

# Croeso! — Welcome!

**The Welsh Society of Western New England**  
*Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd Gorllewino*



July 2023    WelshWNE.org    WelshWNE@gmail.com    FaceBook: WSWNE

## **A Message From Our President, Susan Davies Sit**

As summer is ramping up the temperatures, I know you are all enjoying some outdoor time—the flowers, the sand and salty sea smells, afternoon tea on the porch... ahhhhhh.

In May, I enjoyed a 12 day trip to north Wales to visit my almost 95-year-old mum. We drove through Eryri (Snowdonia) and Ynys Mon (Anglesey), enjoyed many a lunch or dinner at her favorite restaurants, and spoke Welsh as much as I could. We had beautiful weather too-not a drop of rain.

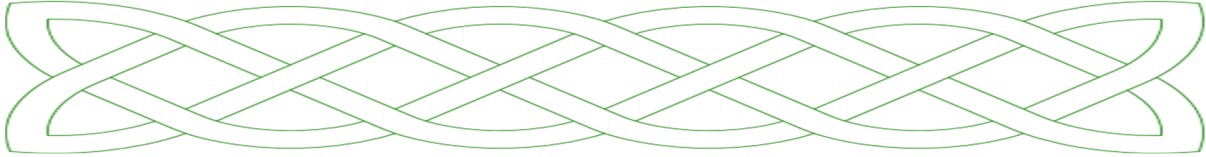
Here at home in the US and Canada, WSWNE members and friends are attending our weekly Welsh conversation sessions, and our monthly Welsh genealogy workshops. If you'd like to join us, please go to [WelshWNE.org/events](https://WelshWNE.org/events) and RSVP. Summer will see a break from almost all activities but plans are afoot for the fall.

We have two events to look forward to when fall arrives. In September we will have our annual Wine and Welsh Cheese Owain Glyndwr celebration at a winery. It will feature Pam Petro reading from her new book about *hiraeth*. More to come about this event in our next newsletter but I expect it will be held on September 15<sup>th</sup>, so hold that date. We have a couple of Zoom presentations in the works too, including one about the history of the harp.

Until then, I hope you all enjoy your summer.

## Visit our Website!

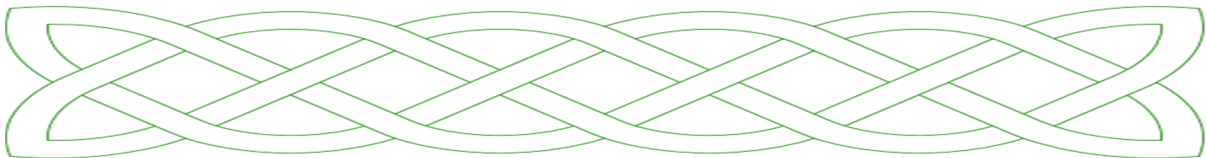
Be sure to visit the Welsh Society of Western New England often at [www.WelshWNE.org](http://www.WelshWNE.org). You'll find a full calendar of events, photos and videos from past events, profiles of the members of our Board of Directors, previous newsletters, and a resources page with links to all things Welsh. Check it out today!



## 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).



## Our Newest Members *Croeso — Welcome*

**Your Name:** Andrew Crispell, Red Hook, New York

**Your Welsh interests?:** Paternal great grandparents emigrated to the US from Merthyr Tydfil/Ponty-Prydd and settled near Scranton/Kingston, Pennsylvania. Interest in Wales and Welsh for many years. Still have not visited and hope to before too long.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Your Name:** Adele Evershed, Wilton, Connecticut

**Your Welsh interests?:** Published author and poet; winner of English language poem at 2022 North American Festival of Wales. Born in Cardiff and raised in Porthcawl, South Wales.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Your Name:** Glynnis Georgie, Granby, Connecticut

**Your Welsh interests?:** My mother was born in Merthyr Tydfil; my grandparents came to the U.S. in 1923. I grew up living with my Welsh grandmother in Southington, CT. Interested in the Welsh conversation and genealogy groups.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Meet Our Member, Beth Holden

I am originally from Wethersfield and have lived in Bloomfield with my husband, Keith for 30 years. I retired eight years ago from a long career in the nonprofit sector. Since then, I have enjoyed traveling with friends and family, volunteering, and cycling.

My paternal grandmother had Welsh roots. Unfortunately, no one in the family seemed to know the details. It was confirmed by a DNA test from Ancestry that I am, in fact, 11% Welsh (odd number!), so I did a bit of digging. As far as I can tell, the family came here long, long ago from Glamorgan. I need to do more to confirm this and I look forward to participating in the WSWNE Genealogy Group in the future.



Currently, I am a graduate student at Central Connecticut State University, studying Applied Linguistics with a concentration on Language Policy and Planning. I became very interested in learning about endangered languages and decided to make that the topic of my thesis. Once I started my research, I became aware of the Cymraeg 2050 initiative and that became my focus. Over the last year, I have interviewed over 20 participants with connections to Wales and the Welsh language, both here in the United States and abroad. I have really enjoyed learning so much about Welsh language and culture.

Many years ago, my friend and I took a trip to Wales. We visited Llandudno, Porthmadog, and Portmerion. It was a wonderful trip. The beauty of the landscape was surpassed only by the kindness of the people. I am planning to return and take my nieces to the Eisteddfod in 2024.

I am so appreciative of the many resources available through WSWNE, such as the language group and the genealogy group. In addition, the newsletter and email notifications have alerted me to many interesting Welsh events, including the recent webinar by David Willis at Cymmrodorion. I hope to be able to become more involved in the future.



## Zoom Events with WSWNE

Write to [InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com) to request a Zoom link for any of these presentations; please specify which one(s) you are interested in. Alternatively, you can register for most Zoom events online at [WelshWNE.org/events](http://WelshWNE.org/events).

### Welsh Conversation-on-Zoom

**Every Tuesday 5:30 PM August, September, October** (No meetings in July.)

Chat in Welsh in a casual, friendly setting. We use imaginative weekly topics/questions which enable us to learn new vocabulary.

**Every other Wednesday 5:30 PM (Beginner)**

**September 6 & 20, October 4 & 28**

This is not a class, though there will be a little homework.

### Genealogy-on-Zoom

**Mondays 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

This group shares research tips, suggestions, and success stories.

**September 11 & 25; October 30** (No meetings in July or August.)

Concurrent in-person meeting from 11:00-4:30 on the following dates:

**September 11, October 30**

RSVP for in-person events at [WelshWNE.org/events](http://WelshWNE.org/events).



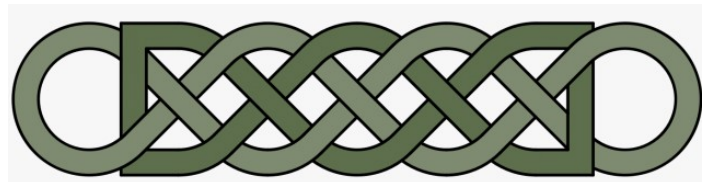
Photo from  
[webstockreview.net](http://webstockreview.net)

### History of the Harp Around the World

**Saturday, October 28, 3 PM**

Presented via Zoom by WSWNE member Nancy Cochran. Nancy is an Associate Editor of the *Folk Harp Journal*, the publication of the ISFHC, International Society of Folk Harpers & Craftsmen.

Access the 50th anniversary issue of the journal at <https://folkharpsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Spring-2022-194-FHJ-Recap.pdf>



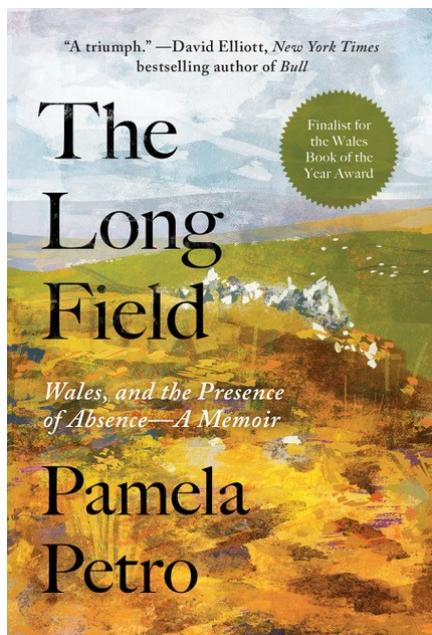


## In-Person Event with WSWNE

**Friday September 15, 4:00-7:00 PM**

We are excited to hold our annual Owain Glyndwr celebration at the beautiful Lost Acres Vineyard, 80 Lost Acres Road, North Granby, CT where we will enjoy a fan favorite Wine and 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, and Green Thunder, plus Collier's, Caerphilly and more, complimented with crackers, fruit, breads, chutneys and, of course, a tasting of several of Lost Acres' wines.

As part of our celebration, author Pam Petro will present her new book: *The Long Field - Wales and the Presence of Absence, a Memoir*.



*The Long Field* was published 2021 in the UK and named a Travel Book of the Year by *The Financial Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph*. It was also a finalist for the Wales Book of the Year Award.

The author says, "In the book I braid hiraeth I've experienced—as an American who pines for Wales, as the daughter of a parent with dementia, as the survivor of a horrific Amtrak crash—into new and old hiraeth stories of Wales. Along the way I write about hiraeth in some startlingly new ways: queer hiraeth, hiraeth triggered by politics, technology, ecological crises, and immigration. That said, while it's a book about longing, it's actually quite cheerful! My view of hiraeth evolves along the way from an awareness of loss and longing to a creative response to loss, which I see as the genius of Welsh culture—maybe the wellspring of all creativity."

## Items of Interest

- ◆ Welsh guitar phenom James Oliver will perform at Café Nine in New Haven on Tuesday, September 19. Tickets at [www.tixr.com/groups/cafenine/events/an-evening-with-welsh-guitar-phenom-james-oliver-66742](http://www.tixr.com/groups/cafenine/events/an-evening-with-welsh-guitar-phenom-james-oliver-66742)
- ◆ Check out some Welsh music at <https://globalwelsh.com/article/45/10-welsh-language-songs-you-ll-love-even-if-you-don-t-speak-welsh>.
- ◆ Download the new GoLingo app ([www.golingo.co.uk](http://www.golingo.co.uk)) and start learning Welsh! The app focuses on learning and practicing speaking Welsh while having conversations in a virtual town. It is a great tool for learning how to pronounce Welsh as it uses voice recognition to give you real time feedback on your responses.



## Welsh Vintage Clothing Donation

Susan Davies Sit, President WSWNE

Anne from Stonington, CT contacted WSWNE with a question: "My father's mother and family were all from Wales. He has passed away but I have been cleaning out and I came upon a box labeled 'Welsh Vest and Petticoat.' They are probably from the early 1900 or late 1800's. Do you know of any group that might want them as a donation?"

I love getting these questions, how can I connect these people with Welsh roots to other Welsh people, and have donations work for the good of all?

I thought of a WSWNE friend Jessie Roberts, a member with myself of the Heddwch Nain Mam-Gu USA team who worked to re-patriate a chest to Wales of almost 400,00 signatures by Welsh women to American women 100 years ago. Jessie is a playwright and actress and she said this: "I know a few theatre companies that would love to have them. I may even keep some for the presentation I do for Heddwch Nain Mam-Gu! I can also use them for my performances in A Child's Christmas in Wales. How wonderful. And thanks so much."

So the box of 100-year-old Welsh clothes made their way to the Washington DC area where they will be used in theatre productions for Welsh plays.



## Bronwen's Gifts to WSWNE

Susan Davies Sit, President WSWNE



Photo courtesy of Penderyn Whisky

Recently we were sad to lose member Bronwen Wrinn, whose laughter and joy at our events over the years will long be remembered. In recent years, she attended a few of our events, and won a bottle of Penderyn whisky and purchased several items in our little shop.

Her daughter returned a box of Bronwen's items to us. We will be using each item for the good of the Society. These items include a bottle of Penderyn Welsh whisky, a gift card to UK Gourmet, a Welsh flag, tea towel, four books, a mug, etc.

I propose we each take a drink of the Penderyn whisky to toast her at our 2023 Christmas luncheon. She would LOVE that.

## Welsh Cooking

Do you have a favorite Welsh recipe to share in a future issue? Please send to the editor at [Diane.Jeffer@gmail.com](mailto:Diane.Jeffer@gmail.com). Here's one of my favorites.

### Glamorgan Sausages

2-3 T butter  
¾ c leeks or onions, finely chopped  
2 c fresh breadcrumbs  
8 oz. grated Caerphilly or Cheddar cheese  
salt and white pepper  
½ tsp dry mustard  
1 heaped T fresh chopped parsley  
4 medium eggs  
4 T milk  
Oil for frying

Sauté leeks in butter for two minutes.

Combine 1½ cups bread crumbs, cheese, seasonings, mustard, leeks, and parsley in bowl and mix well. Beat together three eggs and add to the crumb mixture. Combine to form a firm dough; you may need a little milk if it is too dry. Divide into sixteen portions and form each into a sausage shape.

Beat one egg; add 4 T milk. Place remaining ½ cup fresh breadcrumbs on a plate and season lightly. Roll each sausage in the egg mixture, drain a little, then roll in the breadcrumbs. Repeat until all the sausages are coated. Chill for one hour.

Heat oil in frying pan. Add the sausages a few at a time and cook over a medium-low heat until golden all over. The sausages should fry gently; if the heat is too high they will brown too quickly and not be cooked through.



Photo from [BBCGoodFoodME.com](http://BBCGoodFoodME.com)



## Peace Petition Goes Home

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-65193304>

A 100-year-old peace petition signed by nearly 400,000 women has been returned to Wales from the United States. It called on the US to join a League of Nations and has been exhibited at the Smithsonian Museum of American History in Washington DC since 1924. Signatures gathered over seven months represented 30% of Wales' female population at the time. The petition and a chest have now been donated to the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, Ceredigion.

Soon after World War One, a group of women in Wales organised a campaign for world peace. Annie Hughes Griffiths led the effort, with two paid staff and 400 organisers getting 390,296 women to sign their petition. Mrs Hughes Griffiths, Mary Ellis, Elined Prys and Gladys Thomas left Wales in February 1924, taking the petition to Washington DC in a specially-designed chest. The New York press at the time described it as "a monster petition" said to have been seven miles (11km) long.

"Annie Hughes Griffiths gave countless speeches," said Mererid Hopwood from the Women's Peace Petition Partnership, a group that worked over many years to bring the petition home. They travelled around with their message in Salt Lake City, Chicago, Colorado, San Francisco, Los Angeles and many more." The peace campaigners were welcomed to the White House by President Calvin Coolidge, who then gave the petition to the Smithsonian for preservation.

The names on the petition will be digitised and made available online. National Library of Wales chief executive Pedr ap Llwyd said, "I can't possibly imagine how these ladies gathered such a vast number of signatures, without the conveniences of the web we have today. It's incredible. It's remarkable that the Smithsonian has released such an important archive or collection to another national institution."

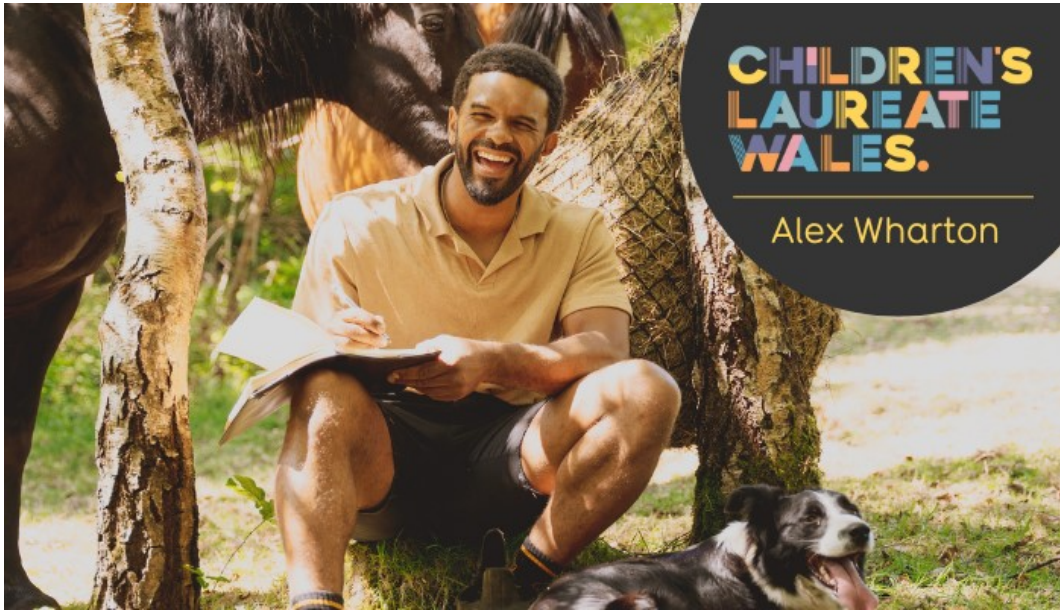
You can already search the list of county organizers who canvassed the villages and towns throughout Wales for women to sign the petition at [www.flickr.com/photos/129767871@N03/sets/72157713335184861/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/129767871@N03/sets/72157713335184861/).



The petition was taken to America in this wooden chest



## News From Wales



Literature Wales has selected poet and performer **Alex Wharton** as the **Children's Laureate Wales for 2023-2025**. Alex Wharton is an award-winning writer and performer of poetry for children and adults. His first book of poetry for children, *Daydreams and Jellybeans*, was shortlisted for several awards, and he has two books in the pipeline with Firefly Press. He has appeared in festivals such as Hay Festival and Edinburgh International book Festival.

The **Children's Laureate Wales** is a national ambassadorial role which aims to inspire and empower children and young people across Wales through literature. Founded in 2019, it is awarded every two years to a talented and visionary Wales-based writer who is passionate about ensuring more children and young people discover the joy and well-being benefits of engaging with literature. Find out more on the [Literature Wales website](#).

Poet and writer **Mererid Hopwood** has been elected **Archdruid of the Gorsedd** for 2024-2027. She is a Professor in the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies at Aberystwyth University, secretary of the Welsh Peace Academy, and an active member of the Heddwch Nain Mamgu team in Wales (see page 8). At Denbighshire in 2001, Professor Hopwood was the first woman to win the Eisteddfod Chair. She will be the second woman to undertake the role of Archdruid of the Gorsedd.



Born in Cardiff, she was educated at Ysgol Llanhari in Rhondda Cynon Taf, the catchment area for the Eisteddfod in 2024, and this is the area where she will begin her work as an Archdruid. Her collection of poems, *Nes Draw*, won the Book of the Year poetry award in 2016 and she was Wales' children's poet and received the Tir na nÓg award in 2018. She is one of a select group of poets and writers who have succeeded in bridging between poetry and prose, winning the Chair, the Crown and the Prose Medal.

Source: [www.bbc.com/cymrufyw/66001062](http://www.bbc.com/cymrufyw/66001062)

## More News From Wales

The Llŷn and Eifionydd National Eisteddfod's Crown and Chair were presented to the festival's Executive Committee at a special ceremony in Oriel Plas Glyn y Weddw, Llanbedrog on June 13.

The Crown is presented by the Caernarfonshire Branch of the Farmers' Union of Wales with the financial prize of £750 donated by the Bryn Bodfel Family, Rhydyclafdy, in memory of Griffith Wynne. The Crown was designed and created by Elin Mair Roberts.

Craftsman Stephen Faherty is responsible for creating the Chair, sponsored by the family of the late Dafydd Orwig, educator, pioneer, and former chair of Gwynedd County Council.

For more information about the 2023 Eisteddfod, which will take place in Aberdare August 5-12, see <https://eisteddfod.wales/2023-ll%C5%B7n-ac-eifionydd>.





## Book News From Wales

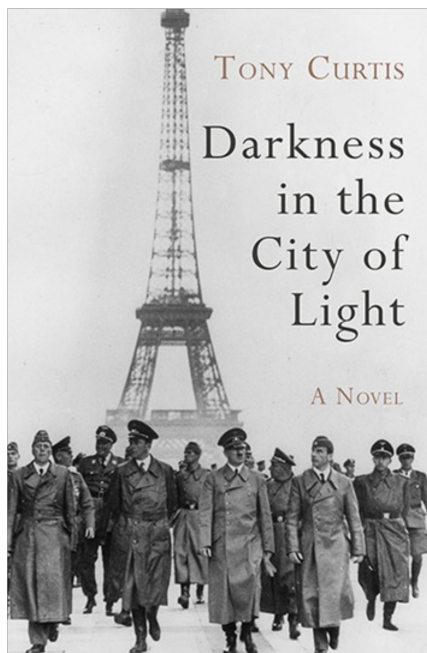
The Paul Torday Memorial Prize is awarded annually to the best debut novel by an author over the age of 60. This year's shortlist of five debut novels includes *Darkness in the City of Light* by Welsh poet and friend of WSWNE Tony Curtis. The book was published in 2021 by Seren, an independent publisher in Wales.

Mick Felton of Seren said, "We have published Tony Curtis's work for almost 40 years, and, late career, *Darkness in the City of Light* is a remarkable first novel in the way it blends genres so convincingly and engagingly. It is a deserved achievement to see the book recognised on such a strong shortlist."

Tony Curtis is an established and acclaimed poet who has published eleven collections. He has also published a volume of short stories, written critical and travel books, edited many anthologies, and has written extensively on war and on visual art, particularly in Wales. He led the Creative Writing department at the University of Glamorgan for many years.

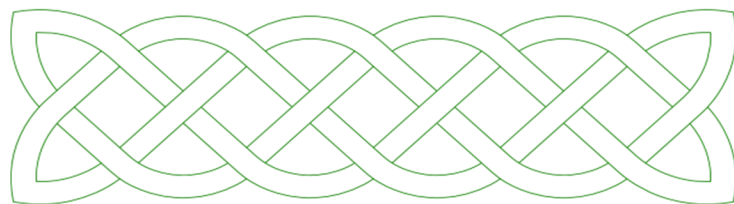


*Darkness in the City of Light* is set in Paris during the German occupation, with all the tensions, accommodations, resistances and paradoxes which that entailed. Against this background, and at the centre of the novel, moves Marcel Petiot, doctor, collaborator or resistance fighter, psychopath and serial murderer. He is the embodiment of the chaos and brutality of war, of the evil and inhumanity of dictatorship. As Curtis's novel progresses and awareness of Petiot and his actions grows, so too does his presence in the book. With the liberation of Paris, Petiot is at its centre, forced into new roles and new conspiracies to avoid trial and the guillotine. Truth and fiction blur, plausibility is tested, answers are few and questions multiply. Who was Petiot? Perhaps he himself did not know. Certainly the people he killed did not.



Stretching backwards and forwards within the twentieth century, and with a cast including Picasso, Braque, Sartre, Hemingway and Lee Miller, Curtis's remarkable multi-form novel combines fiction, journals, poetry and images to investigate what war can let loose, and how evil can dominate a man.

For more information, and to order a copy of the book, see [www.serenbooks.com/productdisplay/darkness-city-light](http://www.serenbooks.com/productdisplay/darkness-city-light).





# North American Festival of Wales Lincoln, Nebraska

August 30 - September 3, 2023

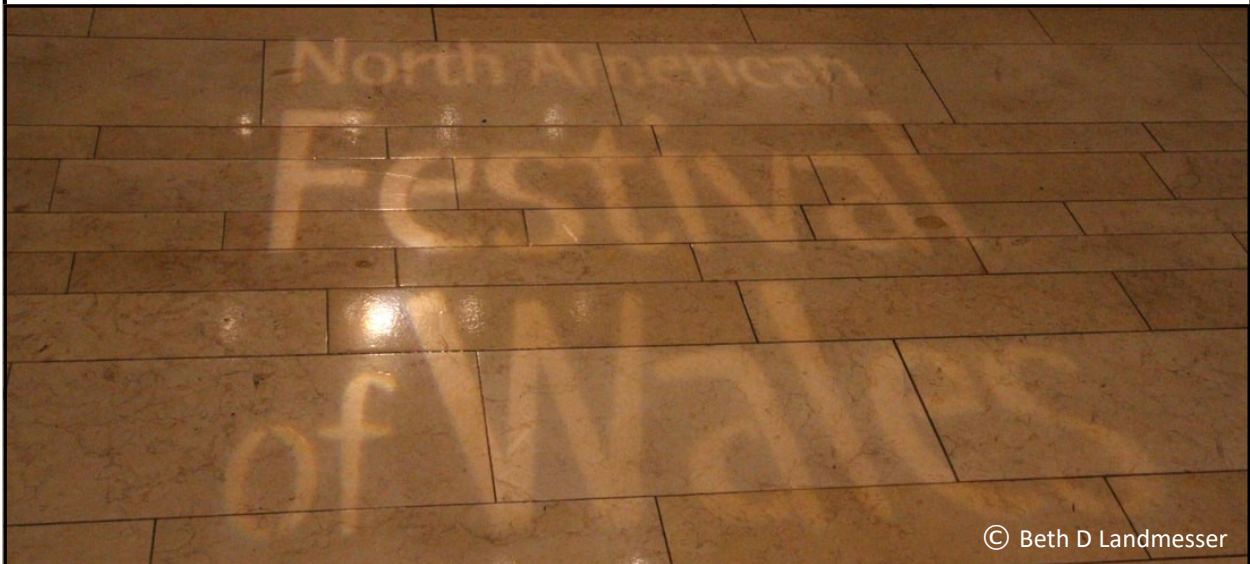
For the first time in its history, the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska. Many early Welsh settlers made their home in this midwestern state and there is much to explore. This year's event features world-class Welsh entertainment and seminar presentations, a theatre production written and directed by a BAFTA-Cymru winning playwright and actor, vendors, community singing, and an opportunity to visit the Archive for Welsh America in Wymore, Nebraska.

Known as the "Land of Song," music is an important part of Welsh culture. NAFOW is excited to welcome musical guests Gwawr Edwards, Rhys Meirion, Steffan Lloyd Owen, Dylan Morris, Leisa Dafydd and Triana. The Grand Concert and 91st National Gymanfa Ganu, a hymn-singing festival, will be under the direction of award-winning Welsh composer Robat Arwyn.

Daytime activities include a presentation of the play *Carwyn*, written by Owen Thomas, directed by Gareth Bale, and starring Simon Nehan. Well-known Welsh poet, TV presenter, and former National Poet Ifor ap Glyn headlines the seminar lineup with presentations on the "History of the Welsh Language in 10 Words;" and "The Black Chair" about Welsh-language poet Hedd Wyn, who was killed on the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele during World War I. Nebraska native and former TV talk show host Dick Cavett will Zoom in to the festival and share memories of interviews with Welsh celebrities. Additional seminar topics will focus on language, history, music, genealogy, and politics in Wales today.

The festival will be held at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel in the heart of downtown, with additional events at the Nebraska State Capitol and Saint Paul United Methodist Church.

The full festival schedule and registration details are available at [www.nafow.org](http://www.nafow.org).



© Beth D Landmesser



# The Welsh Flag

## Y Ddraig Goch—The Red Dragon

By Begw Arian

The Welsh flag is claimed to be the oldest national flag still in use.

The dragon appeared on the battle flags of various British soldiers on their way to Rome in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The Welsh Kings of Aberffraw first adopted the dragon in the early fifth century in order to symbolise their power and authority after the Romans withdrew from Britain. The word draig (dragon) appeared in early Welsh texts from the 6<sup>th</sup> century and around the 7<sup>th</sup> century, it became known as the Red Dragon of Cadwaladr, King of Gwynedd from 655 to 682. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century legend of Merlin, two sleeping dragons – one red, one white – wake up and begin fighting, coming to represent the struggle between the Welsh (red) and the English (white) Compared with other nations the Welsh have had a positive relationship with the dragon over the centuries, with heroes praised for being dragon-like.

Wales's official first use of the flag was probably during the battle of Bosworth Field in 1485 when Henry Tudor defeated Richard III. The Pembroke-born English king went on to reign over England for 24 years as Henry VII.

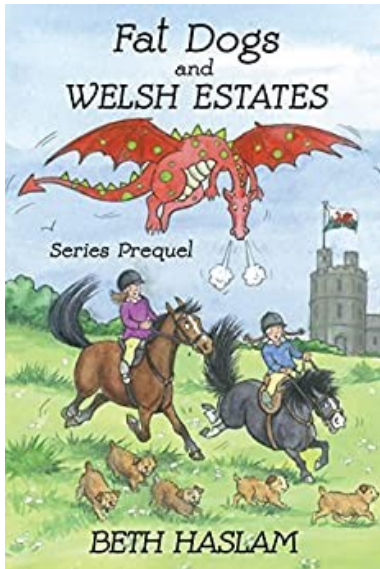
The dragon faded in popularity somewhat and wasn't featured on the Union Flag because Wales was united with England and not a separate principality when the first Union Flag was created in 1606.

In 1958, the Gorsedd of Bards expressed a wish that the red dragon be recognised as the national flag of Wales. After many changes (white dragon, gold dragon, small dragon etc.) over the centuries the design was changed in 1959 to the current flag.

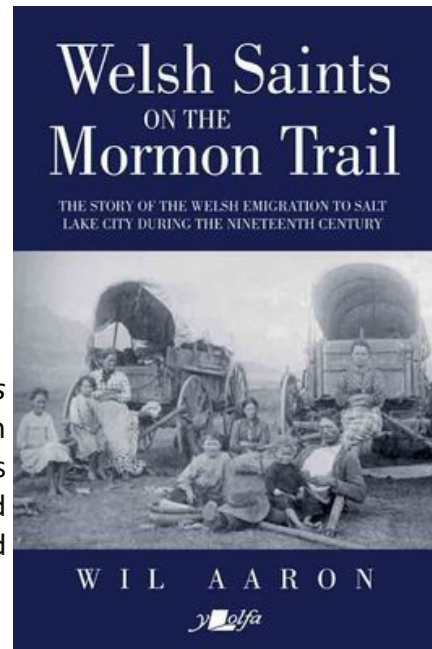
Now you see the Welsh dragon on badges, buttons, and bumper stickers, painted on the faces of eager rugby fans at international matches, and proudly flown on St. David's Day.



## Summer Reading

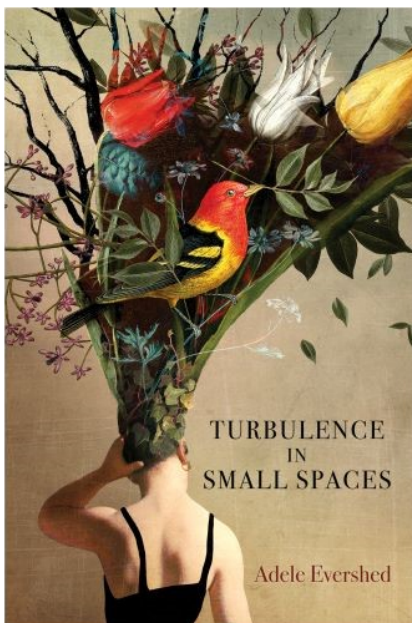


Welsh author Beth Haslam has recently published *Fat Dogs and Welsh Estates*. The book recounts her upbringing in Snowdonia, North Wales and a childhood shaped by unruly animals, myths, castle ghosts, and her father's involvement in a famous slate quarry. Available from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).



Another Welsh author, Wil Aaron, has written *Welsh Saints on the Mormon Trail*, the story of the thousands of Welsh members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who emigrated to America between 1847 and 1869 and trekked across the Great Plains to Utah by ox-cart and hand cart.

Also available from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).



You may remember Welsh-born Adele Evershed as she read her North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) Eisteddfod winning poem at our St. David's Day luncheon in March. Adele has a new book which will be published in July.

*Turbulence in Small Spaces* is a collection written for and about women. The poems explore love, loss, heartbreak, healing, and getting older. Dealing with toxic relationships, violence against women, and family dynamics, they confront the expectations placed on women and examine the challenges that aging brings. Ultimately, these poems offer the hope that wherever you experience turbulence—whether it be in a supermarket, at home, or in your mental health—you can grow, heal, and gain wisdom from having survived.

Reserve your copy today at [www.finishinglinepress.com/product/turbulence-in-small-spaces-by-adele-evershed/](https://www.finishinglinepress.com/product/turbulence-in-small-spaces-by-adele-evershed/).

## WSWNE Membership Form

You are encouraged to pay by credit card at [www.welshwne.org/membership](http://www.welshwne.org/membership).

Membership year begins March 1st, one per family at same address.

If mailing payment, please make check payable to WSWNE and mail with this form to Annie Rodgers, WSWNE Treasurer, P.O. Box 463, Chicopee, MA 01021.

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

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**Croeso** is published by the Welsh Society of Western New England, Inc.





Laburnum Arch at Bodnant Gardens  
Photo by Susan Davies Sit