

DRAGON TALES



The Welsh Society of Central Ohio

Cymdeithas Gymreig Canolbarth Ohio

Promoting a Strong and Vibrant Welsh Community in Central Ohio

St. David's Day Celebrations

Friday, February 26 at the STATEHOUSE

Ken Evans, Event Chair

We kick off our 2016 St. David's Day celebrations with the Welsh **FLAG RAISING** at the Ohio Statehouse in downtown Columbus [SE corner of Broad & High Streets] on **Friday Feb 26**. Meet on the West Plaza or, if the weather is bad, just inside the **EAST** doors [the West doors are now permanently closed for security]. We will raise the Welsh flag at noon and sing the Welsh and U.S. national anthems on the West Plaza.

TOUR possibilities before and after the flag raising:

STATEHOUSE - there are regular tours every hour between 10:00am and 3:00pm weekdays. Meet in the Map Room near the 3rd Street entrance. 614-728-2695. Visit www.statehouse.state.oh.us for general information about the Statehouse.

SUPREME COURT of Ohio - 65 South Front Street [at State Street]. To schedule a 1-hour tour, call 614-387-9223. Visits are scheduled weekdays 9:00am to 4:00pm.

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Sat., Feb. 27 Luncheon and Annual Meeting

Patti & Jeff Jones, Event Chairs

This year's St. David's Day luncheon will be held Saturday, February 27, 2016 at Worthington Hills Country Club, 920 Clubview Blvd. South, Columbus, OH 43235. The club is located west of Rt. 315, north of Hard Road. (614-885-9516, info@worthingtonhills.com)

The meal choices this year are spinach and feta stuffed breaded chicken breast and sliced herb roasted pork loin. There are also alternate menu options for vegetarians and children 10 and under. Adult meals are \$28 and children's meals are \$10. Contact WSCO for special dietary inquiries and requests.

Water, coffee, lemonade, and iced tea are included in the cost of the meal. A cash bar will be available for those who want alcoholic drinks.

Several activities are planned for the day. **Laura Thomas** will share information about Welsh quilts. A short Welsh-themed video will be shown and some group singing is planned. There will also be an area for socializing and learning more about your fellow WSCO members. A few items will be auctioned to help raise money for the society.

Registration begins at 9:30 am. Activities and social hour begin at 10:00 am. The annual meeting will be at 11:00 am and lunch will be served at 12:15 pm.

Pre-registration is required for meals. A reservation form can be found with this newsletter. Please make checks payable to WSCO and send the form and your check to the address on the bottom of the form. Reservations with payments **must be received no later than Wednesday, February 17, 2016.**

We hope to see you there!

WSCO: info@welshsocietyofcentralohio.org; 614-500-7998; PO Box 12023, Columbus, OH 43212

WSCO NEEDS

Newsletter Editor

Only 3 Issues per year
'timed' to announce details of
WSCO's annual events
(Feb., July, Oct.)

Start with Feb. 2017 issue or gain experience
working with current Editor/Coordinator
for 2016 July and/or Oct. issues.

Contact WSCO: 614-500-7998
info@welshsocietyofcentralohio.org

***WSCO Members:

Be sure to look within this newsletter for information about an issue to be voted on during the Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 27, 2016.***

President's Message

Charlotte A. Prior

WSCO's St. David's Day luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 27 this year at the Worthington Hills Country Club. Our Annual Meeting will be at 11 am before we eat. Jeff and Patti Jones are making certain we have a tasty meal. I hope to see each of you there.

Margaret Hukill named WSCO in her will. Her attorney has sent us a total of \$18,305.21. Wasn't that thoughtful and caring. Each of us needs to think of ways to be remembered.

WSCO is sponsoring "Toss the Feathers" on the public radio station 90.5 FM. Celtic music is played from 4 to 6 every Saturday afternoon. Several friends have told me they heard WSCO mentioned on this program.

I want to thank all of you who helped last Labor Day weekend at the NAFOW here in Columbus. There were so many seminars, events and music sessions that kept us busy and entertained. This year I hope to see you at the NAFOW in Calgary.

Being president of WSCO board has been a privilege. It is a pleasant job when you have such smart and cooperative folks to work with. After serving two years it is time for someone else to enjoy being president.

Board Meetings

Board meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month, except for July, August and December, from 7 to 9 pm and usually take place at the Glenwood United Methodist Church, 2833 Valleyview Dr. (at Hague Ave.) Columbus, Ohio, in room 4.

Meetings are open to all adult WSCO members. Anyone wishing to put an item on the agenda or speak before the Board should contact the President at least one week in advance of the meeting.

For Board member information, call 614-500-7998 and leave your name and number for a call back, or email info@WelshSocietyofCentralOhio.org.

Current Board Members

Cathy Beacom, Kathy Chamblin, Myron Cherry, Ken Evans, Stacy Evans (Vice-President), **Laura Jenkins Gorun** (Immediate Past President and Membership Chair), **Jeanne Jones Jindra** (Director, Madog Center for Welsh Studies) *ex-officio*, **Jeff Jones, Lynn R. Jones, Pam Jones, Patti Jones, Tegwyn Lantz** (Treasurer), **Mary Ellen Morgan** (Corresponding Secretary), **Bob Penry, Charlotte Prior** (President), **Stanton Prior, Beth Ransopher, Laura Thomas, Diana Wafe** (Recording Secretary), **Dianne Williams**, and **Homer Williams**.

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Diolch to Many


Donna Boyce, Newsletter Editor

Many folks helped with this issue of *Dragon Tales*:

Patti Jones received the 'Good Eye!' Award for saving me from an embarrassing error on the St. D.D. reservation form; WSCO's 2015 Travel Scholarship winner **Cydnie Few** gave me great help by sending her photos in multiple formats and **Jeanne Jindra** pitched in by pulling a URG campus graphic designer into the project (I've not invested in 'updated' software since I won't be doing *DT* after this year); **Laura Gorun**, with great foresight and thoughtfulness, sent her photo in both color and b&w formats (she's experienced with the concept that 'contrast' matters a lot since *DT* is printed in black on ivory); **Carole Haley** once again offered her kitchen table and willing hands to help process this newsletter for mailing and, at the time this went to the Printer, Carole and I were both wishing for good weather on Processing Day so **Pam Jones**, who has helped with many issues, would be able to join us again.

Diolch yn fawr iawn, Pawb.

Dragon Tales
Newsletter of the Welsh Society of
Central Ohio



Editor Donna Boyce

WSCO Officers
President-Charlotte Prior
Vice President-Stacy Evans
Treasurer-Tegwyn Lantz
Recording Secretary-Diana Wafe
Corresponding Secretary-Mary Ellen Morgan

PO Box 12023, Columbus, Ohio 43212
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Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/WelshSocietyOfCentralOhio>

Dragon Tales
is published three times a year, about three-four weeks before each of our annual events

Submissions can be made to:
newsletter@WelshSocietyofCentralOhio.org
Please include your name, phone number, and email address;
or leave a message at 614-500-7998
and include your name and phone number

Submission deadlines: January 8,
June 8, and September 8

NAFOW 2015 - DIOLCH!

*Laura Jenkins Gorun
2015 NAFOW Local Committee Chair*



2015 NAFOW Local Committee - clockwise, from top left: Jeff & Patti Jones, Tegwyn Lantz, Jeanne Jones Jindra, Stacy (& Cheryl, not pictured) Evans, Beth Ransopher, and Laura Jenkins Gorun (and Pam Jones, not pictured)

Now it's been a few months, so we've had some time to reflect (and recover) - I hope you all share fond memories of last September's festival! What a festival... what a year! After a year and a half of research and careful planning, we (the local committee, pictured here), were delighted to finally welcome the NAFOW to Columbus, including friends old and new! Some arrived amidst torrential downpours, but at least the beautiful Ohio September sun prevailed over those occasional showers. From the beginning, our main challenge was how to effectively offer a glimpse of all Columbus has to offer, within the existing structure of the festival. Sure, we had limited resources, and were met with our share of challenges along the way, but it still seemed that (much like the sun after those downpours), the intent of what we'd planned still prevailed, and most everyone seemed to enjoy both the festival and Columbus!

I want to give a special thanks to all the volunteers at the festival - your patience, flexibility, and wonderful attitudes ensured that everyone had a great weekend, despite a few obstacles. DIOLCH! I'm more grateful than I could ever express for all the support and hard work from the wonderful local committee, and from all the other locals who offered their help and support! Though our committee was small, and our resources limited, we took advantage of as much as we could of all the help, support and ideas we had, and we had lots of fun along the way! We were also lucky to have tremendous help and support in an excellent partnership with the WNAA, which allowed us to focus most of our planning energies on bringing Columbus to the festival, which was certainly a benefit to all!

I want to remind you of many of the highlights, but I could go on for pages, so I'll *try* to be brief! We saw **Evan Jones'** familiar wit, welcoming the festival as the opening ceremony's MC - Diolch, Evan! We saw so many world class musical performances throughout the weekend,

with Calan, **Menier Wyn Roberts**, Cor y Penrhyn, and of course, several performances by **Gwawr** and **Dafydd Edwards**, near and dear to the hearts of many, not only for their immense talent and history with the NAFOW, but also being directly related to so many here in Ohio. Then, we were especially delighted at how beautifully everything finally came together for Sunday's Gymanfa Ganu in the spectacular setting of our historic Southern Theatre - I really can't imagine a better setting for a Gymanfa Ganu, and conclusion to the 2015 festival. Many of you may also have enjoyed Thursday's tour to Granville and Licking county, Monday's tour of the Welsh imprint on Southeast Ohio, or one of the informal walking tours we offered of areas around the hotel. **Janet Procida**, **Maggie Brooks**, and **Jeanne Jindra** all deserve an extra diolch yn fawr (big thanks) for the tremendous work they did with members of the local committee to organize and lead the bus tours. And thanks, again, to the Edwards family, for inviting our Monday tour to stop at their Oak Hill family reunion! What a magical time! The festival days were filled with so many enlightening seminars and activities - hopefully many of you learned something new, and some even exhibited your talents in the Eisteddfod! And you may have visited the marketplace, and the wonderful history display **Beth Ransopher** put together (with help from many of you with her research). Or maybe you enjoyed one of the many informal demonstrations we offered through the festival. If you weren't worn out by the days' activities and evening concerts, you may have participated in an exceptional Open Mic Night, a rollicking fun Pub Night, or some of the always beloved informal late night singing, which filled the hotel lobby each night. I learned that some other local bars also enjoyed some impromptu performances from some of our talented Welsh visitors!

On behalf of the local committee, I want to offer one final diolch yn fawr iawn to all who helped, supported, and participated in the 2015 festival. I know we all developed a deeper affection for Columbus and our Welsh heritage and culture through our planning and execution of the 2015 festival. We will cherish so many wonderful memories from both our planning efforts and the results in the festival - we hope you will, too - it was definitely a wonderful festival to be remembered! Now - on to Calgary in 2016!

WSCO Items For Sale

Available at the Feb. 27, 2016
St. David's Day Luncheon

Welsh Flags
Tote Bags in green or red
Welsh-themed note cards
Holiday cards for Christmas and St. David's Day

New WSCO pens also available

WSCO Student Travel Scholarship Recipient Returns From Wales

*In 2013, WSCO established an annual Travel Scholarship providing \$500 in financial aid to a Welsh Exchange student at the University of Rio Grande. You 'met' our 3rd recipient, **Cydnie Few**, in the Oct. 2015 issue of DT -- in addition to her article about her experiences, WSCO also received a thank-you postcard from Wales in November.*

Postcard: "Hello, I wanted to let you know that I have been having an Amazing time. Being in Wales has been life changing, the traveling has been unreal. I cannot believe I am here. I am so thankful for your help. Thank you so much for the scholarship. I greatly appreciate this opportunity of being here. Thank you so much. --Cydnie Few (Rio Grande)"

Cydnie In Wales



(No, the photograph is *not* upside-down - Cydnie is...)

"I've been lucky. Opportunities don't often come along.
So, when they do, you have to grab them."
- Audrey Hepburn

Life changing...that is the only way I can describe studying abroad in Wales. My experiences have been the most amazing adventure that has ever happened to me. I still cannot believe my memories when I look back on all the experiences and opportunities that were given to me. I am very thankful to have been selected to represent The University of Rio Grande. I received many scholarships, including the Welsh Society of Central Ohio, Welsh Society of Greater Cincinnati, and the National Welsh-American Foundation: Cymru.

My experience at The University of Wales Trinity Saint David has been surreal. The university, as well as the students and staff, were very loving and caring to all international students. The university offered various degrees of educational choices and activities for students. The "quad" for instance, was a common area where bake sales and student-led events took place. The Union arranged dances for students, two days a week. This proved to be a stress reliever for all in attendance and a way to meet people and form lifelong friendships. The modules (classes) were very interesting and different from what I am accustomed to. My favorite class was Outdoor: Rain or Shine. This class focused on elementary aged children

engaging in an outdoor class setting, with a focus on the natural environment. Europe also offers Forest Schools, for preschool children to explore outdoor environment. American education, overall, does not focus on these types of classes for everyday learning. Participating in this class made me realize the importance of children's activities and education being held in the outdoor world rather than a restricted indoor classroom. When I become an educator, this is an activity I want to enforce with my own students.

The International office at The University of Wales Trinity Saint David was truly inspiring to me. The office representatives, Kath and Griff, were helpful and did as much as they could to make our stay more homely, than it already felt. The university student senate and international student mentors were also there to help us on our journey: upon our arrival, they transported us from the airport to our new residence; they implemented many activities on campus that helped us become more acclimated to our new environment; and they offered international trips that were extremely educational and rewarding. I encourage future international students to take these trips. The three campuses, Carmarthen, Lampeter and Swansea, also arranged travels to various places in Wales and London.

These trips and the overall experience of studying abroad played a vital role in formulating life-long friendships and everlasting memories. Studying abroad enlightened my point of view regarding friendships. I met some of the most inspiring people on my three month adventure. I never imagined that I would develop friendships with people from multiple countries. My newly acquired friends and I devoted every day to appreciating our time together. When we were not in classes, we spent the majority of our time going to town, eating dinner, sitting in the dorm kitchen playing games, and sharing life stories. I was fortunate enough to have the same classes as another international student whom I would later consider to be a sincere confidant and support to me. We were like two peas in a pod, everywhere one went, the other tagged along. It was heartbreaking saying goodbye to my friends, but we vowed to remain in touch. Thankfully, technology and social media has provided us the means to communicate. Not a day goes by that I do not hear from all five of my closest friends. We have made plans to meet every summer and definitely plan to return to Europe. There is no set value that I can put on the friendships made while traveling abroad. This is something I will forever treasure

In addition to my experiences in Wales and at The University of Wales Trinity Saint David, I was able to travel to eight magnificent places. These included Ireland, Paris, London, Scotland, Amsterdam, Germany, Rome, and Spain. My favorite places were Paris and Rome. This experience has left me wanting to travel many more places abroad. I saw the world in a new light, it was

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

beautiful from the ground to the sky, from the food to the different cultures. Being an Audrey Hepburn fan, I was a bit star struck in every place I knew she had visited. I made all my friends visit nearly every site she traveled. They soon became aware of my fascination and they made sure to show me any artifact of which she had been a part.



Paris and Rome have a very special place in my heart. I would like to obtain my Masters while attending school in another country. I am currently researching scholarships offered for international students, as I marvel the experience like no other. My memories of this experience will never fade. I will always recall vivid experiences, riding bikes, getting lost, eating amazing foods, spending the night in various hostels, and even staying overnight in the train station, while the temperatures were almost too cold to bear. This was a once in a life time opportunity that I will never take for granted.

I am so thankful for receiving the Welsh Society of Central Ohio scholarship. Without your help, I would have never known of the beautiful world that exists beyond the realms of the United States. Words will never express how grateful I am to you. With the utmost sincerity, thank you for the opportunity of a lifetime.

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In some cultures, it's considered unlucky to give one daffodil, but to give a bunch is to ensure happiness.

* * * * *

Madog Center News

**1818 Bicentenary Committee
Seeking Immigrant Family Stories**

2018 will mark the 200th anniversary of the immigration of a group of Welsh immigrants lead by **John Jones Tirbach** from Cilcennin to Gallipolis, Ohio. A local history group in Ceredigion, led by **Arwel Jones** and **Ray Williams**, is planning a program of events to commemorate this important landmark. One of their projects is to publish a book filled with stories of the original settlers or the stories of their descendants right up to current times. So, if your ancestors came from the county of Cardiganshire and the hills of Mynydd Bach area, please be in touch with this group. They are interested in hearing from you on your own family stories and photos.
Arwel Jones [-ja.jones50@btinternet.com](mailto:ja.jones50@btinternet.com)
Ray Williams -raywilliamsvet@yahoo.co.uk
Contact the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at 740-245-7186 for more information.

Member News

Welcome to New Members

WSCO sends a big *Croeso!* (Welcome!) to all of 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.

Farewell to Former Members

WSCO was notified of the loss of two Life members after the last issue of *DT* was printed.

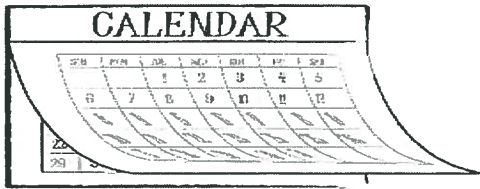
Ellen Jane (Griffith) Pryce, age 88, passed away on Sept. 14, 2015. Ellen helped her mother raise three younger siblings during the Great Depression while working her way through high school and Ohio Northern School of Pharmacy at a time very few women pursued higher education. She is predeceased by her husband of 60 years Richard Vaughn Pryce, Jr. with whom she worked to build a family business which thrived for decades while they raised five children. Ellen was a life-long advocate of women's health issues, an avid reader, a world traveler, and was active in church affairs. She is survived by her brother, her four daughters and one son, three sons-in-law and one daughter-in-law, 11 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

Aileen S. Philipps, passed away on Sept. 17, 2015 – she was born July 16, 1926. Prior to starting her family, Aileen was employed at Owens Corning. Most of her lifetime was spent being a devoted wife, mother of four girls, and grandmother. She was a member of Owens Corning Retirees, Granville Mothers Club, and many volunteer activities. She will be remembered as one of the sweetest ladies known and for her orneriness, sense of humor, loving nature, and her devotion to her family. She enjoyed traveling, family vacations, crafting, flower gardening, music and dancing, and collecting and painting miniatures. She is survived by four daughters, three sons-in-law, and five grandchildren. She is predeceased by her parents, three brothers, three sisters and, by only six months, her husband of 65 years Thomas E. Philipps.

* * * * *

It may be surprising to learn that daffodils were historically associated with bad luck, especially for poultry.

It was said that if a single flower was picked and brought indoors, then only one chick would hatch from a clutch of eggs, and if the flowers really did have to be picked and brought indoors, then they should be at least 13 in number to break the spell.



Upcoming WSCO Events

Monthly (except July, August & December),
2nd Tuesdays, 7-9 pm

Board Meetings

Valleyview United Methodist Church
 2833 Valleyview Dr. Columbus
 For more information call 614-500-7998
 or visit www.welshsocietyofcentralohio.org.

Most Months, 4th Wednesday, 8 pm

Trivia team

Coaches Bar & Grill, 1480 Bethel Rd., Columbus
 For more information call 614-500-7998
 or visit www.welshsocietyofcentralohio.org.

Feb. 26, 2016

WSCO's St. David's Day Welsh Flag Raising
 Ohio Statehouse, downtown Columbus
 See article on page 1

Feb. 27, 2016

WSCO's St. David's Day Luncheon and Annual Meeting
 See article on page 1

July 16, 2016, Saturday

Blendon Woods, Dogwood Shelter, 4p-9 pm
 Details closer to event

Other Events of Interest.

SE OH Celebrates St. D. D.

The Annual St. David's Day Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2016, at 12 noon at the Presbyterian Church in Oak Hill, Ohio. A catered lunch will be served. Speaker for the program will be Megan Malone, Curator of the Lillian Jones Museum in Jackson. She will speak on the Welsh history of Jackson County including the story of the Jones family's industrial past that was instrumental in the growth of early Jackson. She will also give information on the events leading up to Jackson's Bicentennial celebration summer 2016.

More information on tickets will be available by contacting the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at 740-245-7196 or emailing Jeanne Jindra at jjindra@rio.edu.

Cwrs Cymraeg

2016, July 17-24, Huntsville, AL. Registration now open. www.madog.org.

North American Festival of Wales

2016, Sept. 1-4, Calgary, Alberta Canada. Registration opens in March. www.nafow.org.

Membership Matters

BASIC WSCO MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Membership Benefits include a subscription to WSCO's newsletter, *Dragon Tales*, a vote at the Annual Meeting (except children under 16), advance notice of WSCO events, a membership roster, and 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 Jan 1 and Sept 20), OR, those received Sept 21 - Dec 31 will be applied to the **next** membership year, and will begin on Jan 1 of that next year. Please note - memberships not current as of January 31 may not be included in the annual member roster, and membership must be current to vote during the Annual Meeting.

Lifetime Memberships (begins on date received):

Individual or a Family Unit: \$175 one-time, - or - (NEW) three (3) annual installments, \$75 ea.

- or -

Individuals over 80 years old: \$30 one-time

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

Laura Jenkins Gorun (*Current Membership Chair*)

Sat., Feb. 27 Schedule

9:30am – Registration Opens

10am – Social Hour Begins

11am – Annual Meeting

12:15pm – Luncheon

**See article on Pg. 1
of this newsletter**

To Be Voted On At Annual Meeting

On Nov. 10, 2015, the WSCO Board agreed on a recommended change to the Constitution:

Article IV (A) currently reads "The Board shall consist of twenty-one (21) elected Members, including Officers, plus any ex-officio members".

Change to read "The Board shall consist of eighteen (18) elected Members, including Officers, plus any ex-officio members".

Reservation Form – St. David’s Day Luncheon, February 27, 2016

RESERVATION FORM & PAYMENT **MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 2016**

Your name _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

<u>Meal Reservations</u>	
Adults (over 10 years of age) ____ Chicken Breast @ \$28 each = \$ _____ ____ Pork Loin @ \$28 each = \$ _____ ____ Vegetable Platter @ \$28 each = \$ _____	Children’s Option (10 years of age and under) ____ Chicken Fingers @ \$10 each = \$ _____ Total for meals = \$ _____
Grand Total – meals \$ _____ + donation \$ _____ = \$ _____	

If paying for multiple attendees, please list names and selections on reverse of this form.
A check payable to WSCO and this form must be **received** no later than **Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016.**
Mail to: WSCO, PO Box 12023, Columbus OH 43212

Reservation Form – St. David’s Day Luncheon, February 27, 2016

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