



WSWNE

Welsh Society of Western New England

Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd Gorllewinol

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

FaceBook: WSWNE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Genealogy Research Days: Jan 9, Feb 20, & March 19, 2016 (Saturdays)

Our Genealogy Group meets monthly to learn how to research Welsh roots. Meets 10:00am-5:00pm. Bring your Welsh family tree and a lunch dish to share. Info: WelshWNE@gmail.com

Welsh Film & Afternoon Tea: Sunday, Jan 24, 2016

Join us to celebrate St. Dwynwen, the Welsh Saint of Love with a St. Dwynwen afternoon tea and a film about Welsh love-spoons. Arrive 2:00PM for tea followed by the 3:00PM movie. Bring a tea item (Welsh Cakes, Bara Brith, scones, heart-shaped cookies) to share. RSVP: WelshWNE@gmail.com

Annual St. David's Day Lunch

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, March 5, 2016: Nutmeg Restaurant, East Windsor, CT. Also our Annual General Meeting Day.

6 Nations Rugby 2016

Feb 7: 10:00am (EST) v. Ireland
Feb 13: 11:50am (EST) v. Scotland
Feb 26: 3:05pm (EST) v. France
March 12: 11:00am (EST) v. England
March 19: 9:30am (EST) v. Italy (in combination with Genealogy Day)

ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

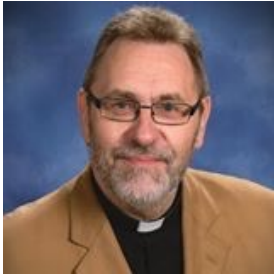


Saturday, Dec. 5: Yankee Pedlar, 1866 Northampton St., Holyoke, MA 01040

Join us at 12 noon for pre-lunch conversation and drinks with a cash bar. Prior to lunch there will be time to shop at our tables for your Christmas gifts: Welsh notecards, adult and children's Welsh t-shirts, book bags, mugs and more. There will also be a Welsh "Tea cup" raffle including teas, mugs, keychains!

Beginning at 1:00pm, we'll pop traditional Christmas crackers, share jokes and wear silly, traditional paper crowns, then enjoy a delicious lunch. Following lunch, we will enjoy a presentation by member Rev. Hugh James.

Please see page 2 to RSVP



The speaker for the 2015 Holiday Luncheon is Rev. Hugh James and the topic is "Perlau Llanfihangel-ar-Arth", which means "Pearls of Llanfihangel-ar-Arth".

"Rev. Hugh James is Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Norwich, CT. He was Vicar of Llanfihangel-ar-Arth, Pencader and Capel Dewi in West Wales from 1992 until 2004. He will share stories from those parishes' histories, bringing to life some of the characters who lived there, and talk about research into parish records for those wanting to trace their family history."

LUNCHEON MENU:

Pedlar Salad with Fresh Baked Rolls

Choice of:

Roast Pork Loin with Apple Cranberry Stuffing OR

London Broil with Burgundy Mushroom Sauce OR

Grilled Salmon with Garlic Herb Butter

Served with Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetable

Apple Crisp with Whipped Cream and Coffee

Vegetarian and children's choices are available upon request.



Members enjoying the Christmas luncheon in 2014

Member: \$29....Guest: \$31 and Child (to age 15): \$16 (Chicken Fingers meal)

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PLEASE RSVP for the ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON – by Tuesday, December 1, 2015

NAMES OF GUESTS: _____

PHONE # _____

MENU CHOICES: PORK: #____; BEEF: #____; SALMON: #____; VEGETARIAN: # ____ and Children's Meal: #____

MEMBER PRICE: \$ 29 x____; GUEST PRICE: \$ 31 x____; Children (to age 15): \$16 x____

TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ _____

Please make check payable to WSWNE and mail to: Susan Davies Sit, 22 Windwood Drive, Glastonbury, CT 06033 by Tuesday, December 1st, 2015.

Welsh Christmas Traditions

Mari-Lwyd



Still found in some parts of Glamorgan, though rarely seen elsewhere, Mari-Lwyd (Holy Mary) is the tradition of carrying a horse figure from door-to-door during Christmas time as the Mari-Lwyd group perform. The figure was made from a white sheet with reins, bells, ribbons and a real horse skull would be used for its head. The well-known southern Wales ritual would then see the singing group burst into song, producing traditional stanzas. The Mari-Lwyd group would then try to gain admission into the houses and issue a challenge to those in the house for one member of the group and one family member. The debate was called "Pwnco" and produces both traditional stanzas and improvised ones with mocking taking place from both sides. Should the Mari-Lwyd win, they gain admission to the house and are given cakes and ale and sometimes gifts of money. After delivering a farewell song, the group would leave and let the household continue with their night. Thanks to LandLove magazine, Nov. 2104.

Oranges in Christmas Stockings



Growing up in Wales in the 50's and 60's, my siblings and I always had an orange in the toe of our Christmas stockings. We never queried it, They were always there. It turns out there are a couple of explanations, both of which were valid in Wales during those post-war years. During World War 2, money was tight, ration books used and many families simply didn't have the means to buy gifts. Instead, it was such a treat, even a luxury, to place an orange in your child's stocking. Oranges were scarce during and even after WW2. Fresh imported oranges were hard to come by, so finding one of these fruits in your stocking was a special treat. By Susan Davies Sit



***JUST A NOTE:** Look out for a 14-16 page, full color newsletter including more photos, and articles, which will be e-mailed to all members and potential members this week. We hope you enjoy this on-line edition, printing it if you wish.*



This printed newsletter will be the last you receive by "snail mail", unless you have already emailed Susan Davies Sit (at WelshWNE@gmail.com), or will do so soon, to advise that you would prefer to always receive a paper copy.

Those preferring a paper copy will be mailed a six page newsletter, four times a year, plus will receive the on-line larger version. Those preferring an on-line version only will receive the larger full-color newsletter, beginning in the spring 2016. Questions? Email or call Susan Davies Sit (contact info on page 6)

WSWNE Member Article

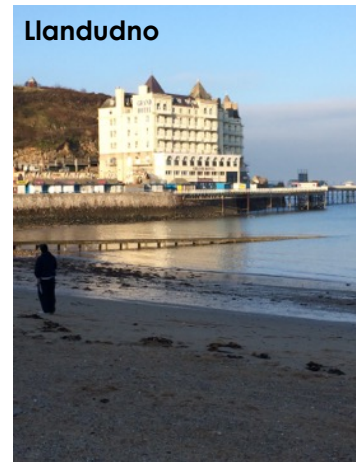
Satisfying my “Hiraeth” ...at least for now.

While visiting my mother this year she and I took a 2-day drive through north-west Wales which took us from Rhos-on-Sea, to Llandudno with its glorious promenade (with an Alice in Wonderland statue to commemorate the writing of that novel by



Lleyn peninsula - farming

Lewis Carroll who had stayed in Llandudno, visiting friends with a daughter named... yes, Alice) and through Bangor and Caernarvon on the north west coast then continued down the Lleyn Peninsula into the comparatively desolate countryside of Wales along this rocky coast.



Llandudno

We first stopped in Nefyn, a popular tourist destination in the summer but it was deserted in January. Then it was on to the tiny villages of Tudweilliog and Aberdaron. We found a pub, Y Gwesty Ty Newydd, in Aberdaron, and while the owner painted the walls in the next room getting ready for the tourist season, we sat with our coffee at huge windows overlooking the wild Bae



St. Hywyn's church

Ceredigionon at the very tip of the Lleyn Peninsula, imagining a very different scene there in July. The beach was long and wide and the views spectacular. Next door was St. Hywyn's church with its graveyard, including Celtic crosses, facing the sea. A fine resting place!

As we rounded the tip of the Lleyn, destination Abersoch, we stopped on top of the cliffs of Porthneigwl, Hell's Mouth, with its vast bay

and beach, then onto Barmouth, where the wind was blowing really hard and we couldn't get out of the car without getting sand blasted.

Lunch was to be at Portmeirion. If you only know Portmeirion from the Welsh pottery or from the 60's TV series *The Prisoner*, you are missing the beauty of the Italianate village build between 1925 and 1975 by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis. it is now owned by a charitable trust. You can tour the village and there's a wonderful hotel and pub on the edge of the estuary. The village is located in the community of Penrhyndeudraeth, overlooking



Hell's Mouth Bay

WSWNE Winter 2015

the estuary of the River Dwyryd. On November 22, our Welsh Film and Afternoon Tea day will feature Portmeirion pottery and Portmeirion films.

From Portmeirion we drove to our overnight B&B in Harlech, where the castle was undergoing an addition to house a visitor center and restaurant. While digging the foundations the discovery of several medieval skeletons was made, buried in a "Christian east/west orientation" and a possible ancient church outside the castle walls. The church is younger than the 12th century castle, possibly 16th century. BBC Wales noted "Harlech Castle is one of Edward I's fortifications in north Wales although there is mention of Harlech - which is in a prominent strategic location near the coast - as a site in the Welsh folk tales the Mabinogi."

We drove to Penmaenpool, across a wooden bridge to the pub George 3rd. The lunch board was up and noted wonderful dishes such as Pheasant fillets, Cod wrapped in Smoked Salmon, and Wild Boar and Thyme sausages. It was too early for us to eat but we drank in the view of the estuary which was magnificent over cups of hot coffee. Dining in Wales' menus have become a wonderful selection of Welsh farm-raised meats, local seafood and Welsh cheeses.



Driving on on the blustery January day, we arrived in Dolgellau, one of those Welsh market towns where, it seems, time has stood still. We walked in the blustery wind around the town, taking photos of the stone built houses and pubs.



We continued our drive in snow showers, up and across the Welsh mountains to Llyn Bala and on past Llyn Celyn the site of the drowning of the village of Tryweryn in by The British Government in order to construct a 2 1/2 mile long reservoir to supply Liverpool with water. If you attended the St. David's Day event this year you will have heard member Shirley Gilmartin's talk about the event. We then dropped down into Blaenau Ffestiniog and the hills of slate (slag), always such a grey and rainy town but you have to love it, for its magnificent history of the Slate Quarries.

A wonderful 2 days in my home, my Wales. By Susan Davies Sit, WSWNE member

WSWNE Winter 2015

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

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WSWNE Newsletter

Susan Davies Sit, Editor
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WHAT HAS WSWNE BEEN UP TO?

Welsh Poet & Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, Tony Curtis, visits WSWNE

In September we held a wonderful afternoon event in Hartford, CT to host Tony Curtis, a visiting Welsh poet.

Tony Curtis was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2001. He is Emeritus Professor of Poetry at the University of South Wales (Glamorgan). In 2014, Dylan Thomas' centenary year, he toured a talk based on his memoir "My Life with Dylan Thomas". Tony Curtis' presentation was "A Welsh Poet and the Ghost of Dylan Thomas", which included his own poetry plus that of Dylan Thomas and that of fellow poets. Wales's first Professor of Poetry describes being taught, as an undergraduate, by Vernon Watkins at Swansea University in 1967. He went on to trace Dylan's influence on his own writing and the experiences of other writers and artists, including Dannie Abse, Stanley Moss, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Jonah Jones, John Pudney, John Ormond, Glyn Jones, Aeronwy Thomas and Ceri Richards.

Tony Curtis has published over thirty books, including eight collections of poetry and has won the Western Mail's Dylan Thomas Prize and the Dylan Thomas Award for Spoken Poetry, judged by Dannie Abse and Dylan's daughter Aeronwy. His Poems Selected and New 1966-2016 will appear in 2016.

The presentation was followed by a light Welsh afternoon tea (Te Bach) in the meeting room of the Unitarian Society of Hartford. We enjoyed cups of tea and home-made scones with strawberry jam and whipped cream, plus home-made Welsh cakes, dusted with sugar. Thank you to Susan Jenkins Meers, Sherry Williams, Beth Roberts Brown and Susan Davies Sit for baking the delicious scones and Welsh cakes.

The event was well publicized throughout New England and we welcomed a few new people to our event, including a possible new member. By Susan Davies Sit and Tony Curtis.



President Susan Davies Sit with Welsh poet Tony Curtis, Secretary Susan Jenkins Meers and V.P. Sherry Williams.



WSWNE members and guests enjoying conversation over afternoon tea



The delicious home-made afternoon tea

North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW), Columbus, OH



We had such a wonderful Welsh weekend! I do encourage any of you who have never been to NAFOW to plan to go. There's such a Welsh spirit all weekend. In 2016 it's in **Calgary, Canada** and it promises to be a wonderful event with spectacular scenery of the Canadian Rockies. If that's too far for you... I have heard a whisper that in 2017 it will be in **Rochester, NY**, so there's plenty of time to start saving for that one... start now so that we can go together and be immersed in everything Welsh (poetry, literature, music, singing, crafts, films, history, and more). We can easily drive to Rochester from New England, sharing the costs as we go. If you are interested and want more details, or have

questions, email me at WelshWNE@gmail.com.

Highlights this year were:

- Hearing the Welsh language spoken while walking on the streets of Columbus, Ohio
- Cor Y Penrhyn Male Voice Choir, in the Grand Concert
- John Ogwen, a poet, actor, and orator, giving a great presentation on "Welsh Poetry in Translation"
- Eisteddfod competition - hearing Welsh spoken in verse is a highlight
- Lovespoon carving, spinning demo, rugby rules explained, quilting demo....and shopping in the Welsh marketplace
- Meeting people from other Welsh Societies across the USA and Canada such as Calgary, Vancouver, Ohio, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, California; a NAFOW Eisteddfod winner originally from Caernarfon; Martha and Berwyn from Nebraska, and Sheila and Ric Mahoney, daughter and grandson (from OH) of WSWNE member Gwladys Mahoney of MA; the MAD walking duo from Calgary, Canada who walked the coast of Wales in 2014 and so many more.
- Spending time with CALAN, a young Welsh musical group
- Attending SSiW Welsh learners roundtable
- Reconnecting with friends made at the Scranton NAFOW; one competed in the recitation contest!
- Participating in late night informal singing with Calan and the Cor y Penrhyn Choir
- Early morning walking tours of the City
- Introduced to AdaMae Lewis the NAWAF 2015 Heritage Medallion Honoree



Beth Roberts Brown &
Susan Davies Sit at NAFOW

The **Affiliated Welsh Organisation Meeting (AWO)** that Beth and I attended was very productive but too short We...



Arturo Roberts

- Shared new events in each of our Societies
- Shared "things that worked"
- Shared publicity difficulties and offered solutions
- Shared email addresses
- Encouraged each other to share each others' newsletters
- Encouraged each other to 'like' each others' FB pages and link to each other's web sites on our own Society's website.

At NAFOW, there was a cocktail reception for the retiring Arturo Roberts, NINNAU Editor from it's beginning, 40 years ago. He was born in Patagonia and we met his family, including his 3 children and his grandchildren, who were there to celebrate his achievement. The new Editor of NINNAU, Megan Williams, led the proceedings as we celebrated Arturo and Ninnau.

by Beth Roberts Brown and Susan Davies Sit

WSWNE PIN BOARD

Diolch yn fawr/thank you to **Ed Brown**, WSWNE Board Member, for filming our presentations and **Trey McCain**, WSWNE Honorary member, for uploading them on to You Tube and linking them to our website! Check out the latest links: WelshWNE.org.

Note from **Sherry Williams, Vice President** WSWNE: Before you leave our events, please leave your **name tags** behind at the host desk. For those who have their name tags from the St. David's Day event in March, **please bring them with you in December**.
Diolch yn fawr / thank you.

LET'S MAKE WELSH CAKES!

Want to know how to make Welsh Cakes? We'll get together to make them from scratch...look for this event in the next newsletter!

Calling all members:

Please submit your story to be included in the newsletter: a personal story, Welsh article, travelogue, Welsh roots, history... anything you think would be of interest to the group. Email it to: WelshWNE@gmail.com

Our brand new screen was put to full use in September at the Poet event and will be used at our Christmas Holiday luncheon. We have sweet memories of **Heather Norwood** and her kind, bequeathed gift of funds to be used by WSWNE. The screen will support our effort to bring you great presentations in the future.

Included with this newsletter is a WSWNE membership form. If you're not already part of this amazing, fun-filled, busy Welsh Society.... join us!



Want to learn some Welsh? Try the website SSiW... there's a very useful free app for your smart phone so you can pick up part of a lesson, wherever you are!

WELSH EVENTS AROUND THE U.S.A.

Welsh Society of Philadelphia: 2015 Thanksgiving Gymanfa Ganu

Arch Street Presbyterian Church 1724 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
THE WELSH GUILD in cooperation with the Welsh Society of Philadelphia cordially invites you to the 2015 Annual THANKSGIVING GYMANFA GANU Sunday November 22 at 3:30pm CAPEL DEWI SANT (St. David's Chapel)

- Conductor TREFOR WILLIAMS
- Soprano KATHY CRUSI
- Chaplains GREGORY DIMICK and G. CLAYTON AMES Organist JACK R. WILLIAMS

Te Bach (Welsh Tea) to follow song festival, food donations for Welsh Tea are always welcomed. Contributions to support the activities of the WELSH GUILD are appreciated. information call Marcia



Ontario Welsh Festival Gŵyl Gymreig Ontario April 22-24, 2016 OTTAWA

Come and join us for a wonderful and friendly weekend celebrating Welsh music and culture, featuring a gala concert on April 23 by THE THREE WELSH TENORS and renowned CÔRDYDD choir from Cardiff



Festival headquarters: the stately Lord Elgin Hotel located in the heart of downtown Ottawa and just steps away from Parliament. Rates \$147 Canadian per night.

Call now to secure your room –1-800-267-4298; 613-235-3333

For further information, contact Donna Morris 416-756-1249 or e-mail publicity@ontariowelshfestival.ca
www.ontariowelshfestival.ca
www.facebook.com/ontario.welsh.festival

Attend the
**North American
Festival of
Wales (NAFOW)**
September,
2016 in Calgary,
Canada.
Featuring the
Colwyn Male
Voice Choir
with guest
soloist Edith Pritchard.



ROOTS REDISCOVERED

Genealogy research

Makes a great Christmas gift to a



Diolch Hanlyn Davies, WSWNE member for arranging for Tony Curtis, Welsh poet to speak at our event and to Sherry Williams for securing the location!

Members can place a small advert in our Newsletter for \$5.00 (Non-members for \$10)

Please email the Editor.

WELSH SPORTS

RUGBY - WALES' NATIONAL SPORT

Rugby arrived in Wales in the 1880's and is the national sport in Wales and is a huge part of Wales' culture with patriotic singing in full voice. Max Boyce is a Welsh singer and musician who writes specific verses to his song "Hymns and Arias" to fit each game and he is immensely popular. you can listen to his songs on YouTube. Once every four years, **the Rugby World Cup** (RWC) takes place. There are 20 nations who take part. The winner of the RWC receives the Webb Ellis Cup, named in honor of the sport's folkloric founder, English schoolboy William Webb Ellis. This past fall at the 2015 World Cup, which was held in England (and Wales), Wales was drawn in the group with England, Australia, Fiji and Uruguay. In the group round, Wales beat Uruguay, Fiji, England (the latter in a nail-biting amazing game) and lost to Australia. In the quarter-final v. South Africa, Wales did lose but only after a valiant effort and only by 4 points. In the same competition, Scotland almost beat New Zealand, but a terrible referee decision gave New Zealand the game, and they won by one point. The final was won by New Zealand, the All-Blacks with a fabulous final game v. Australia, the Wallabies. It was a repeat win for the All Blacks. World Cup Rugby returns in 2019 in Japan. We'll be watching!



Wales' captain Sam Warburton

UPCOMING WSWNE EVENT

The European nations of Wales, England, Scotland, Ireland, Italy and France also play in an annual competition called the "**6 Nations Cup**" since it was formed in 2000 (previously as 4 teams in the Home Nations Cup from 1881).

Wales has won the 6 Nations Cup 26 times since then. The period 1969-1979 was called the "golden era". Wales has won 47 of the 70 "6 Nations Cup" games played since 2000. A Grand Slam is when a nation beats the other 5 nations on their way to the title. Wales has won the Grand Slam title 11 times since 1908. In 2015, Ireland won the 6 Nations Cup. The four "Home Unions" of Wales, England, Ireland and Scotland also play for the "Triple Crown" which they win by beating the other three teams. How is the winner calculated? Each team plays the other five teams once and earns 2 points for a win and 1 point for a draw. The teams accumulate points, with the overall winner having the most points. If two or more teams finish the Championship with the same number points, the winner is decided on match-points difference (subtracting match-points 'against' from match-points 'for').

The 6 Nations Cup will be played this year from February 2nd to March 19th, 2016. Check the web site for more details: www.rbs6nations.com

The WALES games are as follows (please check their web site for confirmation):

Feb 7: 10:00am (EST) v. Ireland

Feb 13: 11:50am (EST) v. Scotland

Feb 26: 3:05pm (EST) v. France

March 12: 11:00am (EST) v. England

March 19: 9:30am (EST) v. Italy

Some of the WALES games can be watched at the home of Susan Davies Sit in Glastonbury, CT;

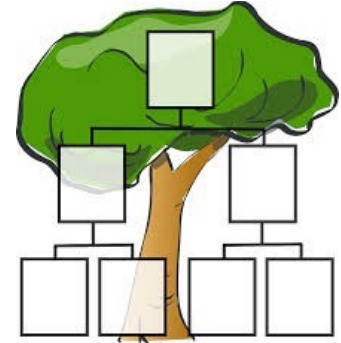
please bring a \$5 donation fee to help streaming costs. Please email WelshWNE@gmail.com to RSVP.

Bring a Welsh flag to wave and your voice to sing the National Anthem with the 80,000 fans!

WELSH ROOTS

A new quarterly corner where you can perhaps discover a new website or information for researching your Welsh roots.

Firstly, let me tell you about our Genealogy Group. It takes place in Glastonbury, CT once a month, usually on a Saturday. We meet at 10:00AM and force ourselves to stop at 5:00PM, following a very productive day of research and learning. We also have a delicious pot-luck lunch. We learn about ways to discover our hidden ancestors on websites such as FindMyPast.com and Ancestry.com. We enjoy finding out more about where they lived, their occupations, the geography of their home area and why and how they came to the USA.



A recent addition to our research capability has been **Welsh newspapers on line**. Welsh newspapers are sparsely covered at the paid website "Findmypast.co.uk". The better option is the free web site of the National Library of Wales: <http://www.llgc.org.uk/> where you will find 15 million articles and 1.1 million pages. from as early as 1831 to the 1970's.

Here you can search for a particular person (though beware if you are searching for your William Jones... there will be hundreds!) or for a particular day's events. Putting in a non-Welsh name such as CHAPLIN, my mother's family name, results in 2,235 entries. The entries can be further filtered, so don't let those numbers scare you off. If your ancestor's name has been in the newspaper for good or bad reasons, you will find it. Two of my Hersee ancestors played soccer for local teams and for Wales, so reports of their games are in the paper a lot. My great grandfather C R Chaplin was an entrepreneur and his name was in the paper many times, giving slideshows using the towns only "Magic Lantern" and collecting money for local children's homes and schools using his two large St. Bernard dogs with coin collecting barrels around their necks. You can also find birth announcements, as well as marriage and deaths.

Here's one for a Chaplin birth in Llandudno, North Wales found in the North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser, dated 1st July, 1882: On the 9th inst, at Longton House, Llandudno, the wife of Charles R. Chaplin of a son.

And another of C. Chaplin's marriage: On the 6th inst, at St. George's Parish Church, Llandudno, Charles R. Chaplin, to Elizabeth Louise **Hemee-botli** of Llandudno.

Just a word of warning, the transcriptions oft leave a lot to be desired. "Hemee-botli" was actually "Hersee - both".

I have personally found a wealth of information. Another example, is of a woman whom my great great uncle married. Poor Bessie became a bit of a kleptomaniac and appeared in the papers **many, many times** in front of the judge being sentenced to 6 months hard labor each time she was caught. When she is not at home with the family on the census, I now know she was in prison. She eventually was reconciled with the family and they moved to Liverpool.

Putting "meat on the bones of our ancestors" is one of genealogy's joys and makes our ancestors real to us.

Try it out, join us, see what you can find! Email Beth for more details - edbethui@comcast.net

by Susan Davies Sit

WSWNE MEMBER ARTICLE

Llanddwyn Island, Anglesey

Llanddwyn means “the Church of St. Dwynwen”. It surely is a magical, beautiful place: a small tidal island, near Newborough on the west coast of Anglesey, North Wales. A lighthouse built in 1873 was situated near southern



Llanddwyn Beach

entrance to the Menai Straits, the strip of water separating Wales' main land and that of the island of Anglesey. As a result, it became an important lighthouse station when the shipping of slate from the posts of Bangor, Caernarvon and Felinhelli (Holyhead) increased. Lighthouse towers were built in the early 1840's, as well as cottages to house the pilots who guided the ships. One has been restored and can be visited.



Llanddwyn Lighthouse

Saint Dynwen

Dwynwen is believed to have been a daughter of King Brychan Brycheiniog, who lived in the 5th century. Her mother may have been Rigrast. Dwynwen lived in Anglesey, and her name is still recalled in place names such as Llanddwyn and Porthddwyn in Wales and the Church of Sen Adhwynn in Advent, Cornwall.

In the tale told of her, Dwynwen falls in love with a young man named Maelon, but rejects his advances. Stories differ substantially on the events that follow but the outcome remains the same. Either she is raped by Maelon and prays for assistance, or she is unable to marry him due to her father's refusal and prays to forget her love for him. An angel provides her with a potion. Maelon drinks it and turns into ice. Dwynwen then prays for three requests. These three requests are that

Maelon be released; that, through her, God look after all true lovers; and that she remain unmarried. She then retreats to the solitude of Llanddwyn Island off the west coast of Anglesey to become a hermit until she dies, in about AD 460.



Her church at Llanddwyn became an important shrine during the Middle Ages. The holy well became a site of pilgrimage, at which the movement of fish within its waters was believed to indicate lovers' destinies.

The site is now part of a nature reserve.

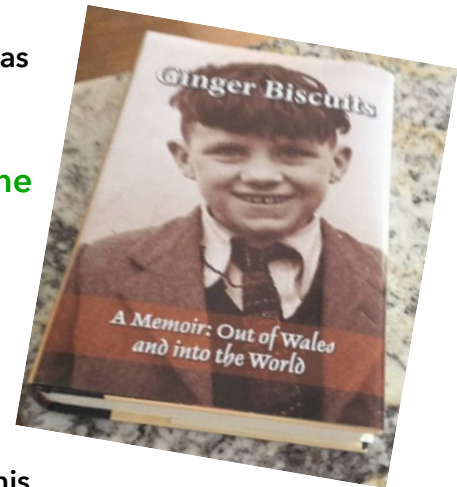
Thank you to Wikipedia and CadwynGifts.com. Photographs by Gary Matthews, Broxbourne, UK

The ruins of the Church and the Celtic Cross erected in 1903

WELL-RED DRAGONS

Board member Glynn Dowden, who oft appears at WSWNE as Dylan Thomas, has written a book, detailed here:

Ginger Biscuits: A Memoir: Out of Wales and into the World. By Glyn Dowden



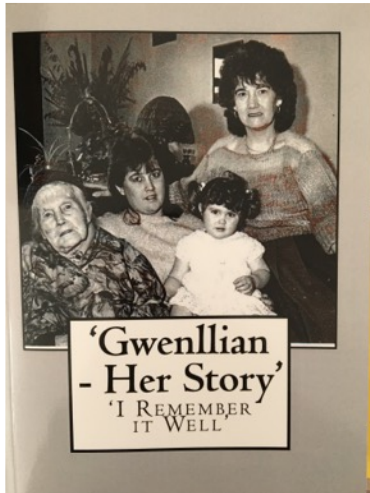
This memoir is a series of short stories covering the period from 1942 during the second world war in Newport, South Wales to 2008 in America. With some humor, the author vividly describes his adventures while growing up in school and in the streets of his neighborhood, through his teenage years while chasing an education, sport and girls, until finally leaving Wales in the 60's as a married man and qualified professional engineer. Working for one of the world's largest American engineering contractors in London the international business world opened up to him and eventually the author with his family ended up in New Jersey, USA. Chasing large contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars and establishing a business presence for his company in major parts of the world while at the same time trying to nurture his family became a way of life, plunging the author into a number of interesting, fraught and sometimes dangerous situations while he sought business deals in Indonesia, across China and India, Middle East, Africa, Europe and South America.

Being told by the future president of Indonesia that he could be escorted to the airport and thrown out of the country, narrowly escaping a terrorist shooting in his Egyptian hotel, or wandering around Argentina with a British passport just after the Falkland war and Argentina with a British passport just after the Falkland war and other similar events plus learning that your French boss in the next office had been jailed by the Fed, is not normally on the radar of a persons average working day. These and many

other interesting stories that have featured in the life and lives of the author and people that he knew fill the pages of this entertaining book. Also included in the Memoir are some poems and photographs and a series of letters to his wife. But finally, after all is said and done the Welsh author still recognizes, upfront, the power of hiraeth and hence you will find the reason for the title of the book Ginger Biscuits.

Copies of Glyn's book will be available for sale at our Christmas Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 5, 2015

GWENLLIAN - HER STORY and MAMMY VAL'S LITTLE BOOK OF ALL-SORTS



How I wish I had had the opportunity to be standing in front of you giving this talk. Just a little about myself; I was 76 on the 25th July and am a great-grandmother to five lovely children. My mother died when I was 9 and my father had left us during the war; I was already being raised by my grandmother whose story Susan will be able to show you. One of her sayings was 'don't worry, worry until worry worries you'; how true that is, as from the time my mother died I worried about my beloved grandmother how was I to know that she would live to be one hundred!

I had had a book published in 2002 but only two of the trilogy so then I wondered how I could set about compiling the trilogy that was intended. I started reading up about self-publishing but how could I manage this? I wasn't computer literate I just 'got by' but I thought I would give it a go. The first book I produced was my

grand-mother's story "Gwenllian - her Story".

Then I set to work on my favourite novel 'An American Odyssey' again another large book; this came into being through the only really fantastic holiday my husband and I had spent - a month in the mid-west covering six states and 4,500 miles with our three year old grand-daughter whom we were raising and whom is now the mother of my five great-grandchildren.

Now to 'Mammy Val's Little Book of All-sorts'. The title came about through the fact that my daughter's friends refer to me as Mammy Val. It says 'little' in the title but this book contains quite a lot; short stories; poetry I learnt in school before I was 11; my grandmother's cookery recipes I have advised that these have not been tested by me; also her recipes for wine making (amusing really, as when a young woman she belonged to The Band of Hope and was against drinking.) Finally letters I have reproduced that my grandmother's evacuee sent home to her parents in London during her time with gran; all written on scraps of paper, blots and all!

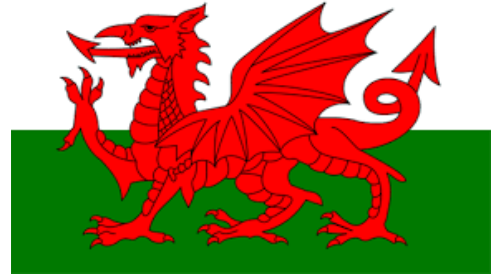
'A String of Pearls' is set mostly in Wales as is 'We'll Meet Again'; also 'The Fair Folk - tales from long ago Wales' a children's book. 'A Stranger in Paradise' is set in Colorado. I have sent Susan Davies Sit a list of my books priced in dollars anyone interested I can get these mailed - payment via PayPal. Details will be given if requested.

I must admit I have lived in Wales since I was two year old but was born near Bristol - this fact was always a joke with my husband a typical 'Valley Man'. I lived in the Cynon Valley Mid Glamorgan until 1971 and then with my husband's career move came to Pembrokeshire.

I thank WSWNE for supporting me and for giving me the chance to "talk" to you. Your nation is vast I do hope by word of mouth etc. the knowledge of my books will spread.

Val Baker Addicott Author July 2015

Welsh Society of Western New England Membership



WSWNE is organized by many volunteers, but we incur expenses by hosting speakers at events, publishing the quarterly newsletter, publicity and insurance.

Please consider joining WSWNE to support our work.

Membership levels reflect only your level of support. All levels receive the printed newsletter 3-4 times per year and discounts at our events.

Memberships are “per household” (family at same mailing address) and are valid March 1-Feb 28. Pro-rated memberships are possible, please contact the Treasurer at:
rbolgard@sbcglobal.net or call 860-709-2159

If you wish to support WSWNE with a membership, please forward your dues to Robert Bolgard, WSWNE Treasurer, 221 Trumbull Street, Apt 1707, Hartford, CT 06103 as follows:

___\$10 (Student), ___\$25 (Miner’s Lantern), ___\$50 (Daffodil), ___\$100 (Red Dragon)
(Checks made payable to WSWNE. Membership value only reflects your level of support; benefits are the same for each level)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Tel # _____ Email address _____

Newsletter: Please indicate which: Email version _____ OR paper copy _____

What topics or activities are of interest to you?

Please tell us about your Welsh connections or Welsh roots? _____

Ref: Newsletter Nov. 2015