

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

76th Minnesota Gymanfa set for September 25

The 2011 Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu will be held on Sun., Sept. 25, at 1:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, Mankato. The visiting conductor will be Dr. Patricia Bowers Schultz, Kansas City, Kansas. A native of Gomer, Ohio, she has earned music degrees from Miami University (Ohio), the Conservatory of Music in Kansas City, and the University of Illinois. For many years prior to her retirement she was on the Department of Music Faculty of Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Missouri. She has conducted a number of Gymanfoedd in Wisconsin, Nebraska, Minnesota, Missouri, and Ohio. She conducted the Minnesota Gymanfa in September, 2005.

The Performing Choir for the 2011 Minnesota Gymanfa will be the Wayzata Women's Chorus, Wayzata, Minn. This summer they appeared and participated in the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, North Wales. They will present songs between the first and second groups of hymns and between the third and fourth groups of hymns at the Gymanfa.

The organist for the 2011 Gymanfa will be Karen Wojahn, Windom, and the pianist will be Ryan Jones, St. Peter.

In recent years the MGGA has established a mailing list of over 80 area churches which have been notified about the plans for the Hymn Festival. As a result of the expanded publicity, attendance at the annual event has grown to exceed 300—not only filling the downstairs of the church but using part of the balcony for the congregation.

The day's schedule for this 76th annual event will conclude with a Te Bach in the lower level of the church featuring Welsh Cakes (from Gustavus Adolphus College), bars, tea, coffee, much visiting and renewed acquaintances with friends and relatives. The earlier start for the Gymanfa (1:30 p.m.), has given participants more time for the Te Bach.

Come One! Come All! To Sing To The Lord!

AUGUST 2011

Volume 33, Issue 4



RIDE IN STYLE TO THE GYMANFA

Society rents bus to take Twin Cities members to Mankato September 25

Once again, the St. David's Society of Minnesota is renting a bus (with a restroom) to take its members and friends to the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu (see col. 1). That fine event is sponsored annually by the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu Ass'n, our sister organization in the state.

Full details are on the registration flier on page 5. Should you want to ride but are unable to get to the starting point (Bloomington Target Store, I-494 and Penn Ave. S.), please call Pam Rose. She will try to arrange a ride for you to and from the pick-up/drop-off spot. Her # is (952) 854-4743.

The bus ride is an excellent time to visit with other members and friends; and to warm up your singing voice or save it, as you choose. Hopefully, we will not also be viewing flood waters as we did last year. But, should that happen again, we'll have an accomplished driver with radio connections advising him where to go for safe, quick entry into Mankato.

Check the flier right now.

It's on page 5.

**Visit us on the web:
www.stdavids.org**

Spend Columbus Day weekend in Wymore, Nebraska. Enjoy Welsh activities of all sorts.

Plans for the 4th Welsh Heritage Festival, October 7–10, in Wymore, Nebraska, are now complete, and we are happy to say that it promises to be the best yet! You are cordially invited to attend—we think you will be amazed!

Entertainers for the Saturday night concert will be harpist Heidi Beran of Lincoln and flautist, piper, multi-instrumentalist and singer John Good of Phoenix, Ariz.,. Both will perform following the banquet in a cabaret-style setting. Heidi and John Good will perform the ancient Welsh art of penillion, in which a singer creates a counterpoint to a familiar Welsh air played on the harp. Heidi also has a good repertoire of Welsh pieces, with which she will entertain us. The banquet will feature the Board of Directors' favorite dessert, sticky toffee pudding, made from Martha Davies' own recipe, so it will be authentic and delicious.

John Good will play for Welsh Folk Dancing during the day on Saturday. The Wymore Community Center, next door to the Welsh Centre, will be the venue for dancing, for lunches on Saturday and Sunday, and for historic crafts booths and an expanded Ames British Foods store.

The Welsh Centre will feature the hymn sing, Welsh films, and a renewed gift shop for your shopping pleasure. Martha will also be conducting a workshop on Welsh family history research. We have a new exhibit of David Beynon's 19th century cabinetmaker's tools, given to us by his grandson, also named David Beynon.

The Little Welsh Schoolhouse on the Prairie has a new cedar shingle roof and a fresh ceiling, and will be the site of our Welsh Language lesson Monday, as well as reminiscences of those who have memories of rural schools. Note also that it sports a new plaque from the Country School Association of America, attesting to its authenticity!

The Noson Lawen or Merry Evening, will return on Sunday evening. All are invited to perform whatever musical, poetic, dramatic, or what-have-you talent they can. Start practicing now! (And let us know if you need an accompanist.)

We are also looking for thespians to portray their ancestors buried in Bethel Welsh Cemetery. Descendants of Welsh pioneers from other places may perform as "visiting spirits" who drop in from wherever they are buried to tell us their life stories. We have ordered fair weather and balmy temperatures from the weatherman, so we can see the spirits in their usual haunts, the cemetery, but if he fails to cooperate we will repair to the Presbyterian Church as we did last time.

A Sunday afternoon Gymanfa Ganu at the Wymore Presbyterian Church will be the climax of the weekend. Thanks to Board member Pat Brownawell, Welsh words in phonetic form will be projected so that we all can sing in our ancestral language—a very powerful experience! The conductor will be Dr. Patricia Schultz from Kansas City, and organist will be John Schaefer, organist at Grace Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City. We are truly honored to have these marvelous musicians.

For the first time, all evening events will occur in the Conference Center of the Holiday Inn Express, Beatrice, to avoid having to drive back to the Beatrice hotel in the dark after an evening of entertainment. The hotel will unfortunately be more expensive, but the quality of the accommodations, we feel, justify the difference. The former hotel was unable to assure us an adequate number of nonsmoking rooms, and had no conference facility. For reservations call Holiday Inn Express at (402) 228-7000, and ask for the Welsh Festival Rate of \$89.95.

The reservation page will soon be up on our website, www.WelshHeritage.org. You will need to be registered to attend the Festival! If you have never attended one of our Festivals, you will be amazed to see what has been accomplished in the seven years the Welsh Centre has existed. If you have been to Wymore you know how much fun we have! So everyone, register and attend!

*Berwyn Jones, President
Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project*

The flier & registration form for Great Plains Welsh Heritage Festival in Wymore, Neb., is available on their web page:

www.welshheritage.org

A few words from Pam Rose, our new president

As the new president, I would like to introduce myself. I am the older daughter of long-time Society members, Jack and Adele Davis. Last year, I served as a director on the board and helped in planning and celebrating our 100th anniversary as a Society.

So as we begin our second century, it seems that we need to look for ways to build our Society's membership base in order to sustain our existence for another hundred years. We had our first board meeting of the new fiscal year on August 9. There were many creative ideas discussed as potential ways to continue to improve the experience of our current members and to attract new members. You can expect to be asked to complete a survey to determine the things you enjoy doing, gather suggestions for new activities and ideas to attract your children and grandchildren to participate.

I will be attending the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) in Cleveland in just a few weeks. I'm looking forward to attending the Affiliated Welsh Organizations (AWOs) meeting on Friday morning. It will be interesting to hear what other organizations like ours are doing, what issues they may be encountering and how they are functioning and thriving. These groups will be from all over our nation and Canada. What a great place to get new ideas!

We have set dates for our main Society events for the next year, so update your calendars.

- **Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011 –**
Christmas Tea at 2:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, Mar. 3, 2012 –**
St. David's Day Banquet
- **Sunday, Apr. 29, 2012 –**
Spring Gymanfa Ganu
- **Saturday, Jul. 21, 2012 –**
Annual meeting and picnic

The board wanted to get the dates set first and then determine event details and communicate them later. If anyone has suggestions about a location (or an "in") for any of these events, please let me or any board member know.

I wish to thank all of the brave souls that attended our Annual meeting and picnic on July 16. It was a hot and sticky afternoon, but we had good food and company.

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or ideas.

Respectfully yours,
Pam Rose,
email: pamrosearch@hotmail.com

News of the Well-Read Dragons

By Mary Morris Mergenthal

The Well-Read Dragons had an interesting meeting Aug. 6 at the Davanni's Restaurant in Roseville.

We discussed *History on our Side: Wales and the 1984-'85 Miners' Strike* by Hywel Francis.

The author was an active participant in the strike. In this book, he examines the way in which the struggles for jobs and communities broadened into a powerful national movement in Wales, involving trade unions, political parties, churches, and the Welsh Language Society.

This book helps the reader understand why the South Wales valleys were the strongest and most loyal of all the British coalfields.

We were perhaps most intrigued by the personal experiences of some book club members with unions, especially as young employees.



Schedule for coming year is on following page.

Please...when attending St. David's Society events, eschew cologne, after-shave, 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.

Check your mailing label, please.

Is your membership payment overdue?

**We hope you won't miss the coming
issues of the newsletter.**

**Use the form on page 7
to renew TODAY.**

Well-Read Dragons' schedule for 2011-'12

At least the next two meetings (Oct. 1 and Dec . 3) will be held at Davanni's restaurant in Roseville. It is located on Perimeter Dr., north of Hwy. 36 between Cleveland and Fairview. They ask that everyone order something from their menu, which includes pizza, pasta, sandwiches and salads.

Perimeter Drive is north of (behind) Red Lobster and The Good Earth. The restaurant La Casita is next to Davanni's. We have plenty of room to spread out books, bags and purses. The room is reserved for us 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

The restaurant is handicapped accessible.

Here's the reading list for the coming year. We welcome new members or guests.

October 1 — *Faded Coat of Blue* by Owen Parry.

The author brings to life the story of Abel Jones, a Welsh immigrant and Union Army enlist. Jones finds himself mysteriously chosen as confidential agent to Gen. George McClellan, the "savior of the Union." It's an easy read and is available in a number of Twin Cities' libraries. This is a good book on which to join the varied and interesting book group.

December 3 — *Sixpence House: Lost in a Town of Books* by Paul Collins.

This novel is set in Hay-on-Wye. Paul Collins and his family abandoned the hills of San Francisco to move to the Welsh village of Hay-on-Wye, the "Town of Books" that boasts 1,500 inhabitants—and 40 bookstores. If you've been to Hay-on-Wye, the book will renew good memories. If you've only wished to go, you may start saving for your airline ticket to check out this village. Check mnlink.org to find a copy through interlibrary loan.

February 4 — *Written in Blood: Crime Fiction with a Twist*, various authors.

This book is available at AbeBooks.com, gwales.com, and Amazon.co.uk. Readers are likely to have better luck searching by the ISBN number: 9781906784010 (1906784019).

April 7 — *The Children of First Man* by James Alexander Thom.

Thom's book is a highly imaginative novel that combines an old legend with historical fact to create an epic tale of America starting some 300 years before Columbus arrived. Thom uses a long-discussed legend of Welshmen who traveled to the far-off land of Iarghal (the North American continent) during the 12th century A.D.

Here, despite overwhelming odds, Welsh chieftain Madoc builds a society by interbreeding his people with the local native tribes. The book then skips ahead in 70- to 80-year increments, describing the eventual assimilation and northern migration of the tribal descendants, recognizable as Welsh by their facial features and blond hair.

All this is bookended by researcher George Catlin, a portrait artist who befriends the tribe, now called the Mandans, in the mid-19th century. There are epic battles among the Welsh and the Native Americans and between the tribes themselves, as well as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and diseases.

Thom's use of the language is masterful, with early chapters featuring Madoc by using flowery, age-of-chivalry prose; later, the tales of the evolving Native American tribes are told in simple, almost childlike sentences that reflect their primitive but proud nature. Finally, the appearance of later explorers like DeSoto and Lewis and Clark is done in traditional style.

A terrifically entertaining novel, particularly in dealing with the advance of white society from the Native American viewpoint.

Available in a number of Twin Cities bookstores, plus several available at various libraries using mnlink.org.

Thom's book is a highly imaginative novel that combines an old legend with historical fact.

Currently AbeBooks has the most about Prince Madoc, regardless of the position taken on this debate.

June 2— *Calvinists Incorporated: Welsh Immigrants on Ohio's Industrial Frontier* by Anne Kelly Knowles. Setting the southern Ohio Welsh in the context of Welsh immigration as a whole from 1795 to 1850, Knowles explores how the strict Calvinists responded to the moral dilemma posed by leaving their native land and experiencing economic success in the U.S. Many Minnesota Welsh pioneers came to the Mankato/Lake Crystal area as a result of second-migration from Ohio.

Four copies are available at mnlink.org through interlibrary loan.

August 4 — *A Man's Estate* by Emyr Humphreys.

Hannah Ellis is 35, unmarried, and still living at Y Glyn, the family farm in Wales where she has been brought up by her mother and step-father—a forbidding man with a powerful hold on the neighborhood.

Loving her country yet resenting the egotism of her family, she yearns for the return of her long-banished brother Philip, believing that he will rescue her from this bleak existence.

Little does Hannah realize that Philip's arrival is imminent and will herald enormous changes as he unwittingly ignites the passions and strengths of an unusually intertwined community.

Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu

Sunday, September 25, 2011



**take the bus
and leave the driving to us!**

- **Meet at the Bloomington Target Store (I-494 & Penn Avenue South)**
- **Plan to eat an early lunch or bring a box lunch and beverage to eat on this hour and a half trip.**

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 11:15 am | Meet at Target on 494 & Penn—park your car on the north end of the parking lot, closest to 494) We have permission to leave our cars in this area. |
| 11:30 am | Bus departs promptly—don't be late! |
| 1:00 pm | Arrive Mankato—First Presbyterian Church, 220 East Hickory Street, Mankato |
| 1:30 pm | Gymanfa Ganu led by Dr. Patricia Bowers Schultz, Kansas City |
| 3:30 pm | Social Hour hosted by MGGA |
| 4:30 pm | Bus departs for the return ride |

Now it's easier than ever to attend the Minnesota Gymanfa Ganu in Mankato. For just **\$20** (probably what you would pay for gas in your car) you can ride in comfort to Mankato, singing along the way with other Society members and friends. To cover the cost of the bus, we need 32 passengers (44 is capacity). Please recruit family and friends to attend with you. We will not cancel the bus but we want to keep our expenses as low as possible. Please complete the form below and return no later than September 17th.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name of person making reservation: _____

Additional reservations for the following names:

If necessary, I can be contacted at this phone number: (_____) _____

Registration fee: \$20 per person—Make checks payable to the St. David's Society of Minnesota.

Enclosed is my check for all of the above reservations in the amount of \$_____

**If you have any questions, please contact Pam Rose at 952-854-4743
or send an e-mail to pamrosearch@hotmail.com**

**Mail form and payment to:
Pam Rose ♦ 8514 13th Avenue South ♦ Bloomington, MN 55425**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE—SEPTEMBER 17, 2011
(call Pam to add additional reservations after the deadline)

Make check payable to St. David's Society of Minnesota

Dragon News

News of Society Members & Friends



SUNSHINE REPORT: Betty Kinsey, the Society Sunshine chairwoman, reports sending cards to Marveen Minish, back surgery; Edgar Jones, knee replacement; Esme Evans, illness; Ellis Jones, surgery; Mae Anderson, fall & surgery; Janice Kimes, surgery; David Evan Thomas, whose mother 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.

"Diolch yn fawr..."

Diolch yn fawr to my St. David's friends for the many cards and expressions of concern during my recent fall and ongoing recovery.

I am doing quite well, with Don's help. Your continued prayers will be appreciated.

Mae Howells Anderson

Ed. note: Mae suffered a very bad fall in Canada recently, with disastrous effects on her leg and hip.

Membership News

E-mail additions/changes:

John & Marion Bauercamper
mabauercamper@gmail.com

Melvyn Jones & Esme Evans
melvyn.wj@gmail.com

Larry Moore
rosslynnltd@comcast.net

New member:

Lisa Halverson
761 Bennett Dr. NE
Fridley, MN 55432
(763) 502-8996

kingskidgirl@hotmail.com

A walkway for dormice built in Llantrisant

On the face of it, there's something rather charming about the decision to build a special bridge to help dormice cross a busy new road. It reminds us that there are more important things in life than constantly bickering about politics and spending cuts.

But Welsh voters might wish to argue that such a bridge isn't the wisest use of tax dollars. A dormouse bridge near Llantrisant, South Wales, has been constructed by the Rhondda Borough Council at a cost of £190,000 (\$313,158).



The dormouse bridge near Llantrisant, South Wales, cost £190,000

OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

President Pam Rose, (952) 854-4743, '13
Vice-President Bill Kimes, (763) 862-3130, '13
Secretary Susan Hunter Weir, (612) 874-9233, '13
Treasurer Ron Adams, (952) 237-0506, ('12)

Directors

Janice Barbee, (763) 544-9396 ('12)
Karen Conradi-Jones, (651) 639-1688, '13
Judy Herbert, '13
Karen Kidwell, (952) 236-0955, ('13)

Investments — Ron Adams
Archivist — Mae Howells Anderson
Cards & Remembrances — Betty Kinsey
Past-President — Judith Evans Warner
Membership Chairperson — Kay Gavin, (651) 484-1778
Newsletter Editor — Mary Mergenthal
General Sales — Marveen Minish
Web Master — Judy Herbert

Officers of St. David's Foundation —
Don Anderson (pres.), Mae Anderson, Betty Kinsey

Next Deadline: NOVEMBER 1, 2001

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

OR E-MAIL TO: mary.mergenthal@comcast.net

**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.

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.**

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")

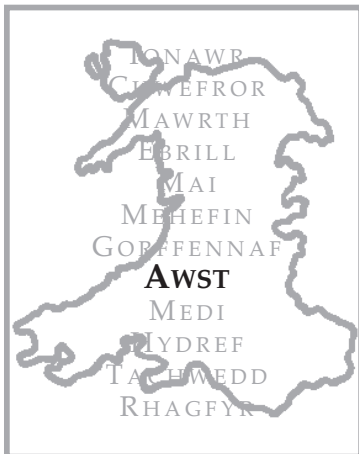
Mail to: Kay Gavin
2737 N. Aglen Ave.
Roseville, MN 55113
or contact Kay at: kaywgavin@hotmail.com

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 N. Aglen Ave.
Roseville, MN 55113

Return Service Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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www.stdavidsofmn.org

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