

The St. David's Welsh Society brings together the various people of the Welsh "village", of the greater Kansas City area and its environs, and their Cornish neighbors, to celebrate the Celtic heritage and spirit.

Membership Information

Annual Dues date - March

Individual - \$10 Family - \$15 Contributing - \$25
Send dues to SDWS

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SDWS Board

Evan Ash, *President*

Carolyn Adkins, *Vice President, Hospitality*

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At-Large Board Members:

Bill Ames, Judith Brougham, Elaine James,

Ann McFerrin, John Schaefer, Katherine Spencer,

Sue Walston

Digwyddiadau i ddod - Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 4th, 5:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6401 Wornall Terrace, Kansas City, MO – Evensong to celebrate St. David of Wales with St. Andrew's Choir directed by Dr. Tom Vozzella.

Saturday, April 7th, 2:00 p.m., St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 5325 Nieman Rd, Shawnee Mission, KS – SDWS/KC Gathering for annual meeting and

Saturday, May 5th, 2:00 p.m., St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 5325 Nieman Rd, Shawnee Mission, KS – SDWS/KC Gathering with presentation of **The Ghosts of Stonehenge** by Evan Ash.

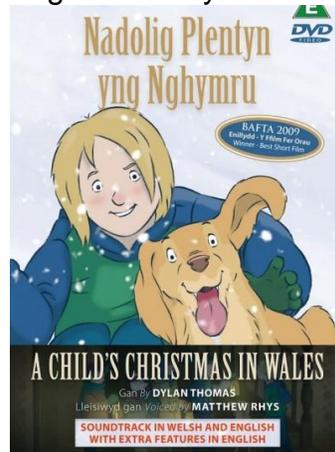
May 19, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Ararat Event Centre, 5100 Ararat Drive, Kansas City, MO - British Gala Festival & British Car Show, fun for whole family.

Summer plans in the works – A field and picnic trip to Arvonja, historic sight of a Welsh immigrant community near Emporia, Kansas. Watch for more details!

Your SDWS Board welcomes your ideas for programs we can offer to nourish your Welsh heritage. We also welcome Cornish program ideas to help us celebrate our Cornish neighbors. Please send your ideas to frevanash@gmail.com.

SDWS 2017 Christmas Gathering

We celebrated the coming of Christmas on December 2nd at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Shawnee, Kansas with a chance to join the folks at St. David's Cathedral in Pembrokeshire by video, thanks to Larry Griffiths' research. A delightful and lyrical observance was marked by



the addition of a delightfully animated Welsh video version (with English audio) of Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales". A visit from Fr. Christmas was followed by a fine tea with many treats and warm fellowship. Topping off this wonderful gathering

was the music of Judith Brougham on the harp, and her friend Eileen Gates on the guitar. And we were glad to be joined by some new hearts and voices!



Display sharing the good news of Wales and SDWS/KC at the Llŷr Williams concert on Friday, January 26th at the Folly Theater, Kansas City. Thanks to John Schaefer for connecting us with the Friends of Chamber Music who brought Llŷr, and Evan and Lynn Ash who prepared the display.



Classic Welsh Rugby Joke

Q: What do you call an Englishman holding a bottle of champagne after a 6 Nations game?

A: Waiter.

Cynlluniwch ymlaen! - Plan Ahead!
from *Hwyl* – Welsh North American Association
Newsletter



2018 North American Festival of Wales, Aug 30-Sept 2, 2018
will be in Washington, D.C. at the

Hotel Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. Room Rate: \$103+tax/night, single, double, triple, quad Suites, subject to availability: \$175. Book at nafow.org or call 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667) and mention group name NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES 2018 Complimentary shuttle from Reagan National Airport (DCA) Discounted parking for daily visitors \$10 Overnight parking \$20.

Extend your visit, before or after the Festival, to include important sites in and around Washington: the U. S. Capitol, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Museums, the National Cathedral and, nearby, the shops and restaurants of Alexandria Old Town.



**Gwyddoniaeth Gymreig, Trefn o! –
Welsh Science, Sort of!**
from our friends at the
Welsh Society of Western New England

A tiny village is believed to be home to Britain's oldest tree - a yew that first took root more than 5,000 years ago. Experts have run tests on the tree in the St Cynog's churchyard at Defynnog near Sennybridge, Powys, including DNA and ring-dating. 'It was planted on the north side of the ancient burial mound which is now the churchyard, probably in honor of a Neolithic chieftain. St. Tudwal's Church, Llanstadwell, Pembrokeshire. 'It is so old that it has split into two halves - one 40ft wide and the other 20 ft wide. Its DNA has been tested by the Forestry Institute and its ring count is 120 per inch, which makes it [more than] 5,000 years old.' The Church in Wales has now launched a campaign to protect the yew trees in their churchyards. It is sending out certificates to parishes and communities which have some of the oldest yews - giving information on where to get the best advice for managing and making the most of them.



Mrs. Evans pulled Mrs. Jones out of earshot of the front room, where Mrs. Jones' lovely young daughter, Mefanwe, sat. 'It is really none of my business,' whispered Mrs. Evans, 'but have you noticed what your daughter is doing?' 'Why, no. Is she up to anything special?' Mrs. Evans leaned closer. 'Haven't you noticed? She's started knitting tiny little garments.'

Mrs. Jones' troubled brow cleared. 'Well, thank goodness,' she said smiling, 'at last she's taken an interest in something besides running around with boys.'

Diwrnod mewn Hanes – A Day in History
borrowed from
<http://www.walesonline.co.uk>

When snow fell on Wales in the early January of 1982, it snowed solidly for 36 hours, leaving entire front doors submerged, cars buried and livestock decimated. The snow was 60cm (*about 23.5"*) deep, though drifts reportedly reached up to six metres (*over 19.5'*) high thanks to the dry, fine snow which was easily blown about. Pedestrians walked among jack-knifed lorries and traffic jams on the M4, waterfalls were frozen solid and the Australian rugby union team was snowed into their hotel in Porthcawl, accessible only by boat. One enterprising father even moved his entire family out of their home and into an igloo he built in his back garden. Describing the snowfall of 1982, Philip Eden wrote on WeatherOnline: "Throughout the snowfall, which lasted over 36 hours, temperatures were between -2°C and -4°C (25°F) so the snow was dry and powdery and drifted freely in the wind.



The scene at Pleasant View, in Bedlinog, between Pontypridd and Merthyr,. Standing in a 'tunnel' dug through the snow so that he could reach his front door is Henry John Briggs, with his grandchildren (Image: Media Wales)

A souvenir edition of the Western Mail said: "For a few days at least, it seemed society had been thrust back into the ice age. But the snow also melted people's hearts turning total strangers into good neighbours and casual acquaintances into life-savers."

Lengthy queues formed on city streets for bread and milk, soldiers were drafted in to dig families out of their homes and helicopters scrambled to transport food to remote farms.

Transport services were completely dislocated over a wide area and millions of commuters failed to get to work in London two days running. South Wales was isolated for three days and troops were brought in to deliver essentials and to help clear roads. Worst hit were Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire and Glamorgan.

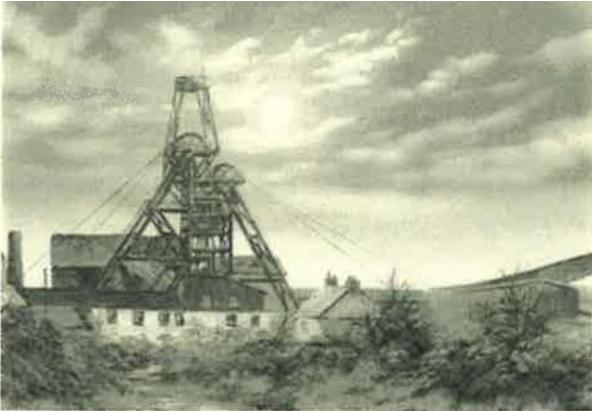
But despite this, it's the winter of 1947 which still holds the record for the coldest February ever. Snow fell again and again for three months, wreaking havoc on the roads and railway lines where turbo jet engines were used to try and blast away drifts. And in 1963 up to 10ft of snow fell at Storey Arms, above Brecon. At Penarth, even the sea froze.



**Poyntys Kernowek (Darnau I Gernyw [W]) –
Cornish Bits**

*from the Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society's
October-December newsletter*

**The Poldark Legacy:
Mining May Return to Cornwall!**



South Crofty – from painting by David (Owens) Dyer

In Redruth, reminders of the golden age of mining are everywhere. The giant obelisk of the Bassett Memorial erected in honor of Francis Basset glowers over the town. Derelict mine chimneys and walls dot the landscape. On the road to Camborne, which still lends its name to the nearby School of Mines, the freshly painted metal pithead, marking the entrance to the South Crofty tin mine stands tall. Strongbow Exploration, a Canadian listed company, has ambitious plans to reopen the mine and dig up the high-grade tin at its deeper levels.

Though its history dates back four centuries, South Crofty has been shut for nearly 20 years, taking with it the last of Cornwall's long mining history. "South Crofty didn't shut because it was all mined out, it shut because of the collapse of tin prices", says Owen Mihalop, chief of operating officer of Strongbow. The industry fall can be traced to the bankruptcy in 1985 of the international cartel that had controlled the market for decades. A sudden over supply led to a plunge in prices. South Crofty hung on longer than most because of the high quality, but at last had to give in. At one time the Camborne region was home to 26 mines. In the 16th and 17th centuries prospectors dug for copper close to the surface. In the late 18th century, tin mining became dominant. Various companies have tried to reopen South Crofty over the years, but could never manage to get it to cross the finish line.

Hopes are that will change. Strongbow is hoping to begin production by 2020. They are confident the price will hold well at current level as no new mines are being opened anywhere in the world and the US is selling off its stockpile. The mine is vast with some tunnels stretching some 2.5 miles. It sinks to 3,280 feet at the deepest point. In October Strongbow received permission to begin pumping water from the flooded mine. This process is expected to last a year or more. The water will be cleaned on site and sent back to the Red River.

But wait - That's not all! - A start-up company called Comish Lithium is hoping to extract lithium

from the water that has been welled up in hot springs around the county. Jeremy Wrathell, managing director, has bought the rights to the water in Strongbow's mine and hopes to build a processing plant to extract it. Lithium is a key ingredient in batteries and demand could dramatically increase as electric vehicles hit the road. The project has recently received a £million from a group of highly experienced mining and natural resource investors.

Strongbow is not the only company in the attempt to restore mining in Cornwall. Strategic Minerals Corp has been drilling for samples near Callington in East Cornwall, where it hopes to revive the Redmoor tin and tungsten mine.

*Well, Cornish lads are fishermen,
And Cornish lads are miners too;
And when the fish and tin are gone
What are the Cornish lads to do?*

*We'll do as we have done before,
Go out and roam the wild world o'er,
Wherever seas or ships are found
Or there 's a hole down in the ground*

*Well, Cornish men are fishermen,
And Cornish men are miners too;
And when the fish and tin are gone,
What are the Cornish lads to do?*

(from 'Cornish Lads' by Roger Bryant)



Y gegin Gymreig - The Welsh Kitchen

from Recipes from Wales

on <http://www.wales.com>

Finger licking lamb with laverbread herb sauce

The best way to eat these lamb racks is to cut them into cutlets, dip in the laverbread and herb sauce followed by the lemon crumbs. Enjoy!

Serves 4, Prep: 20 minutes, Cook 20 minutes.

Ingredients:

2 racks of lamb

(cut in half, 3-4 bones per person)

1 large handful fresh mint

1 large handful fresh parsley

1 clove garlic, crushed

1 dessert spoon small capers

6 cornichons

3 tbsp olive oil

Zest of 2 lemons and juice of 1 lemon

1 dessert spoon laverbread

4 tablespoons breadcrumbs

1 tbsp oil 15g butter



Two Welshmen, Dylan and Glyn, are sitting on a park bench reading their newspapers. Dylan notices the headline, "12 Brazilian Soldiers Killed."

Turning to Glyn, Dylan enquires, "Just how many is a 'Brazilian'?"

Darnau Cymraeg - Welsh Bits
from <http://www.funtrivia.com>

Which U.S. state has the broadest Welsh influence?

Although Utah has a population of which it is estimated that 20 percent can trace their heritage back to Wales, Ohio has the largest Welsh influence in all of the United States. Columbus has a strong core of Welsh history at its foundation, with many of its churches being established by Welsh settlers, as well as annual Gymanfa celebrations (which essentially are singing contests), organized by the Welsh Society of Central Ohio, one of the largest Welsh societies outside of Wales. The Ohio town of Radnor was also established by the Welsh, and the towns of Gomer, venedocia, Ohio as well as the counties of Jackson and Gallia, all have distinct Welsh presences. Utah also (as mentioned above) has strong Welsh influences, in fact the Mormon Tabernacle Choir was originally began as a Welsh choir. The High school of Malad in Idaho calls its sports teams 'malad dragons' and has the Welsh flag as its school flag. In addition, areas around Philadelphia have strong Welsh influences, most notably 'Bala', which is a lake in North Wales, Montgomery County, Bryn Mawr and so on.



Hel Achau Cymreig – Some Welsh Genealogy
from *Larry Griffiths*
SDWS/KC's "genealogist"

People love to talk about their ancestors. A story you will often hear is this: "I found out that I had an ancestor who was on the Mayflower, or signed the Declaration of Independence." They usually think they are among a select group, but the fact is that there are now literally millions of people who can claim this. We have proliferated greatly in the last 2-3 hundred years. Not to brag, but I have grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins who did both! However, this is a great starting point to initiate a discussion on one's genealogy, that is, if the person wants to pursue just how they are related to some famous individual. Some people just like to express their historical status, without any knowledge of how they are related. They were told by a family relative, and who knows where they got the information. I had an aunt who lived near Salem, Massachusetts during the time of the infamous Salem Witch Trials. Does that mean she was somehow involved in them? Probably not, but it makes for a good story to tell! If you find a recognizable name in your ancestry, it's fun to find out if you're related. I have a grandfather named Ward, and the story went that we were related to Aaron Montgomery Ward. Well, I went searching and sure enough, two brothers were named Ward in 1850. One was Aaron Montgomery, who went on to found Montgomery Ward, and the other, my grandfather, became a farmer. I found the name

Stouffer in my ancestors, and I wondered if.... Yes, once again one brother founded Stouffer Foods (bought by Nestle's in 1973, corporation worth over \$1.2 billion), and the other brother, a grandfather of mine, became a farmer. It's nice to imagine, if only

So ancestry research gives more results than just a family tree showing who was born, died and where. There usually exist some really famous people that you're related to, but not in the way that would make you rich and famous. Take heart, just enjoy the knowledge and experience !



Heddiw Cymru – Wales Today
from <http://www.walesonline.co.uk>

Flu is now circulating at a "high intensity" across Wales and is officially the worst outbreak in six years. Public Health Wales' weekly influenza activity in Wales report has found there were 64.9 GP consultations per 100,000 people between January 8 and 14. That's almost double the 37.7 consultations reported the week before and close to four times as many as a fortnight earlier. Outbreaks have been reported in hospitals and care homes, with rates at their highest since 2010-11. A number of different strains of flu, including Australian flu, are now circulating in Wales.

Dr. Richard Roberts, head of the Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme at Public Health Wales, said: "Vaccination is the single best way to protect against catching flu and it also helps reduce the chances of spreading it. "At present flu vaccine is still available in Wales so those eligible for the free NHS vaccine but not yet vaccinated should get it without delay."

Dr. Frank Atherton, the Chief Medical Officer for Wales, said: "If you have flu symptoms please help to stop the virus spreading by staying away from vulnerable people and practising good hygiene. "Use a tissue when you cough or sneeze then wash or use hand sanitiser afterwards. "And avoid visiting surgeries or hospitals unless you really need to." People with the virus are being urged to stay away from those who are very old, very young, pregnant, or have a long-term health condition as they are at high risk of complications from flu.

Doctors say people should only attend A&E (*emergency room*) or call an ambulance if they need urgent care – for example feeling short of breath, experiencing chest pain or coughing up blood – or have other serious symptoms, or if they deteriorate quickly.

Vaccination against flu is offered free of charge on the NHS to people who are aged 65 or over, are pregnant, have certain long-term health conditions, or are unpaid carers. Flu vaccine is also recommended for frontline health and social care workers to protect them and reduce the risk of spreading flu to those in their care.

The Natural Home of Dark Drama is Now Wales

from www.theguardian.com

A haunting BBC One series is being heralded as the latest evidence of a boom in Welsh drama and television. **Requiem**, a six-part series which starts on BBC One on February 2nd at 9 p.m. GMT, tells the story of a young cellist (Lydia Wilson) who becomes drawn into a decades-old mystery involving a small Welsh community and a missing child. Its unusual blend of horror, crime drama and supernatural chills could only have been achieved by shooting in Wales, said its Australian creator, Kris Mrksa. "I'd had the kernel of the idea for Requiem for years but no clear idea where it took place," says Mrksa. "I knew the story needed to feel really removed from the urban world and we also thought about the north of Scotland or Cornwall, but the Welsh landscape was so inspirational and so otherworldly that I realised this was the only place this kind of story would really work."



Nor is the six-part drama the only series to be making the most of Wales's combination of otherworldly landscapes and experienced on-the-ground production crews. Sky Atlantic's historical epic **Britannia** used Gower's Rhossili Bay and the Henrhyd Falls in Powys to stand in for Celtic Britain; the BBC sci-fi thriller **Hard Sun** was filmed in Anglesey; and Channel 4's adoption drama **Kiri** was filmed in Cardiff. Wolf Studios Wales, a vast new production studio in Cardiff Bay, is home to both Sky One's new fantasy series **A Discovery of Witches** and the BBC adaptation of Philip Pullman's **His Dark Materials**.

The global success of series such as **Hinterland/Y Gwyll**, recorded in Welsh and English (*Editor's Note; available in U.S.*), has led to a growing interest in Welsh drama. The Port Talbot-set **Bang** was recently shortlisted for a Writer's Guild award. The Eve Myles-starring **Keeping Faith/Un Bore Mer-cher** will air on BBC Wales this year, having already been shown on Welsh language channel S4C.

The deal with Bad Wolf, the production company, has seen the Welsh assembly lend the company £4m in exchange for increased investment in the country from television companies such as Sky, the BBC and HBO and the creation of Wolf Studios Wales. Says Ken Skates, the Welsh cabinet secretary for the economy and transport. "There's a real opportunity to carve out a very distinctive creative industry in Wales and one which is recognised around the globe."

Chwaraeon yng Nghymru – Sports in Wales

from Evan Ash with the help of
www.walesonline and Wikipedia

Did you know they have ice hockey in Wales?

The Cardiff Devils were formed during the summer of 1986 when Sports Nationwide built the Wales National Ice Rink in the centre of Cardiff. John Lawless, a 25-year-old Canadian, was given the responsibility of setting up a brand new team. The club entered the British Ice Hockey League. The club became the dominant force in the sport in the late 1980s and early 1990s, winning a total of 7 league titles.

Later the team joined in European Ice Hockey League schedules. It and the rink went through hard times during the early 2000s but recovered with the building of the new ice rink in the Cardiff Arena in 2006. Turnover in management due to financial challenges occurred as the team struggled to reestablish itself. Things began to right themselves. Canadian investment and eventual ownership spurred on its success. As of 2011, the club held the UK record for games unbeaten in all competitions (22) and most consecutive league games unbeaten (21). Guinness World Records who have verified that this is in fact a World Record. And The Devils management have had discussions with the International Ice Hockey Federation.

In spite of this progress, Canadian players still carry the team. Need to get those young Welsh lads out on the frozen ponds and get them motivated and swinging sticks!



Crefydd yng Nghymru - Religion in Wales

from www.itv.com/news/wales
and www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/lent.

Those who observe Lent often give up chocolate, alcohol or caffeine - but a new campaign is encouraging people to curb their food waste for 40 days instead. The consumer charity campaign *Love Food Hate Waste* is asking the nation to take on the challenge. They have issued 40 tips to help people stop throwing out food unnecessarily - including meal-planning, ideas for leftovers and understanding food labels.

An estimated 400,000 tonnes of food is wasted every year by households in Wales, according to Recycle for Wales. Figures also show throwing good food away costs the average person around £200 a year, and the average family £700.

As Caroline Hutchinson, Campaign Manager for Wales, **Love Food Hate Waste**, says *Lent is a perfect opportunity for people to challenge themselves to give up a vice. Our 'Give Up Binning Food Instead' campaign encourages people to make a real difference this year. Rather than ditching coffee or chocolate, people can bin their bad kitchen habits instead, saving food, money and the planet, and will also form excellent new habits.*

