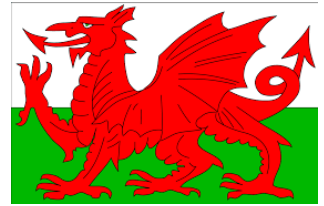


The Welsh Society of Western New England



Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd
Gorllewino

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



OWAIN GLYNDWR CELEBRATION

Saturday, September 28, 2019

4:00PM - 6:00PM

To celebrate Owain Glyndwr
Day: a fun event at Stonington
Vineyards, 523 Taugwonk Rd.,
Stonington, CT (near the

Rhode Island state line.) We will be joined by the
Rhode Island Welsh Society.

LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS

- ☆ Owain Glyndwr presentation
- ☆ **Welsh Cheeses with support by UK
Gourmet**
- ☆ Wine Tasting at the vineyard
- ☆ "Twyll Corn" (Cornhole) competition

**RSVP with check (\$25 per person, payable to
WSWNE) by SEPTEMBER 15th, 2019 to Edward
Brown, 10 Grandview Drive, Westfield, MA
01085... diolch!**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sat, Sept 14 & Oct
8 - Genealogy
Workshop

Sept 20 - Nov 2 -
World Cup Rugby
in Japan

Monday, Sept 23 -
(6:15am) First
game: Wales v.
Georgia: World
Cup Rugby

Sat, Sept 21 & Oct
26 (10:30am) Welsh
Conversation
Meet-up

Sat, Nov. 16 - Gen.
Workshop

Sat, Dec 7 - Annual
Xmas Holiday
Luncheon

Tues, Dec 17 - Gen.
Workshop &
Christmas Tea

OWAIN GLYNDWR

No name is so frequently invoked in Wales as that of Owain Glyndwr (c1349-1416), a potent figurehead of Welsh nationalism ever since he rose up against the occupying English in the first few years of the fifteenth century. Glyndwr was a member of the dynasty



The flag of Owain Glyndwr



Owain Glyndwr, last Welsh-born Prince of Wales

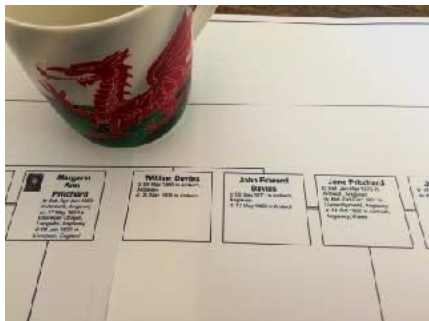
of northern Powys and, on his mother's side, descended from that of Deheubarth in the south. The family had fought for Llywelyn ap Gruffydd and regained their lands in north-east Wales only through a calculated association with the powerful Marcher lords. In 1404, Glyndwr assembled a parliament of four men from every commot in Wales at Machynlleth, drawing up mutual recognition treaties with France and Spain. At Machynlleth, he was also crowned king of a free Wales. A second parliament in Harlech took place a year later, with Glyndwr making plans to carve up England and Wales into three, as part of an alliance against the English king: Mortimer would take the south and west of England, Thomas Percy, earl of Northumberland, would have the midlands and the north, and himself Wales and the Marches of England.

Draconian English anti-Welsh laws stayed in place even during the accession to the English throne of Henry VII, a Welshman, in 1485. Wales became subsumed into English custom law, and Glyndwr's uprising became an increasingly powerful symbol of frustrated Welsh independence.

Gwyn A. Williams, "When Was Wales," Penguin Books, London, 1985.
"Wales - The Rough Guide," Mike Parker and Paul Whitfield, Rough Guides Ltd, London, 1994. For a full account, see last year's newsletter or the above-mentioned books.

GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS

Our Genealogy Workshop meets monthly to learn how to research Welsh roots. Meets at 10:15am - 5:00pm. Come for the whole day or part thereof. Bring your Welsh family tree information and a lunch dish to share. For info and to RSVP, email WelshWNE@gmail.com. Members \$5; Guests \$10.



- Sat., September 14
- Tues., October 8
- Sat., November 16
- Tues., December 17 (includes 2nd Annual Genealogy Christmas Tea)

AROUND OUR WELSH-AMERICAN WORLD

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 per year or \$20 for digital issues at: NINNAU.com.



RUGBY WORLD CUP - Sept 20 - Nov. 2, 2019, Japan

The Rugby World Cup 2019 in Japan is the ninth edition of the event, and the first to be hosted in Asia. Wales will take part in the Championship, following on from their amazing win of the 6 Nations Championship in March 2019. The World Cup dates are September 20 - November 2, 2019.



Wales' first game in Japan will be on Monday, September 23 (6:15am EST). We are in Pool D with Australia, Georgia, Fiji, and Uruguay. Each pool will be a single round-robin of ten games, in which each team plays one match against each of the other teams in the same pool. Teams are awarded four league points for a win, two for a draw, and none for a defeat by eight or more points. A team scoring four tries in one match is awarded a bonus point, as is a team that loses by fewer

than eight points - both bonus points are awarded if both situations apply.

The teams finishing in the top two of each pool will advance to the quarter-finals, and the top three teams of each pool will receive automatic qualification to the 2023 Rugby World Cup (Thanks to Wikipedia for the Pool rules).

Due to the time difference, most of our games will be early in the morning. Wales is currently ranked at #2 in the World after New Zealand, and we are assuming that we can stream some of these games at a later time. We will send the details as soon as we have them.



NEWS FROM WALES

CROMLECH, THE FIRST WELSH HOUSES

by Ben Johnson (shortened version)

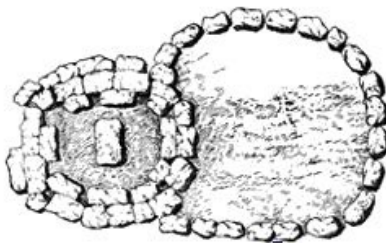
It is difficult to pin-point the beginning of Wales as we know it today. Early historians argued that Wales dates back to 1170 BC when legend tells that the Trojan descendent Brutus arrived on our shores and promptly became the first King of the eponymously named Britain. The first written reference to Wales comes from the Roman senator and historian Tacitus in AD 48 and the first references to the name Cymry (the Welsh people) came even later in AD 580, with the borders introduced around AD 790 following the inception of Offa's Dyke.

However, the discovery of Neanderthal human teeth dating back to the Lower Palaeolithic era, or Old Stone Age, in a cave in the Elwy Valley shows that humans frequented the area nearly 250,000 years ago.

Long periods of glaciation, including the Ice Age of 70,000 BC, meant that Wales and the rest of Britain were completely uninhabitable for thousands of years at a time. The ice finally began to retreat in approximately 10,000 BC, but it wasn't until 8300 BC that Wales became free of glaciers and temperatures began to rise.

This resulted in a significant transformation of the landscape in Wales during the Mesolithic Age, when it became a veritable forest. This change from the nomadic hunter-gather way of life to the more defined agriculturalists meant that permanent settlements began to spring up across Wales.

In 3500 BC the Welsh settlers began to construct dwelling places from large, interlocking stones which were made in such a way as to remain stable without the use of mortar or cement. Today, these types of structure are more commonly known as megalithic. However, in the Brythonic language – the shared Celtic language which was the forefather to Welsh – the dwellings were known as Cromlech or Cromlechi which originated from the words crom meaning “bent” and llech meaning “flagstone”.



As the only permanent building on their designated land, the cromlech was the focal point for a small clan-like community, used as both a tomb for burying the dead and a meeting place for community events and rituals. Personal dwellings would move continuously around the cromlech as the land was reaped and rested.

Advancements in carbon dating in the twentieth century have shown us that these structures were the first solid man-made constructions, pre-dating the Egyptian pyramids by almost 1500 years.



Around 150 cromlechi can still be seen in Wales today, and interestingly they are spread across more of the western side of the territory, suggesting an influence from neighbours across the sea rather than neighbours to the east in England.

As community numbers swelled, the use of the Cromlech as a meeting place was superseded by the development of the henge, a large circular area bordered by a ditch which was used for both trade

and local rituals. One of the earliest of these henges can be found at Llandygái near Bangor, where remains dating back to between 3650-3390 BC have been discovered. (Taken from: *Historic-UK.com*)

HALEN MÔN SUCCESS

Found on Twitter: A very memorable day in London as our founders @AlisonHalenMon and @Davidseasalt receive MBEs for services to business in Wales from HRH Prince of Wales. Special thanks too to @AlbertOwenMP for showing us around the Palace of Westminster. Great news from 'the best sea salt in the world', Halen Môn.



WELSH ENGINEERS SAVE EGYPTIAN PYRAMID

A North Wales newspaper, The Weekly News, recently reports that: "Egypt's oldest pyramid has been saved from ruin by a group of British Engineers. The Pyramid of Djoser, at Sakkara, and known as the Step Pyramid, had been unstable since an earthquake in 1992 and was in danger of collapse.

Cintec, a company from Newport, South Wales, won the 1.8 million contract to stabilize the 203' high pyramid on the Nile's west bank near Cairo, using giant airbags and wire mesh left over from a previous project at Westminster Abbey.

The Cintec team also came across the resting place of Pharaoh Djoser who ruled around 270BC, within a partially collapsed burial chamber 95' below ground."

CONWAY'S MUSSEL-MEN DOWN TO JUST TWO

The North Wales Weekly News also reports that Conway mussels, some of the best mussels in Wales, now only have 2 men who are licensed to fish them. Conway mussels are loved by chefs and patrons alike and they are protected much as are regional foods and wines. The Welsh Government - in its infinite wisdom - designated that the rowing boats used by the mussel-men equated to fishing trawlers and as such were liable for a new license fee of 5,000 pounds (\$6,300). Before WW1 there were 74 licensed mussel-men, by 2012 there were only 12. Now there are 2. Someone has to address this before Conway mussels cease to be fished.



Conway mussel-men from days gone by

WSWNE NEWS

Y Gegin Cymreig - The Welsh Kitchen



We are planning a Welsh Cookbook and welcome recipes from members, especially ones from your Welsh ancestors. Please contact Magdalen at magdalandowden@sbcglobal.net with your recipe, source, and a short bio of the cook (email subject line should be UPPERCASE "WELSH RECIPES").

Cyflaith – Welsh toffee



Toffee was traditionally made in households across Wales, normally between Christmas and New Years, and occasionally for Bonfire/ Guy Fawkes Night on Nov. 5th.

Recipe: (serves 12)

Ingredients

225g Demerara/Light brown sugar
150g salted butter

150g golden syrup (available at UKGourmet.com, or occasionally in your supermarket's international section)

1/2 teaspoon vinegar

Method

1. Put all the ingredients in a heavy-bottomed pan over a low heat and stir continuously until the sugar is dissolved.
2. Turn up the heat and boil for around 10 minutes until a few drops, when poured into cold water, harden at once.
3. Pour onto an oiled baking tray or parchment paper, and when barely set, mark into squares with a knife and loosen from the bottom of the tin.

gov.wales/foodanddrinkwales, [@FoodDrinkWales](https://twitter.com/FoodDrinkWales)

Continuing ... The Narrative from New Brunswick: THE 'HUTS'

(Thank you to Janet Thomas of the New Brunswick Welsh Society.)

The first task of the settlers was to construct housing for their families. The August 17th edition of the Royal Gazette reported that it would cost a minimum of £8 to build each shelter. These 'huts' were described as being constructed of 'round logs 15 feet long, laid up 7 or 8 feet high, covered with bark; a door and one small window; the chimney of mud and sticks, or stone'. The following week the paper reported, 'A number of the Welch settlers were fitted out last week to commence their settlement. A person acquainted with constructing log houses has been employed to instruct and assist them; a quantity of bark has already been procured, and other preparations made to commence building immediately; and there is no doubt but in a few weeks a number of families will be comfortably sheltered.'



Comfortable may have been a bit of an overstatement. These first cabins were generally crude and cramped, having an earthen floor and only one room in which to live and sleep. The roof was flat, made with overlapping split logs, covered with bark and then fir or spruce boughs. Fortunately, there was plenty of building materials available in the Cardigan wilderness. But those nine families who wintered in their new cabins in Cardigan must have found them lacking when compared to the warm homes that they had left in Wales.

..... and **THEY ARE VERY DESTITUTE**

The Welsh families must have wondered if they had gone from the frying pan into the fire by leaving Wales. They arrived in Fredericton where it became apparent that they would need some assistance as they were 'very destitute' and were 'straggling through the Streets or crowded into Barns'. By the end of August, many were working on clearing their land in Cardigan despite being 'straightened for Provisions'. A call for food was made to feed the hungry settlers. On September 21st the Royal Gazette reported 'they are very destitute, and have large families of helpless children, it is evident that without further assistance they must nearly perish with cold and hunger the ensuing winter.'

In November it was reported that 'they have hardly the second meal for their families, have no credit, and are most of the time half starved. It is probable that the death of the man who perished in the woods on Thursday last, was occasioned by as much as the want of sufficient nourishment as by cold and fatigue.' By the end of the month, a Committee was appointed to examine the condition of the Welsh families. They were found to be, almost without exception, poorly housed and unprepared for the harshness of the oncoming winter. The situation of William Richards' family portrays the harsh conditions that the families were experiencing:

'The situation of one Welch family, (William Richards') consisting of the parents and four children, all lying in a most miserable situation, under the influence of a raging fever, particularly attracted the attention and commiseration of your Committee, and they presumed upon the approbation of the meeting, in taking immediate steps for their relief, by purchasing a Stove, and preparing a vacant house above the town, (which was offered by the Honourable Mr. STREET) for their reception—one of the family, (a child 14 years old) your Committee find, is since dead.'

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2019-2020):

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Founder: John Dixon (MA)

Membership, Email Manager, Newsletter Production: Mark Spencer (MA)

Founding and Honorary Member: Shirley Keifer (CT)

Honorary member: Trey McCain (Wales)

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WSWNE Membership Form

PLEASE MAIL to Mary Pallos, WSWNE Treasurer, 1542 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033 (check made out to WSWNE, membership year begins March 1st, per family):

___\$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)

Newsletter Fall, 2019: For Treasurer's use only: Date received: _____



St. Tysilio's Church, Llandyfrydog, Ynys Môn (Anglesey): a small medieval church built in about 1400 on a site where a church stood in about 450AD. According to local tradition, a standing stone about 1 mile (1.6 km) away is the petrified remains of a man who stole a bible from the church and was punished by St Tyfrydog as a result. (Photo by Susan Davies Sit, 2018)