

## Member Profiles

### WSWNE Board of Directors - 2024-25

#### *Susan Davies Sit - President*



Susan Davies Sit lives in CT with her husband Don. She was born in Colwyn Bay, north Wales and immigrated to the USA in 1989 after having worked in Saudi Arabia, Greece and Egypt. She has been President of WSWNE since 2013 and thoroughly enjoys creating opportunities for members to connect with their Welsh roots, such as with Genealogy, the Welsh language and get-togethers.

#### *Annie Rodgers - Vice President and Treasurer*



Annie lives in Chicopee, MA. Her tiny family connection to Wales is her second great grandmother who came from there. She originally joined the Society when beginning her studies to become a Welsh speaker. Here, she found a welcoming and supportive group of people. Wales has always occupied a place in her heart, especially the music and musical traditions that are uniquely Welsh. As a singer, it makes her heart happy to introduce this beautiful music to new audiences.

#### *Mark Taylor - Secretary*



Mark Taylor lives in Meriden, CT and has the honor of serving as the Secretary for the WSWNE. He, with the help of his wife Janet, maintains and organizes the sale of Welsh merchandise at WSWNE events; that helps fund the activities of the society. Mark was born in Tredegar, Wales and lived in Nantyglo and Blaenavon before moving to Cardiff, the capital city, where at the age of 30 he then emigrated to the USA. Mark and Janet return to Wales every year to visit his Welsh family.

#### *Diane Jeffer - Newsletter Editor*



Diane Jeffer lives in New Jersey and serves as our newsletter editor. She also is a member of the Welsh Society of the Southern Tier in her home state of New York. Diane stays connected to WSWNE through involvement in our online genealogy meetings. Her Welsh family emigrated to Pennsylvania from Goginan, Cardiganshire in the late 19th Century.

#### *Susan Jenkins Meers*



Susan's parents' families both settled in the Wilkes-Barre, PA area when they arrived from Wales in the mid-1800's. Today she lives in the house her parents bought in 1958 in Broad Brook, CT. Connecting with others in the Society, with Welsh knowledge and interests has enriched her life immeasurably and led to many opportunities for education and travel. As a member of the genealogy group, she continues to discover her Welsh cousins.

### ***Ed Brown - Webmaster***



Ed Brown lives in Westfield, MA. Ed is our WelshWNE.org webmaster and also appears in costume at our St. David's Day event with our resident "Welsh Lady" (his wife and fellow Board member, Beth Roberts Brown). His costume illustrates what might have been worn by a 19th century Welsh quarryman. Ed's Welsh connection includes a grandmother whose parents came to America from North Wales.

### ***Beth Roberts Brown***



Beth lives in Westfield, MA with her husband Ed Brown, our webmaster. She has served as Secretary. Her photo shows her in costume as a traditionally dressed "Welsh Lady" at our St David's Day event. Beth's family originated in North Wales and immigrated to the slate valley of VT/NY in 1860. In their town of Granville, NY they were known as the 'Cwm Dyli Roberts'. Beth continues to investigate her family roots in our genealogy group.

### ***Magdalen Dowden***



With husband Glyn and their two sons, the family emigrated to the US from South Wales in 1976. Their daughter was born in the US. They now live by the beach in Plymouth MA. Magdalen has served as our master of ceremonies for Society zoom events. She is a regular contributor to the general well being of the Society in various capacities.

### ***Glyn Dowden***



Magdalen and Glyn have been members of WSWNE for at least 18 years and have been members of the Board for approximately that length of time. Glyn is a poet, a writer of fiction, has published his memoir, and has very often produced scenarios of, and acted as, Dylan Thomas.

### ***Evan Williams***



Because of a quest to know the origin of her unusual name, Evan attended a WSWNE St Davids Day celebration three years ago and followed that with genealogy group meetings. She has learned that her Welsh ancestors settled in Ohio NOT with the Evan Williams Bourbon family in Kentucky! Having travelled with WSWNE to Wales, she is enamored with the small but mighty country, its beauty and culture. As an At Large Board member she stays connected to Welsh American people on a continual basis. Evan lives with her husband in West Hartford, CT.

### ***Margaret Korhonen***



Margaret lives in East Granby, Connecticut. Her Welsh family are from Llanellidan and Bontddu, North Wales. She has studied in England and has enjoyed travelling to Wales with her husband and children. As an at-large Board member she wishes to broaden her understanding of Welsh culture and history and play an active role in the Society's events and programs.