

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

## **Ann Lemmenes to conduct Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival Sun., Sept. 23**

The 2012 Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival will be held on Sunday, September 23, at 1:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, Mankato. First held in 1937, this will be the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the event.

### **Ann Lemmenes to conduct.**

The visiting conductor will be Ann Lemmenes from Waupun, Wis. This will be her fourth visit to conduct the Festival. She recently retired from teaching elementary music in Waupun. She has also been Director of Music at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Waupun for over 20 years. She studied music at the Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, Wales.

### **Wojahn and Jones accompany again.**

Once again, singers will be helped by stellar accompanists. The organist for the 2012 Festival will be Karen Wojahn, Windom, and pianist will be Ryan Jones, St. Peter. Carmen Heinecke of Bigfork will play the trumpet on several of the hymns.

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### **Te Bach ends the afternoon.**

Te Bach [lit., "a small tea"] will be served in the lower level of the church following the singing. Plates and plates of Welsh cakes and other goodies will be ready to accompany the tea. LaVola Lewis and other are in charge of this part of the event. There is no admission charge, but a freewill offering to offset food costs will be received at the tea table.

### **Travel info for Twin Cities singers.**

There will not be a bus to Mankato this year, due to poor numbers the last two years. Please determine if you wish to attend and if you can drive and/or wish to share a ride. Contact Pam Rose, (952) 854-4743, and we'll figure out how to car pool.



### ***Minneapolis Commodores to perform.***

*Special music for the Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival will be presented by the internationally acclaimed Minneapolis Commodores Barbershop Chorus. The group has won 14 gold medals in Land O'Lakes competition and has earned the right to compete in the international chorus competition 16 times. In four of those appearances, the group was named among the top five barbershop choruses in the world. Director of the Commodores is Paul Wigley, a native of Lake Crystal.*

# Picnic and Annual Meeting held on July 21

*Photos and article by Pam Rose*

The society picnic and annual meeting was held at my home. The rain came through in the morning and brought moderated temperatures with it for a pleasant afternoon. The number of attendees was between 25 and 30. The shared food was abundant and delicious.

After eating, we were entertained by member, Kim Corbin, who came all the way from Reedsburg, Wisconsin. Kim read rhymes from a Mother Goose collection and pointed out probable Welsh connections. She also attempted to teach us a song in Welsh (I think we needed more work on that!) It was very nice of Kim to volunteer to entertain us. Thank you very much, Kim. Thanks also to everyone who helped to set-up, coordinate and take down.

During the annual meeting, I announced that due to the recent (just that week) resignation of board member, Judy Herbert, and the earlier resignation of secretary, Susan Hunter Weir; the board of directors is currently under-staffed.

I wish to thank everyone for their participation, help at society events and attendance at the various gatherings in the past year. I know that many of our members have expressed great ideas about how things in the society can be better and have suggestions for new or different activities. I really encourage you to join the board and share your ideas and enthusiasm for making our society even better.

This is an exciting time for our society as we will be turning up the pace of the planning for the 2014 NAFOW,

which will be held in Minneapolis during Labor Day weekend. We need your fresh ideas and support in order to continue to improve our society and attract more members. I hope you will take this opportunity to work together with your fellow members to determine our future direction.

Please contact any board member for more information. Thank you for thoughtful consideration.

## OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES

**President** Pam Rose, (952) 854-4743, '13  
**Vice-President** Bill Kimes, (763) 862-3130, '13  
**Secretary** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Treasurer** Ron Adams, (952) 237-0506, '14

### Directors

Janice Barbee, (763) 544-9396, '15  
Karen Conradi-Jones, (651) 639-1688, '13  
Karen Kidwell, (952) 236-0955, '13  
Another Director \_\_\_\_\_

Investments — Ron Adams  
Archivist — Mae Howells Anderson  
Cards & Remembrances — Betty Kinsey, (612) 871-7587  
Past-President — Judith Evans Warner  
Membership Chairperson — Kay Gavin, (651) 484-1778  
Newsletter Editor — Mary Mergenthal, (651) 644-1650  
Officers of St. David's Foundation —  
Don Anderson (pres.), (612) 789-8923;  
Mae Anderson, Betty Kinsey



*Treasurer Ron Adams, Vern Drilling and David Conradi-Jones enjoy food and fellowship.*

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.



*Unfortunately this photo is not in color so readers won't be able to identify the green jello that Vice President Bill Kimes is holding. He figured no respectable Minnesota picnic should be without it!*

**Visit us on the web:  
[www.stdavidsofmn.org](http://www.stdavidsofmn.org)**



*Dorothy Moe, Society President Pam Rose, and Marla Gladen pose with Welsh costumes provided by speaker Kim Corbin of Reedsburg, Wis.*



*Art by Mae Howells Anderson*



*St. David's Society members enjoy quiet conversation and SHADE in Pam Rose's back yard. The meal was followed by a short annual meeting and an entertaining presentation by Mother Goose (Kim Corbin).*

## News of the August meeting of the Well-Read Dragons

By **Berwyn E. Jones**

Member Berwyn Jones from Lincoln, Neb., is not a member of the Well-Read Dragons. But this review in the Welsh newspaper Ninnau & Y Drych encouraged us to choose the title for August 2012 reading.



Art by Danny Proud

**A Man's Estate**, by Emyr Humphreys, 1955; Parthian Library of Wales edition, paperback, \$16.95 US, 2007. US distributor, Dufour Editions, P.O. Box 7, Chester Springs, PA 19425 (610) 458-5005. Reviewed by Berwyn E. Jones NINNAU, July–August 2011, p. 15.

This novel was my introduction to both the author and to the Library of Wales, a reprint series that republishes quality English-language works by Welsh authors that have fallen out of print. If this book is representative of the series, I want them all! Emyr Humphreys is a graduate of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, who writes in both English and Welsh. He has written more than 20 novels in his long, productive career.

*A Man's Estate* describes a decaying class-ridden society in a north Wales village, post World War II. It does so in some of the most awesomely handsome English I have enjoyed in many a year.

The plot revolves around Philip, a young Welsh-born medical researcher raised by an “aunt” in England, who is urged to seek his roots by a snobbish English potential father-in-law. His arrival in his natal village in Wales profoundly affects each of the characters in a different way.

The narrative is related in turn by young Philip; his (unknown to him) sister Hannah; their twice-married mother and her second husband; Idris, the ineffectual minister of a decaying Welsh chapel; Ada, an ambitious young villager who is the illegitimate half-sister of Philip and Hannah. In short, as star-crossed a family group as could be imagined—partly mid-20<sup>th</sup> century modern, partly almost feudal in its obsession with class. And it is yet another cautionary tale of the corrosiveness of dark family secrets.

The story is told in some of the most beautiful English prose I have ever had the pleasure of encountering. In places, it wants rereading over and over to taste the sheer poetry of it. You can in places hear the echo of the author's Welsh first language, as it rolls about the mind's ear. The book's ending is poignant for each of the characters, each in a different way, several of them almost dismissively.

The Library of Wales is another excellent project of the Welsh Assembly Government. I can't help thinking that its output of 29 volumes (to date) would make an excellent basis for a Reader's Club of an American Welsh Society. I also hereby resolve to use the internet to find and devour more of Emyr Humphreys' novels.

*If you are interested in coming to the Well Read Dragons, you're welcome even if you haven't been able to read the book.*

**Please save the next page  
with titles of the books the  
Well-Read Dragons will  
read during the coming year.  
You're welcome anytime!**

**Prefer to receive your  
newsletter online?**

**Notify Kay Gavin at  
[kaywgavin@hotmail.com](mailto: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.**

**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.**

# What the Well-Read Dragons will be reading this year.

You're welcome to attend these meetings. Come to one discussion, to many, or to all. If you like to read or would like to meet more Society members, this is the place for you.

The group meets at 11:30 a.m. on the dates below at Davanni's in Roseville (west of Rosedale), in a private room conducive to discussion. Before discussion, plan to purchase lunch. Those purchases make it possible for us to continue to use this room. Contact David Conradi-Jones for info: (651) 639-1688.

## Oct. 6 — *Darkness Visible: A Novel of the 1892 Homestead Strike* by Trilby Busch.

Member and historian Trilby Busch will be with us. The book recreates a defining moment in American labor history. Workers from the Homestead (Pittsburgh area) Works, Carnegie Steel Company, striking for reasonable living wages, were violently attacked by Pinkerton "guards" hired by the company, turning what had been a peaceful strike into a horrific bloodbath and changing the lives of Homestead's families forever. Many of the strikers were immigrants, among whom were large numbers of Welsh, Germans, and eastern Europeans.

The book is available from [darknessvisiblenovel.com](http://darknessvisiblenovel.com) [which she updates regularly with more info.] and as an e-book from a couple of sources. Contact Trilby at (612) 377-7032 or [trilbybusch@yahoo.com](mailto:trilbybusch@yahoo.com).

**Dec. 1 — *Resistance* by Owen Sheers.** After all the women in a remote Welsh town awaken to find their husbands gone, German occupiers arrive in this alternate-reality thriller set in 1944. Facing a harsh winter, the women and soldiers find they must cooperate with one another to survive. This title has been made into a film in Britain. One of our members is getting the DVD so we can watch that at another time, singly or in groups.

## Feb. 2, 2013 — *Stanley: The impossible life of Africa's Greatest Explorer* by Tim Jeal.

Seven copies in the Hennepin County Library System and also available in the St. Paul and Ramsey County Libraries. The Welsh connection? Read it to find out. The American connection? Ditto!

*One member has already read this and promises that surprises of every sort await readers in the group! It will be an interesting discussion, no doubt. Why not come for that one, even if you can't attend the others?*

**April 6 — *Dragon and Crescent* by Grahame Davies.** This book "opens up a whole new field of study, revealing the huge Muslim influence on Wales, and the equally momentous Welsh influence on Islamic lands." Unfortunately, it's not on [www.mnlink.org](http://www.mnlink.org) yet [meaning not in a Minnesota library]. Abebooks & Amazon sell used copies. However, one of the group's members will be in the U.K. in January. She's willing to pick up some used copies there to avoid shipping cost.

## June 1 — Any of the new versions Mabinogion stories from Seren Press [in Wales].

Titles are: *White Ravens* by Owen Sheers; *The Ninth Wave* by Russell Celyn Jones;  
*The Meat Tree* by Gwyneth Lewis; *The Dreams of Max & Ronnie* by Niall Griffiths;  
*The White Trail* by Fflur Dafydd; and *The Prince's Pen* by Horatio Clare.

Get a good introduction to the tales from the youth volume, *Tales from the Mabinogion* by Gwyn Thomas and Kevin Crossley-Holland. It's available in St. Paul & Minneapolis Libraries.

## Aug. 3 — *Rape of the Fair Country* by Alexander Cordell.

One reviewer writes: "Cordell brings the Welsh character to life with three-dimensional people enduring the bitter hardships of 19<sup>th</sup> century mining life. Humorous, tragic, heartfelt, real."

## Oct. 5 — *History of the Welsh Church in Jackson, Ohio: Travel, Fishing and Farewells* by Evan O. Roberts, translated by Martha Davies [member of our Society].

The church history section is interesting and the settlers' stories are poignant and informative. The second half of the book is a collection of witty essays by E. O. Roberts, a coal miner who worked his way up in life and eventually owned four mines. Available at [www.welshheritage.org](http://www.welshheritage.org).



North American  
Festival  
of Wales



Gŵyl  
Gymreig  
Gogledd America

## 2012 Festival — Scranton, Pa.

About 700 Welsh people (most from North America, but about 100 from Wales) gathered at the Hotel Hilton in Scranton, Pa., for the 81<sup>st</sup> Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu at the North American Festival of Wales.

### Seminars on Welsh topics

Seminars focusing on the Welsh in Pennsylvania, including the Avondale Mine Disaster of 1869, were popular, as were three seminars on Welsh genealogy. The Ysgol Gân [Singing School] taught by the Gymanfa director at which attendees learn pronunciation and notes for Sunday's hymns was popular, as always. This year Welsh folk dancing was in a wide hall. This gave many more people a chance to watch. Always popular are Welsh language classes and advice for investors.

### Eisteddfod

Competitors of all ages presenting songs or recitations, with Welsh judges adjudicating. Winners received cash prize and participated in the winners concert. Winner of the David G. Morris Memorial Award for a semi-professional singer was won by Elizabeth Shoemaker. She won a trip to Wales to the value of \$3,500 in order to compete in the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

At the Eisteddfod concert, the winner of last year's David G. Morris competition, Catrin Williams, also sang. In Wales in August, She had the good fortune of winning the mezzo soprano competition.

### Marketplace

Welsh lovespoons to pins, caps and teapots of every possible description were available at the busy Marketplace. One of our members, Trilby Busch, was there selling her new book, *Darkness Visible*.

### Concerts:

**Dafydd Iwan**, opened the Festival, with songs many in the audience remembered. He was celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a singer. He has been at the forefront of the Welsh music and political scene since the heady days of the '60s, which saw the resurgence of the Welsh language and Welsh culture generally.

The featured choir for the event was **Côr Godre'r Garth** from the Pontypridd area of Wales. The group, ably directed by **Eilir Owen Griffiths**, has won first prize at the National Eisteddfod in Wales five of the last six years in the competition for choirs with more than 45 voices.

After a Saturday evening concert, the group also sang at each gymanfa singing session on Sunday.

### Gymanfa Ganu sessions:

**Gareth Hughes Jones**, administrator of the William Matthiaas College of Music in Caernarfon, directed both gymanfa sessions. His direction could hardly have been more energetic and precise.

Gareth has been a core staff member at Welsh Heritage Week nearly every year since 1989.

Accompanist for those singing session, and for the Eisteddfod, was **David Enlow**, organist at the Church of the Resurrection in New York City. He is also music director of the Welsh Congregational Church of New York.

## 2014 Festival — Minneapolis, Aug. 28–31, 2014

### How can you help?

- **Publicity?**
- **Serve as host or hostess?**
- **Usher?**

Please tell Kay Gavin,  
(651) 484-1778,  
kaywgavin@hotmail.com  
or

Mary Mergenthal,  
(651) 644-1650,  
mary.mergenthal@comcast.net.



*Minnesotans (and friends) attending the Scranton Festival included: Danny Proud, Dorothy Moe, Trilby Busch, Mary Mergenthal, Kay Gavin, Marcia Richards, Nancy Craig, and Larry Moe. Other members attending, but not pictured, were Martha Davies and Berwyn Jones of Lincoln, Neb. Barbara Leedy, former Minnesota St. David's Society president, now of Michigan, is the new WNAA vice-president.*

## IN MEMORIAM: Russell Griffin

Russell E. Griffin, 86, of St. Paul, died August 30, 2012. He was born in Battle Creek, Mich. After high school he entered Duke University under the Navy's V-12 program, earning a naval commission and two bachelor's degrees. His active duty was served in the amphibians putting "the Pacific fight to bed."

Then, at the University of Michigan, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering, as well as his education credentials. This was followed by two years at Chicago Theological Seminary. During that time, he also met his future wife, Enid Larson.

Russell and Enid were married in 1952. They stayed on at the seminary for several years. He taught high school science and math in northern Illinois for a year, then served a small church near Battle Creek, followed by work as an engineer.

In 1959, they moved to St. Paul, where Enid was raised, eventually living in the home her parents built in 1928.

He worked for 32 years with the U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Mines, at Fort Snelling.

Besides his wife, Russell is survived by their children: Fran (Dan) Beverness of Fairmont, Minn.; Bonnie (Rick) Shoebottom of St. Paul; Alvin (Nancy) of Maryland; Glenn (Cheryl) and Lu (Mike Hesano) of St. Paul; Olaf (Paula) of Roseville; Ben (Stephanie Hughes) of San Jose; and Millie (Brian) Webb of Madison, Wis.

His funeral service will be held at First Christian Church of Minnesota, 610 W. 28th St., Minneapolis, 55408, on Saturday, September 22 at 3 p.m.

**Please check your mailing label.  
Memberships were due July 1, 2012.**

## Sunshine Report

SUNSHINE REPORT: Betty Kinsey, Society Sunshine chairperson, sent get-well greetings to: Ruth Jones; Vern Drilling; Trilby Busch; AdaMae Lewis; and Russell Griffin. In addition, expressions of sympathy were sent to Bev Dailey (husband died); Ruth Jones (loss of sister); and Enid Griffin (husband died).

Please inform Betty 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

### New Members:

**Rev. Tom and Lee Ann Evans**  
3129 Alden Pond Lane  
Eagan MN 55121  
651-434-3890  
revemanuel@comcast.net

### Address Changes/Additions:

**Ruth V. Jones**  
2950 Dean Parkway Apt 1504  
Minneapolis MN 55416-4393 (*Important to include the last 4 digits*)  
612-926-1377  
ruthjones73@q.com

**Margaret Evans Warner**  
Providence Place  
3720 - 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S.  
Minneapolis MN 55407

### Deceased:

**Russell Griffin**, deceased.

## 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](mailto: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*

**Return Service Requested**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

## **Coming Events:**



**MEDI  
SEPTEMBER**

*Art by Danny Proud*

**Sunday, September 23, 1:30 p.m. —**

### **2012 Minnesota Welsh Festival of Song**

First Presbyterian Church, 220 E. Hickory at Broad in Mankato.

- Ann Lemmenes conducting.
- Minneapolis Commodores provide special music  
(directed by Paul Wigley, Lake Crystal native).

**Saturday, October 6, 11:30 a.m. — Well-Read Dragons**

The group begins another year of reading and discussion.

You welcome to attend, whether or not you've read the book. Enjoy the fellowship at Davanni's in Roseville (west of Rosedale). Come at 11:30 a.m. to order lunch. These orders allow the group to meet in the private room.

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