



WSWNE



Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd Gorllewinol

Welsh Society of Western New England

Website: WelshWNE.org

Email: WelshWNE@gmail.com

FaceBook: WSWNE

Welsh Cheese and USA Wine Evening

Saturday, October 8th, 2016 at 4:00PM - 7:00PM at the home of Don and Susan Davies Sit: 22 Windwood Drive, Glastonbury, CT

Sample delicious Welsh Cheeses such as:

- **Little Black Bomber:** winner of the 2010 silver medal at the Nantwich International Cheese show, creamy & smooth
- **Caerphilly:** a young, white, fresh-tasting cheese, Caerphilly has a pleasant, creamy flavor.
- **Collier's Welsh Cheddar:** is made to one recipe, matured and packed in Denbighshire, Wales.
- **Red Dragon:** a Welsh Cheddar with wholegrain mustard seeds and Welsh ale
- **Myfanwy:** a Welsh Miner's cheese, wrapped in muslin. Medium mild and lightly acidic with hints of cheddar, made right here in Coventry, CT at Cato Corner Farm.

Sip on red and white CT wines from **Lebanon Green Winery** to compliment the Welsh cheeses, poured by Donald Joy, the vineyard's manager, and sample home-made Welsh Rarebit: toasts topped with broiled Welsh Cheddar cheese, stout ale and mustard.



Beautiful harp music will be provided by Kasha Breau who is a traditional harpist and singer playing original music and folk songs from around the world on modern reconstructions of medieval and renaissance harps as well as the modern concert harp.

One of her harps is double-strung which can produce the lovely cascading waterfall effect of the Welsh triple-harp (Telyn deires) and she has been playing the music of Wales for over 35 years.



RSVP using the form on page 8 (back page)...

Tickets must be pre-paid

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Genealogy Research Days:

September 24, October 29, November 19 and December 17, 2016 (Saturdays):

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

Annual Christmas Holiday luncheon

Save the date! Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016. One of our most favorite events of the year, complete with festive decorations and Christmas crackers to pop. Hors d'oeuvres at 12 noon followed by lunch and a presenter.

Annual St. David's Day Celebration & Luncheon

Save the date, Saturday, March 5, 2017, to celebrate with us, make new friends & meet up with ol' ones!



WHAT HAS WSWNE BEEN UP TO?

On Tuesday, July 26, several WSWNE members met at the **Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, CT**. We had also planned on visiting the Irish Hunger Museum in Hamden, CT but found out a few weeks earlier that it was closed this summer for renovations. Eight members met in the lobby of the Art Center, and we toured at our own leisure, immersed in the art, looking for Welsh artists and Welsh landscapes. One such painting was this one on the right, by Welsh artist Richard Wilson (1714-1782) depicting Dinas Bran, "View near Wynnstay, the seat of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, BT".



Another painting, seen below, by John Martin (1789-1854) titled "The Bard". The description noted that English King Edward 1 "was said to have ordered the massacre of all the Welsh Bards. Following Thomas Gray's treatment of the legend in his celebrated poem "The Bard: A Pinnacle Ode" (1757), John Martin shows the sole survivor clutching his hair while cursing the king and his army before hurling himself to his death from a rocky crag". An Austrian poet in 1857 named Arany, wrote a preface to his own poem: "The historians doubt it, but it strongly stands in the legend that Edward I of England sent 500 Welsh bards to the stake after his victory over the Welsh (1277) to prevent them from arousing the country and destroying English rule by telling of the glorious past of their nation."



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Elihu Yale, a benefactor of the Collegiate School in the Colony of Connecticut (founded 1701) which was renamed Yale College in his honor, was born in Boston, but returned to London with his parents at age three, where he was educated. His ancestry can be traced back to the family home of Llandegla, Denbighshire, Wales. Yale is the English spelling of the name **Iâl**. Elihu amassed a fortune working for the East India Company, returning to England in 1699. He spent much of his time at his father's house "Plas Grono" near Wrexham. In 1781, Yale was asked for help in funding the College in Connecticut. Yale sent 417 books, a portrait of King George 1 and nine "bales of goods". In gratitude, the school was renamed in his honor and it became Yale College. Elihu Yale is buried at St. Giles Church in Wrexham, Wales. There is also a Coleg Iâl (Yale College) in Wrexham, Denbighshire.

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AFTERNOON TEA VISIT TO MAY HOWES

Several of our WSWNE members visited member and contributor to our Newsletter, May Howes in her home in August. We brought home-made Cacen Gris (Welsh Cakes) and home-made scones, with whipped cream and jam. May provided the strong British tea, along with her funny stories and memories. . We sat and chatted for 2 hours, laughing at the stories and enjoying each other's company.

Pictured are Anita D'Addario, Beth Roberts Brown, May Howes, Sherry Williams, Veronica Chapman and Susan Davies Sit.

Photograph by Aiden William Sit, age 7.



WELL-RED DDRAIGS

Roald Dahl's Cardiff

From the Literature Wales Newsletter dated June 15, 2016:

Roald Dahl was born in Cardiff on 13 September 1916. He spent much of his early life in Llandaff and attended Llandaff Cathedral School before moving on to St Peter's, Weston-Super-Mare. In his celebrated memoir *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, Dahl tells the story of his early life and recounts memories from a childhood spent in Wales' capital.

As part of the Roald Dahl 100 Wales celebrations Literature Wales and Welsh Government have commissioned a map of Roald Dahl's Cardiff. Illustrated by **Sarah Edmonds**, the map highlights locations such as Mrs Pratchett's sweet shop – the scene of 'The Great Mouse Plot', Roald's childhood home and the Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay where he was baptised.

You can download a copy of the Roald Dahl's Cardiff map from the brand new [Roald Dahl 100 Wales website](#). The website has been launched as a one-stop-shop for all things #RoaldDahl100Wales. On this colourful site you can read the latest news from Roald Dahl 100 Wales, find out what's happening in your area, and discover how you can get involved in the celebrations.

www.roalddahl100.wales



Sent in by Magdalen Dowden, WSWNE Board Member, this is a review from the Financial Times of the book "Addlands":

Spanning 70 years on a remote hill farm in the lost Welsh county of Radnorshire, *Addlands* is a quiet rural novel of enormous power. Very little happens bar births, deaths and the slow accumulation of scars and experience — life, then, as it happens to all of us — but told from a perspective that's hard to acquire when we consider our own messy,

close-up histories. The result is a haunting study of change and continuity.

The book opens in 1941, when Etty, the new young wife of a deeply religious and superstitious sheep farmer named Idris Hamer, gives birth at home to the child she conceived out of wedlock. Oliver, strong and swarthy, is clearly not Idris's son; when, some years later, Etty miscarries Idris's baby in a blizzard, it is in part due to Olly's childish stubbornness in undertaking the rescue of some of the flock. In this way are the later taunts of "cuckoo" well earned.

Oliver becomes a brawler, famed for miles around: the kind of man around whom local legends gather. Eventually he has a child and strikes out for himself, but life away from the farm proves impossible — he is too deeply rooted to the land. His son, Cefin, grows up away from the valley, and we wait to discover whether he will find a way to put down roots of his own, despite the weight of nine generations of Hamers there.

Tom Bullough has written about Radnorshire before, in his 2007 novel *The Claude Glass*, shortlisted for Wales Book of the Year; it also happens to be the place where he spent much of his childhood. Although in some ways a story of three generations of men, it is not Idris, Oliver or Cefin who give this book its heart but Etty, whom we first meet with "round, girl's cheeks" and at last see bent and tiny with age. It is she, an incomer to the valley, who learns to manage the farm; she is both implacable ... and unstinting, testament to the hidden work that women do and always have done in making sure that farms, and families, survive.

"Sometimes I think *Addlands* is a book about feminism," writes Tom Bullough on his website.

"Sometimes I think it's about the sacred in the landscape, about what is left once the church and the chapel have

continued from page 3...

gone.” It’s both those things, and something more: a quiet hymn to place, an exploration of the way in which our relationship to it makes us who we are.

Addlands, by Tom Bullough, Granta, RRP£14.99, 304 pages (Financial Times)



From the Cambrian Heritage Society of Madison, Wisconsin, July 2016

Thanks are due to crooner Meg Skinner from the Cambrian Singers who reported back from the Sundance Cinemas in Madison about the new Welsh film Dark Horse (showing through July 7). 2015 Sundance Film Festival winner (Audience Award: World Cinema Documentary), this is the true story of a dream come true in South Wales. A cleaner and barmaid from the slag heaps of Cefn Forrest had a dream to breed and race her own thoroughbred, though never having been in a stable in her life. Enlisting the help of 25 friends in the village, the foal (named Dream Alliance) grew up to race and defeat the finest in the land. As the Welsh review Kathryn Williams quipped, “Review a film about horse racing, ‘uh, really’ was my first thought. One hour and 25 minutes later I was trying to conceal the blubbing at my desk and suppress that soaring feeling of fist-pumping pride and chuffedness that Dark Horse produced.”

HOT OFF THE PRESS:

This movie will be showing at Cinestudio at Trinity College, Hartford

College, Hartford

this month. A group of us will be there for the 4:30pm showing on Sunday, Sept 25, 2016. Join us!



Tickets: \$10 or \$8 for Seniors (62+) and free parking. 300 Summit Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

(Other dates and times are available, check on line at www.cinestudio.org)

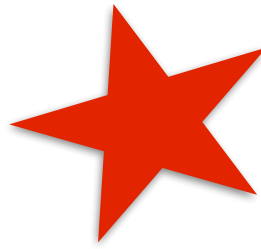
CROESO! WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER:

- **Karen Johnson**, of Glastonbury CT is researching her Welsh roots via PA, MA and CT, including two sons of William Evans who fought in the Civil War. Welcome Karen!

HELP!!.....Finding Luncheon locations in Massachusetts.

If you know of a great place for us to hold our luncheons in MA close to I-91, please let me know. We have visited several places lately but with no success. Some places are just too expensive, some require a \$100 or more room rental fee, a bar service fee and some don't have a suitable private room.

So.... if you know of somewhere suitable that we can check out, please email Susan at WelshWNE@gmail.com or call her at 860.987.7097



Hot off the press!!

The 2017 North American Festival of Wales will be held on Labor Day weekend in Rochester, NY ...which means we can drive there. Carpooling will be available from the Hartford, CT area. Please email WelshWNE@gmail.com to enquire about carpooling.

NAFOW is a wonderful event where you will never feel more Welsh, except perhaps going to Wales itself!

- Grand Concert featuring a Welsh Voice Choir
- Eisteddfod Competition
- Gymanfa Ganu
- Seminars and Workshops: speakers from Wales and North America on topics such as the Welsh language, culture, history, customs, literature, genealogy, music, films, poetry and much more.
- Events from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon

So plan on going with us...you can check the website nafow.org for more details about the 2017 hotels and event content, after Sept 4, 2016.

Ways to learn Welsh:

Say Something in Welsh (SSIW): web site, on line, and an App for your phone: lessons with a man and a woman pronouncing the words and phrases for you, giving you time to repeat and reply in Welsh, pause to give yourself more time and go back and repeat lessons.

Apps for your phone:

Welsh – Vocabulary lists, flashcards, word scrambles, quizzes

Learn Welsh (\$1.99 - untested)

Welsh for Beginners (\$1.99 – untested)

Ap Geiriaduron – Bangor University's dictionary of Welsh to English and English to Welsh.

Cyw a'r Wyddor - children's welsh words, alphabet

Dragon Songs – Learn the Welsh national Anthem

Welsh Lesson – (Free – a very good pronunciation of Every day phrases) - Greetings, Common Phrases, weeks and months etc

Owain Glyn Dwr Day

September 16 marks the anniversary of Glyndwr being named the Prince of Wales in 1400, which sparked his stand against the English crown. He was the last native Welshman to hold the title.

Glyndwr is thought to have been born in about 1355. He was Welsh nobility, descended from a number of Welsh royal houses with strong ties to North East Wales. He was a highly educated man who studied law at the Inns of Court in London, was fluent in four languages and advocated the creation of a university in both North and South Wales. He served in the English Army under Richard II, but when Henry IV took over Glyndwr led his forces against him in defense of his Welsh homeland. (leaderlive.co.uk and Owain Glyn Dwr, Prince of Wales by R.R. Davies)



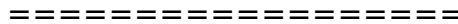


WELSH ROOTS

If you try your hand at Welsh genealogy, you will know how difficult it can be sometimes, especially if you are researching one of the common names, such as William Williams, or Robert Jones etc. There are many stumbling blocks in Welsh genealogy. In June, 2106, Susan Davies Sit, President of WSWNE, presented a seminar titled "Welsh Genealogy Research" at the Welsh-American Genealogical Society (WAGS)'s Welsh Weekend in Poultney, VT. The seminar covered census, Family History Societies, headstone Welsh, history of Welsh patronymics

and much more. About 20 people attended the seminar and Susan was able to have a 10 minute one-on-one with many of the attendees. The weekend also had a Gymanfa Ganu, a Welsh hymn sing and a tour of the historic Welsh baptist Chapel, amongst other events.

WSWNE holds monthly research days where we learn how to research our Welsh ancestors and build our own family trees. Please join us, email Beth at edbethui@comcast.net.



FROM OUR WELSH AMERICAN WORLD

Welsh Harvest Festival

Green Mountain College, in Poultney, VT annually pays tribute to the distinctive Welsh culture of Poultney and its surrounding communities. The campus community and public are invited to this free event which features Welsh music, Welsh food tastings, harvest games for kids, wagon rides, scarecrow making, and more. Please check their web site for the 2016 fall dates (usually 3rd weekend in October): greenmtn.edu



Save the date!

Cwrs Cymraeg - Albany 2017

Join us for Cwrs y Seintiau - The Saints' Course - our 41st annual Cwrs Cymraeg at Siena College in Albany, New York, July 16-23, 2017!

Albany is within driving distance of New York City, Boston, Montreal, and the Adirondacks, to name a few. The area is also steeped in Colonial and Revolutionary War history. Registration opens this fall!

www.madog.org

<https://www.siena.edu/>

WELSH SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW ENGLAND

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



WSWNE is organized by many volunteers, but we incur expenses by hosting events, publishing the quarterly newsletter, presentations, 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@gmail.com

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) (Membership value reflects your level of support; benefits are the same for each level)

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Tel # _____ Email address (PRINT!) _____

What topics or activities are of interest to you?

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

Date: _____

(For Treasurer use only: Date received: _____ Membership expires: _____)

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RSVP for the Cheese and Wine evening

Names: _____

Contact telephone #: _____

#Member tickets: ____ @ \$18 each = \$ _____

Guest tickets _____ @ \$20 each = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

(Your tickets will be held at the door but MUST be pre-paid)

Please forward this RSVP plus check made payable to WSWNE to: Susan Sit, 22
Windwood Dr., Glastonbury, CT 06033 **by October 1, 210**

