW in Nebraska, she commented that Nebraska was one state she had never been to. Who knows? Maybe I can introduce her to her first NAFOW at age 96!

By Barbara English

MEET OUR MEMBERS...will return in our next newsletter. Don't be shy! If you'd like us to meet you in this column, contact me: evanwilliams.ms@gmail.com



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

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PLEASE MAIL to Mary Pallos, WSWNE Treasurer, 1542 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033. Check made out to WSWNE. Membership year begins March 1st, one membership per family at same address.

N'letter Winter, '22: For Treasurer's use: Date received:

Christmas Luncheon RSVP

Sat. Dec. 10, 2022, Storrowton Tavern, Springfield, MA

Hors D'Oeuvres: Cheese and cracker platter, Vegetables with Herb Dip, Fresh Fruit Platter, and a Punch Bowl

	Fresh Gard	en Salad witl	n Bread Rolls
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Choic	e of Entrée: w/Twice Baked Potato and Butternut Squash
#	_Cape Codder Chicken with cranberry bread stuffing
#	_ Broiled Salmon
#	Yankee Pot Roast
#	Eggplant Rollatini stuffed w/ spinach, basil, ricotta cheese, topped
with n	narinara sauce and Asiago cheese
#	_ Children's Meal Chicken Fingers and Fries (age 12 and under)
Ticket	Crumble with Ice Cream and Coffee or Tea
#	_\$33.00 members - \$Names:
#	\$36.00 guests - \$ Names:
#	\$17.00 children - \$ Names:
	TOTAL \$
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If possible, please RSVP online (instead of mailing the form above) and pay online by credit card (no transaction fees). Just go to the Dec. 10 Christmas event on our website's Events Page at "WelshWNE.org/events".

Otherwise, mail in the FORM above with a **CHECK**, made payable to WSWNE to: Mary Pallos, WSWNE Treasurer, 1542 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033