

# Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant

## St. David's Society News

NOVEMBER 2016  
Volume 37, Issue 5



### Christmas Tea...come one & all

- **Sat., Dec. 10, 2–4 p.m.**
- **University Lutheran Church of Hope**  
Where we've met last the few years.  
*Gathering in main floor theatre and lounge.*  
*No steps or elevator needed.*
- **601 13th Ave. SE, Mpls., 55414** (bus lines nearby)
- If you're able, please bring:
  - A treat (sweet or savory);
  - A story or remembrance of your Welsh connection.
- **Welsh items for sale, too!**

The Christmas Tea will include songs and stories, including harp music by Esmé Evans, keyboard carols from Society members, a cappella treats and traditional carols. You are an important part of the celebration. Please bring a story to share with the group about Wales or your Welsh connection. It can be something poignant, humorous, silly, mischievous, or somber.

Here's an example from Judith Evans Warner:

*I retired on August 1 at the age of 72 and before week's end I was flying into Paris to pick up my grandson, Morgan, for a grand tour of London, north Wales and Ireland. They've created an activity center for bike races, zip lines and other scary things for teens at the Llechwedd Slate mines in Blaenau Ffestiniog. I had to do the things he wanted to do, so they harnessed us up, drove us to the top of a steep hill over the mines, linked us to a zip line, and down we flew. When I got off I said, "Well, that's off my list and I'll never do that again."*

## Memories of Aberfan



Aberfan memorial, see other side of page for story.

*Photos taken May, 1995, by Mary Mergenthal.*



### Aberfan Disaster

South Wales October 21, 1966

*The years have passed, black dust has settled,  
White arches stand out stark against the blue sky  
Their shape bespeaks of rainbows bringing hope  
In contrast to the cold white colour of death.*

*Innocent children shrouded in a cloak of merciless slag  
Died in hope of a glorious resurrection  
In robes of white, when the Trumpet sounds.*

The late Heather Owen

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## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

**Sun., Nov. 13, 2 p.m., Welsh language lessons** — home of Dawn Bradshaw, 8844 Stevens Ave. S., Bloomington, 55420.  
Please address questions about the group to Laurel at llawryf@yahoo.com or via voice or text message, 952-607-8670. ALL LEVELS WELCOME!

**Sun., Nov. 20, 4–6 p.m., Happy Hour** — Merlins Rest Pub, 36th & Lake St. For info, please contact: ilene.dawn@gmail.com ALL WELCOME!

**Sat., Dec. 3, 11:30 a.m., Well-Read Dragons** [Society book club] — Party Room at Davanni's in Arden Hills, 3673 N. Lexington, south of I-694 and Cub. Please plan to eat lunch there. *The Bank Manager and the Holy Grail* by Byron Rogers. ALL WELCOME!

**Sat., Dec. 10, 2–4 p.m., Christmas Tea**, University Lutheran Church of Christ at the north edge of Dinkytown, 601 13th Ave. S  
Large parking lot behind church. Enter by that door, please. Bus routes nearby. For more info, see other side of this sheet. ALL WELCOME!

**Sun., Dec. 11, 2 p.m., Sgwrs Cymraeg [Welsh language conversation]** — home of Mary Mergenthal, 2393 Bourne Ave., St. Paul, 55108.  
Please address questions about the group to Laurel at llawryf@yahoo.com or via voice or text message, 952-607-8670. ALL LEVELS WELCOME!

**Aug. 31–Sept. 3, NAFOW, North American Festival of Wales 2017** — Rochester, N.Y. Sponsored by the Welsh North American Ass'n. [WNAA]. Hosted by the Welsh Society of the Southern Tier. Headquarters hotel: The Hyatt Regency Rochester. It is NOT too early to make your hotel reservation. The accommodation link can be found by visiting WNAA website: <http://www.nafow.org>

### *Rydyn ni'n cofio...We remember*

Aberfan is a former South Wales coal mining village about four miles south of Merthyr Tydfil. The town holds a vital place in the memory of the people of Wales and all Welsh people near and far because of the disaster there on October 21, 1966. This was the catastrophic collapse of a colliery spoil tip that killed 116 children and 28 adults. The collapse was caused by the build-up of water in the accumulated rock and shale tip, which suddenly slid downhill in the form of slurry.

More than 1.4 million cubic feet (40,000 cu. metres) of debris covered a section of the village in minutes. The classrooms at Pantglas Junior School were immediately inundated; young children and teachers died from impact or suffocation. Many noted the poignancy of the situation: if the disaster had struck a few minutes earlier, the children would not have been in their classrooms, and if it had struck a few hours later, they would have left for the half-term holiday.

The official inquiry blamed the National Coal Board for extreme negligence, and its chairman, Lord Roberts, for making misleading statements. Parliament passed new legislation regarding public safety in relation to mines and quarries. A few weeks ago in Wales, during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary remembrance, even more negligence on the part of the Coal Board came to light.

Photo from BBC Wales News Online.

