

DRAGON TALES

February-June 2017

The Welsh Society of Central Ohio

Promoting a Strong and Vibrant Welsh Community in Central Ohio

Cymdethas Gymreig Canolbarth Ohio

Promoting a Strong and Vibrant Welsh Community in Central Ohio

—*St. David's Day* *Celebrations—*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

AT THE STATEHOUSE

Ken Evans, Event Chair

We kick off our 2017 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 24. 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 10:00 am and 3:00pm weekdays.

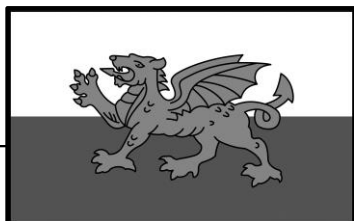
Meet in the Map Room near the 3rd Street

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.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

LUNCHEON & ANNUAL MEETING

St. David's Day Committee

This year's St. David's Day luncheon will be held Saturday, February 25, 2017 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- chicken florentine served with basil pesto cream sauce or cracker crusted cod served with chive cream sauce. They will both be accompanied by glazed baby carrots and chive whipped potatoes. The dessert will be warm apple cobbler. The meal will start with leek soup. Adult meals are \$28.00 and children's meals are \$10.00.

Several activities are planned for the day. Homer Williams will share information on the basics of home brewing, and Mike Shroeder will show pictures and talk a bit about his trip to Wales this past summer. There will be a video of the WOSU TV spot on the Gymanfa, and an area for socializing. All of these activities are included with your registration.

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

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 at the bottom of the form. **Reservations with payments must be received by Wed. Feb. 15, 2017.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cathy Beacom

I hope that 2017 is starting out well for everyone. Thank you to everyone who helped with the 2016 Gymanfa. Be sure to read the article in the newsletter about this wonderful event. Thank you to Donna Boyce for all her years of being the Dragon Tales Editor! Our student intern from a few years ago, Casey Beacom, is handling this job for us currently.

It is almost February, and time for St. David's Day. Our planning committee for this event has been working hard to bring you a fun filled, informative day. We hope you will be able to attend. Information and registration forms are included in this newsletter.

Welcome to our newest board member Mike Schroeder.

As always, if you would like to become more involved in WSCO, please do not hesitate to let me or another board member know.

Thank you!

Cathy

*******Get Well Wishes*** to Jeanne Jones Jindra and Gene Beard and any other member who we missed!!****

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*)

NOTE: We need a new membership chair! Moderate computer skills are needed - please email *info@WelshSocietyofCentralOhio.org* if interested

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



CENTRAL OHIO WELSH CELEBRATE

Homer Williams

Brilliant sunshine, reflecting the oranges and golds of Ohio Fall, provided a beautiful backdrop as many with a Welsh connection gathered and lifted their voices in song the weekend of October 15 and 16, 2016.

Sponsored by the Welsh Society of Central Ohio the Celebration was held on the campus of Central College Presbyterian Church in Westerville, Ohio. Trefor John Williams from Trefor, Wales, now residing with his wife, Barbara, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was guest conductor for the weekend.

On Saturday afternoon, many gathered in the more than century old chapel for a Ysgol Gan. Under the direction of Mr. Williams, with his great skill as music director and educator, the very best that voices could offer emerged. Pianist Cynthia Williamson served as talented accompanist for the event.

The resulting hwyl from the Ysgol Gan flowed into Sunday afternoon as a large crowd filled the main sanctuary of Central College Presbyterian for the annual Gymanfa Ganu. With Trefor Williams conducting and James Hildreth, one of the country's premier organist accompanying, voices were raised in fourpart harmony and praise. Special instrumental music was provided by James Hildreth on piano and his wife and flautist, Valerie Adams. Together they perform as *Duo Celeste*. It was a stunningly beautiful afternoon for all in attendance.

An abundant Te Bach followed the Gymanfa. This years' Te Bach' was particularly special. Those gathered, lovingly and joyfully, celebrated the life and service of Peggy Speakman. Peggy, who passed in early September, orchestrated many, many Te Bachs, locally and nationally, through the years.

Ohio autumns are beautiful. Plan a trip to join us October 14 and 15, 2017. We look forward to a Saturday Ysgol Gan and Sunday Gymanfa Ganu with Trefor John Williams conducting.

*** NB. Our Gymanfa Ganu was filmed by WOSU TV as part of their ongoing *Columbus Neighborhoods* program, and was featured in the 'Columbus Music' show. It may be viewed by going to <https://www.facebook.com/columbusneighborhoods/videos/10155025623237249/> Our own Laura Thomas beautifully wrote and narrated her reminiscences about her Welsh roots, and the feelings of nostalgia and pride she conveys will be familiar to all of us. The program was aired in mid-January of 2017.

October 15 Gymanfa Ganu to be Led by Trefor Williams

Mary Ellen Morgan

The Welsh Society of Central Ohio's Board of Directors is delighted to announce that it has been fortunate enough to engage Trefor John Williams of Trefor, Wales, and more recently of Milwaukee, WI, to conduct our 2017 Gymanfa Ganu. If you saw the feature on WSCO on WOSU TV in January, you got an idea of Trefor's great talent.

Trefor brought an amazingly beautiful and vibrant sound from the attendees at our 2016 Gymanfa, and for the first time in our collective memory, the Board has asked the same conductor to be our leader for the second year in a row. As an added joy, he has also consented to be our featured

artist, and will be singing for us. He is not to be missed, and we hope you'll be sure to bring your friends and family to the event. Our official and stellar organist, James Hildreth, will be lending his remarkable talents to the Gymanfa, as he has for many years. He is a conductor's dream of an accompanist, and he and Trefor bring forth wonderful results from the congregation.

The Gymanfa will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2017, 2:30 pm, at Central College Presbyterian Church, and the hwyl or spirit will be moved in us all.

As a bonus, Trefor has agreed to conduct an **Ysgol Gan**, or singing school, at the church on the day before the Gymanfa. Don't let the title mislead you, the all - too - quickly - over gathering had us learning better ways to sing the music and pronounce the Welsh word, but Trefor also gave out many interesting facts about Welsh history, education, and customs, sharing it all with humor as well as scholarship. Hopeless and stellar singers alike will benefit from the Ysgol Gan, and it is free! For those in attendance in 2016, the event seemed to end in a few moments, but we were there for almost 2 hours.

If you love music, history, fellowship, or humor, please don't miss the Ysgol Gan, and if you love and honor your heritage and your lineage, please do not miss the Gymanfa.

A Child's Summer in Wales, Redux

Mike Schroeder

I grew up in an Air Force family, and my mother was from Llandovery, Carmarthanshire, Wales. Because my father wanted to enable her spending time with her family, he would seek assignment in the UK, or in Germany, so that she was close enough to visit.

We moved to Hale, Cheshire, in 1956, and I was fortunate to spend most of the next several summers in Llandovery, staying with my grandfather, but spending most of my time with cousins.

I have identical twin grandsons who were 12 last summer, and, having just retired, I was fortunate to be able to take them on a trip to Wales at the end of the summer. Because they live in NYC, where school does not start until after Labor Day, we were able to take the trip in late August-early September. We were also able to stay with my cousin, Philip Williams, and they got the flavor of everyday life, rather than staying in hotels and eating all meals in restaurants.

We spent most of our time in the area around Llandovery, including the Brecon Beacons, which are close. We went to the Brecon Beacons National Park, and we rode on narrow gauge railroad with a steam engine. We toured the Big Pit, a national park in a coal mine, and went through Llanelly House, restored to magnificence. We toured caves, Cardiff Castle, and the local hills. One of my perennial favorites is Carreg Cennan, once thought to be the most impregnable castle in Europe.

I am going to be giving a talk about this trip at the St. David's Day Celebration, and showing pictures. We were fortunate to have had lovely weather, so come to see my pictures of rural Wales.

I will also be sharing some stories and photos in subsequent issues of Dragon Tales

Study Abroad in Wales

Marah Hager

Coming from Southeastern Ohio and the prevailing influence of Welsh culture surrounding me as I aged, I began to form a bond with Wales. This was the main reason I decided to study abroad at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) through the University of Rio Grande – not only because of the diversity that is experienced through studying abroad, but also that it was a study abroad in *Wales*. On my first day in Carmarthen, I stared up at the bright, yawning sunrise and understood something different about the sky.



Friendships were made in those first few days of arrival. International students clustered together, sharing hopes for what adventures may be taken during our stay in Wales. As I rode the bus headed for Llansteffan Castle, piled in beside other students from foreign places, there was the knowledge that by the time I returned home I would know each one of their names. We shared stories as we watched the miles pass from the windows, not understanding yet how many stories we would make together as the three months of the semester progressed.

As an acting student, I found the majority of my time spent in studio rooms or the open space of a stage, inviting me to step outside of my comfort zone and flourish within the new concepts and methods that were presented to me at UWTSD. I had the opportunity to learn from professionals and form lasting relationships with the other students with whom I was given the opportunity to collaborate. As we sat backstage in a darkening theatre, friendships were formed and professional networks were expanded, despite the mismatched accents mingling in the air around us.

It was during the Cultural Program offered through UWTSD's International Office that I found something beyond the extraordinary views of new places. I found something worth picking up and putting in my pocket, metaphorically speaking. I found the edges of my perception of the world stretched and my perception of myself altered. I remembered all those Christmases I sang in the Welsh language with other youths in the community about the beauty of Wales, not fully understanding. I stood in the seaside town of Tenby, staring out to the ocean and I finally understood the meaning of each one of those hymns, poems, and quotes I had performed for audiences.

Studying abroad in Wales invited me to grow not only in my chosen field of study, but as a friend and as a person. Diolch yn fawr to the Welsh Society of Central Ohio for their support in making the opportunity possible.

WSCO Board Meetings

Board meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month, except for July, August and December, from 7pm to 9pm 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, Laura Jenkins Gorun, Jeanne Jones Jindra, Jeff Jones, Lynn R Jones, Patti Jones, Tegwyn Lantz, Mary Ellen Morgan, Bob Penry, Charlotte Prior, Mike Schroeder, Diana Wafe, Dianne Williams, Homer Williams..

Dragon Tales

Newsletter of the Welsh Society of Central Ohio

Editor Casey Beacom

WSCO Officers

President – Cathy Beacom
Vice-President- Laura Jenkins Gorun
Treasurer – Tegwyn Lantz
Recording Secretary – Diana Wafe
Corresponding Secretary – Cathy Beacom

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Facebook – Welsh Society of Central Ohio

Dragon Tales

Is published three times a year, about 3-4 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

Upcoming Events

Board Meetings

2nd Tuesday of the Month 7pm. No meetings in July, August and December.
Valleyview United Methodist Church
2833 Valleyview Dr., Columbus

Trivia Team

4th Wednesday of the Month, 8pm.
Coaches Bar & Grill, 1480 Bethel Rd. Columbus

St. David's Day Flag Raising

Friday Feb. 24 at noon
Ohio Statehouse, downtown Columbus

St. David's Day Celebration and Annual Meeting

Saturday Feb. 25

St. David's Day in Oak Hill

Saturday Mar. 4 at noon
Presbyterian Church in Oak Hill

Beltane Festival

Saturday May 13, 2017, 10:00am-6:00pm
Norton, Ohio

WSCO Picnic

July 2017

NAFOW in Rochester, New York

Aug. 31 – Sept. 3

WSCO Gymanfa 2017

Oct. 15