

DRAGON TALES

Issue 2 - 2023

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

SAINT DAVID'S DAY LUNCHEON & ANNUAL MEETING

By Kyle Wright

WSCO's Luncheon and Annual Meeting returned to Worthington Hills Country Club for 2023.

Bob Penry lead a participatory seminar on experiences in Wales and America.

The luncheon began with a traditional Welsh leek soup, with chicken Florentine, grilled salmon, a vegetable stir fry. As always, the event ended with members singing traditional Welsh hymns.

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Jeff Johnson provides musical entertainment with accompaniment from Mrs. Elaine Bowers. Photo credit: Laura Thomas.

Upcoming Events

All are welcome to attend the shared WSCO/Radnor Heritage Society potluck on July 22, 2023, from noon to 2:00 PM, at the Radnor Township Community Center, 4061 State Route 203, Radnor.

Please RSVP by July 14 (there's a maximum room capacity) at www.PerfectPotluck.com. In the 'Find' box, enter Zeirott (coordinator's last name), and enter 1803 for the password.

You'll enter your name and item you're bringing under the appropriate category.

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WSCO 75th Annual Cymanfa Ganu

By WSCO President, Eve Goodwyn

The Welsh Society of Central Ohio (WSCO) invites you to join us as we celebrate our 75th anniversary at our Gymanfa Ganu (hymn sing), at 2:30pm, Oct. 15, 2023 at Central College Presbyterian Church sanctuary, 975 S. Sunbury Road, Westerville, OH 43081.

Jay Williams of Clinton, NY, returns to Columbus as our conductor. In addition to being an attorney and pastor, Jay is the author of two books on Welsh Americans. He has conducted at gymanfas for Welsh societies throughout the country.

We welcome back organist James Hildreth, who is in his 23rd year of playing for WSCO's gymanfas. Jim has been organist for the Broad Street Presbyterian Church in Columbus since 1987, and Organist of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra since 1988. As an active member of the American Guild of Organists, he has served as a judge

and coordinator of local and regional AGO competitions, as well as reviewing music for their journal, *The American Organist*.

This year's gymanfa also features Welsh harp music played by Kirk Kupensky, a 40-year veteran of the harp, who studied in the UK under David Watkins, former Principal Harpist to the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Kirk is from the Youngstown-Warren area, and will play the interludes between hymns and more informal Welsh music later at the Te Bach (small tea).

Hymns are generally sung with one verse in Welsh and the rest in English. Welsh/English hymnals are provided.

The Te Bach follows immediately after the gymanfa concludes, in Ballard Hall, on the same campus, and will feature tea sandwiches, various small pastries, traditional Welsh tea cakes, shortbread, punch, and other beverages.

Help us celebrate 75 years of preserving & promoting Welsh culture in Central Ohio.

New WSCO Board Policy

By Mike Schroeder

The spirit of the Board of Directors is collegial, and there is an expectation that members share in the work of the Board, and of WSCO, to make the organization successful.

During the pandemic, we began meeting by conference call, as it was not possible to meet in person. Because members are spread around central Ohio, the necessity also pointed out the convenience of continuing this practice.

If individuals can not attend a meeting, our first impulse is to ask if the person needs some help. Any absence can be excused if a person calls another Board member and says they can not make it, and that is reflected in the minutes as an excused absence.

There is a provision in Article V, Section E of the WSCO Constitution, "Members of the Board may be removed from office by a ¾ vote of the

Board present at any regular or special meeting, for malfeasance, misfeasance, and nonfeasance in office or for failure to remain a Member".

The terms are not defined. The WSCO Board of Directors discussed the need to have Board Members take active roles, as is required in any voluntary organization.

At the June 12 meeting, the Board moved and passed language defining the term "Nonfeasance" to mean:

"unexcused absence (absence without notice to another member prior to the meeting) from 3 or more regular or special meetings in a year beginning and ending with the Annual Meeting, shall be considered nonfeasance, and that the President and Corresponding Secretary shall notify a member, in writing, either electronically or in print, if she or he has two unexcused absences, with notice that a third such absence will be considered nonfeasance."

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Joe Preston is the featured speaker.

At the potluck, WSCO will be selling a limited number of custom hand towels embroidered with the Welsh dragon, so bring your checkbook.

Once the present towels are gone, orders will be taken for later delivery, and will also be available for sale at the te bach following the gymanfa October 15, 2023.

Hope to see you there!

Future Events

- Sunday, September 24th 2023 Rio Grande Southern Gymanfa Ganu
- Sunday, October 15th 2023 at 2:30 pm, Gymanfa Ganu, Central College Presbyterian Sanctuary
- Saturday, February 24th 2024, St. David's Day luncheon and annual meeting, Scioto Country Club
- Wednesday, April 12th 2023, WSCO's 75th Anniversary

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 by phone conference.

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

Current WSCO Board Members

Cathy Beacom, Gene Beard, Marty Cottrill, Ken Evans, Eve Goodwyn, Shawn Hitchings, Tegwyn Lantz, Mary Ellen Morgan, Bob Penry, Anne Powell Riley, Mike Schroeder, Laura Thomas, Kyle Wright, Dianne Williams, Homer Williams

WSCO Officers

Eve Goodwyn, President
Bob Penry, Vice President
Tegwyn Lantz, Treasurer
Laura Thomas, Recording Secretary

WSCO Contact Information

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Dragon Tales

The newsletter of the Welsh Society of Central Ohio is published three times a year, about 3-4 weeks before each of our annual events.

Editors – Kelsey Wright & Kyle Wright

Submissions

Submissions for Dragon Tales 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.

Submissions must be received by Board Meetings in January, June, and September to appear in the next issue.

2023 Welsh 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 24 2023 at noon.

In attendance were Ken Evans and Jeff Johnson, the representatives from WSCO, as well as Matt Rawings and

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A Taste Of Wales Society Celebrates Savory Heritage

EXCERPTED FROM THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH FEBRUARY 14, 1996

By Karin A. Welzel

Ask a Welshman how he feels about food, and he's liable to get poetic.

O, blackberry tart, with berries as big as your thumb, purple and black, and thick with juice, and a crust to endear them that will go to cream in your mouth, and both passing down with such a taste that will make you close your eyes and wish you might live forever in the wideness of that rich moment.

That's how the Anglo-Welsh writer Richard Llewellyn described a favorite dessert, and no doubt he would have the same sentiments about Diane Williams' blackberry bread pudding.

Williams prepared the bread pudding recently in anticipation of St. David's Day. A member of the Welsh Society of Central Ohio, Williams and fellow member Keith Turpie will teach a cooking class called "The Welsh Table" as part of the daylong 1996 St. David's Day Festival on

Feb. 25.

"Welsh food is the ultimate comfort food, made from fresh ingredients and simply prepared," said Williams. "It fills and nourishes the body and should be followed by a Welsh hymn sing, which will fill and nourish the soul."

Because of its mountainous terrain, the cuisine has an indigenous focus. Cooks had to make use exclusively of local produce, livestock, and seafood; their dishes reflect the country's farming and herding traditions.

Welsh cheese and cream—the double clotted kind—are considered delicacies. Lamb, said to be the sweetest in the world, is the primary meat, and the leek is the country's national symbol.

"The Welsh are very nationalistic," Williams said. "They love their country very much. Unfortunately, jobs are not there now, and many, particularly the young people, find that they have

to leave to find employment."

Once they leave, she said, it's certain they will miss the likes of Selsig Morgannwg, Cawl Cennin a Thatws, Pasti Cyw Iar Cymreg, Punchnep and Teisen Lap.

Fortunately, most of the ingredients for these dishes are easily found elsewhere. One item they might have trouble finding is Laver Bread, a baked mixture of seaweed, rolled oats and bacon fat.

Primary cooking utensils in Wales are iron pots and griddles, a tradition adopted from Celtic ancestors, Williams said. The pots turn out gallons of cawl, a vegetable-and-meat soup that's a customary first course and a staple on Welsh lunch menus. (If prepared authentically, it takes two or three days to make).

The griddles are used for baking Cage Bach, the famous Welsh griddle cakes served at tea or tucked into lunch boxes.

Three sides of Wales border the sea, so fish is a

staple. "Fish is oftentimes used for breakfast," Williams said.

Welsh gardens provide an array of herbs, said Williams, running the "whole gamut" from basil to thyme. Nutmeg, cinnamon and allspice commonly flavor the simple but scrumptious desserts.

"Blackberry pudding is a good example of the simplicity of Welsh food," said Williams. A basin is lined with bread, and then a cooked mixture of blackberries, sugar and orange juice is poured on top. More bread covers the top; then the dessert is weighted down and chilled overnight. At serving time, it is unmolded and laced with liqueur and cream.

Williams said that any American cook can turn out a Wales-inspired meal. "The dishes aren't hard to make, and the ingredients not hard to find."

Well, except maybe for that laver bread, which involves boiling seaweed for several hours. She hasn't tackled that one yet.

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Bryan Derr, as usual, with the Flag.

Jason Hill was in attendance as the representative for Governor Mike DeWine. He presented the Governor's Proclamation for the Welsh.

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



The Governor's Proclamation for the Flag Raising at the Statehouse.

Fond Farewells

Ida Mae Carrier

Ida Mae Carrier, 95, passed away on August 14, 2018. She was predeceased by : her husband Paul F. Carrier; and her son Keith A. Carrier. She is survived by: her son-in-law Paula Thistlewaite; her parents, William E. Allen and Ethel M. Thomas; her daughters, Paula Thistlewaite (James) and Donna Sherrard (Mark); her grandchildren, Sarah Thistlewaite (Brian Davey), Paul Carrier (Rebecca), Melissa Sherrard (Thomas White) and Charles B. Sherrard (Marissa); her great grandchildren, Olivia Carrier, Addison Carrier and Rosalie Davey; and also, James Thistlewaite and Westerville. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Daniel Lewis

Daniel Evans Lewis, 90, of Upper Arlington, passed away peacefully on April 16, 2022.

He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio to the late Evan T. and Elizabeth Anne Lewis. He was raised in Cincinnati graduating from Walnut Hills High School and the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Science degree. While in college he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.

He served two years as an artillery officer in the United States Army where he rose to the rank of Captain.

He graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree of Doctor of Medicine. He interned at

Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. He completed a Radiology Residency at University Hospital, Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

He was married to Merlene (Sweet) Lewis in 1971, and they had two sons, Michael (Amy) and David (Kristine) Lewis; and four grandchildren, Abby, Jack, Dominic and Jeffery Lewis, all of whom survive him.

He became associated with the Columbus Radiology Corporation and practiced Radiology at Grant Medical Center for thirty years. He served as Secretary-Treasurer of Grand Medical Staff from 1988-1997. He was a member of the American College of Radiology and was honored by being elected to become a Fellow of the American College of Radiology. He was a member of the American Medical Association, the Ohio State Medical Association, and the Ohio State Radiological Society. He was a member of the Central Ohio Radiological Society serving in all the offices including President. He was a member of the Columbus Medical Association serving one year as Secretary-Treasurer.

Dan was a warm, caring man who loved his family, profession and the people whose lives he touched. He will be dearly missed by his family and all whom were fortunate enough to know him.

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