



#### **VIRTUAL GET-TOGETHER**

*When: Saturday, December 11 from*

*11:00-12:00pm*

*Where: Zoom*

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

#### **IN-PERSON GET-TOGETHER**

**(weather-permitting)**

*When: Saturday, December 11 from*

*1:00-2:00pm*

*Where: Newell Park Pavilion,*

*900 Fairview Ave N, St Paul, MN 55104*

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **St. David's Holiday Tea: A Welsh Holiday in Minnesota**

For the 2021 Holiday Tea, we'll celebrate how we "bring Wales" into our winter holidays.

- How do you spend the winter holidays? Do you have any holiday traditions that come from Wales?
- How do you connect with your Welsh heritage during this time? What importance do these activities have for you and your family?
- Do you have family and friends in Wales? How do they spend their winter holidays?

Ryan would love to chat with you about your answers to these questions - **please contact Ryan Evans at [r.michael.evans@gmail.com](mailto:r.michael.evans@gmail.com) or 1703 Blair Ave, St. Paul, MN 55014.** You can send your answers via email or mail if you prefer. He will compile people's stories and memories to share at the Holiday Tea.

**Important:** There is a virtual *and* in-person opportunity to get together for the Holiday Tea. At both of these opportunities, there will be stories and singing - and there will be hot beverages and snacks at the in-person opportunity. At the in-person opportunity, please prepare to social distance and wear masks.

#### **WELL-READ DRAGONS BOOK GROUP**

The group will discuss (by Zoom) *Poetry Selections* by Gillian Clarke – Saturday, December 4, 11:30am – 1:00pm.

Future selections for 2021-22 are:

*Impassioned Clay*, by Stevie Davies – Saturday, February 5

*History of Rain*, by Niall Williams – Saturday, April 2

*Ash on a Young Man's Sleeve*, by Dannie Abse – Saturday, June 4

*Salt*, by Catrin Kean – Saturday, August 6



Join the conversation by Zoom at <http://z.umn.edu/stDavidsGatherings>

Contact Ilene Alexander with questions or more information at [ilene.dawn@gmail.com](mailto:ilene.dawn@gmail.com).

**Check the website for more information and updates: [www.stdavidsofmn.org](http://www.stdavidsofmn.org)**

## REPORT ON PAST EVENTS

### Annual Meeting and Picnic

On Saturday, August 14, from 4:30 - 7:00 pm, 15 members gathered in Wabun Park in Minnehaha Regional Park in Minneapolis. We enjoyed each other's company on a beautiful day. Our new treasurer, Pam Rose, and the treasurer for the Foundation, Ron Adams, presented the financial report for the past two years -- all in the black. The members approved the new board roster: **Janice Barbee**, president, **Pam Rose**, treasurer, **Ron Adams**, **Robert Sherman**, **Barbara Powell Sherman**, **Hywel Roberts**, and **Ryan Evans**. **Doris Strong** is our Sunshine Chairperson, **Ilene Alexander** is our Communications Director, and **Sally Evans** is our Membership Director. At the picnic, an "Idea Committee" was quickly formed to explore ideas for the Society moving forward. **David Richards** and **Gail Manning** hosted our first meeting on August 21, joined by **David Evan Thomas**, **Jean Greenwood**, **Hywel Roberts**, and **Janice Barbee** and they came up with many exciting ideas. There was a lot of energy around partnering with an organization or community in Wales. The committee will be meeting again to follow up on these ideas – more to follow in the next newsletter. Contact Janice at [janicegwb@yahoo.com](mailto:janicegwb@yahoo.com) if you have an idea you'd like to contribute. Thank you to all these people who are giving of their time and energy to the Society!

## UPDATE FROM THE BOARD

We received many membership renewals in August and September, and we now have 119 members – 60 annual members and 59 lifetime members. Thank you to all those who have renewed their membership!

### Results of the Survey

We received 32 completed surveys – thank you! The responses are very helpful to the board in planning events. Based on these results, we are making the newsletter a priority and holding the Holiday Tea both on-line and in-person.

#### 1. Events Members Want to Attend

- #1 Speakers from Wales (tie) - 22 votes
- #2 St. David's Day Banquet - 20 votes
- #3 Play/poetry readings, theater (tie) - 18 votes
- #4 Christmas/Holiday Tea - 17 votes
- #5 Members speaking on Welsh-related topics - 16 votes
- #5 Music events/singing (tie) - 16 votes
- #6 Members sharing their travel experiences – 14 votes
- #7 Social events – 10 votes

#### 2. How members get their news

- Newsletter – 29                      Website - 8
- Emails – 25                              Facebook - 2

#### 3. Preference for getting news

- Newsletter - 30 (#1 - 14)      Website – 17
- Emails - 28 (#1 - 9)              Facebook - 11

#### 4. What should the Society maintain?

- Newsletter – 28      Website - 21
- Emails – 23              Facebook - 6

#### 5. How often would like to get information?

- A few weeks before an event - 15
- Every quarter - 14
- Every month - 10
- Twice a year – 1

#### 6. How do you anticipate attending events?

- In person - 22
- On Zoom - 18
- Only on Zoom - 4
- Only in person - 3
- Not attending - 2
- Depends on transportation – 1

#### 7. Preference for attending Christmas/Holiday Tea 2021

- In person - 18
- On Zoom - 17
- Only if on Zoom - 3
- Only if in person - 3
- Will not be attending - 2
- Depends on transportation - 1

## STORIES FROM MEMBERS

You are invited to share your story! The Board is starting a project to interview members of the Society that has three goals:

- 1) For members to get to know each other better and acknowledge and celebrate their talents, histories, Welsh-ness, and their contributions to the Society,
- 2) To document the history of the Society through members' stories,
- 3) To highlight the benefits of membership in the Society to attract new members.

You can participate in one of two ways:

- You can write down your answers to the questions below and send them back to us. You choose which questions you want to answer, but we hope you'll answer some questions from each section below (at least #1 in the second section).
- Someone can interview you over Zoom. You tell us which questions to ask you in the interview. You will be able to edit the recording as you wish. You can choose to be recorded with another member. The interview can be anywhere from 15 – 45 minutes.

You can choose what to do with your recording or written document – we can put in on the website and/or send it to the MN Historical Society, and/or make a transcript of the recording to send back to you.

Contact Janice at [janicegwb@yahoo.com](mailto:janicegwb@yahoo.com) if you'd like to be interviewed or send your written answers to her at 3425 Wisconsin Ave. N., Crystal, MN 55427.

### Possible Interview Questions:

#### Questions about you and/or your Welsh ancestors

1. Where in Wales did your family emigrate from and why?
2. Where did they immigrate to initially?
3. What do you know about the places from which they immigrated?
4. What places in Wales are special to you?
5. What Welsh traditions, connections, words, stories, etc. were part of your growing up?
6. What is important to you about being of Welsh heritage and/or having a connection to Wales?



#### Questions about your membership in the Society

1. How long have you been a member? Why did you join?
2. Have you taken on any roles in the Society or in other Welsh organizations and/or received any honors? If yes, please explain.
3. What stands out as a great memory or highlight from the years you have been a member?
4. As part of continuing to learn about Wales, what resources do you seek out? Which two or three would you recommend to other members? Include books, music, films, performers, websites, news sources, etc.
5. What opportunities do you see for the future of the Society?

## NEWS FROM WALES

From Wales OnLine, Oct. 14, 2021

### 'MONUMENTAL EFFORT' NEEDED ACROSS CARDIFF TO HIT AMBITIOUS CARBON NEUTRAL TARGET

A monumental effort across the city is needed to get Cardiff to carbon neutral by 2030, council bosses have said. A major push to change public behaviour will take place over the next few years to get people in Cardiff to play their part in cutting carbon emissions. Driving less, eating less meat, and heating homes differently are all seen as critical in hitting the city's ambitious targets to tackle climate change...

The goal is to reduce the city's carbon emissions—currently more than 1.6 million tonnes a year—to net zero. Much of that reduction is planned to come from changing how people travel around the city...

According to the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformation, the top actions individuals can take to reduce their carbon footprint are: living car-free; shifting to electric vehicles or public transport; flying less often; using renewable energy; retrofitting homes with better insulation and replacing gas boilers with heat pumps; and eating less meat...

The climate action plan has several key objectives: reduce energy use, make buildings more energy-efficient, increase the supply of renewable energy, cut carbon emissions from supply chains, waste less and recycle more, plant trees to absorb carbon dioxide, make the city more resilient to cope with heatwaves and floods, and grow more food locally.

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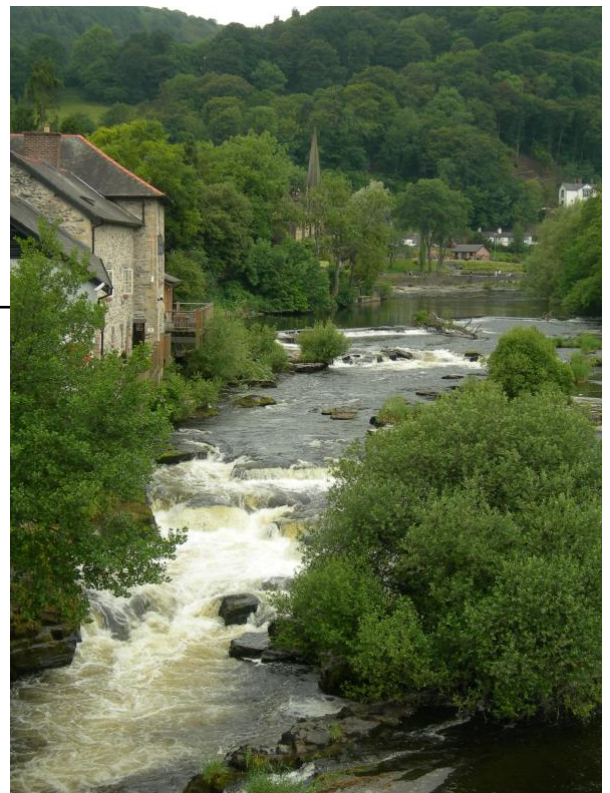
An excerpt from The Guardian, Oct. 18, 2021

### WALES LAUNCHES DRIVE TO KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR HOMELAND

The Welsh government is launching a drive to persuade more young people to remain in their homeland amid growing concerns that the percentage of working-age citizens is dropping to worryingly low levels....On Monday the economy minister, Vaughan Gething, will set out a vision of the country's economic future, with finding ways of retaining and bringing in talent at the centre of it...

Gethings said in an interview prior to the launch: "It's a really significant challenge for us. If we don't have more people of working age in good work, we'll end up with a smaller and smaller tax base...We need to persuade more people to stay in Wales, more people to come back to Wales and more people to make Wales part of their story. We want to make best use of the talent we have as well as attracting people to Wales. People move to Wales to retire but it's a great place to work as well .... It's about having a more optimistic vision about the future – you don't have to get out to get on, there's a really good environment for you in Wales, not just for business or work but a good place to live."

...The government is also concerned about the future of the Welsh language if more young people leave. The Welsh government set a goal of a million Welsh speakers by 2050, but to achieve this, young people will need to find good quality jobs in Wales... They are making the case that "Wales is a more inclusive, open and green nation to live in where workers are treated with respect."



River Dee (Afon Dyfrdwy) at Llangollen






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.'

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20TH/ 7:00PM**  
**CELTIC JUNCTION ARTS CENTER**  
**836 PRIOR AVE N, ST PAUL, MN 55104**  
Tickets available at the door

Or on our website at: [www.outofthemisttheatre.org](http://www.outofthemisttheatre.org)  
\$10 Adults/\$8 Seniors (over 60), \$5 Children (under 16)



The St. David's Society is co-sponsoring "An Evening with John Dingley" at the Celtic Junction Arts Center in St. Paul.  
\$10 Adults/\$8 Seniors (over 60), \$5 children under 16

The event is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, but it may be postponed depending on the situation with COVID. Look for updates on our website or in your email box.

### Learn a Welsh Word or Phrase

- Calennig – a gift given for the new year
- Heb ei fai, heb ei eni  
(He who has no faults has not been born. Or "nobody's perfect.")
- Adfyd a ddwg wybodaeth, a gwybodaeth ddoethineb  
(Adversity brings knowledge and knowledge brings wisdom)

## SPEAKING OF WALES...

### Halloween in Wales

Great Britain has adopted many American Halloween customs: decorating homes, dressing in costumes, carving pumpkins and attending events that scare you. This year in Wales, you can ride in a "cursed coaster" in Zip World's Ffear Fforest or the ghost train on Talylyn Railway, pick pumpkins, be chased by zombies, or go on a ghost hunt in Gwydir Castle. See a listing of 11 Halloween events in Wales this year at <https://www.wales247.co.uk/discover-wales-haunting-history-with-11-halloween-events-this-autumn>

The Welsh also remember the ways this time of year was celebrated in times past that contain the roots of the ways we celebrate today. November 1 is called Calan Gaeaf in Wales (the first day of winter) and Oct. 31 is Nos Calan Gaeaf. The ancient Celts divided the year into two halves, and this was the beginning of the dark half of the year. In pre-Christian times it was celebrated as a time when the veil between this world and the "otherworld" known as "Annwn" was the thinnest, and spirits were thought to walk the earth. Bonfires were built for the villagers to gather around. Children were frightened with stories of Y Hwch Ddu Gwta, the tailless black sow, and a headless woman called Y Ladi Wen, the White Lady, who some said guarded graveyards and crossroads from evil spirits and others said lured travelers to their death. Turnips would be carved out and a candle placed in them to scare away unwelcome guests.

It was also a time to celebrate the harvest. Villages would celebrate together with the tradition of the harvest mare. The last sheafs of grain would be fashioned into the shape of a horse and hung above the hearth. But getting it into the house involved much "horseplay" -- the women would try to throw water at it and the men would try to keep it dry as it was brought into the house. Enjoy whatever customs you keep to celebrate this time of year!

## A REQUEST TO MEMBERS

For close to 10 years, Mary Mergenthal produced a newsletter for Society members that has kept us all informed and connected to each other, to other organizations, and to Wales. Thank you, Mary, for all your dedication and hard work!

I am trying to keep up the tradition with a new version that can easily be produced from my computer, and I could use some help. If you notice something interesting in the news about Wales or want to write up something of interest for other members, please send it to me to put in the next issue. Diolch!

Janice Barbee, president



Dylan Thomas' House



Hay on Wye

St. David's Society  
c/o Janice Barbee  
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