

# Welsh Society of Western New England *Newsletter*



Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr  
Newydd Gorllewinol

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

BRUNCH IN NEW YORK CITY, WELSH CHURCH SERVICE, TE  
BACH and NOSON LAWEN: Sunday, September 10



Carpool with us in rented mini-vans from [Springfield, MA](#) or [Glastonbury, CT](#) to New York on [Sunday, September 10](#), at 9:45AM. We'll have a Welsh Brunch at the [Sunken Hundred \(Cantre'r Gwaelod\) Restaurant](#), Cobble Hill, Brooklyn at 12 noon. Then we'll drive into Manhattan for a 3pm [Welsh Congregation of New York church service](#) at [Rutgers Presbyterian Church, West 73rd Street @ Broadway](#) followed

by a TE BACH (a little

afternoon tea) and a Noson Lawen at 4:30pm (literally, a Happy Evening) of Welsh music, poetry and readings before the drive home. Volunteers needed to read, play an instrument or sing, or just sit back and enjoy - please email [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com) to offer AND/OR to book seats in the mini-vans, specifying which pick-up point. Transportation costs expected to be \$25 per person.....See the current Sunken Hundred brunch menu at [www.SunkenHundred.nyc](http://www.SunkenHundred.nyc).



**MUST RSVP to [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com) by September 5** stating which carpool you would prefer ([Springfield, MA](#) or [Glastonbury, CT](#))

## SAVE THE DATE: CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 11AM to 2PM - Saturday, Dec 2, 2017 at the Storowton Tavern, Springfield, MA



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

A fabulous afternoon is planned beginning with a social hour at 11AM, followed by a festive luncheon, complete with the popping of British Christmas crackers.



Entertainment will be provided by Jodee James, "a singer-songwriter, accompanying herself on guitar, with acoustic roots in legends, folklore, and especially the traditional music of Wales - often tied together in poetic meanderings." "With a passion for history and folklore since early childhood, Jodee eagerly shares this experience with others. It was her

father, proud of his heritage, that suggested she sing Welsh folk songs. "That held for me a key", she says, "for something unlocked inside me - suddenly I was able to combine my love for times passed with family stories and all the cherished mysteries of emotion, legend and tradition."



Jodee James

More details in November newsletter, complete with directions and RSVP form.

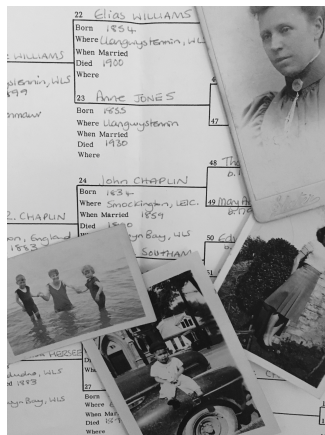
**GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS: September 30, (pls note: Oct. date has been canceled due to family commitments), November 18, and December 16, 2017 (Saturdays):**

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. For info & location: email [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com).

September Workshop includes: 12 noon-1PM presentation on "Making the most of Massachusetts records" by Dave Robison from the Western MA Genealogy Society.

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.



## 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 March 17.

The Championship title could well be on the line on Super Saturday, March 17. 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.

**More details of how to watch the games in next newsletter.**

## WELL-READ DRAGONS

**Wales** figured twice, or rather it *should* have been twice, in the Hartford Courant's Travel section on Sunday, May 14, 2017.

Wales was listed under WEB DEALS as follows:

As a tie-in to the new movie "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword", the Wales tourism folks have put together information about Arthur sites in their country. <http://tinyurl.com/jw5v4em>. Might be worth checking it out!

Wales did not get a mention in another headline: WISCONSIN ADVENTURE "On the Wright Trail". Writing about Frank Lloyd Wright, it focuses on Wright's architectural bold designs that are embodied in **TALIESIN**, his home, studio and school. Frank Lloyd Wright, was born in 1867, 150 years ago on June 8, 2017.

WalesOnline tells us:

His mother, a Welsh speaker, emigrated from south Cardiganshire as a young girl with her parents and Frank Lloyd Wright was eventually brought up in a part of Wisconsin nicknamed, "God Almighty Lloyd Joneses Valley".

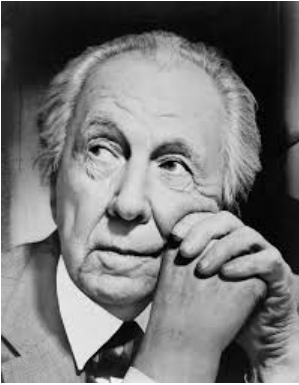
[www.TaliesinPreservation.org](http://www.TaliesinPreservation.org) says:

The large Welsh family of farmers, teachers and ministers that settled part of the Wisconsin River valley near Spring Green in the middle of the nineteenth century included a young woman named Anna Lloyd Jones. This teacher, headstrong with beautiful, dark, curly hair, caught the eye of William Carey Wright, a preacher and musician. William soon

won her affections and they married. On June 8, 1867 in Richland Center, a small town 20 miles west of Spring Green, Anna gave birth to a son. They named him Frank.

Young Frank Lloyd Wright spent many summers in his teen years on the farm his uncle James worked in the valley. In fact, Wright considered the valley to be his home ... much more so





than the house in Madison, Wisconsin, where he spent the rest of the year. During his summers in the valley, lessons he gleaned from nature would find their way into his later work again and again.

WalesOnline continues: He went on to revert to his mother's family name, from Frank Lincoln Wright, as a 14-year-old when his father walked out on the family.

It was his mother's influence that also ensured some of his buildings had Welsh names, including his two "Taliesin" houses, while others were adorned with the Welsh motto "Y gwir yn erbyn y byd" ("The truth against the world").

So why Taliesin? It is reported that his mother loved Welsh poetry, especially the Book of Taliesin, a famous Middle Welsh document dating from the early 14th century, though some poems are thought to date from as early as the 10th century. There was also a Brythonic poet named Taliesin living as early as the sixth century. Some of his poems praise the Kings of the time and he may have been the court's bard. It's a shame that the Hartford Courant missed the explanation of the name Taliesin; it would have been interesting to many people I'm sure who don't know the meaning of Taliesin.

From [www.TaliesinPreservation.org](http://www.TaliesinPreservation.org) again: In 1976, Taliesin was declared a National Historic Landmark by The National Park Service. Since then, Taliesin joined the ranks of "Priority 1" threatened landmarks — a status shared by only 5% of the nation's other 2,500 National Historic Landmarks. In 1994, Taliesin was put on the list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

by Susan Davies Sit

## A WELSH CHILDHOOD by Alice Thomas-Ellis - A review

A lifelong yearning for what is gone or out of reach. Childhood memories. Sand in your sandwiches at the beach. Slugs in the outhouse. Old customs. History. Folk tales. Passage of time. Loss. Fleeting beauty. The comfort of a place that seems timeless.

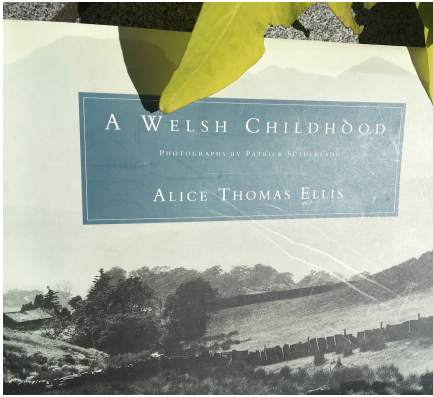
Hiraeth.

These are the elements of "A Welsh Childhood" by Alice Thomas Ellis that resonated with me.

A bittersweet memoir about growing up in and around the small village of Penmaenmawr in North Wales in the 1930s and beyond. There are challenging times, as the author establishes her own family and lives with small children in what today would be considered primitive

conditions, far from others in the stark mountains. But she looks back at those days as the happiest of her life. Throughout her joys and struggles, the fierce love of place is captured, both the rugged and the delicate elements.

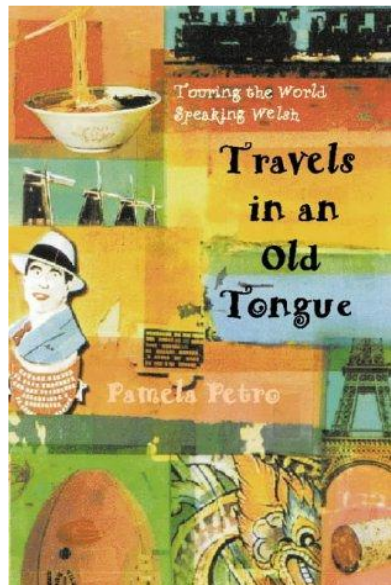
This book, originally published in 1990 and reproduced in 1997, this time with atmospheric black and white photographic illustrations by Patrick Sutherland, evokes the evanescent mental state the Welsh call Hiraeth.



by Lowri Jones, Anglesey-born WSWNE member

## TRAVELS IN AN OLD TONGUE by Pam Petro - A review

I've just finished a great little book entitled "**Travels in an Old Tongue**" by Pam Petro. (You may remember Pam, as she spoke to the Welsh Society on "Hiraeth" a couple of years ago.) Well, this book, published in 1997 by Harper Collins, tells the tale of her worldwide travels to find a place where she can be forced to speak Welsh and become comfortable with the language. She visits natives of Wales and Welsh speakers in such far-flung places as Norway, Japan, Greece, and France, but alas they all slip into the English language eventually and she is no further ahead in her



quest for comfort with Welsh. It isn't until she lands in Patagonia among the descendants of the Welsh settlers where Spanish, which she doesn't speak, is the alternative language so she becomes comfortable with the Welsh tongue. It is a long journey, covering months and miles, but it's an interesting tale of travels written in a light-hearted manner. I recommend it to anyone who is interested in the "ancient Welsh tongue" or just wants to spend time armchair travelling.

By Susan Jenkins Meers, WSWNE Board Member.

## CHURCHILL HID BRITISH ART IN WELSH CAVES

The incredible story of how Sir Winston Churchill ordered Britain's art treasures to be hidden away inside Welsh caves amid fears of a German invasion has resurfaced.

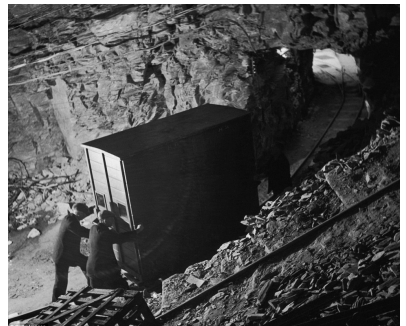
Masterpieces by Rembrandt and Van Gogh were among those concealed inside a disused slate mine at Manod Mawr, in Merionethshire, Wales amid fears they could be destroyed by an invading Nazi army or from a bombing campaign.

Churchill was said to be so concerned with the potential damage to morale that losing the treasures could have, that he had a team of experts move the precious collection away from the National Gallery in London. Tensions within Britain were running high in the summer of 1940, after the British and French armies were forced to flee mainland Europe and the advanced Germans by evacuating from Dunkirk beach.

The photo shows experts transporting some of the art treasures on re-purposed rails originally installed deep inside the cavern during its use as a slate mine.

Susan Davies Sit's grandfather, John Chaplin an Electrical Engineer, worked on the electricity for the caves. He couldn't tell his family until after the war had ended.

(Thanks to Mark Taylor, WSWNE Secretary, for suggesting this article and to The Daily Mail via [en.moraznews.com](http://en.moraznews.com))



## AROUND OUR WELSH AMERICAN WORLD



Want to learn some Welsh? Try the website SSiW... and the free app.

### NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

The North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) 2018 will be held in Washington, D.C. The hosts are the Washington D.C. Welsh Soc. which has been in existence for 128 years.

The NAFOW hotel will be the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center and only at \$102 plus taxes, a great price. Highlights will be being able to visit all the free Smithsonian Museums and a NAFOW side trip to President Jefferson's home Monticello. Yes, its drivable so let's plan on carpooling!

### WELSH FUN FACT

**There could have been a 'New Wales' on the east coast of North America...**

There's a New England in the USA and a Nova Scotia in Canada. There might also have been a "New Wales". Between 1616 and 1632, William Vaughan of Llangyndeyrn, Carmarthenshire, sought to establish a Welsh colony in Newfoundland. His efforts were in vain.

## WELSH NATIONAL DRESS AT OUR ST DAVID'S DAY EVENTS

We are extremely lucky to have two of our Board members who wear Welsh National Dress at our St. David's Day Luncheons, they are Edward Brown and Beth Roberts Brown.





Beth wears the National Costume of Wales for women which dates back to the 18th century, based on earlier rural outfits. Ed has pulled together his own outfit worn by slate quarrymen from North Wales, in a nod to Beth's quarrymen roots from Snowdonia and from Granville, NY.

This is how Ed described the outfit: My costume is loosely based on clothing worn by mannequins dressed as quarrymen in a 2003 display at the Llechwedd slate caverns in Blaenau Ffestiniog, north Wales. This unusual underground quarry operation began in 1848. Though in no way a uniform, the cap, vest, and bandana were probably common in both the 19th and early 20th centuries. They reflect what a docent there told us, that the men did not wear what we today would think of as typical laborer work clothes; rather they proudly wore the same kind of attire they would to any other activity in the community. Beth recalls her Taid coming home from a Granville, NY quarry looking quite well dressed, though covered in a layer of gray quarry dust.

See below a portion of the photo I took of the mannequins, plus a historic photo from the Llechwedd slate caverns tour website.

By Ed Brown.



## WSWNE NEWS

CROESO to our new members:

- LOWRI JONES of Southbury, CT who was born in Beaumaris, Anglesey and enjoys being a part of our Genealogy Workshops
- RANDOLPH PURINTON and ANITA SARRO of Amherst, MA. Randolph was born in Newton, Wales (family names of LLOYD and JONES) and enjoys singing. He is a tenor.

## WELSH FUN FACTS

**There were still places in Wales where no one could speak English in the 20th century....**

As late as 1921, 56% of the population of the parish of Llanddeiniolen, near Caernarfon, had no knowledge of English and there was one parish on the Llyn peninsula, Bodferin, where everyone was monoglot Welsh. In the 1930s there were nearly 100,000 people in Wales who could speak only Welsh.

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

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Founder: John Dixon (MA)

Membership List and Email Manager: Mark Spencer (MA)

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

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please consider joining or renewing your membership to support our WSWNE. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping our Welsh Society meet the financial obligations (e.g. insurance, web site, presentation fees, printing and postage) required to continue providing opportunities for us to celebrate together our shared love of all things Welsh.

Memberships are "per household" (family at same mailing address) and are valid March 1- Feb 28. Pro-rated memberships are possible, please contact [mary.Pallos@Singulus.com](mailto:mary.Pallos@Singulus.com). **Currently the membership levels represent solely your level of support. All members receive a newsletter 3-4 times a year plus email notifications, as well as discounts at our events.**

## WSWNE Membership Form

**PLEASE MAIL to Mary Pallos, WSWNE Treasurer, 1542 Main Street,  
Glastonbury, CT 06033 (check made out to WSWNE):**

\_\_\_ \$10 (Student), \_\_\_ \$25 (Miner's Lantern), \_\_\_ \$50 (Daffodil),  
\_\_\_ \$100 (Red Dragon)

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Names (list household members at same address):

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (PLEASE PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_

What topics or activities are of interest to you?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us about your Welsh connections or Welsh roots?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Fall, 2017

For Treasurer's use only: Date rec'd: \_\_\_\_\_