



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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Contact

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SDWS Board

Evan Ash, *President*

Carolyn Adkins, *Vice President, Hospitality*

Bob Adkins, *Vice President, Program Support*

Larry Griffiths, *Treasurer*

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Bill Ames, Judith Brougham, Elaine James,

Ann McFerrin, John Schaefer, Katherine Spencer,

Sue Walston

Digwyddiadau i ddod - Upcoming Events

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 two video presentation by Larry Griffiths, one of Wales narrated by Richard Burton, other more local, **Pobl y Paith, People of the Prairie: the Welsh in Nebraska**, from the folks at the Great Plains Welsh heritage Project.

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.

Diwrnod mewn Hanes – A Day in History

thanks to Carolyn Adkins

borrowed from www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales

Blanche Parry is one of history's most influential Welsh women, yet few know the name and only a handful know her story.

From her home on the Welsh marches she joined the Tudor court, nursing the young Princess Elizabeth and becoming a lifelong confidante who lived, breathed and slept alongside the Virgin Queen. It is said Blanche, who spoke Welsh as her first language, would sing lullabies at the royal crib while in later life the pair would use Welsh words to disguise their discussions about courtiers and conspirators.

In a programme for BBC Radio Wales I have tried to uncover the truth about the role she played and how her strong Welsh credentials influenced Queen Elizabeth I during their long lives together. The quest began in England, where the small parish of Bacton now sits in the Dore Valley. It is modern-day Herefordshire, some five miles (8km) from the Welsh border. In the 16th Century this was Welsh-speaking Wales and it was where Blanche's ancestral seat at New Court would host the travelling bards and musicians who would tour the castles and country homes of the Welsh aristocracy. These days New Court has gone, a vague outline among the trees at the valley edge is the only hint of its medieval presence.

Ruth Richardson, a former archaeology lecturer turned historian, has spent a decade tracing Blanche's steps from the Welsh borderland to the regal, ruthless Tudor court. "I wanted to find out more about her. Nobody seemed to know anything about Blanche Parry; she was just consigned to the domestic sphere," she said. "She's part of Elizabeth's household," Ms Richardson said. "She takes over as the chief gentlewoman of the Privy Chamber. We also know that at one point when her sister Mary becomes Queen, Elizabeth is actually put in the Tower of London. "And although Blanche isn't specifically named, Elizabeth is allowed to take one or two of her own ladies and Blanche would have been one of them."

David, daffodils...and Dues

Larry Griffiths reminds us, in the merry month of March we celebrated St. David's Day. It is also time to renew your annual SDWS dues.

Have you sent yours?

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi – St. David's Day
thanks to Marilyn Stephenson for the photo

We were able to celebrate St. David's Day with a very special event, an Evensong service at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Kansas City. Thanks to member John Schaefer, we were invited to join with St. Andrew's music director Tom Vozzella to focus this monthly occasion to observe the Welsh patron saint with Welsh hymns and sacred music.



As the service ended, the choir and congregation were lead out by drums and a piper. The St. David's Welsh Society provided tasty hospitality with Welsh treats as a reception following the service, which was highlighted with Scottish tunes sung by Iain McPherson of Nashville, Tennessee. And an extra treat was a sampling of Pendaryn Whisky thanks to Terry Kast of the *Celtic Ranch* in Weston, Missouri.



**Poyntys Kernowek (Darnau I Gernyw [W]) –
Cornish Bits**
*from our friends at
the Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society*

GOOL PERAN LOWEN!

There are many ways to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Piran, Patron Saint of tanners, on or about March 5th. People all over the world of Cornish heritage or with interest in Cornwall will be celebrating in many ways.

You may go to a parade, or join in a march across Perran Sands for a ceremony at the ruins of his oratory, as many will in Cornwall. You may display the distinctive flag of St. Piran with its black background and the white cross, signifying the black of tin ore as it comes from the ground turning to silver as it flows from the smelter. You may wear a Cornish tartan or have a jolly pub sing ending with a rousing Trelawny.

Oh, and - GOOL PERAN LOWEN!
Happy St. Piran's Day!



Sign on a Cornish restaurant's door!

Y gegin Gymreig - The Welsh Kitchen

Sylw!...Attention!

We are trying to create a *Brythonic Celtic Cookbook* containing your favorite Welsh and Cornish recipes. **Sue Walston** is requesting that you send her your favorite dishes with *a brief description, list of ingredients, cooking instructions, and how you want your name credited* so your contribution can be included in this little publication.

Let's put SDWS/KC on the culinary map!
Send your recipes to swalston@earthlink.net



**North American Welsh Choir Sings Again –
Calling Choristers!**
*from Mari Morgan
via Ninnau – The Welsh American Newspaper*

Yes, the choir that spans a continent is singing again. Over 80 choristers from 20 States and three Canadian Provinces, coast-to-coast, have already answered the call from conductor Mari Morgan to sing as the North American Welsh Choir, **Côr Cymry Gogledd America**. *Côr Cymry* is preparing to sing at the Grand Concert of the 2019 North American Festival of Wales that will mark both the 20th anniversary of the choir's debut at the National *Cymanfa Ganu* (Minneapolis).



Syt ydych yn dweud ? - How Do You Say It?
*from BBC news
thanks to Carolyn Adkins*

MPs have been speaking Welsh during a parliamentary debate for the first time at Westminster.

A Welsh Grand Committee meeting to discuss last November's Budget is the first to use translation facilities after a relaxation of the rules. It is the first time the Welsh Grand, which consists of the 40 Welsh MPs and several MPs from non-Welsh constituencies, has met in two years.

Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns said it was an "historic day." I am proud to be using the language I grew up speaking, which is not only important to me, my family and the communities Welsh MPs represent, but is also an integral part of Welsh history and culture," he said. "This is a historic day for Parliament and for Wales, and I pay tribute to those in the committee who have campaigned for this change over many years." MPs are discussing measures announced by the Chancellor Philip Hammond in last November's Budget.

The move on the language follows a UK government decision last year to support the use of Welsh in parliamentary debates.



Darnau Cymraeg - Welsh Bits
from www.walesonline.co.uk
and the editor's own research

Here are some curious little bits about Wales you may have not known!

Near Abercraf in the Upper Swansea Valley lies Ogor Ffynnon Ddu.



At 1,010 feet deep, it's the deepest cave in Britain. With over 30 miles of passages, it's also the third longest in UK.

Besides the companions of Madog in the 12th century, the first official Welsh settler to America was Howell Powell, from Brecon. He left for Virginia in 1642. He came as an indentured servant to Hugh Gwyn, presumed to be an absentee landlord, on the Corotoman River, Lancaster County, Virginia, who paid for his transportation to the colony and in return received a land grant of 50 acres. Powell then obtained his own land, 408 acres, in 1653. About 1657 he married Elizabeth Gorsuch, daughter of Rev. John Gorsuch of Walkern, Hertfordshire who had come to Virginia in 1652.



Cynlluniwch ymlaen! - Plan Ahead!



Cymdeithas Madog is excited to announce that registration is currently open

for our 42nd annual *Cwrs Cymraeg, Cwrs Y Gefeill-Ddinasoedd* - The Twin Cities' Course - at Hamline University in St Paul, Minnesota, July 15-22, 2018! You can register through our website, www.madog.org.

Whether it's your first time or your fortieth, the course is for beginners and accomplished users of the language alike. We will also hold cultural activities in the evenings such as folk dancing, a quiz and pub sing-a-long, a Welsh film, and a talent night or the famous Welsh "*noson lawen*" and Eisteddfod. An optional course trip at mid-week will take us to surrounding sites of interest.

We hope to see you there!

Also, if you're unable to attend the *Cwrs* this summer but still want to help *Cwrs Cymraeg* remain the best place to learn Welsh outside of Wales, you can still support *Cymdeithas Madog* through the *Friends of Madog*, our online shop on *Redbubble*, or *Amazon Smile*. All proceeds go toward scholarships for *Cwrs Cymraeg*, so by donating you will be helping us sustain and grow the Welsh language in North America.



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

The first phase of the Aston Martin's new manufacturing facility has been completed. Work on the site in St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan, started towards the end of 2016. Aston Martin selected St Athan from 20 potential global locations it had been considering for its second manufacturing facility as part of a £200m investment in new products and facilities.



The first Aston Martin DBX SUV is expected to roll off the production line by the end of 2019. When production is fully up to speed it is expected to be producing more than 7,000 vehicles a year. In 2021, when fully functioning, the 400,000 sq ft facility will employ 750 members of staff. Aston Martin estimate the facility will help create 2,000 jobs in the region through supply chain to the facility. Customers who buy a DBX made in the St Athan facility will be able to get a birth certificate of their car, along with a £450 book showing its build.

The luxury car manufacturer announced a five-year trade and investment drive in China worth over £600 million as part of its expansion in the world's largest automotive market. The St Athan made DBX is expected to be one of Aston Martin's biggest sellers in China.

Economy Secretary Ken Skates said: "Aston Martin's decision to move to St Athan is a huge coup for Wales and it is a genuine testament to the can-do attitude of Welsh Government, and to the reputation, dedication and skills of our work force."



Hel Achau Cymreig – Some Welsh Genealogy
from *Evan Ash*

I recently learned of a free internet research source for would-be amateur family genealogists. www.familysearch.org/ is managed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and offers access, among other things, to records in England and Wales. As I ventured there for the first time I found it easy to use, and parallels in many ways the other on-line web sites. Records are interesting including a list of Non-Conformists from 1588-1977! It might just bear a look...



Some Unusual Welsh Business Names

- Junk and Disorderly* - A second-hand shop in Colwyn Bay
- Curl Up and Dye* - Hairdressers and salon in Holywell
- Mud, Sweat & Shears* - Gardeners in Mold.



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. '99), and the 90th anniversary of North America's premier Welsh festival. Rehearsals are scheduled in the Philadelphia region, Pa.; Peoria, Ill.; Kingston, Ont.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Alexandria, Va./Washington, D.C.; and other locations. A cutting-edge, online resource portal connects choristers as a community, no matter where they live. If you'd like to be a part of this exciting choir, singing music of Wales, making new friends, and celebrating a North American Welsh heritage, then join *Côr Cymry Gogledd America*. A big *croeso* awaits you! For more information, contact the choir at corcymry20@gmail.com.



Chwaraeon yng Nghymru – Sports in Wales

from www.walesonline.co.uk
thanks to Carolyn Adkins

They say Welsh rugby fans are the best in the world - and here's further proof.

Members of a Scottish rugby club feared they would miss the Six Nations opener in Cardiff after being left stranded by the side of the M4 when a tyre burst on their coach. After an hour of waiting, with kick-off looming, more than 40 burly-looking Scots dressed in kilts resorted to desperate measures... hitch-hiking on the side of the motorway!

One by one cars driven by members of the Welsh public stopped to give them lifts to the game and rescue the day. Some drivers even dropped off some of the Scots into Cardiff city centre and then headed back out onto the motorway to collect more. Other passing motorists who witnessed their plight came off the M4, went back to the previous junction and rejoined to help out.

"It must have been quite a sight, 45 burly Scotsmen in their kilts! But a car stopped for the first few and so the others thought they would give it a go, too. "Then more and more cars just stopped. Some passing motorists even came off, went back to junction 35, and came back down to pick us up. It wasn't just Welsh rugby fans who helped out. Another who did was Faaiza Bashir, 32, who was travelling from Bridgend to her home in Cardiff. She said: "I saw a coach with hordes of

kilted men on the hard shoulder. I don't know anything about rugby but had heard there was a game and knew they must have been worried about missing it. "I pulled up and four men jogged to catch me up. I wasn't worried for myself - most humans are decent people and these looked clearly stranded. "They said they were cold and I joked that they would be with only kilts and t-shirts on.

At least Linlithgow had better joy from their own game, having drawn 5-5 with Furnace United the night before. The biggest winners of the weekend, though, were the Welsh fans who helped out and whose acts of kindness clearly won't be forgotten.



Crefydd yng Nghymru - Religion in Wales

from Evan Ash, with help from Wikipedia

One of Lynn's and my favorite Welsh saints is little known. She is **St. Melengell** pronounced "Mel-eng-eth" in the Welsh, in Latin she is known as Monacella. She was the daughter of an Irish or Scottish monarch, who had determined to marry her to a nobleman of his court. But the princess had vowed celibacy. So she fled from her father's dominions and took refuge in central Wales, where she lived fifteen years without seeing the face of a man. Brochwel Yscythrog, Prince of Powys, being out one day hare hunting, pursued his game till he came to a great thicket, where he was amazed to find a virgin of surpassing beauty, engaged in deep devotion, with the hare he had been pursuing under her robe, boldly facing the dogs, who stood at a distance howling, resisting all the efforts of the sportsmen to make them seize their prey. Even when the huntsman blew his horn, it stuck to his lips. Brochwel heard her story, and gave a parcel of lands to God and her, to be a sanctuary to all that fled there. He desired her to found an abbey on the spot. She did so, and died abbess at a good old age.



She was buried in the neighboring church, called Pennant, which from then on was called Pennant Melangell, located today on a minor road which joins the B4391 near the village of Llangynog, Powys. The location also houses the St Melangell Centre, supporting people in need through reflection, counseling, and pastoral care.

Her feast day in the Church is on May 27th and she is remembered as the patroness of the natural environment and small animals.

