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
15332 W. 82nd Street, Lenexa, Kansas 66219

Contact
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http://www.kcwelsh.com

SDWS Board
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At-Large Board Members:
Judith Brougham, Ann McFerrin,
John Schaefer, Katherine Spencer, Sue Walston

Digwyddiadau i ddod - Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 30th, 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.

Fall plans in the works – A field and meal trip to Arvonia, historic site of a Welsh immigrant community near Emporia, Kansas. Watch for more details!

September – SDWS film event with Brad Furnish, featuring Caught in the Act, details to come as fall approaches…

Saturday, November 3rd, Shawnee Civic Center, 13817 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, Kansas - DBE Brit Faire, your ideas and help welcomed! Contact a SDWS board member with your offers and suggestions!

April 5-7, 2019, Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre, Wymore, Nebraska – “The Great Plains Welsh Gathering”, mark your calendars!

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

Mae Crefydd yng Nghymru yn dod i America – Religion in Wales Comes to America from Evan Ash

Gerald Bennett of Lee’s Summit recently had a clear out as he and his wife prepared to downsize for retirement. Among the discoveries he found an 1839 Welsh Sanctuary Bible, as would have been used in a chapel for worship. It had been in his family. He surmises it had belonged to either David Evans, one of his ancestors and early settler of Lawrence, Kansas in the mid 1800’s (the Border War's period preceding the Civil War) or the Edwards’ family into which he married, another Welsh immigrant family to Lawrence during the same period.

The Bible is in deteriorated but readable condition, making it suitable for study. SDWS/KC, with the advice of Tom Edmundson, a local document conservator, is storing the Bible which eventually will go to the Midwest Genealogy Center at the Mid-Continent Public Library for access by others seeking Welsh resources.

Gerald also found two small Christian song books, one dating from 1895. Because one was from the “American Baptist Publication Society”, these were given to Dr. Ian Coleman, Professor of Music at William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri in keeping with its Baptist heritage.
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 Cymantfa Ganu in (Minneapolis).

Cynlluniwch ymlaen! - Plan Ahead!

Cymdeithas Madog is excited to announce that registration is currently open for our 42nd annual Cwrs Cymraeg, Cwrs Y Gefeill-Ddinosoedd - 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 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.


Extend your visit, to include the U. S. Capitol, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Museums, the National Cathedral and, nearby shops and restaurants of Alexandria Old Town.

Syt ydych yn dweud? - How Do You Say It?
borrowed from www.mylifeinwales.com

“Wenglish” - Part 1 of 3

Whether it’s the translation of a Welsh word or phrase or the blending of Welsh and English, it becomes “Wenglish” and can result in some funny Welsh sayings. Here are some of the words and sayings from “Wenglish”, words that are bastards of the English and Welsh language. Some of the words are “Welshisms”, sayings you only hear in Wales. But all of them are fun to use. If you are traveling in Wales, they can help you sound more like a local. Sprinkle them into your conversations as you go through your day and see what happens….

1. Tidy - Used to describe something good or something that gets a thumbs up: “That's a tidy meal we just had”.

2. Humming/Buzzing/Minging - Something that is disgusting and nasty: “Eww…your feet are minging”.

3. By There - Used when you're trying to tell someone where something is: “Your keys are over there”.

4. Now in a Minute – Shortly or presently, but probably longer than you think it'll be: “I'll be there now…in a minute”.

5. Wonky - Defective: “My new couch is a bit wonky”.

6. Tawch - An unpleasant taste: “There’s a funny tawch on this cheese”. The Welsh word “tawch” literally means “haze” or “fog”.

7. Grizzle - To complain or moan: “She’s always grizzling about something or other”.

8. Dab - Creature or thing: “Poor dab, she has to put up with a lot with him”.

9. Cawl Cabbage - A terrible mess: “That playroom is like cawl cabbage”.

10. Butty - A friend: “We’ve been butties since we were little.”

11. Frazzle – To the limit: “I’m worn to a frazzle”.


Whether it’s the translation of a Welsh word or phrase or the blending of Welsh and English, it becomes “Wenglish” and can result in some funny Welsh sayings. Here are some of the words and sayings from “Wenglish”, words that are bastards of the English and Welsh language. Some of the words are “Welshisms”, sayings you only hear in Wales. But all of them are fun to use. If you are traveling in Wales, they can help you sound more like a local. Sprinkle them into your conversations as you go through your day and see what happens….
Merthyr Tydfil has more than its share of weird theft stories, real and imagined. Here are a couple of them...

Landmark bridge closed after one year after thieves steal most of it - It was opened with much fanfare in 2012, in fashion designer Julien Macdonald returning to his hometown to cut the ribbon. But anyone trying to cross from Merthyr Tydfil town centre to Pentrebach via Puddlers Bridge earlier this month will have found it quite a task - after metal thieves made off with large chunks of it. More than 900 metres of steel wire was taken from the bridge sometime between April 2 and April 5, forcing the bridge to close. Local policing inspector Clare Hallet branded the thieves "mindless and reckless" for putting public safety in danger.

And on another occasion, the Welsh Assembly announced recently the opening of Wales's second airport, the Gurnos Estate International Airport in Merthyr Tydfil. The first flight to arrive was the 11.50 Virgin Airlines Cross-Atlantic flight from America. The people from Gurnos estate were so excited that they raced to meet the flight, as it was the first Virgin seen in the area for 20 years. The return journey to America was due for departure at 12.30, but it was delayed because when the pilot went to the aircraft he found it up on blocks and stripped to the bone. As a result every house in the Gurnos now has a new hall carpet, every lounge now has a reclining chair, every bed has new pillow cases, and Mrs. Bowen who is living on the end of the street has a new number for the house, number 747.

Darnau Cymraeg - Welsh Bits
from www.bbc.co.uk

Who ever thought of the Welsh in the Old West?

The history of the American West is littered with stories of fearless lawmen and one of these was Welshman John T Morris, Sheriff of Collins County in Texas during the 1870s. In his most famous exploit he trailed an outlaw gang led by the notorious James Reed, a cattle rustler, bandit and husband of the infamous Belle Starr. He finally ran them to ground in Paris, Texas. While his posse surrounded the saloon where Reed and his gang were holed up, John Morris went inside and confronted the bandits.

Morris immediately challenged Reed and asked him to give himself up. Reed went for his gun but the Welsh Sheriff was faster on the draw. Within seconds Belle Starr's husband lay dead on the floor of the saloon.

The name it gave to its meaty treat brought worldwide fame to Cornwall. Now rivals across the border claim the Cornish Pasty is a misnomer - as it was actually invented in Devon. The claim follows the discovery by historian Todd Gray of a yellowing shopping list from 1510 which lists the ingredients of pasties - more than 230 years before the first Cornish written reference to the snack. The note, scrawled on parchment and found in the pages of an old audit book, mentions the venison, flour and pepper needed to make pasties and calculates the labor involved to make them.

Devonians claim it is conclusive evidence the pasty originated with them. Dr. Gray said; 'These are phenomenal documents. It is a great joy for me as a local historian to discover pasties may have originated in Devon.' He claimed the earliest record of a Cornish pasty recipe was written in 1746. But Les Merton, who wrote the Official Encyclopedia of the Cornish Pasty, insisted pasty recipes had been handed down by word of mouth in Cornwall since 8,000 BC. He said; 'There will always be claims about the origin of the pasty.

While there is no standard pasty filling, old fashioned recipes include diced meat, potato and turnip. An interesting idea, one for discussion! Let the debate begin!!

A BIT OF PASTY TRIVIA

Initials of family members were often put on one end of the pasty so if it was not all eaten at the meal, the person could tell which bit of crust was his/hers. (A word of caution, don't eat the end with your initial on it first.) Or the initial might indicate the content of the pasty. There is one story of the young wife, just learning how to cook, who lived in a household where some liked turmut [turnip] and some didn't like turmut. She marked all her pasties with the initials "TT" in the corner. When questioned, she said, "Well, these is tis turmut and these is t'nd turmut."

(from "The Pasty Book" by Hettie Merrick)
Heddiw Cymru – Wales Today
from www.walesonline.co.uk

Midwives are not just for television!

Jobs don’t come much more intense, unpredictable, or rewarding than that of a midwife. Not only are they highly skilled in bringing babies safely into the world, but they’re also the calming, reassuring presence expectant parents need at one of the most stressful times in their lives. And while they get to experience the miracle of childbirth on a daily basis, their role is peppered with moments of real heartache when things do not go according to plan.

Today, at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board midwives are on hand to help deliver between 90 and 130 babies every week. The majority of them, providing there are no complications, are born in the midwifery-led unit at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff. But it is not uncommon for midwives to be involved in home births or deal with high-risk cases under the guidance of a consultant and surgical team.

Here is one midwife’s story:

Sofia Odugleh came into midwifery in her 30s and, up until very recently, has spent her career dealing with “high-risk” cases. On a daily basis she was involved with complex deliveries which, without specialist intervention, could threaten the life of the expectant mums or their unborn babies. “It’s amazing being involved in a team that knows exactly what they’re doing. “You see how everybody does their job and it all fits into place.” Sofia said the most memorable moment of her career was seeing a mum-to-be suffer a “catastrophic hemorrhage” and thinking she could die in front of her. “I’ll never forget it. It showed me how quickly women can deteriorate and how quickly things can go wrong,” she said. “I thought the woman would need to go to ITU [intensive care unit]. The emotion of the whole delivery was so strong. “But in the end she didn’t go to ITU and managed to recover in theatre. She had lost so much blood. “For me it was an amazing thing to see the team working so well together.”

“I think the most important thing as a midwife is to be caring and compassionate.”

She said after a while she became an expert at reading mums and their individual habits. “All women feel pain differently. Some women feel it much more severely than others – and some are very good at hiding it,” she added. “It’s about trying to pick out which ones are in the most pain and advising them on different pain relief. “And I have become very good at telling them stories as a distraction technique.”

But she said she cannot help but be very critical of her own performance as a midwife despite her years of experience. “I always think ‘How could I have made that better for her?’ I always question myself as I’m harder on myself than anybody else,” she said. “I always have a bit of a debrief with the woman who’s given birth – particularly if it was quite traumatic – to ask if there was anything they weren’t particularly happy about. “Because a lot of the time how patients perceive it does not reflect how we have perceived it.”

She said it was a privilege to witness such an unforgettable moment in people’s lives. “I have had a couple of babies named after me. That, for me, really is the greatest honour.”

Y gegin Gymreig - The Welsh Kitchen
thanks to www.Wales.com

At our St. David’s Day observance at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Kansas City, our friend Terry Kast, of the Celtic Ranch store, Weston, treated us to a sampling of Welsh whisky. Welsh whisky and sea salt are two of the many products from Wales which have gained in international popularity and reputation over recent years. This recipe combines both in a delightfully indulgent dessert.

Chocolate Truffle with Welsh Whisky liqueur and vanilla sea salt

Ingredients to serves 4:

- .28 cup/70ml full fat milk
- 4.4 oz./125g Dark chocolate
- 1.27 cups/300ml Welsh double cream
- 1 tbsp/15ml Welsh Whisky
- pinch vanilla salt

In a small pan gently boil the milk. Grate or roughly chop the chocolate into a mixing bowl and pour over the boiling milk. Mix well with a whisk to a smooth glossy thick sauce, add the cream liqueur and put to one side to cool. In a clean cold bowl lightly whip the cream so it is softly peaking but falls back on itself slightly, do not over whip. Slowly fold in the chocolate sauce with the whipped cream and add a pinch of vanilla salt. Spoon into a plastic container and chill in the refrigerator to set for a couple of hours. Using a spoon or ice cream scoop dipped into hot water, scoop balls of truffle and use as desired, either as a dessert in its own right or as a garnish for other desserts such as lemon tarte etc., finish with a pinch of vanilla sea salt and a sprig of mint.
Zip World, Welsh style!

Focusing on bringing new life to the declining mining of the area, Zip World had breathed new life into the Betws-y-Coed and surrounding landscape. Working with the local communities, the offer of adventures has brought a rejuvenation and vitality to the nature landscape.

As its own web site tells the story, Zip World won international acclaim when it opened Zip World Velocity at Penrhyn Quarry, Bethesda in March 2013. Offering riders the closest experience a human being can get to skydiving without actually leaping out of a plane. We then launched Zip World Titan at Llechwedd Slate Caverns near the historic slate mining town of Blaenau Ffestinog. This is the first 4-person zip line in Europe where riders have 3 individual zip lines to complete. Imagine giant trampolines, walkways, slides and tunnels all made from netting. Now picture this suspended in a slate cavern hidden underground and you’ll have the right idea. Zip World Caverns is a remarkable, uniquely exhilarating and atmospheric underground adventure. Zip lines, rope bridges, via ferrata (a protected mountain climbing route) and tunnels are included. We then developed Zip World Fforest with climbing route and tunnels are included. We then developed Zip World Fforest with incredible adventures and the Fforest Caffi in a stunning woodland setting in the Conwy Valley.

Dyfrwd mewn Hanes Cymru – A Day in Welsh History
borrowed from http://owain-glyndwr-embassylysgenhadaeth.blogspot.com

On or about 21 June 1404, after a successful campaign of less than four years, Owain Glyndŵr, our National Hero had brought an end to over 300 years of Anglo - Norman wars of conquest and colonisation and had all but undone the 100 years of English rule foisted upon Wales by Edward I in the years between 1282 - 83.

Following on an inauspicious beginning of a series of lightening raids against English Boroughs in the North Eastern March during the month of September 1400, the Welsh spent the winter organising in the mountains of Gwynedd and by the new year of 1401, they were ready to launch a major military offensive. This offensive resulted in a victory at the Battle of Hyddgen allowing for them to sweep the enemy before them into the South West. During 1402, the victorious Welsh Armies of National Liberation were attacking the English in Central Wales where, on 22 June 1402, they won another great victory at the 'Battle of Bryn Glas' and by 1403, all of Wales was in open revolt with offensives taking place on a broad front which, again, in July 1403, resulted in another great victory at the 'Battle of Bryn Owen - Stalling Down'. By this period, the Welsh had, to all extent and purposes, isolated and negated English Castle rule in Wales and during the Winter and Spring of 1404, they had launched a North to South border campaign that, finally, put their English enemy on the defensive and, in the process, Owain Glyndwr had liberated most of Wales.

Santes Cadw Ni! - Saints Preserve Us!
borrowed from Wikipedia

St. Non, mother of St. David

The Life of St David, written around 1095 by Rhigyfarch, is our main source of knowledge for both St David (died c. 589) and his mother.

Tradition holds that Nonita, possibly the daughter of the nobleman Cynyr of Caer Goch (in modern Pembrokshire), was "unhappily seized and exposed to the sacrilegious violence of one of the princes of the country". Rhigyfarch recounts the tradition that the rapist was Sanctus, King of Ceredigion, who came upon Non while travelling through Dyfed. After conceiving, Nonita, who remained celibate both before and afterwards, lived on bread and water alone. When a preacher found himself unable to preach in the presence of her unborn child, this was taken as a sign that the child would himself be a great preacher. A local ruler learned of this pregnancy and feared the power of the child to be born. He plotted to kill him upon birth, but on the day of her labour a great storm made it impossible for anyone to travel outdoors. Only the place where Nonita groaned with birth-pangs was bathed in light. The pain was said to have been so intense that her fingers left marks as she grasped a rock and the stone itself split asunder in sympathy with her. A church was built in the place of David's birth and this stone is now concealed in the foundations of the altar.

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, too! Please send your ideas to frevanash@gmail.com.
Caneuon o fywyd – Songs of Life
collected by Evan Ash from various sources

Cymru Fach is a patriotic song whose title is usually translated as Dear or Dearest Wales, despite its literal meaning. The lyrics were written in 1927 by Howell Elvett Lewis, a Congregational minister, hymn-writer, and devotional poet, widely known by his bardic name Elfed, who served as Archdruid of the National Eisteddfod of Wales from 1924 to 1928.

Mae lle iddi gyd yn fy nghalon, Gymru fach.
Pob mynydd a dyffeyn ac afon, Gymru fach.
Er crwydro o olwg ei bryniau
Ymhell o swn ei rhaeadray,
Mewn munud breuddwydial fy hunan
I fangre fy mebyd o bob man: Gymru fach.
Annwyl wlad mam a thad!
Os nad yw hi’n fawn mae hi’n ddigon
I lenwi, I lenwi fy nghalon,
Annwyl wlad!
Mae lle iddi I gyd yn fy nghalon, Gymru fach.
A thirion fo’r n
Ei chestyll rhyfelgar faluriwyd,
Ond cadwed ei chalon ei breuddwyd!
Boed heddwch yn gan rhwng ei bryniau
A cherdded y gan dros y bryniau, Gymru fach.

There is a place of the whole of her in my heart, dearest Wales. Each mountain, each valley, each river, dearest Wales.
‘Though I travel far from her hilltops, Far from her resounding waterfalls, Within minutes I will dream my way back from afar To that sanctuary of my childhood: dearest Wales.
Dearest Mother and Fatherland! Not large, but certainly ample To fill, to fill my heart
Dearest Land!
There is a place of the whole of her in my heart, dearest Wales. May heaven look kindly upon her aspirations, dearest Wales. Her warlike castles were destroyed But may the dream remain in her heart! May the song of peace resound through her hills; May the song walk the crest of her hills, dearest Wales.

Hel Achau Cymreig –
Some Welsh Genealogy

If you are looking for some more access to Welsh genealogical records, you might check out https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Online_Genealogy_Records. This web site offers a range of resources both of general and county records. You can never have enough resources when searching for your ancestors!

Rhai Darlleniadau’r Haf Da –
Some Good Summer Reads

For our Welsh friends, a new mystery, The Marmalade Murders. The lastest from our friend Elizabeth Duncan, with Penny Brannigan, set in Llanelen on the Conwy, takes us into the competitive world of local faires and home cooked treats. How far will competitors go to win the blue ribbon and the title of “best in show”? For our Cornish friends, a mystery from Carola Dunn, Mann From Hades, starts when our heroine Eleanor Trewyn discovers a body among the donations at the charity thrift shop below her apartment in Port Mabyn! And it is not much of a body at that!

Finally a Source for Uniquely Welsh Products!

A new website celebrating the best of local producers from across Wales, ‘The Ethical Welsh Online Marketplace’ - https://www.stdavids.wales/ has been introduced. Located in St. David’s Pembrokeshire, they have brought together the finest designers, makers, artists, activity guides, growers, farmers and accommodation providers from across Wales to showcase in one place the best Wales has to offer. Artisanal products are now available for purchase online, in one place, so you can shop locally, wherever you are in the World. You can support small Welsh businesses and bring a unique piece of Wales straight to Kansas City, perfect for gifts, birthdays, special occasions and holidays. By purchasing at www.stdavids.wales you support local Welsh producers, and raise the profile of Welsh businesses across the World. They are also committed to investing 51% of their net profit back into the www.stdavid.wales Foundation, which we’ve set up to support small businesses to generate employment in Wales. 94.9% of businesses in Wales are micro-businesses (Western Mail, 12/7/17). Read more about it here: http://www.abetter.wales/ or #ABetterWales.

Flaith fach Gymreig - A Welsh Tidbit

The Menai Bridge in Anglesey was built in 1826 and was the first suspension bridge in the world constructed to take heavy traffic.
SDWS/KC’s own Larry Griffiths hosted a display of Welsh heritage and history at the 2018 Brit Gala, held at the Ararat Shrine Temple in Kansas City, Missouri, on Saturday, May 19th. The Gala, sponsored each year by Brits International brings together displays and entertainment for the local UK heritage groups. This year it featured young Alex Goodwin, who had a rare form of cancer that couldn’t be cured by the British healthcare system, and then journeying to Kansas City to meet with doctors that have the ability to help him. accompanied by his father, and other members of the British police force, Alex was here to sign his book about his journey to healing and meet people.

**Lewis Oliva** has playfully thanked the Conway Pub in Cardiff for supplying him with a diet of Guinness after giving Wales a shock silver medal at the Commonwealth Games.

The 25-year-old, who is following in the tracks of Wales rugby star Jamie Roberts by combining an elite sporting career with training to be a doctor at Cardiff University, pedalled to second in cycling’s star-studded men’s keirin on Australia’s Gold Coast. Oliva quit being a full-time athlete with the Great Britain team after seven years but has got faster. “I literally can’t believe it. Everything in the last two years has been building up to this and to beat those guys in the final was brilliant,” said the 25-year-old. Oliva did it the hard way, having to qualify for the second round via the repecharge after finishing down the field in the opening round. "If you are going to come all the way to Australia you need to get your money’s worth and get an extra round in!” he quipped.

“I’m so stacked,” said Oliva, before adding: “It just goes to show what you can achieve with the right work-life balance.

“I would like to thank the Conway Pub back home in Pontcanna for supplying me with Guinness! Without you boys, I would have done it so cheers,” joked Oliva. Wales had bagged their first gold medal earlier on day two when Gareth Evans triumphed in weightlifting’s men’s 69kg competition. His effort came on the back of the silver taken by cyclist James Ball in the men’s blind and visually impaired 1,000m time trial.