

St. David's Society News

Ebrill 2019

Vol. 39, Issue 2

King Arthur and More!

Wild Wales Tours and Walkabouts will be sponsoring an event with the St. David's Society of Minnesota in St Paul on Thurs., April 25, 7-9 p.m., called "King Arthur Tales from Wales and More!" Welsh native Gareth Roberts, from Llanberis—map maker, photographer, astronomer and hiking guide—will be the storyteller for the evening. It will be held at Celtic Junction Arts Center, 836 Prior Ave. N., St. Paul 55104. Directions below.



Gareth Roberts, from Llanberis, Wales, will be our speaker on April 25 at Celtic Junction Arts Center.

Gareth's book of night photography, *The Stars in their Tenderness*, was published in 2011. Gareth regularly appears on radio and TV programs in Wales, and he and his family live in the midst of Snowdonia National Park.



Celtic Junction Art Center
836 Prior Ave. N,
St. Paul 55104

Heading east on University Ave., turn left (north) on Prior. Pass Menard's and continue several more blocks. The Art Center is shortly after Hewitt St., on the right. There is a parking lot & handicapped access.

Heading west on University Ave., turn right (north) at Prior. Then follow directions above.



Near the end of their lively St. David's Day program, *The Belles of the North*, a female Cotswold Morris Dance team, invited members of the audience to join them in a dance. Dancers and observers all had an enjoyable time.

Photo credit Janice Barbee.

Come to enjoy fellowship, food & to cast your vote

Join Society members on **Saturday, July 27, 11:30-2:30 p.m., at Rosebrook Park in Roseville** for good food, friendly conversation, and a quick business meeting. Meeting requirements include approval of budget for the coming year and election of some officers. See the current roster of Society leaders on this page.

Where is Rosebrook Park, you ask? If you've been to the picnic before, it's the same place we've met for last several years. It has an air-conditioned building, with inside restrooms, handicapped parking, and other parking as well.

The address is **2590 Fry St., Roseville, 55113**. Fry is parallel to Snelling (but, unfortunately, you can't get directly from one to the other!).

1. Drive north on Fairview (past Rosedale & Co. Rd. B2). Watch for Oakcrest and turn east (right if you were heading north; left if you were heading south). [*Yep, that's the same Oakcrest you took to the St. David's banquet in March...but then you went the opposite direction.*]

Once on Oakcrest heading east, drive nearly to the end of the road & you'll see Fry. Turn left and the park building will soon be on your right. If you get to Sunrise of Roseville (a large, assisted care facility) you've gone too far.

2. If coming via 35W from either direction, take the Co. Rd. C exit and head east. Turn south (right) on Fairview, and continue to Oakcrest. Then turn east (left) and use directions above.

3. If driving north or south on Snelling Ave., turn west on Co. Rd. C (right coming from north; left

coming from south). Turn south (left) on Fairview. Watch for Oakcrest and turn east (left) and use first directions.

The picnic is potluck. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages, plates, and flatware will be provided. The building has a refrigerator (with a freezer) and a range. There is running water in the kitchen.



Current Officers and Board Members

St. David's Society of Minnesota

Those with '19 term will be up for re-election in July.

President – Janice Barbee, 2021

Vice-President – Ilene Alexander, 2021

Secretary – position open

Treasurer – Sally Evans, 2019

Board Members – Ron Adams, 2020

Sally Evans, 2020

David & Marla Gladen, 2020

Hywel Roberts, 2020

Barbara Powell Sherman & Robert Sherman, 2020

Non-elective positions:

Sunshine chairperson – Betty Kinsey

Newsletter editor – Mary Morris Mergenthal

The North American Festival of Wales Comes to Milwaukee in 2019

The Welsh North American Association is pleased to welcome visitors from around the world to the 2019 North American Festival of Wales which will be held in Milwaukee over Labor Day Weekend. The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin is the local host organization. and the Hilton Milwaukee City Center is the headquarters hotel



Calennig—Pat Smith, concertina; Ned Clamp, guitar; Jem Randles, bass guitar; Iolo Jones, fiddle

Festival highlights include talent brought from Wales. Calennig, a quartet rich in the Welsh tradition of dance music and song, will entertain us at the Opening Concert.

The Grand Concert features The Three Welsh Tenors—three distinct and unique voices that complement each other perfectly. Their repertoire includes classics from opera and musicals, famous Welsh songs and hymns, as well as contemporary compositions.

The Three Welsh Tenors—Rhys Meirion, Aled Hall and Aled Wyn Davies



In addition, the North American Welsh Choir will perform at the Grand Concert.

Choir members are drawn from across the United States and Canada and led by Director Mari Morgan. The choir celebrates the 20th anniversary of its debut in 1999.



The North America Welsh Choir, led by Mari Morgan

To showcase the many things there are to see and do in and around Milwaukee, we are



North American
**Festival
of Wales**

the Welsh North American Association

offering four tours—two on Thursday and two on Monday. Tour features include a sampling of close-in sites such as the Mitchell Park Domes and a brewery visit. We will also feature historic Cedarburg, the Wisconsin Automotive Museum, and Frank Lloyd Wright—designed sites, including a full-day tour to Taliesin, FLW’s house, studio and theater.

Other festival highlights include the annual Eisteddfod, with competitions in singing and recital. The Welsh Club of the Milwaukee Area is offering the cash prize for a newly-added category - visual arts. If you are interested in competing, check the NAFOW website for details.

Seminars featuring speakers from Wales and North America are always festival favorites. Topics include Welsh language, music, films, customs and contemporary issues in Wales.

Stop by the Welsh Tea Room for a proper cup of tea and Welsh teacakes, and then visit the marketplace to purchase Welsh souvenirs and meet representatives from the various Welsh organizations around North America.

On Sunday, our own Rev. Joe Corbin will be the guest preacher at the worship service held in the hotel.

Every evening, attendees gather for informal singing of Welsh hymns, old favorites and folk tunes.

The crown jewel of the weekend is Sunday’s 88th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu.

We are proud to claim Milwaukee organist Steven Jensen as our “local treasure,” and his home church, Immanuel Presbyterian Church will host this event.



Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Milwaukee and Steven Jensen



Plans are still under way for this event, so be sure to check the Welsh North American Association website for details and registration information.

www.nafow.org

Well-Read Dragons enjoy Dylan Thomas, discuss *Aberfan* next

All members of the Well-Read Dragons reported considerable enjoyment after reading the Dylan Thomas screenplay, *Rebecca's Daughters*, for the March meeting. The Rebecca Riots were a series of protests against conditions in the rural areas of Wales between 1839 and 1843. They are usually seen as attacks on tollgates on the roads of south and mid Wales. But many "Rebecca" incidents—almost half—were about general economic conditions in the countryside and not about tolls at all.

On April 6, at 11:30 a.m., at Davanni's, south of Cub, on

Lexington (just south of I 694), the group discussed *Aberfan* by **Gaynor Madgwick**, from Y Lolfa, 2016. The author was one of the few elementary school children in Aberfan who survived the sudden slide of coal slag that buried the school. [*114 students and 28 adults died in the Oct. 21, 1966, tragedy.*]

In this book Madgwick, now an adult, interviews some of the other survivors as well as some government officials involved in the Tribunal. Interviews include her own parents, since two of her siblings died.

The next book is *Rice Paper Diaries* by **Francesca Rhydderch**, Seren Books, 2013. Inspired by the author's family history, the book recounts the experiences of Elsa, a Welsh woman in 1930s Hong Kong at the outbreak of World War II in 1939. This book is available from Abe Books, A Libris, Better World Books, and Amazon. This meeting will be at the same location given above on **Sat., June 1**.

Anyone interested is welcome to join members for any meeting (First Saturday of every other month) whether or not you've had chance to read the book.

The Welsh are in tune with the universe!

By *Esmé Evans*

"Astronomers say they have heard the sound of a black hole singing. And what it is singing, and perhaps has been singing for more than two billion years, they say, is B flat—a B flat 57 octaves lower than middle C.

The 'notes' appear as pressure waves roiling and spreading as a result of outbursts from a supermassive black hole through a hot thin gas that fills the Perseus cluster of galaxies, 250 million light-years distant. They are 30,000 light-years across and have a period of oscillation of 10 million years. By comparison, the deepest, lowest notes that humans can hear have a period of about one-twentieth of a second.

"The black hole is playing 'the lowest note in the universe,' said Dr. Andrew Fabian, an X-ray astronomer at the Institute for Astronomy at Cambridge University in England."

Here's the complete article from the New York Times a few years ago: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/16/science/music-of-the-heavens-turns-out-to-sound-a-lot-like-a-b-flat.html>

I was reading Giraldis Cambrensis the other day, and came across this, in his Description of Wales (1188):

CHAPTER XIII OF THEIR SYMPHONIES AND SONGS

In their musical concerts they do not sing in unison like the inhabitants of other countries, but in many different parts; so that in a company of singers, which one very frequently meets with in Wales, you will hear as many different parts and voices as there are performers, who all at length unite, with organic melody, in one consonance and the soft sweetness of B flat.

Cards sent:

Listed are people to whom Society Sunshine Chairperson, Betty Kinsey, reported sending cards since November of 2018. The editor apologizes that six of these names were contributed for the February newsletter, but went missing somewhere between Mary's computer and the printer's.

Krissy Anderson, on the death of her mother, Caroline; Mae Anderson, wishes for healing and sympathy on death of her sister, Audrey; Jack Davis, for recovery and good health; Kay Gavin, on death of her brother; Dave Gladen, for recovery and good health; Jan Kimes, on the death of her husband, Bill; and Dean Lund, on the death of his wife, Janet Thomas Lund.

Any wishing information of trains to Milwaukee for NAFOW (see previous page), should contact Ruth Jones, 612-926-1377, ruthjones7338@gmail.com

Membership Application or Membership Renewal form St. David's Society of Minnesota

www.stdavidsofmn.org www.facebook.com/stdavidsofmn

PLEASE PRINT

Name (for family memberships, please include all names)

Address (city, state, zip) _____

Primary phone number _____

E-Mail Address _____

_____ Please save postage.

_____ Notify me by email when the newsletter is available and I will view it online.

Membership Categories and 2017-'18 rates

Checks payable to ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MN.

_____ Single Annual (July 1-June 30) \$25

Please mail this form & your check to:

_____ Partner/Family Annual (July 1-June 30) \$40

Sally Evans, Treasurer

_____ Lifetime Membership: (one-time payment) \$225

606 7th Street SE, Apt. 1B

Minneapolis, MN 55414

Send questions to: stpaulsally@gmail.com

.....

Calendar

April 6, 11:30 a.m., Well-Read Dragons, Davanni's, 3673 Lexington Ave. N., discussion of *Aberfan*. See details on p. 2.

April 14, 2 p.m., Welsh conversation, 2393 Bourne Ave., St. Paul.
Contact llawryf@yahoo.com

April 25, 7-9 p.m., "**King Arthur Tales From Wales**," by Gareth Roberts, Celtic Junction Arts Center, 836 Prior Ave. N., St. Paul. (Directions on p. 1.) Also Wed., April 24, 7-9 p.m., Winona Co. Historical Society, 160 Junction St., Winona.

May 19, 2 p.m., Welsh conversation, 8844 Stevens Ave., Bloomington.
Contact llawryf@yahoo.com

June 1, 11:30 a.m., Well-Read Dragons, Davanni's, 3673 Lexington Ave. N., discussion of *The Rice Paper Diaries*. See details on p. 2.

June 9, 2 p.m., Welsh conversation, 2393 Bourne Ave., St. Paul.
Contact llawryf@yahoo.com

July 27, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., **picnic and annual meeting**, Rosebrook Park, 2590 Fry St., Roseville. Picnic is potluck, with beverages supplied by the Society. Bring a dish to share. Plates & flatware provided. (Directions on p. 2.)

Aug. 29-Sept. 2, North American Festival of Wales, Milwaukee. You can register online by visiting: <http://www.nafow.org>.

Sept. 22, **Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival**, First Presbyterian Church, Mankato.

St. David's Society of Minnesota
3425 Wisconsin Ave. N.
Crystal, MN 55427

Visit us on the web & Facebook:

f www.stdavidsofmn.org
www.facebook.com/stdavidsofmn

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Photo credit: **Ilene Alexander**

Let's all imagine that the flowers are spring **L**flowers at Powis Castle in Welshpool, even though this photo was taken in the fall. Any flowers look like spring in Minnesota after this long, difficult winter! Note that the county and area in mid-Wales are each spelled Powys, but the castle really is Powis Castle.

Maesmawr Arts Centre, outside Caersws, in the spring. The open field is appropriate for name of the Centre. Maesmawr means, literally, "large plain." Maesmawr is pronounced, roughly, "mice" – "mah-er" (rhymes w. "power" in one syllable). Caersws is a village and community on the River Severn, in the Welsh county of Powys, five miles west of Newtown, and halfway between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury. Pronounced, roughly, "kire – soos."



Photo credit: **Ilene Alexander**