

Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant **St. David's Society News**



OCTOBER 2014

Volume 36, Issue 5

Wow, What a Year!

It's time for the members, family and friends of the St. David's Society of Minnesota to gather and celebrate all the successful programs and events in 2014.

Saturday, November 8, 2014, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.,
at Celtic Junction (we're invading an Irish venue!)
836 Prior Avenue North, St. Paul, MN 55104.

East to West it's between Snelling Avenue and Hwy 280. North to South it's between Energy Park Drive and University Avenue. Parking lot on north side of building and plenty of on-street parking. Handicapped-accessible door at side-walk level.

Here are just some of the programs and events we enjoyed this past year:

- St. David's Day Luncheon and Program at the Ramada Plaza Hotel;
- Well-Read Dragon's Book Group is going strong;
- Informal Pub Nights at Merlin's Rest in south Minneapolis;
- A special visit with Tecwyn Vaughan Jones from Blaenau Ffestiniog, North Wales;
- Welsh readings and stories at Como Park;
- World War I Centenary Project;
- Betty Kinsey's Sunshine Program;
- Welsh movies at Como Park—(*Hedd Wyn*, nominated for an academy award for best foreign language film);
- The Society's Archival Project in collaboration with the Minnesota History Society;
- Spring Gymanfa at Westminster Presbyterian Church, May 4;

- And, last but definitely not least...
The BIGGEST and BEST EVER North American Festival of Wales, with co-leaders, Kay Gavin and Mary Mergenthal and more than 25 planning team members and more than 600 participants.

Refreshments Served:

Snacks, Appetizers and Beverages;

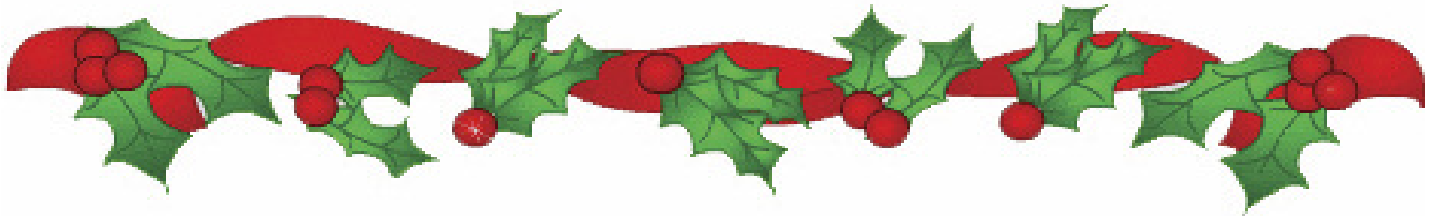
Slide show of past events;

Special program honoring those who planned and participated in the North American Festival of Wales;

Music and singing.

To help you get a start on your Christmas shopping, we'll have tables set up with stocking stuffers and special unique Welsh gifts for your family and friends. Some items include:

CD's, cute yellow polka dot aprons with "Paned" ("cuppa" tea) embroidered on the bib;
Society tote bags;
Society history books, polo shirts embroidered with the Society emblem, books;
a Welsh dragon double bed duvet,
magnets "Proudly Welsh;"
Tea Pot centerpieces used at the NAFOW tea room and much, much more.



Christmas Tea December 13 at University Lutheran Church of Hope

Mark your December calendar for our traditional Christmas Tea. **It will be held again at University Lutheran Church of Hope at 601 13th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, 55414** (very near Dinkeytown and U of M campus) **on Saturday, December 13, 2:00 p.m.**

While the church does have two elevators, some of our members found the distance to the basement eating area difficult. Therefore, this year, after the program in the Chapel, we'll move just a short distance to the Lounge for treats/visiting.

The program will begin at 2:00 p.m. The format will be that of a *Noson Lawen*, "merry evening," though in our case, it will be more of a *Prynhawn Lawen*, "merry afternoon."

This translates as a happy variety show. If possible, please think of a poem, a song, a Christmas joke to share. Please let Mary Mergenthal know in advance what you plan to do, so the program can be ordered well and any assistance you might need can be arranged. (651) 644-1650 or mary.mergenthal@gmail.com.

Of course, there will be carols too—Welsh ones and ones more familiar.

Please bring sweet or savory treats for the Te Bach.

There is a large parking lot to the north of the church building. Only that door will be unlocked.

How to get to University Lutheran Church of Hope:

BY BUS:

The MTC #3 bus runs north-south on 15th Ave. Get off at 6th or 7th St. and walk 2 blocks west.

Buses #2 and #6 run eastbound on University Ave. and westbound along 4th St. Get off at 13th Ave. and walk 2-3 blocks north.

BY CAR:

From the North

Take I-35W South from I-694. Take the exit at 4th St. SE. At the first light, turn right, take an immediate right on 8th Avenue. Proceed 4 blocks to 8th Street, turn right again, crossing over I-35W. Proceed to 12th Ave., turn right. Now, turn left on 7th Street and look for the church on your right.

From the East

Take I-94 west to the Huron Blvd. exit. Follow Huron Blvd. to University Ave.; turn left. You will be moved over to the right and onto the one-way 4th S., passing the big sports arenas. When you get to 15th Ave. SE, turn right. Go 2 blocks to 6th St.; turn left. Go 2 blocks and see the church on the right.

From the South

Take I-35W northbound. Follow it on across the Mississippi River bridge. Take the first exit, University Ave. Turn right on University Ave. Make an immediate turn left on 10th Ave. SE. Proceed north past 4th, 5th, & 6th Streets; turn right on 7th St. You will see the church on your right after a short 2 ½ blocks.

From the West

Take I-394 eastward into the city. Take the exit for eastbound I-94. Pass through the tunnel and favor the left lanes, as you'll take the left exit for I-35W about a mile after you leave the tunnel. Take I-35W northbound. Follow it on across the Mississippi River bridge. Take the first exit, University Ave.. Turn right on University Ave.. Make an immediate turn left on 10th Ave. SE. Proceed north past 4th, 5th, & 6th Streets; turn right on 7th St.. You will see the church and parking lot on your right after a short 2 ½ blocks.





Photo by Beth Landmesser

One more remembrance of the 83RD National Gymanfa Ganu at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, as part of 2014 North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW).

CDs of the 83rd National Gymanfa Ganu are ready.

Order yours today + order a few more for Christmas gifts.

Send this form (or a copy of it) with payment to Mary Mergenthal.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone or e-mail (for notification or questions only) _____

Number of CDs desired _____ x \$15.00 = _____

Checks payable to St. David's Society of Minnesota, please. NO CREDIT CARDS, SORRY.

Send this form & payment to Mary Mergenthal, 2393 Bourne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108-1618

Our visit to the Minnesota History Center

Members who were able to visit the History Center on Sept. 20 were pleased to see the documents and ephemera of the St. David's Society of Minnesota safely preserved and available for researchers or members to use on the premises, or copy there for outside research.

Jenny McElroy, MnHS reference librarian, took us around and showed us how to proceed should we wish to return for personal or Society research.

Several of our members told of their work with MNHS for their own genealogical research. The tales ranged from the predictable "finding one's roots" search, to the poignant, personal search of one for her own mother.

News of the Well-Read Dragons

By Mary Mergenthal

Dai Country by Alun Richards

The author was raised by his grandmother. The autobiography section is full of fascinating references to *Mamgu* [grandmother in South Wales]. "She had the penny and the bun, as well as the privilege of complaint,



Art by Dan Proud.

which was one of her greatest and most eloquent joys. Like the Greeks, the Welsh enjoy their woes and they nourish them in abundance, often preferring remembering to living."

Richards again: "The surface appearance of all our lives (his uncle also lived there sporadically) was dominated by the fierce Nonconformist Spirit of a little woman who would not compromise." Continuing on his grandmother's consideration of alcohol as anathema, "The attitude was not uncommon amongst older people in our chapel who had witnessed the rapid industrialization of the valleys and the consequent debasing of the rural life it replaced.

At the heart of Dai Country—the central valleys of 20th-century South Wales from the 1930s to the 1970s—was the metropolis of Pontypridd, and it is from this vantage point in time and space that Alun Richards casts his baleful eye on the personal relationships and social ambitions of the inhabitants of the area.

In this compendium volume, the best of his short stories, as funny and savage as they are scathing and compassionate, are combined with his entrancing autobiographical memoir "Days of Absence" to take us to the core of those incomparable valleys, with their lived experience stripped bare for once of their usual cloak of cliché and sentiment.

Alun Richards was born in Pontypridd in 1929. From the 1960s he was a successful full-time writer and published novels and collections of short stories as well as plays for stage and radio, original screenplays and adaptations for television. He died in 2004.

The book was published posthumously in 2009, by Parthian, Library of Wales.

The 2014–'15 list of books for the Well-Read Dragons is on the facing page. All readers are welcome. This list will give readers more time to find books in libraries, order them on-line or from bookstores, or to arrange to share copies with other readers.

Prefer to receive the newsletter online?

Notify Kay Gavin at kaywgavin@hotmail.com.

**She will notify you when the next issue is available on the Society's web page.
Help the Society save printing & mailing costs.**

**If you need a large-print version of the newsletter,
please call Mary Mergenthal, (651) 644-1650.**

Well-Read Dragons plan year's reading...all welcome

Check your local library system first, then your local independent bookstore. Most books are available at low cost on Abebooks or Amazon.com, but plan ahead to allow for shipping time.

Sat., Dec. 6, 11:30 a.m. - Davanni's in Arden Hills,
3673 N. Lexington, near Cub and Caribou Coffee.
Meet in enclosed meeting space, to the left of entrance.

***Beyond the Pampas: In Search of Patagonia* by Imogen Rhia Herrad** — An entertaining and unusual account of a journey to the ends of the earth in search of a dream. Imogen Herrad sets off in search of the descendents of the 19th c. Welsh settlers in Patagonia, in the deep south of Argentina, and discovers that Welsh-speaking communities, proud of their heritage, still exist there today. She also discovers First Nation people who, as in North America, have been ignored and mistreated.

Sat., Feb. 7, 11:30 a.m. - also at Davanni's in Arden Hills.

***David Jones in the Great War* by Thomas Dilworth**
The great modernist artist and poet David Jones grew up in Brockley, London. He finished art school in the summer of 1913, ready to pursue a career as an artist. But then Britain declared war on Germany and Jones joined the army. He was sent to France in 1915. He fought in and survived the Somme, Ypres and Passchendaele, experiencing the war of the common soldier—the camaraderie, the humor, the grief, and above all, the senseless, mechanized brutality—all under the stress of years of relentless artillery fire. Now, thanks to Dilworth's painstaking research, including scores of personal interviews, Jones's story can be told in detail. Photos and previously unpublished drawings by Jones bring the story to life as documentary realism.

Sat., Apr. 4, 11:30 a.m. lunch and visiting and lively discussion - also at Davanni's in Arden Hills (see above).

***Faith, Hope & Love* by Llwyd Owen**, forward by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury.
Alun Brady was a bit of a Mummy's boy, stuck at home at 30 in the suburbs. When grandfather Paddy makes his deathbed in their spare room, he brings fresh air into Al's cushy life and makes him face the hardest decision of his life. Later, just out of prison, Al's world seems almost empty.

"Peppered with contemporary references, the intricately-woven narrative is alive with the pitch perfect voices of a host of characters...an affecting and haunting tale."

Sat., June 6, 11:30 a.m. - Davanni's in Arden Hills.

***American Interior* by Gruff Rhys** In 1792, John Evans, a 22-year-old farmhand from Snowdonia, Wales, traveled to America to discover whether there was indeed, as widely believed, a tribe of Welsh-speaking native Americans still walking the great plains.

In 2012, Gruff Rhys set out on an "investigative concert tour" in the footsteps of John Evans, with concerts in New Orleans, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, St. Louis, North Dakota, and more.

American Interior is the story of these journeys. It is also an exploration of how wild fantasies interact with hard history and how myth-making can inspire humans to partake in crazy, vain pursuits of glory, including war, exploration, and the creative arts.

Sat., Aug. 1, 11:30 a.m. - Davanni's in Arden Hills.

A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR THE GROUP: TWO TITLES WRITTEN
DECADES APART IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF WALES.

***The Awakening* by Kate Roberts** A new translation of this classic novel by the major author of 20th c. Welsh literature. Set in a tight-knit Welsh-speaking community at a time when separation, adultery and divorce carried huge social stigma. *The Awakening* is a novel full of insight into human character and changing social mores.

***Awakening* by Stevie Davies** Wiltshire: 1860: One year after Darwin's explosive publication of *The Origin of Species*, sisters Anna and Beatrice Pentecost awaken to a world shaken by science, radicalism and the stirrings of feminist rebellion; a world of charismatic religious movements, Spiritualist séances, bitter loss and medical trauma. Historical figures of the Victorian epoch wander through the backdrop of this intriguing novel.

Sat., Oct 3, 11:30 a.m. *The Thoughts and Happenings of Wilfred Price, Purveyor of Superior Funerals* by Wendy Jones. *More later on this title.*

Questions? Concerns about finding the location?
David Conradi-Jones, 651-639-1688, home;
612-247-1107, cell.

Not a Well-Read Dragons choice, but just out...helpful for any searching family history.

THE SURNAMES OF WALES. Updated and Expanded Edition, by John and Sheila Rowlands. Here is a link to the full description of the Rowlands' new book: <http://www.genealogical.com/products/The%20Surnames%20of%20Wales%20%20Updated%20and%20Expanded/5033.html>

Dragon News

News of Society members & friends



SUNSHINE REPORT: Betty Kinsey, the Society Sunshine chairwoman, reports sending a get well card to Vern Drilling after his fall; a sympathy card to David Cargo after his wife, Judie Cilcain, died; and a sympathy card to Karen Titrud, whose brother in North Carolina died.

Please let Betty know when you know of a member who is ill or has suffered a loss, or is rejoicing over a birth, marriage or something else. You can reach her at (612) 871-7587.

Membership News

Address Changes:

John and Adele Davis
6501 Woodlake Dr., #1003
Richfield, MN 55423

Byron L. John
6670 Northwood Ln, Apt. 215
St. Cloud, MN 56303-9511

Kristin Johnson
5125 W. 105th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55437-2834

Mary Ellen Thomas
715 Central Ave. N., #302
Faribault, MN 55021

IN MEMORIAM: Judie Cilcain

Just shy of six months since the diagnosis and after a hard struggle with pancreatic cancer, Judie Cilcain died Sept. 21, 2014, attended by David S. Cargo, her husband, and Kashia Curney, her daughter.



A Requiem Eucharist, funeral and memorial potluck was held Sept. 28 at the Church of Saint Francis. You may make memorial donations to two causes to which Judie made substantial donations of her own time and money.

Checks can be written to either group and sent to the addresses below. Also, donations can be made through their web sites. Feline Rescue; Attn: Judie Cilcain Memorial Donations; 593 Fairview Ave. N.; St. Paul, MN 55104; feline rescue.org

Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County, Attn: Judie Cilcain Memorial Donations, 1660 Laurel Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104
www.FriendsoftheParks.org

Please...when attending St. David's Society events, eschew cologne, aftershave, etc., to be respectful of members with fragrance allergies and to allow their attendance/enjoyment.

**PLEASE HELP US MAKE ALL SOCIETY
EVENTS FRAGRANCE-FREE.**

Diolch yn fawr.



North American
**Festival
of Wales
Gŵyl
Gymru**
Gogledd America

NAFOW 2015 — Columbus, Ohio

September 3–6, 2015

featuring the 84th Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu.

Sponsored by the Welsh North American Association.

Hosted by the Welsh Society of Central Ohio.

Calan...lively Welsh folk music.

Côr Penrhyn Bethesda...formed in 1893.

Directed by Owain Arwel Davies.

**John Ogwen, one of Wales' leading actors,
and Welsh soprano Gwawr Edwards.**

For further details, visit **www.nafow.org**.

Festival hotel: The Hyatt Regency Columbus, featuring the same room rate as enjoyed in Minneapolis—\$119+tax per night: single/double/triple/quad.

Reserve Festival rooms online at www.nafow.org

(click "NAFOW Accomodations") or call 1-888-421-1442.

NAFOW reservation code: "North American Festival of Wales 2015."

OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

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pamrosearch@hotmail.com

Treasurer Ron Adams, 952.237.0506, '15
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Archivist — Ilene Alexander, 612.237.6121

Cards & Remembrances — Betty Kinsey, 612.871.7587

Past-President — Pam Rose

Membership Chairperson — Kay Gavin, 651.484.1778

Newsletter Editor — Mary Mergenthal

Officers of St. David's Foundation —

Don Anderson (pres.), 612.789.8923;

Mae Anderson, Betty Kinsey

If you have an article to contribute
for consideration for this newsletter:

MAIL COPY TO: Mary Mergenthal
2393 Bourne Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108-1618

OR E-MAIL TO: mary.mergenthal@gmail.com

**Please consider a tax-deductible
contribution to the
St. David's Society
or
the St. David's Foundation.**

**Gifts can remember
or honor a Welsh friend or relative.**

**You are also encouraged to remember the
St. David's Society or Foundation in your will.**

**For information, please contact
Don Anderson, (612) 789-8923, or
Ron Adams, (952) 237-0506.**

Please check your mailing label.

Memberships were due July 1, 2014.

St. David's Society of Minnesota MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____
If family membership, include all names to be listed.

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Membership category: Single Annual (\$15) _____; Couple/Family Annual (\$22) _____
Supporting Annual (\$50) _____; Life (\$175) _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (Make check payable to St. David's Society of Minnesota, note "membership")

Mail to: Kay Gavin
2737 Aglen St.
Roseville, MN 55113-2046
or contact Kay at: kaywgavin@hotmail.com

Membership year is July 1–June 30.
You may pay for multiple years in advance.
Diolch yn fawr.

St. David's Society of Minnesota
2737 Aglen St.
Roseville, MN 55113-2046

Visit us on the web & Facebook:
www.stdavidsofmn.org
www.facebook.com/stdavidsofmn

Return Service Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Coming Events:



HYDREF
OCTOBER

COMING EVENTS

Reviewing a happy year...and thanks for your part in it — Saturday, November 8, 2:00–4:00 p.m., Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave., St. Paul, 55104. (in the Midway area of St. Paul...just north of Menards, which is on University Ave. and Prior Ave.) Menards is on west side of Prior; Celtic Junction is on the east side, few blocks on.

Christmas Tea — Saturday, December 13, 2:00 p.m. — University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, 55414. Plenty of parking...program and treats on same floor. Contact Mary Mergenthal with a song/poem/story/joke related to Christmas that you could share for our Prynghawn Lawen. Contact information on page 2.