



# Welsh Society of Western New England Newsletter

**Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd  
Gorllewinol**

**Website:** [WelshWNE.org](http://WelshWNE.org) **FaceBook:** [WSWNE](https://www.facebook.com/WSWNE)  
**Email:** [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com)

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

**11AM to 2PM** - Saturday, Dec 2, 2017 at the Storrowton Tavern,  
Springfield, MA

**RSVP due by November 20, 2017**

Storrowton Tavern at the Storrowton Village Museum, 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089 (at the Eastern States Exposition campus).

Social hour with a cash bar is at 11AM, followed by a festive luncheon, complete with the popping of British Christmas crackers.



Storrowton Tavern



Entertainment will be provided by Jodee James, who will sing songs of the winter solstice, Christmas and New Year's traditions, and Wales' mysterious Mari Lywd. A singer-songwriter with a passion for folklore since a child, Jodee performs both traditional and original songs with guitar and vocals, many based on Welsh legends and heritage. The songs are in English and Welsh, and

she explains the background and context of the stories.

It was her father, proud of his Welsh heritage, that suggested she sing Welsh folk songs. "That held for me a key", she says,

## WSWNE - Early Winter 2017

“for something unlocked inside me - suddenly I was able to combine my love for times past with family stories and all the cherished mysteries of emotion, legend and tradition.”

Shop for Welsh Christmas gifts at our table, and chance your luck with a raffle for a Welsh basket of goodies.

**EXTRA! EXTRA!** From 2 - 3 PM, please enjoy a complimentary visit to the surrounding buildings for “Yuletide”: Storrowton’s annual winter holiday festival. All of Storrowton’s 18th and 19th century buildings are seasonally decorated and open for viewing with holiday delights such as musical performances, storytelling, old-fashioned craft demonstrations (blacksmithing, hearthside cooking, spinning, quilting, etc).



This cute teapot has been donated for our Christmas raffle by Nicky Camobell.

**Please see page 12 for the reservation form.**

## **DIRECTIONS:**

### **From the North**

Take I-91 South to exit 13B, to Rte. 5 South, to Rte. 147 West (Memorial Avenue) to Big E (Eastern States Exposition) grounds **Gate 2** (about 1.6 miles on the left).

### **From the South**

Take I-91 North to Mass. Exit 3, to Rte. 5 North, to Rte. 147 West (Memorial Avenue) to Big E (Eastern States Exposition) grounds **Gate 2** (about 1.6 miles on the left).

**Enter through Gate 2** and continue straight on the Avenue of States (with parking on both sides). Storrowton Tavern will soon be seen on the left. Walk through the wooden arch with Storrowton Tavern sign above. **The red double doors on the right provide easier access for those using a wheelchair or walker, others follow brick path around the side of the building to the main entrance.**

## **WELSH GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS**

Saturday, November 18, 2017

Saturday, December 16, 2017

WSWNE - Early Winter 2017

Saturday, January 13, 2018

Saturday, February 3, 2018 (begins 10:45AM, see Rugby below),

MARCH 17, 2018 (begins 12:30PM, see Rugby below)

The November Workshop will include a 12 noon -1PM presentation on "Comparing Genealogy Website Giants " using a handout by Sunny Morton - handout cost \$3 per person.

Our Genealogy Workshop meets monthly to learn how to research Welsh roots. Meets 10:15am-5:00pm: come for the day or part thereof. Bring your family tree and a lunch dish to share. Workshops are a free benefit for members. Non-members, - first Workshop complimentary, further Workshops \$10 per session. Info & location: email [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com).



## 6 NATIONS CUP - RUGBY 2018



Rugby's Greatest Championship will take place over seven weekends in 2018, beginning on Saturday 3rd February and finishing on 17 March. The Championship title could well be on the line on Super Saturday, 17 March. Wales against France in Cardiff at 5.00pm will round off next year's tournament, and the 2018 Six Nations Champions will be crowned after that match. Want to see it?

**3 February** - Wales v Scotland, Saturday 9.15am (Watch live on TV with us before the Genealogy Workshop begins at 10:45AM! RSVP req'd)

**10 February** - England v Wales, Saturday 11.45am

**24 February**- Ireland v Wales, Saturday 9.15am (watch live with us: email [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com) to RSVP)

WSWNE - Early Winter 2017

**11 March** - Wales v Italy, Sunday 10.00am

**17 March** - Wales v France, Saturday 11.00am (Watch with us live on TV followed by the Genealogy Workshop at 12:30PM!! Come for the whole day or part of it - RSVP req'd)

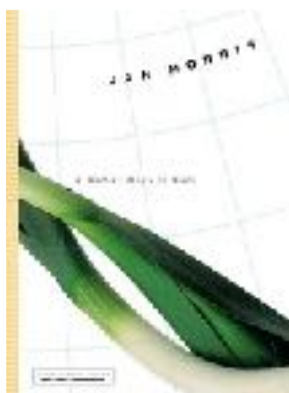
Read more at <http://rbs6nations.com> (times EST, to be confirmed)

## ST. DAVID'S DAY ANNUAL LUNCHEON

**Save the date!** Saturday, March 3, 2018

Speakers will be Helen Coates of the "Copper Kettle Bakery" in MA, with "Welsh Cakes", followed by Margaret Lloyd, a Welsh poet, born in Liverpool to Welsh parents and raised in the Welsh community of Utica. NY. She will read from her new book "Travelling on My Own Errands: Voices of Women from The Mabinogi", her fourth collection of original poetry.

## WELL-READ DRAGONS



### **"A Writer's House in Wales" by Jan Morris**

A few weeks ago while perusing the local library I came across a lovely little book, "A Writer's House in Wales" by Jan Morris. I knew Jan Morris, known mostly as a world travel writer, but I was intrigued none-the-less.

This is the story of her home, Trefan Morys, on the banks of the river Dwyfor, not far from the village of Llanystumdwy. The history of a dwelling on this spot can be traced back to the 1100's with the first historical records referring to Trefan dating from 1352. In the late 1700's it was acquired by one Zaccheus Hughes, an Anglican vicar, who grandified, modernized and enlarged the estate, including building a fine stable which served as Jan and Elizabeth Morris' home and is the subject of the book. The manor house on the estate, Plas Trefan, where Jan and Elizabeth raised their family, is now inhabited by their son, Twm and his wife and family.

## WSWNE - Early Winter 2017

Throughout the book, the reader is invited into the history, legends, landscapes, and peace of Jan's life at Trefan Morys. For me, reading this sweet little book was an armchair journey to a place I too am deeply rooted in: Wales. It was an invitation to come in for a cup of tea, or glass of wine, while Ms. Morris shares the stories that make life in Wales so interesting and special. At only 143 pages, give yourself a treat and take the journey.



Omission from the last newsletter: The meaning of TALIESIN (Frank Lloyd Wright's house name): Means "shining brow", derived from Welsh tal "brow" and iesin "shining". It was also the name of a 6th-century Welsh poet and bard.

<https://www.behindthename.com/name/taliesin>

By Susan Jenkins Meers, WSWNE Board Member.

## WHAT HAS WSWNE BEEN UP TO?

### Fun at the 2017 North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW)

What a fabulous weekend at the North American Festival of Wales! Eight members from WSWNE journeyed from Glastonbury to Rochester, NY for three days of Welsh immersion. The adventure began with an opening concert by Sera Owen, a bilingual folk singer from North Wales. Our days included a range of seminars and Welsh films – including topics like the history of the Welsh church, Wales in the Olympics, a lecture on Paul Robeson's relationship with Welsh miners, the excavation of the lost bones of one of the first Welsh immigrants to Patagonia, and the introduction to the "People's Collection", a free, massive two-way archive of Welsh stories, photos and historical documents. (see an article about this and how you can contribute in this issue). NAFOW also hosted Eisteddfod Recitation and Voice competitions throughout the festival where anyone could sign up to compete. Our evenings were full of raucous and rowdy Welsh fun. On Friday evening, we went to a festive, celebratory dinner before moving into the lobby bar for impromptu and informal singing. On

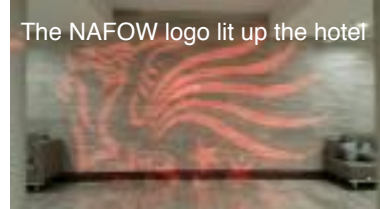
## WSWNE - Early Winter 2017

Below: Valerie Doyle (center) with Soloist John Owen-Jones and a fellow WSWNE attendee



Above: Magdalen & Glyn Dowden enjoy the Toronto Male Voice Choir at Pub Night.

Saturday evening, we had the opportunity to hear a phenomenal Welsh Male Voice choir from Toronto sing both Welsh and English songs. In addition to that, we were so lucky to be entertained by the powerful voice of John Owen-Jones, a Welsh Broadway and London's West End actor and singer who performs leading roles in Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables, and many other shows. We all ended up in the pub next door for a second sing-along, enthusiastically led by the Welsh Male Choir from Toronto. The entire experience was fantastic and our WSWNE crew had loads of fun, made great memories and met wonderful Welsh people who traveled from all over North America and Wales. We will definitely be returning next year (Washington D.C.) and looking forward to reuniting with new friends!



By Megan Harding, Valerie Doyle, and Magdalen & Glyn Dowden.

## SUNKEN HUNDRED & WELSH CHURCH TRIP TO NYC

On a beautiful sunny Sunday morning, members of the Welsh Society of Western New England rendezvoused at the home of WSWNE President Susan Davies Sit to begin their journey to New York.

As they travelled south heading for the "Afal Mawr" members joyfully exchanged Welsh experiences and tales from 'back home'.

Around noon the group arrived in Brooklyn at the "Sunken Hundred" "Cantre'r Gwaelod" restaurant to be greeted by restaurant owner Illtyd Barrett. With his

## WSWNE - Early Winter 2017

usual witty and South Walian charm, Illtyd entertained his guests as he served Welsh themed cocktails such as the "Bronwen".

Cocktails were followed by a luncheon consisting of Welsh themed cuisine with some dishes including seaweed imported from Pembroke, Wales. Other dishes such as Welsh Rarebit and Crempog delighted the palate of the guests as they exchanged Welsh banter and stories from Wales with Illtyd, who entertained us with music from great Welsh legendary artists such as Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey, and "Shaky" Shakin' Stevens.



Friends and members of WSWNE at the Sunken Hundred, NYC



Sherry Williams reading her own poem at the Noson Lawen

Departing the restaurant in the late afternoon, the group then headed from Brooklyn across Manhattan to 'Eglwys Y Cymry Efrog Newydd' The Welsh Congregation of New York hosted at the Rutgers Presbyterian Church. The group was honored to attend a lovely service led by Dr. Harrington.

Following the service, we were privileged to attend, with the parishioners from the Welsh Congregation, the annual *Noson Lawen* (roughly translated as "Happy Evening") including a full program of poetry, recitations, and music that was organized by the indefatigable Don Farrow.

Master of Ceremony for the evening was James Thomas. Gracefully and with charm, James introduced the performers. All in attendance were enthralled by incredible talent and were blessed with singers, poetry, stories from Wales, and great humor. Members from the WSWNE group including Susan Davies Sit, Sherry Williams, Jim Jones, and Jason Ellsworth each contributed to the afternoon's entertainment. An exceptional performance from Jason, performing his own composition "Freedom Road," was greeted by rapturous applause from the audience.

The evening was brought to a close with all in attendance exchanging pleasantries whilst enjoying sandwiches, Welsh cakes, and other snacks.

## WSWNE - Early Winter 2017

The journey back to Connecticut was joyful with everybody reflecting on what a fantastic day they had and what an honor it was to share their day with some very special people, with not just a few tunes being sung too.

The WSWNE would like to thank everybody who attended all the day's events, with a special thank you to Illtyd and the staff at the Sunken Hundred. Thank you to Dr. Harrington for the church service, and a huge thank you to all from The Welsh Congregation for their hospitality.

Mark Taylor (WSWNE Secretary)

## AROUND OUR WELSH AMERICAN WORLD

### The North American Festival of Wales 2018

....will be held in Washington, D.C. Labor Day weekend. Yes we'll be carpooling, so let's go! Details at [www.NAFOW.org](http://www.NAFOW.org)

### MEMBERS & FRIENDS

We are looking for a Massachusetts location to hold a Noson Lawen in the spring - similar to the one described in the newsletter on page seven that 12 of us attended in NYC. It would preferably be a private or semi-private room (preferably free of charge) in a bar, where we could order food and drinks off the bar menu.

Come on Massachusetts members... email me at [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com) and give me some ideas where this could be held!

## The Copper Kettle Bakery in Massachusetts

Mark Spencer, WSWNE member and Membership/Newsletter/Email guru, found some Welsh Cakes in a market in Massachusetts in May, and consequently learned about a new local company. Check them out and try them too at: <http://copperkettlebakery.com/>

Owner Helen Coates will present at our St. David's Day luncheon in March, 2018, and will bring her Welsh Cakes for us to try and buy.



The Welsh, wrote Gerald of Wales in his 1191 *Journey through Wales*, are



## WSWNE - Early Winter 2017

"...light and active, hardy rather than strong and entirely bred up to the use of arms; for not only the nobles but all the people are trained to war, and when the trumpet sounds the alarm the husbandman rushes as eagerly from his plough as the courtier from his court...they anxiously study the defence of their country and their liberty...for these willingly sacrifice their lives."

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2017-2018):

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Chaplain: Rev. Hugh James (CT)

Past President: Dr. Tom Bernard (MA)

Founder: John Dixon (MA)

Membership List and Email Manager: Mark Spencer (MA)

Web Site: Trey McCain (Honorary Member) (MS & WALES)

# RSVP for the Annual Christmas Holiday Luncheon

**Dec. 2, 2017 at Storowton Tavern, Springfield, MA**

## MENU

Fresh Garden Salad with Bread Rolls

Choice of:

### CAPE CODDER

*Chicken Stuffed with Cranberry bread stuffing with a demi-glace*

OR

### BAKED STUFFED SOLE

*Stuffed with snow crab meat stuffing*

OR

### YANKEE POT ROAST

OR

**EGGPLANT ROLLATINI** *(Vegetarian)*

OR

**CHILDREN'S MEAL** *(Chicken Fingers and Fries)*

*All above served with Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes and Green Bean Almandine*

Followed by:

ICE CREAM CAKE BALL & COFFEE or TEA

Names of all attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

# of CAPE CODDER \_\_\_\_\_

# of BAKED STUFFED SOLE \_\_\_\_\_

# of YANKEE POT ROAST \_\_\_\_\_

# of VEGETARIAN \_\_\_\_\_

# of CHILDREN'S MEALS \_\_\_\_\_

# of MEMBERS @ \$29.00 \_\_\_\_\_

# of GUESTS @ \$31.00 \_\_\_\_\_

# of CHILDREN'S MEALS @ \$12 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL CHECK \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to WSWNE and mail to: Mary Pallos,  
WSWNE Treasurer, 1542 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033  
by Monday, Nov 20, 2017.**