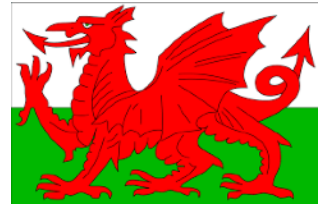


The Welsh Society of Western New England



Cymdeithas Cymreig Lloegr Newydd
Gorllewino

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

Annual Christmas Holiday Luncheon

LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING TOGETHER: Sat., Dec. 4th, 2021.



We cannot be happier to announce the annual festive Christmas Holiday Luncheon - in person..... fingers crossed! There will be a social hour to renew our friendships at 11-12 noon followed by a luncheon with Christmas crackers and a room full of decorations.

Presentation by **Tempest Morgan** with
"**Mischief, Merriment and the Mari Lwyd**".

Tempest Morgan is a historian who specializes in Medieval Britain. She obtained her MA with Honors in Museum and Gallery Studies from Kingston University in London, UK and has worked for institutions such as the National Trust and Historic Royal Palaces.



Join us to learn about the Mari Lwyd, an ancient Welsh mid-Winter tradition known as early as 1800.

RSVP will be via website: WelshWNE.org/events, or by mailing in a form which will be emailed to you.

WELSH GENEALOGY-ON-ZOOM



When: October 18th & 25th
& November 8th & 22nd

How: Join our ZOOM Welsh Genealogy group: email InfoWelshWNE.com to be added to the Zoom invitation.

WELSH CONVERSATION GROUP- on-Zoom

Intermediate Welsh: If you are a Welsh learner or speaker looking for an opportunity to chat in Welsh in a casual, friendly setting, this is the place! We use imaginative weekly topics/questions which enable us to learn new vocabulary. **NOTE: this is not a class.**

Where: On-line every Tuesday at 5:30PM
THIS SESSION IS CURRENTLY FULL but please join the waiting list.

Beginners' Welsh: every other Wednesday at 5:30pm for 30-60 minutes. **Check dates on this page for Nov and Dec , Wednesday session moved to Mondays to avoid Thanksgiving & Christmas weeks.** **NOTE: This is not a class,** though there will be a little homework.

How: To join our ZOOM Welsh Conversation group, to be added to the emailed invitation, please email us at InfoWelshWNE@gmail.com.

Please specify which session you'd like to join.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Oct. 18 & 25 (Mon.)
Genealogy-on-Zoom

Oct. Every Tuesday -
Welsh Conv-on-Zoom

October 6 & 20
Beginners Welsh Conv-
on-Zoom

Nov. every Tuesday-
Welsh Conversation on
Zoom

Nov. 8 & 22 (Mon.)
Genealogy-on-Zoom

November 10 (Wed.) &
22 (Monday)
Beginners Welsh Conv-
on-Zoom

December 4 - (Sat.)
Christmas Holiday
Luncheon

December every
Tuesday- Welsh Conv-
on Zoom

December 8 (Wed.) &
20 (Monday)
Beginners Welsh Conv-
on-Zoom 5:30PM

December 13 - (Mon)
Genealogy-on-Zoom

AROUND OUR WELSH- AMERICAN WORLD

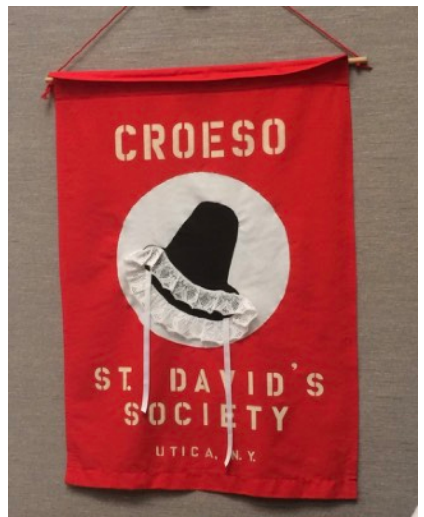
To keep up with news, both from Wales and around North America, please subscribe to NINNAU: the North American Welsh newspaper. 6 issues per year at \$30 per year or \$20 for digital issues at: NINNAU.com.



North American Festival Of Wales: Highlights

Donning masks and vaccination cards, 190 of us met at the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) in Utica, NY anxious to see each other after 2 years. Yes, it was less than half the size but it was still wonderful. The friendships built up over the years is so good, and the shopping in the marketplace is like walking down a high street in Caernarfon. The wonder of Utica itself was revealed to us: Welsh heritage in New York dates from the late 1700's to the mid 1800's when Oneida County claimed the largest concentration of Welsh settlers in America (nafow.org), the place where Y Drych and Ninnau were printed for years, a place where peace activists from Wales came on their tour of the USA in 1924 to meet with Welsh community, the Welsh churches and the Welsh Societies.

There was a very well attended walking tour highlighting Utica's involvement in the Abolition Movement to end slavery in the United States. The tour began at the site of the Utica Riot of 1835.





A bus tour told the history of Welsh Settlers in the Remsen-Steuben area. Through the efforts of Revolutionary war hero Major General Baron de Steuben, Welsh settlers were some of the earliest in the area, brought over to populate de Steuben's 16,000 acre estate.

Welsh Society representatives met to share the few good things that happened during the pandemic - a wonderful sounding Seattle Welsh Society Pub Night on Zoom where guests were entertained, while safely at home with a glass or two: twinned with a pub in Wales; they created a pub name; and had lots of fun. These events on Zoom including our very own Noson Lawens, Welsh Genealogy and Welsh Conversation, none of which will end, are just too good and will be continued, because Zoom brought us together and entertained us.

A Saturday meeting, one on one, with the new Welsh Government representatives for North America, holds promise to increase support by the Welsh Government of Welsh Societies in North America. Welsh Government now has an *International Strategy of reaching 500,000 Welsh diaspora over the next five years*. I personally will follow up with them to see how we can work together for a better Welsh American experience.

Some of our members met for the first time face to face, instead of on Welsh Genealogy or Noson Lawen Zoom - which were very special times.

by Susan Davies Sit

NEWS FROM WALES

The Land of My Fathers by Tara Loader Wilkinson

[BBC.com/storyworks](https://www.bbc.com/storyworks) (abbreviated)

Welsh Patagonia is a thriving community with approximately 2,000 Welsh speakers across the main towns of Gaiman, Trelew and Trevelin, while over 50,000 Argentinian people claim Welsh descent. Dr Iwan Rees, an expert in Welsh-American studies who lectures at Cardiff University, believes that the Chubut settlement is the world's strongest Welsh diaspora in terms of the intergenerational transmission of Welsh and the strength of the Welsh language and culture at a community level. "It's only in this region, for example, that we find the fourth, and even fifth generation of speakers who speak Welsh as a first language," he says. New Zealand, with a population of some 6,700 who identify as Welsh, or Cymraeg, is peppered with place names that can be linked back to Wales, such as Cardiff in Taranaki, Bryndwr in Christchurch and Piopiotahi, the stunning world heritage site on the South Island which is also referred to as Milford Sound.

Meanwhile the surname 'Jones', considered distinctively Welsh, is the second most-common in Australia, (it is also very common in New Zealand) and some 113,242 Australians claim Welsh ancestry. These include former Australian prime minister, Julia Gillard, the first and only woman to hold the role, who was born in Barry, Vale of Glamorgan. On her Instagram account she describes herself 'A Welsh girl who became Australia's first female PM'.

North America also has a strong Welsh diaspora which spreads to even the highest of ranks. There are roughly 1.98 million Americans whose ancestry originates in some form, from Wales, including a number of US Presidents such as Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, John Quincy Adams, James A. Garfield, Calvin Coolidge, Richard Nixon and Barack Obama. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, also has Welsh blood.

Welsh Canadians number nearly half a million, with particular populations around Ontario, western Canada and Atlantic Canada. Interestingly, Wales' first billionaire, Newport-born tech entrepreneur Sir Terry Matthews, made his fortune after setting up tech firms in Ontario, Canada, most notably Mitel, a telecoms company, and Newbridge Networks, a data networking company.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Heidi Williams McCloskey

Q. Tell us a bit about your present family life and/or work life.

Living in a lively neighborhood in Higganum, CT. My retirement days are filled with gardening, yoga & meditation, and poetry. My daughter, son-in-law, & 2 granddaughters live one mile away (lucky me!) My creative son & daughter in law live near

Harrisburg, 7 hours by car and seconds digitally away, By education and calling, I am a nurse, a healer. In so many ways, I stay connected to my lifetime circle of friends and my extended family.



Q. Speak about your origins in Wales or your introduction to Wales from the US.

My paternal grandfather, William Wallace Williams, was the last "full-blooded" Welshman in my family (so I was told). My g-g-g-grandparents, Jones, emigrated from Maenan, North Wales in 1832. Six generations of my family now "reside" in Wales Cemetery a few miles outside Erie, Pennsylvania. Currently, my living Welsh relatives are scattered around the USA. We have an annual Family Reunion, in-person in Harborcreek, Pennsylvania and electronically via Zoom. This year, I met a cousin in Idaho while I was in Connecticut!

Q. What things do you wish to experience in Welsh life or culture either through study, by interacting with Welsh people or through travel to Wales?.

My brother, David Williams, has served as president of the St. David Society in Pittsburgh and is currently on the Board of Directors for the North America Wales Foundation. He introduced me to Susan Sit and WSWNE. I participated in two of the numerous family trips that David has organized to Wales. This stirred up my childhood interest in my Welsh

heritage and fueled my desire to learn more about the culture and people. We are looking for living relatives in Wales, in particular someone related to Richard Williams, our g-g grandfather.

Q. Tell us how you are involved in the Society.

I thoroughly enjoy being part of the Society. I find the members in other parts of Connecticut: singing, painting, writing. What a creative group! I love hearing the language. New tastes have entered my life, like Bara Brith. Maybe someday, I'll find living relatives in Wales through these connections. As I await achieving that goal, I find my life enriched by my membership and participation in WSWNE. I've contributed to the Society newsletter. I've had 2 poems accepted in NAFOW's Eisteddfod (2020 and 2021) and the 2020 poem was published in Ninnau.

PENDERYN WHISKY UNVEILS A NEW FLAGSHIP DISTILLERY IN HISTORIC LLANDUDNO, NORTH WALES

Penderyn Llandudno opened to the public on June 1, 2021, and celebrates the 20th anniversary of the rebirth of the whisky industry in Wales after a

hundred-year absence.

The brand's second location features a Penderyn signature single-column Faraday still, and will be the first distillery in Wales fully dedicated to the production of peated single malt whisky.



On the 20th anniversary of its launch in Wales, Penderyn Distillery announces the opening of a new flagship in the historic town of Llandudno in Northern Wales. The new location commenced operations on May 17, 2021 and

opened to the public on June 1, 2021. Penderyn Llandudno joins the company's original Brecon Beacons location producing the award-winning whisky credited with reviving the industry in Wales after a hundred-year absence. The new Llandudno location features a signature single-column Faraday still – which produces a whisky at an industry high of 92% ABV and is key to the delicate spirit that is the Penderyn signature – and for the first time in Welsh history will produce peated barley single malt whisky. Penderyn's expansion into Northern Wales marks the ongoing evolution of a whisky brand that has established itself as the standard-bearer domestically and as one of the most prominent Welsh exports internationally, distributing to more than 45 countries. Last year, Penderyn exceeded annual spirit sales of one million bottles for the first time and was awarded its biggest-ever gold medal haul at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition – Double Gold and two Gold Medals – in addition to various other top ratings, awards, and accolades. Often referred to as “Welsh Gold” for its color, quality, and rarity, Penderyn has become the gold standard for the growing whisky industry in Wales.

Under the supervision of Commissioning Distiller Bethan Morgans, the new distillery is projected to produce one-third of Penderyn's yearly output. It will become the first distillery in Wales to be fully dedicated to producing peated single malt whiskey. Underscoring its commitment to crafting a product that celebrates and reflects the heritage and history of Wales and its local setting, whisky produced in Llandudno will be distilled using natural spring water supplied from a reservoir that once served the Victorian Lighthouse on the mythic Great Orme Headland that is synonymous with the town.

As Penderyn looks to the future – and a third location in Swansea in 2022 – it is working with the UK Government to enshrine 70 Welsh Geographical Indicators (GIs) as hallmarks of the unique production process of Welsh Whisky. This will ensure that all distillates bearing the designation ‘Welsh Whisky’ reflect the quality of the products associated with the destination, while establishing them as unique exports in the competitive world whisky market.

For more information about Penderyn, visit penderyn.wales.

NEWS FROM WALES

By Begw Arian - Finding & Sharing Pearls of Wales

(photo credit: Brecon Beacons, Wales Dark Sky)

WALES' DARK SKY RESERVE



Wales now has a network of International Dark Sky Reserves and Dark Sky Parks, more than any other country, and astronomers have singled Wales out as a world beating place to star gaze. These awards are given to select destinations that

have proven that the quality of their night air is outstanding and real efforts are being made to minimise light pollution. Few other nations have done as much to protect their dark skies.

Whether you are in North, Mid or South Wales there are many awe-inspiring spots where you can see the Milky Way, all the major constellations, nebulas and shooting stars.

There are many safe and exciting activities in which to participate. Astrophotography, camping under the stars, glow worm hunting, night and twilight walks, train rides.

Cottages and farms that offer accommodation now rent telescopes. Sessions are run by local astronomy societies, with classes and events. There are many miles of roads through the National Parks, with specifically suggested spots where you stop in a car park and observe the wonders of the night sky.by BEGW ARIAN

10 WELSH WOMEN Who Changed The World

by Historyan.co.uk

There is currently no outdoor statue of a woman in the capital city of Cardiff. But all that is going to change. A shortlist of five inspirational Welsh women from history was drawn up from an initial long list. Here is # 5 in the series of the initial ten:

5. Gwenllian ferch Gruffudd – Princess Consort of Deheubarth



"<https://historyan.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Gwenllian.jpg>"

Gwenllian (c.1100-1136) was the daughter of Gruffudd ap Cynan, prince of Gwynedd, who married Gruffydd ap Rhys of the ancient Welsh Kingdom of Deheubarth shortly after 1116.

At the opening of the great Welsh uprising in 1136, she led an attack on the Norman fortress of Kidwelly, in her husband's absence. She was captured fighting and was executed (even though she was a woman). The spot where this happened is still

known as Maes Gwenllian to this day.

This is the only known example of a medieval period woman leading a Welsh army into battle. Her story became almost

legendary and for centuries after her death, Welshmen cried-out' Revenge for Gwenllian' when engaging in battle. Her patriotic revolt and murder sparked several further uprisings.

Forget about Xena Warrior Princess – it's all about Gwenllian Warrior Princess!

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MARIAN BETH LUBBERT, 60, of Abingdon, MD departed this life after suffering a fall on August 13th while vacationing in Tybee Island, GA. Marian was born in Greenwich, CT on October 23, 1960. She was the daughter of the late John Milton Lubbert (who's mother was born near Aberystwyth, Wales) and the late Inger Marie Lubbert (Andersen). She was predeceased by her brother Hans Peter Lubbert of Lynchburg VA and survived by her brother Eric John Lubbert and his wife Anna-Liisa Lubbert of Guilford, CT, her nephew Peter Lubbert, nieces Carolyn (Chris) DiLeo and Rebecca Lubbert, along with many cousins in the US and abroad. She was especially close to her second cousin Delyth Jones in Cardiff, Wales. They met EVERY year for the last 28 years, missing only 2020 because of Covid. Marian's Welsh roots were in the Aberystwyth area and she loved researching her genealogy with us on Zoom, plus she was trying hard to learn some of the Welsh language in our Beginner's Conversation group.

She grew up in Stamford CT. Marian had many hobbies and interests which included extensive travel and adventure, playing the piano and violin, hiking, biking, swimming and camping as well as genealogy. If you were a friend, you were sure to get regular phone calls from Marian.

In the midst of her death Marian was able to give the gift of life with the donation of her kidneys.

She will be sorely missed by us all.



RECIPE FROM WALES

Pwdin Reis (Rice pudding)

Recipe by MyfanwyR -
allrecipes.co.uk/recipe

Still a favourite after all these years, this recipe comes from the county of Powys in mid Wales, although it is thought that traditionally rice pudding was known as *whitepot* and a favourite dish of the Tudors.



Photo credit:
Good Housekeeping

Ingredients...Serves: 4

- 1/3 cup pudding or Jasmine rice
- 3 cups milk
- 2 tbsp + 1/4 tsp sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg

Method

Prep:10 mins > Cook:1 hour 30 mins > Ready in:1 hour 40 mins

1. Preheat the oven to 300F. Grease a 30 fl oz baking dish.
2. Place all of the ingredients in the prepared baking dish and give a little stir.
3. Bake in the oven for about 90 minutes, giving a stir after the first 30 minutes, until thick and creamy. Remove from the oven and serve hot.

The Devil's Bridge, Near Aberystwyth

Thank you to Renny Lloyd, of The Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society/Sarasota, FL for this interesting historical story:

"The Devil's Bridge (Welsh: "Pontarfynach", lit."The **bridge** on the Mynach") in Ceredigion is actually 3 bridges, one on top of each other, built to cross the chasm made by the River Mynach.



The first bridge was built in the 11th century by the Devil, himself. Whilst visiting the area, he came across a dog and its owner, a little old lady in tears. Seems her cow had somehow managed to jump the chasm, but was unable to return home. The Devil promised to build a bridge so she could cross over and fetch her cow; in return, he could claim the first soul who crossed. The little lady agreed, and the bridge was built. The Devil transported himself to the other side to await his prize. But the little old lady was a wise and wily Welshwoman. As she started to step onto the bridge, she sent her dog over it before her. And --- Poof ---the Devil had to claim its soul, being the first over the bridge, instead of the woman's

which he was anticipating. This bridge was in

use up to the 18th century, at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution.

The second bridge was built to accommodate the growing traffic of West Wales to London, including drovers and other commerce in the 18th century, using new building methods and materials. Some of the decorative ironworks are visible, and give an idea of the scale of the project, and what was a practical as well as a beautiful structure.

The third bridge was built at the turn of the last century, again to accommodate traffic on the expanded Drovers' Trail which became the A4120. It is still in use today. I drove over this bridge several times in daylight when I was a grad student at University of Wales, Aberystwyth....and I always felt a frisson of fear. No way would I be anywhere near it at night! Actually, there is a whole section of the A4120 going east out of Aberystwyth that I tried to avoid. It is an area steeped in myth, mystery, and a few UFO sightings.

The bridge is the setting of the beginning of the Welsh mystery "Hinterland", series 1, now on Netflix. The scene where Detective Mathias goes down the steps from the bridge into the chasm sent shivers down my back. No way would I do that, altho it is a favourite dare of the undergrads at 'Aber Uni'." by

Renny Lloyd

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

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PLEASE MAIL to Mary Pallos, WSWNE Treasurer, 1542 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033. Check made out to WSWNE. Membership year begins March 1st, one per family at same address. Check website to pay by credit card on-line.

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

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Home phone # _____

Cell phone # _____

Email address (PLEASE PRINT) _____

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Castell Caernarfon Castle - by SDS 2019