

DRAGON TALES LITE



2022 Volume 2

*The Welsh Society of Central Ohio—Cymdeithas Gymreig Canolbarth Ohio
Promoting a Strong and Vibrant Welsh Community in Central Ohio*

2022 SAINT DAVID'S DAY LUNCHEON & ANNUAL MEETING



Down the Glen perform. Photo Credit: Tegwyn Lantz

By Kyle Wright

WSCO's Luncheon and Annual Meeting returned to Worthington Hills Country Club for 2022.

Bob Penry lead a participatory seminar on experiences in Wales and America, to help keep our traditions alive.

The luncheon began with a traditional Welsh leek soup, with chicken piccata or pork tenderloin. As always, the event ended with members gathered together in song.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, July 16th 2022 at noon, WSCO Summer Picnic, Radnor Fire Station
- Sunday, October 16th 2022 at 2:30 pm, Gymanfa Ganu, Central College Presbyterian Chapel
- Saturday, February 25th 2023, St. David's Day luncheon and annual meeting, Worthington Hills Country Club
- Wednesday, April 12th 2023, WSCO's 75th Anniversary

Madog Center Update

By Jeanne Jones Jindra

The Welsh Museum at the Madog Center is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10am–3pm, and can be opened other times by appointment. The museum will remain open until Labor Day.

The annual Gymanfa, which we have not held for the past two years, will hopefully be held on Sunday, September 25th 2022. We will announce the

location later in the summer due to possible construction at the Welsh Museum in the fall. If not at the museum we will be at either Tyn Rhos or Nebo.

I have created an updated tri-fold for the Welsh Scenic Byway and also a booklet to go along with it. Paper copies are available at the Madog Center or the museum. We encourage visitors to our area especially during the summer months.

State House Flag Raising

By Ken Evans

As is tradition, the Welsh Flag was raised above the West Plaza of the Ohio State House on Friday, February 25 2022 at noon.

It was a clear day, near freezing, but the notorious Broad & High wind made it seem like 20 below zero.

The elements did not deter Ken Evans and Jeff Johnson, the representatives from WSCO. Equally brave, Jason Hill was in attendance as the representative for Governor Mike DeWine. He presented the Governor's Proclamation for the Welsh (pictured on page 3).

Johnson led the singing of the United States National Anthem and the Welsh National Anthem, while Matt Rawlings and Bryan Derr of the Capital Square crew raised the Welsh Flag.

Fond Farewells

David Jones

David Cornett Jones, a resident of Granville, Ohio, passed away on January 29, 2022. He was formerly a resident of Grandview Heights, Marble Cliff and Upper Arlington, Ohio.

He was born on September 9, 1940 in Youngstown, Ohio, the son of Evan David and Alice Clark Cornett Jones. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Youngstown, Ohio in 1958 and from Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio in 1962. He earned a Master of Arts Degree from The Ohio State University in 1978 and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from The Ohio State University in 1982.

He taught marketing and related courses in the department of Business, Accounting and Economics at Otterbein University for twenty-five years. He retired in June 2004 as a Full Professor with Emeritus status.

In his youth, he was a member of Junior Achievement, Boy Scouts of America, The Order of DeMolay and various church youth programs. In college, he was a member of NU Sigma Alpha Men's Society and was a co-founder of the Young Republican Club. He served in the United States Army Reserve from 1962 to 1968.

In his adult years, he was a life member of The OSU Presidents Club and The Ohio State University Alumni Association; past President of the Franklin County OSU Alumni Club; and a patron of the OSU Men's Glee Club. He was a member of the Heritage Society of Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Ohio.

He was a member of the Benjamin Franklin Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution based on his descent from Colonel John Patton who served with General George Washington at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War. He was a member and benefactor of the Historical Society of the Phoenixville, PA area and a member of the Friends of Granville, Ohio Library.

He was very proud of his Celtic (Welsh/Scots/Irish) heritage. He made many trips to Wales, focusing on St. Davids, Pembrokeshire and South Wales, where he spent his days walking on the footpaths that hug the Irish Sea.

He was a long-time member of the Welsh Society of Central Ohio and served as President from 1999 to 2001. He was a member of the National Welsh American Foundation and a board member and patron of the American Friends of St. Davids Cathedral, Wales. For the past three years, he was a substitute teacher for the Granville School District.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his sister Lois, and brother-in-law Louis Chimbidis. He is survived by his nephew, Peter Evan Chimbidis (Jen); three great-nephews and several first cousins.

Geraint Meredydd Wilkes

Geraint Wilkes was someone who lived life to the fullest. Geraint's wit and charm endeared him to all who knew him or met him through his appearances at Welsh and other Celtic events in the USA, east to west, north to south. His humor was remarkable and sometimes cheeky and naughty; and more often than not, he had everyone in stitches.

He was proud of his Welsh heritage and spoke the language fluently. Geraint often said his life only became complete after he met and fell in love with his wife Pat. They met in 1990 in Aberystwyth, and spent 31 wonderful years and adventures together. They lived in Milwaukee, and later Hartland, WI before moving to Mexico a few years ago to retire. Our deepest sympathies go out to Pat.

Geraint Wilkes was born in Aberystwyth, Wales into a musical family. Both of his parents were professional singers and were also his singing teachers. As a boy soprano, he studied with his mother, Katie Griffiths and his father Charles Wilkes. He made his first public appearance at age 7, and his first professional performance in 1958.

During his military service he won a Nuffield Scholarship and completed his studies with Redvers Llewellyn. He was a fellow of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association of Great Britain, and a holder of its distinguished silver medal award. He appeared with the D'Oyly Carte and Sadlers Wells companies and made numerous appearances with Milwaukee Opera.

Geraint was a loyal friend to the Wisconsin Welsh Community. He gave selflessly and tirelessly to the Welsh-American community for over 30 years. He directed countless Cymantfaoedd and St. David's Day concerts in the USA and Canada. He also served as emcee in 3 National Cymantfaoedd. In recognition of his cultural contribution to the Welsh, he received Governor's Awards from Wisconsin, Ohio, and Kansas. He was an honorary Vice President of Côr Pendyrus in Wales.

Over the years, Geraint was often partnered on stage with his friend, Trefor Williams.

His contribution to Trefor's musical group, Milwaukee Metro Voices, was considerable and cherished. His participation and direction were both professional and light hearted; winning the affection of both singers and audience alike. Geraint spent many years living in Puerto Vallarta and Ajijic, Mexico. He sang at midnight Mass during the Christmas season, often singing "Silent Night", "Oh Holy Night" at the Guadalupe Cathedral over the many years he lived there as well as singing regularly at the Sunday English Mass where he had quite a following who came to hear his soaring tenor voice in this lovely cathedral.

St. David's Day Event at Radnor

By Ann Jones, President, Radnor Heritage Society

The Radnor Heritage Society celebrated the Feast of St. David in the Radnor community building on March 5th 2022.

A near record crowd of 64 people joined in the traditional Welsh celebration of their patron saint David who died in 589 AD. The Feast of St. David is officially on March 1st and the Radnor community celebrates this event on the Saturday following that date. Guests were

treated to Welsh music by the Bethel Folk Ensemble from Columbus, who sang and played beautiful Welsh songs. Laura Thomas, our Community Liaison (descendent of Herbert family of Radnor) plays with the group and the music set a wonderful tone for the day. The group also helped serve the traditional leek soup prepared by Mel Kerr. The tables were decorated with daffodils, the Welsh flower, and Welsh flags emblazoned with the Red Dragon were prominent.

All Occasions catering provided

the traditional main course of lamb accompanied by beef and delicious sides. Scones, Welsh cakes and brownies provided by Ruby Thompson, Laura Thomas, Sally Dubanowich, and Cindy Williamson capped off a great meal. A program detailing the history of Radnor was presented by historian Joe Preston. Joe was asked a number of questions and lively discussion followed.

YouTube videos of the day and of Joe Preston's talk are available on our website and our Facebook page: www.radnorheritagesociety.org.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Basic WSCO Membership Information

Membership Benefits include:

- Subscription to WSCO's newsletter Dragon Tales
- A vote at the Annual Meeting (except children under 16)
- Advance notice of WSCO Events
- Membership roster
- Great new friends!

WSCO General members are also welcome to silently observe WSCO Board Meetings.

Note - to present an item for discussion at a Board meeting, arrangements must be made in advance with the current President.

Annual Memberships (membership period Jan 1-Dec 31)

\$25 for an Individual or Family Unit (parental unit and dependent children), due by January 1st of each year.

Annual memberships begin the day they are received by WSCO (if received between January 1st and September 20th), or those received September 21st through December 31st will be applied to the next membership year and will begin on January 1st of that next year.

Please note - memberships not current as of January 31st may not be included in the annual member roster, and membership must be current to vote during the Annual Meeting.

Lifetime Memberships (begin on date received)

\$175 for an Individual or a Family Unit or three annual installments of \$75 each.

Or, \$30 one time for each individual over 80 years old.

Membership Application

Current WSCO Membership Application and other information is available on the Membership page on WSCO's website, and questions can be emailed to info@WelshSocietyOfCentralOhio.org, or call (614)500-7998.

Membership Chair – Shawn Hitchings

Welcome to New Members

WSCO sends a big Croeso! (Welcome!) to all our new members!

Members can find the WSCO Constitution on the website at:

www.WelshSocietyOfCentralOhio.org.

Members without access to Internet can request to have a copy mailed by leaving a message at WSCO's Information Line: (614)500-7998