



VIRTUAL GET-TOGETHERS

<http://z.umn.edu/stDavidsGatherings>

Well-Read Dragons Book Group

When: *Saturday, Saturday, December 3*

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Zoom Link:

<http://z.umn.edu/stDavidsGatherings>

Sgwrs Cymraeg, Welsh Conversation

When: *Welsh Conversation Gatherings are suspended until January 2023*

If you have questions in the meantime, contact Laurel Bradshaw, conversation facilitator, at llawryf@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Legendary King Arthur & His Welsh Connections

A Talk by Hywel ("Taff") Roberts

Saturday, November 19

4:30 - 5:30 pm

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church

2323 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

Society Board member Taff Roberts and cinematographer Blake Darst recently returned from Wales, where they began filming for a **new documentary**. Taff is producing and directing

on the legendary warrior Arthur and his strong Welsh connections. You are cordially invited to **join us for tea and a talk given by Taff**. He will share information about the documentary and the evolution of the timeless Welsh Arthurian tales that inspired this undertaking. We hope to see you there!

If you cannot join this gathering, Taff will also present the program at the Midwest Mountaineering Expo at the University of Minnesota from 2:15 - 3:15 pm (see poster to the right). Both programs are free and open to all.



An Evening with John Dingley

Sunday, November 20

6:30 pm

Celtic Junction Arts Center

836 N. Prior, St. Paul, MN 55104



OUT OF THE MIST CELTIC THEATRE & THE ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA PRESENT

AN EVENING WITH JOHN DINGLEY

Join us for an evening of entertainment with local Welsh-native, singer, poet, actor, author, and character extraordinaire. John will also be signing copies of his latest book 'A Visit Home'!

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20TH / 6:30 PM
CELTIC JUNCTION ARTS CENTER
836 PRIOR AVE N, ST PAUL, MN 55104
 Tickets available at the door
 Or online at: <https://celticjunction.org/>
 \$20/Adults/\$15 Students & Seniors (over 60)



After three years of planning and several false starts due to COVID and unexpected travels back home, **Out of the Mist Celtic Theatre** and the **St. David's Society of Minnesota** are pleased to present "An Evening with John Dingley" at the Celtic Junction Arts Center. John Dingley, arguably our most noted local Welshman, is an actor, singer, poet, stone mason, master glass engraver, published author, and renowned storyteller. He came to our shores from his native Wales in 1975, and promptly spent seven years studying animal science, statistics, entymology, nutrition and ethology at the University of Minnesota. He was a longtime member of The *Na Fianna* Irish Theatre Company, which performed for many years not only in the Twin Cities, but all over the Midwest including Milwaukee, Chicago, and Winnipeg. John was also the owner and proprietor of The Irish Well in St. Paul, a pub and restaurant that hosted numerous Irish musicians in the mid-nineties.

John will sing songs, recite poems, and tell stories old and new! He will also speak about activities close to his heart, such as vertical farming and The Raptor Research Project, of which he is president. We have heard rumored that there maybe a few slides and a Welsh harpist! John will also be selling and signing copies of his latest book, *A Visit Home* - a collection of short stories and a few poems - at the end of the evening. This event is open to the public, and tickets - \$20 per person (\$15 for students and seniors over 60) - can be purchased at the door or online at <https://celticjunction.org/>. Please plan to join us – you’ll be glad you did!

Well-Read Dragons Book Group

Meet the Society’s book group on Zoom to discuss *The Blue Book of Nebo* by Manon Steffan Ros on **Saturday, December 3**, from **11:30am – 1:00pm**. The Zoom link can be found on Page 1.

The Blue Book of Nebo is an English language translation of Ms. Ros’ multi-award-winning young adult crossover novel. It tells the story of Dylan, who was six years old when The End came, when electricity went off for good and the only world he knew disappeared. He is now 14 and is navigating life with his mam in their isolated hilltop house above the village of Nebo in north-west Wales. Described as “spellbinding” and “eerie”, the novel was first written and published in Welsh (*Llyfr Glas Nebo*) and in that form won the Prose Medal at the 2018 Eisteddfod and the triple crown of prizes at the 2019 Wales Book of the Year Award: the Aberystwyth University Fiction Award, the People’s Choice Award and the Welsh-language Overall Winner.



Photo Credit: <https://www.cambrian-news.co.uk>

You can find more information about this book and Ms. Ros, as well as the Oct. 2022 - August 2023 List of Books for Discussion on the [St. David’s Society of Minnesota](http://www.stdavidsociety.org/) website and at <https://www.cambrian-news.co.uk>. Questions? Contact Ilene Dawn Alexander at ilene.dawn@gmail.com.

Holiday Tea - In Person

Saturday, December 3

2:00 - 4:00 pm

University Lutheran Church of Hope

601 13th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415



Photo Credit: Becca Lee
(hauntedlibrarian.substack.com)

Having celebrated our Holiday Tea on Zoom for the past two years, we are thrilled to announce that we can (finally!) meet in person again at the church where we have celebrated the holidays for several years pre-COVID. The program will, of course, include music and poetry, as well as excerpts from *A Child’s Christmas in Wales*. We may even have a visit from the *Mari Lwyd*, the decorated horse that goes wassailing this time of year in South Wales.

We will meet only in the large room for entertainment, conversation and shared treats to ensure that we are in a space with adequate ventilation. Masks will not be required but, consistent with CDC and Minnesota Department of Health recommendations, they are strongly encouraged. We hope to see everyone there

– we have much to catch up on and celebrate! Feel free to bring a treat to share, along with your mask of choice. Questions should be directed to Society President Janice Barbee at janicegwb@yahoo.com.

FALL & WINTER WELSH WORDS AND PHRASES

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Yr Hydref</i> | Fall/Autumn | <i>Yr Gaeaf</i> | Winter |
| <i>Cynhaeaf</i> | Harvest | <i>Oeri</i> | To get cold |
| <i>Dail</i> | Leaves | <i>Rhew</i> | Frost |
| <i>Pwmpen</i> | Pumpkin | <i>Storm Eira</i> | Snowstorm |
| <i>Bwgan Brain</i> | Scarecrow | <i>Siwmpwr</i> | Sweater |
| <i>Twrci</i> | Turkey | <i>Menig a Sgarff</i> | Mittens and a Scarf |
| <i>Tarten Afal</i> | Apple Pie | <i>Esgidiau Sglefrio</i> | Ice Skates |
| <i>Dydd Gwyntog</i> | Windy Day | <i>Arth Wen</i> | Polar Bear |



Banner Credit: <https://www.vecteezy.com/vector-art/4436398>

COMMUNITY THEATER OPPORTUNITY

WORLD PREMIERE of **Christmas at the Local – Theater Latté Da**



Nov 29, 2022 - Jan 1, 2023

Ritz Theater (345 -13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413)

Featuring Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*

Composed by Cerys Matthews and Mason Neely

and "The Longing for Amazing Peace"

Music by Chastity Brown and Lyrics by Dr. Maya Angelou

Directed by Larissa Kokernot and Peter Rothstein

Music Direction by Jason Hansen

Featuring Phineas Bynum, Spencer Chandler, Joy Dolo, Bradley Greenwald, Jason Hansen, Elizabeth Reese, Matt Riehle, and Quinn Shadko



(L-R): Bradley Greenwald, Quinn Shadko, Joy Dolo, Phineas Bynum.
PHOTO BY: Lucas Wells

On a cold winter's night, a group of locals gather to raise a glass and play a tune, calling forth the spirit of the holidays through story and song. Voices blend, memories are rekindled, and a bit of mystery hangs in the air. Theater Latté Da stages the world premiere of this rollicking new celebration of the season, featuring the words of Dylan Thomas and Dr. Maya Angelou, with music by local singer-songwriter Chastity Brown, and Welsh artists Cerys Matthews and Mason Neely.

More information can be found and tickets can be purchased on the Theater Latté Da website: <https://www.latteda.org/christmas-at-the-local>. Or you can call (612) 339-3003.

Members Enjoyed Seeing Each Other in Person at Annual Meeting and Picnic

The 2022 Annual Meeting and Picnic was held on Sunday, August 14, from 4 – 6 pm in a pavilion at Wabun Picnic Area in Minnehaha Regional Park in Minneapolis. Several people brought treats and the Society provided snacks and water.

The president of the Society, Janice Barbee, presented a list of the activities the Society has offered since the 2021 picnic:

- The **Well-Read Dragon's Book Group** met six times on-line to discuss some of the wealth of books by Welsh authors.
- An **"Idea Committee"** was formed at the 2021 picnic with members **David Richards, Gail Manning, David Evan Thomas, Jean Greenwood, Hywel Roberts, and Janice Barbee**. The committee's purpose is to look at ways to attract younger people to become members and find ways to partner with organizations in Wales. Because of the difficulties caused by the pandemic, the group decided to put this on hold for the time being.
- Our annual **Holiday Tea** was held on Zoom on December 11. Members told stories of memorable holidays at home and in Wales.
- On January 22, our board member **Hywel Roberts** invited **Twm Elias**, a naturalist, academic, storyteller, historian, to speak to us from Wales on the **Mabinogion** via Zoom. He told us about one of the stories, *The Story of Lleu and Blodeuwedd*, and connected the story to places and place names in Wales with slides and photos of Wales. His presentation was a hit and received calls for an encore.
- Our **St. David's Day Celebration** was held on February 26 on-line for the second year. **Dai Harris** joined us from Wales and sang us a *plygain* carol and gave us background on the tradition. We also showed a delightful video of children celebrating the day in St. David, Wales. We gathered in breakout sessions on Zoom and shared stories of our travels to Wales.
- We thanked Hywel for finding our second guest from Wales in our Welsh Speaker Series. **Owen Roberts** from the **National Library of Wales** presented a fascinating talk via Zoom about the library and its collections on March 20. He shared some links for our members to peruse, which can be found on the Society's website: <https://stdavidsofmn.org/>
- On June 28, we were delighted to welcome two Welsh actors and thrilled to gather for an in-person performance of **the play, West**. **Gareth John Bale and Gwenllian Higginson** performed at the St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church which our member **Mary Mergenthal** arranged for the Society.

The 18 Society members present at the meeting approved the ballot of Board members: **Ron Adams, Janice Barbee, Ryan Evans, Hywel Roberts, Pam Rose, and two new board members, Shannon King and David Richards**. They replace two out-going members, **Bob and Barbara Sherman**. We thanked the Sherman's for their many years of service to the Society.

A healthy end-of-year Financial Report for the Society was provided by our treasurer, **Pam Rose**, and the report for the Foundation was given by **Ron Adams**.

We then heard from each person present about something memorable they wanted to share about their past year and then we enjoyed free-flowing conversation. The event ended with some people playing bocce ball or "boules".

Many people expressed how great it was to get together again!

ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Dan Proud Releases a CD of His Music

From 2021-2022, long-standing St. David's Society of Minnesota member and Past President Dan Proud (1992-1993 and 1998-1999) completed and recorded nine original songs. He was thrilled that Vets on Frets – a local band of which he is a member – recorded the music with him. His CD was released at a concert held in Madison, Wisconsin on October 2 where he performed the music live. Vets on Frets, a local musician Lisa Johnson, Dan's sister Kit, and his friend Nancy Wunderlin accompanied him.

A short piece published online by WORT (89.9 FM) reports that Vets on Frets is a band formed from the non-profit Guitars for Vets, which shares the healing power of music by providing free guitar lessons to veterans. Vets on Frets performs a variety of music, from 60s and 70s rock to folk, country and western. Dan, an instructor for Guitars for Vets, has been playing and writing music since the 1960s.

You can hear Dan's WORT interview by clicking on this link: <https://www.wortfm.org/vets-on-frets-member-dan-proud-on-the-importance-of-music-as-a-tool-for-healing/>.

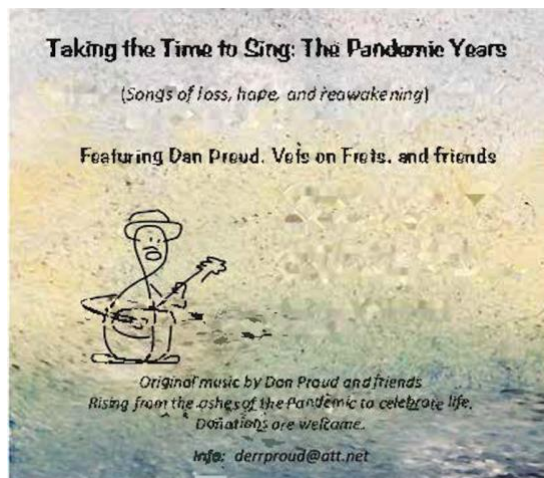


Photo Credit: *Graphic Material & Artwork by Dan Proud*

Special Note: On behalf of all who knew Dan, his wife Robin and their children, Leslie and Martin, The Editor and the Society Board extend love and our deepest condolences on the recent passing of Leslie. The following tribute, shared with permission, was written by Dan:

Our daughter Leslie Proud passed away on Tuesday, November 8th, 2022 at her home in St. Louis after battling cancer for 3 years. She brought life and light to her many friends and family, and we will treasure the memories of our times spent together. A memorial celebration of Leslie will follow in the spring, with details to follow. She is dearly loved.

Heddwch a chariad i chi / Peace and love be with you.



Dan, Leslie and Robin

IN OTHER LOCAL NEWS

Welsh Medievalist Joins Macalester College English Department!

Submitted By Mary Morris Mergenthal

(Ed. Note – Information from NYU and Macalester College has been added)

Assistant Professor Coral Lumbley, having completed her Postdoctoral Faculty Fellowship at New York University, has joined Macalester's Faculty. Having earned a BA and MA in English at the University of Texas, San Antonio and her doctorate in English and medieval studies from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Dr. Lumbley specializes in the history of English literature, the history of Celtic language and literature, and how rhetorics of power intersect in the British Isles.

Among her many other awards and honors, Dr. Lumbley was awarded the 2019 American Dissertation Fellowship by the American Association of University Women and the 2018 Lloyd Family Travel Scholarship by the North American Wales Foundation. Her published works include "[Venerable Relics of Ancient Lore: Medieval Welsh Literature as Postcolonial World Literature](#)" (JOURNAL OF WORLD LITERATURE 5.3 (2020), 372-92) and "[The 'Dark Welsh': Color, Race, and Alterity in the Matter of Medieval Wales](#)" (Included in CRITICAL RACE AND THE MIDDLE AGES, ed. Dorothy Kim. Literature Compass 16.9-10 (2019)).

Dr. Lumbley is presently working on a book titled *Racialization and Resistance in Medieval England and Wales: Ecological Imperialism and England's First Colony*, examining how England used literary methods to justify its colonization of Wales and how Welsh writers crafted an anti-English rhetoric of their own in response. Her course offerings for the 2022-2023 academic year range from "The Language and Literature of Medieval Wales" and "Major British Writers: The Self and Society" to "Reading Along the Silk Road".

She has expressed her eagerness to meet members of the Society, and our fingers are crossed that she will agree to speak at a future event. The article introducing her to the Macalester Community notes that in her Language and Literature of Medieval Wales course, students are invited to discover how and why J.R.R. Tolkien used medieval Welsh as the basis for his invented languages. Lucky Macalester and lucky us!

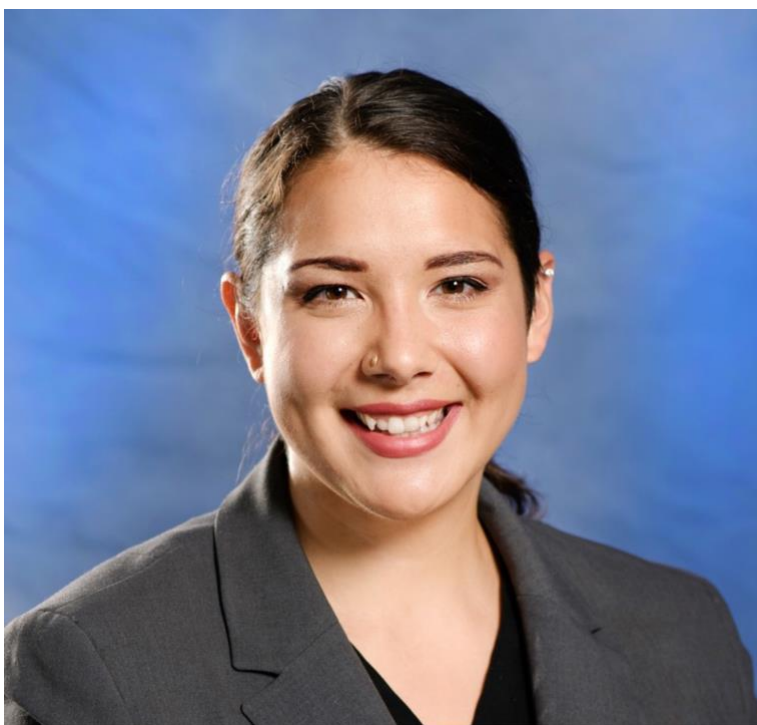


Photo Credit: *Macalester College Bio and Press Photo*

THE NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES 2023 LINCOLN NEBRASKA, HERE WE COME!

From the Welsh North American Association: This North American tradition began in 1929 when over 4,000 people gathered at Niagara Falls for the first National Gymanfa Ganu. It became the largest gathering of the Welsh, descendants, and friends in North America. The festival is held in a different location each year, in either the U.S. or Canada, on the shared Labor Day holiday weekend. This year is its 90th anniversary. Prepare yourself for four full days of song, merriment, and camaraderie with old and new friends, celebrating the life, heritage, and culture of Wales. The **2023 North American Festival of Wales**, funded in part by the Women's Welsh Clubs of America, will take place from **August 31 - September 3, 2023** in **Lincoln, Nebraska**. While you can reserve your accommodations now, reservations for Festival tickets will open March 2023. More information will be shared in our next newsletter.



From the Minnesota Welsh Association Board: We are discussing the possibility of chartering a bus to take MWA association members, family and friends to Lincoln, Nebraska at a price that is affordable and that allows interested persons who would not ordinarily be in a position to travel to Lincoln to be in a position to join in the fun! We estimate that the trip will require one day of travel, with a few rest and meal stops included and we're wondering if there are members of the St. David's Society (including family and friends) that would be interested in joining such a group. The chartered bus would pick up the St David's Society cohort in the Twin Cities, pick up the MWA cohort in Mankato and set off for Lincoln. **If you are interested in joining us, please contact Sally Evans at stpaulsally@gmail.com or (612) 600-0520 as soon as possible.**



Wales is Headed to Qatar to Play in the FIFA Men's World Cup and Gareth Bale will captain the 26 Member National Football Team!



Photo Credit: <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/sport/football/football-news/>

Game #1: USA vs. Wales
Game #2: Wales vs. Iran
Game #3: Wales vs. England

Monday, 11/21/22
Friday, 11/25/22
Tuesday, 11/29/22

Match Time: 1:00 PM CST
Match Time: 4:00 AM CST
Match Time: 1:00 PM CST

Comprehensive coverage of Team Wales preparations of this historic campaign can be found at <https://nation.cymru> and at <https://www.bbc.com/sport/wales>.

FROM ALJAZEERA ONLINE: WALES' WORLD CUP DREAM STARTS AGAIN ... 64 YEARS LATER

Few Wales fans can remember their last World Cup campaign, and fewer still have ever seen a Wales team like this one.



Gareth Bale has led his golden team to World Cup qualification for the first time in 64 years [Rebecca Naden/Reuters]

By [James Brownsell](#)

Published On 13 Nov 2022

Previous World Cup appearances: 1

Best finish: Quarter-finals (1958)

Goals: 4

Player to watch: Gareth Bale

Fixtures: USA (November 21), Iran (November 25), England (November 29)

Titles: 0

World Cup record: W1 L1 D3

Biggest win: 2-1 vs Hungary (1958)

Ranking: 19

It has been 64 long years since Pele's first World Cup goal ended Wales' 1958 campaign.

From **BRIT'S PUB & EATING ESTABLISHMENT:** 2022 World Cup Soccer Information – “The World Cup soccer finals 2022 are being held in Qatar and Brit's, as ever, will be showing the majority of these games.” However, the Wales games are ticket only viewing and those games are already sold out.

From **THE LOCAL Minneapolis:** Games will be broadcast on all televisions. Seating is on a first to come-first served basis. Location information can be found at: <https://the-local.com>. You can also check with **MERLIN'S REST (Minneapolis)** and **THE DUBLINER PUB (St. Paul)**. USA matches will be shown; we are not sure all Wales matches will. Links are: <https://merlinsrest.com/#> & <https://thedublinerpud.com>.

A number of streaming services will be airing the games, including Fox & Fox 9 (All matches), as will Hulu, Peacock & YouTube, a subscription is needed. BBC Radio Wales will broadcast the play-by-play for all Wales matches. Search for “BBC Sounds” (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds>) online to reach radio stations.

**IF YOU ARE NOT A LIFETIME MEMBER OF THE ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA,
AND YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP, IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!**

Annual Society memberships expire with the Society's fiscal year, on June 30th. Below is the annual renewal form which you can print or copy, fill out and send to Society Treasurer and Membership Chair Pam Rose as soon as possible. Membership dues are used to support Society activities – from arranging and paying for Society speakers and events to sponsoring (and co-sponsoring) special events featuring Welsh and Welsh-American performers, musicians, writers, and scholars. Members are always welcome to make a sustaining gift donation in any amount. And, if you know an individual or family who would enjoy the programming and activities that the Society provides, you are encouraged to consider sending in a gift membership for them. **Thank you in advance for your ongoing interest and support.**

2022-2023
Membership Application/Membership Renewal Form
St. David's Society of Minnesota
www.stdavidsofmn.org www.facebook.com/stdavidsofmn



PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION

Name (for Partner/Family* memberships, please include all names): _____

Address (including city, state & zip): _____

Phone Number(s) for Directory: _____

E-mail Address: _____

___ I do not use or seldom use email. Please send communications by post.

Individual and Partner/Family Membership Categories and Rates

- ___ Individual Annual (July 1, 2022– June 30, 2023): \$25
- ___ Partner/Family * Annual (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023): \$40
- ___ Individual Lifetime (one-time payment): \$225
- ___ Partner/Family* Lifetime (one-time payment): \$300

* Partner/Family Rate covers 2 adults and may include children under the same roof under 18 years of age

Organization Membership Categories and Rates

- ___ Affiliated Organization Member (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023): \$50
- ___ Supporting Organization Member (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023): \$75
- ___ Sustaining Organization Member (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023): \$100

Please make checks out to: **ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MN**

Send membership status questions to: pamresearch@hotmail.com

Mail this form and check to: **Pam Rose, Treasurer and Membership Chair**
8514-13th Ave S.
Bloomington, MN 55425

A REQUEST TO MEMBERS

The St. David's Society of Minnesota newsletter has always been an essential means for Society members to learn about Society news and events, connect with each other and to Wales, and learn about Wales and our Welsh heritage.

We are committed to maintaining this tradition and request your help: If you notice something interesting in the news - about Wales or Welsh activities here in the United States - *or* if you are inspired to write about something you think will interest other Society members, please send the information, news item or article to me (stpaulsally@gmail.com) and we'll include it in an upcoming issue. *Diolch yn fawr iawn!* Thank you, especially to everyone who contributed items for this edition! Your ideas, contributions and support are sincerely appreciated.

Sally Evans, Editor



St. David's Society
c/o Janice Barbee
3425 Wisconsin Ave. N.
Crystal, MN 55427