

October 2015-January 2016

DRAGON TALES

The Welsh Society of Central Ohio

Cymdeithas Gymreig Canolbarth Ohio

Promoting a Strong and Vibrant Welsh Community in Central Ohio



WSCO Gymanfa to be held **Sunday, October 18, 2015**

Laura Thomas, Event Chair

Now that your voices are all warmed up from the awesome NAFOW gymanfa at the Southern Theater (or in case you weren't able to attend that one), get ready to join your local Ohio friends for our Welsh Society of Central Ohio Gymanfa.

The WSCO Gymanfa will be held at 2:30 on Sunday, October 18, 2015 at the Central College Presbyterian Church in Westerville, Ohio.

Our chorister will be our own **Tom Lloyd**, who will bring his men's chorus to provide our special music. **James Hildreth** returns as our accompanist.

The Gymanfa will be followed by a Te Bach where you can mingle with friends old and new.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Directions to the church:

Central College Presbyterian Church is located near the northeast side of Columbus at 975 Sunbury Road in Westerville, Ohio, less than 1.5 miles north of State Route 161 and just north of Dempsey Road, on the west side of the street.

Questions about the gymanfa or te bach can be directed to info@WelshSocietyofCentralOhio.org or telephone WSCO at: 614-500-7998.

Please use the provided form for memorials and donations for this year's Gymanfa Ganu - please mail to be received by October 08, 2015 (form included in this issue of *Dragon Tales*).

WSCO Annual Picnic

Donna Boyce, Newsletter Editor

A number of WSCO Members and friends gathered at the Shadblow shelter at Blendon Woods for the annual July picnic.

Welsh tea towels were displayed along the stone wall of the shelter as decoration, and a variety of cloths lined the picnic tables.



Photos - B. Ransopher; Photo Technical Assistance - T. Lantz

During the afternoon activities, the attendees voted on the submissions for the WSCO Youth Eisteddfod Christmas Card art competition.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is an announcement of the eisteddfod winners along with pictures of their submissions, information on how to order Christmas cards, and an Order Form!

President's Message

Charlotte Prior

WOW!

Diolch yn fawr iawn for the wonderful turn out and volunteering at the North American Festival of Wales last Labor Day Weekend in the Hyatt Regency downtown. (with a special thanks to **Laura Jenkins Gorun**, chair of the Local Venue Committee, and **all** her committee members). The Thursday evening concert was especially entertaining – one young lady did some fancy clogging.

We are certainly having our Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday, October 18 at 2:30 p.m. in Central College Presbyterian Church on Sunbury Road. That masterful conductor, **Tom Lloyd**, from London, Ohio, will keep us on tune singing and in time. Tom's mens' group will be our special music.

Come prepared to make a JOYFUL noise and raise the roof singing. Be sure to stay for the Te Bach (little tea) after all that singing.

Bring your friends and family.

No excuses – if you forget your Welsh Hymnal, we have plenty to share.

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.

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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*)

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

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<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

Upcoming WSCO Events

Most Months, 4th Wednesday, 8pm

Trivia team

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

Monthly (except July, August & December),

2nd Tuesdays, 7-9pm

Board Meetings

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

October 18, 2015

WSCO's Annual Gymanfa Ganu and Te Bach

See article on Page 1

Feb. 27, 2016

WSCO's St. David's Day luncheon
and annual meeting; Details closer to the event

Other Events of Interest.

September 27, 2015, Sunday – 143rd annual Gymanfa of the Central Southeast Ohio Association of Welsh Congregational Churches, Tyn Rhos Church; morning session - 10:30am, lunch at noon, afternoon session - 1pm. Contact: Madog Center for Welsh Studies 740-245-7186.

November 29, 2015, Sunday – Annual Advent Carol Sing, Welsh-American Heritage Museum, 412 E. Main St., Oak Hill, OH, 3pm; The Madog Children's Choir will entertain and there will be group singing. Refreshments will be served. Contact: Madog Center for Welsh Studies 740-245-7186

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WSCO Sponsored Bus Trip to the Welsh Hills

Beth Ransopher, WSCO Board Member

The Welsh Society of Central Ohio sponsored a bus trip tour to the Welsh Hills of Granville on Saturday, June 13, 2015. Nineteen WSCO members and guests enjoyed a trip back in history to learn about the Welsh who settled the Granville area in the early 1800's and the Indian Moundbuilders even earlier.

Leaving from Columbus, our driver **Keith** drove a motor coach east to Granville, Ohio (established in 1805) and the beautiful rolling hills of Licking County

which has been home to many cultures for thousands of years. Our first visit was to the Granville Historical Society and Museum where **Maggie Brooks** and **Janet Philipps Procida** welcomed us. Participants enjoyed a great 20-minute video Janet created explaining how the Welsh settled and thrived in the area. Participants then had an opportunity to view displays ranging from the early pioneer families to more modern 1950s artifacts.

Boarding the bus once again Janet, a descendant of the founding fathers of the Welsh Hills, shared her wealth of information on the area by providing a one-hour guided driving tour. Before heading north, we drove through Granville and viewed the lovely New-England-like community, which showed evidence of Welsh-named homes and streets scattered throughout the village. Continuing north we entered the Welsh Hills (established in 1802), so named for the gently rolling hills and valleys that looked so much like the home country in Wales. Janet pointed out various historic homes and sites throughout the journey with special details provided. Two stops were made, the first being the Welsh Hills Baptist Church, established in 1808, and the Welsh Hills Cemetery, where graves from the early pioneering families were seen.

The bus proceeded to the historic Bryn Du Mansion with its expansive front lawn, once owned by Welshman **John Sutphin Jones**, whose fortune was built on coal mines and railroads. There we met Bryn Du Director **Bruce Cramer** who provided a brief explanation of the house and its infamous owners. Bus participants were able to spend a little extra time and enjoy some lunch and music as the Granville Arts Affair and Wine Festival was going on amongst the mansion grounds.

Beating a brief rain shower the bus continued on into Newark and Heath to the Great Circle Earthworks and Museum which includes an interactive video and 1,000-square-foot exhibit. A detailed historic perspective was provided by tour guide **Tim Jordan**. Due to a bad storm we were unable to walk the grounds, part of a 2,000 year-old set of geometric earthen enclosures built by the Hopewell Indians. The Great Circle Earthworks is owned by the Ohio History Connection (formerly known as the Ohio Historical Society), in cooperation with The Ohio State University-Newark.

This exact bus trip to Granville and the Welsh Hills in Licking County was offered again as a tour to participants attending the North American Festival of Wales on Thursday, September 3.

A huge thank you to WSCO member Maggie Brooks and Janet Philipps Procida for assisting in the planning and implementation of this bus tour!

Eisteddfod Results

Our 2015 Christmas Card competition is now completed. Diolch! (thanks!) to all who entered, for your wonderful drawings! And Llongyfarchiadau! (Congratulations!) to our winners!

Mary Claire Morgan (age 14, of Centerburg) won first place for her lovely drawing of a Balwen Welsh Mountain Sheep and Welsh Sheepdog, decorated for Christmas. For first place, she won \$125, and her design will be featured on WSCO's 2015 Christmas Card - ORDER NOW though October 31, 2015.



Second Place was a tie! We've decided to resolve the tie by adding to the prize pool, so EACH winner will receive the full \$50. Our two second place winners, then, were: **Meredith Morgan** (age 11, of Centerburg, OH) and her drawing of a Christmas-themed Welsh Lovespoon and wreath, and **Meghan Mertz** (age 13, of Canal Winchester, OH) and her drawing of Welsh Corgies at the Christmas Tree.



Third Place went to **Haili Roth-Gillis** (age 12, of Columbus, OH) and her drawing of a Christmas tree with a Welsh Flag top-per.



Diolch yn fawr! (Thanks very much!) to everyone who attended WSCO's annual family picnic on July 18th, and voted to select the winners.

Ordering Christmas Cards

Help preserve Welsh culture and heritage by ordering Christmas Cards and giving them to friends and family!

High quality 4-7/8" x 6-3/4" Christmas cards featuring **Mary Claire Morgan's** winning design (along with premium peel & seal envelopes) will be available through WSCO in packages of eight (8), for a suggested donation of \$10 per package. All proceeds will go towards future youth Eisteddfod prizes - help WSCO remind Ohio's youth to consider their heritage, through Youth Eisteddfodau!

Card Orders will be accepted by mail to WSCO [please include mailing address], from now through October 31st, 2015, but order before October 1st, 2015, and pick up in person at the Te Bach following WSCO's Gymanfa Ganu on the third Sunday in October to get a refund on your \$6 shipping! All orders will be shipped no later than mid-November.

Printable ORDER FORM is available on our website's Eisteddfod page, and a copy is included with this newsletter.

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.

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.

History of Welsh in Columbus Series: Miami Avenue Presbyterian Church

Beth Ransopher, WSCO Board Member

Previous articles in this series have touched on the trifecta of Welsh churches in Columbus, the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church (1849 – 1888), the Welsh Presbyterian Church (1888 – 1919) and the Miami Avenue Presbyterian Church (1919 – 1962). This time I am highlighting the Miami Avenue Presbyterian Church a little more. Many thanks to WSCO member **Myron Cherry**, who found in his archives the final letter written to the Miami Avenue congregation from the Columbus Presbytery the final month before the church closed its doors. The poignant letter provides a nice summarized history of the three churches and its faithful congregation that I am reprinting it here, in its entirety.

As written in a Sunday service bulletin in June 1962:

Prepared by the closing commission of the Columbus Presbytery and delivered at the June 15th (1962) meeting of the Presbytery.

Since the Miami Avenue Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio will hold its final service of worship on June 24, 1962, it seems fitting and proper that due recognition be given to the service rendered and the inspiration provided by this faithful congregation during the 113 years of existence.

Organized as the Welsh Presbyterian Church of the Calvinistic Methodist connection in 1849 when Columbus had a population of 18,000, its membership, over the years, has been largely the second and third generation of Welsh people who came to America and settled in Ohio. Its efforts have been to preserve the worthwhile qualities that characterized the Welsh people, a sturdy hardy folk, with a deep love of liberty, a strong religious fervor, a gift for song and profound interest in education and the poetic arts. In 1850 they built their first church building on the corner of Fifth and Long Streets. The second building was erected at the corner of Sixth and Long Streets and dedicated in 1888. The present building was constructed in 1920 and in 1921 the congregation decided to change its name to Miami Avenue Presbyterian Church. On January 1, 1922, services in the Welsh language were discontinued.

Some highlights of its history include:

- *It has always been self-supporting.*
- *It always operated on a balanced budget and has no debt now.*
- *In proportion to its membership and resources, it has been liberal in supporting the various benevolent projects of the Presbyterian and United Presbyterian Church.*
- *In the last 100 years, it has produced many leaders for other churches and there is scarcely a Protestant church in Columbus*

that has not benefited from the leadership of a man or woman who received his or her early training at the Miami Avenue Presbyterian Church. An outstanding example is Dr. D. Luther Evans, of the Department of Philosophy at Ohio State University and an Elder in the Overbrook United Presbyterian Church on North High Street.

With the changing times and conditions, recent years have witnessed an exodus of its constituents from the vicinity of Miami Avenue and the congregation reluctantly but courageously voted in the Spring of 1962, to request the Presbytery of Columbus to dissolve it at the end of June, 1962.

Mindful of its long service and regretting the need to concur with this request, the Presbytery of Columbus notes with thanks and appreciation the many and various contributions to the Kingdom of Christ made by the Miami Avenue congregation.

The building used as the Miami Avenue Presbyterian Church still stands today at 116 Miami Avenue. Credit must be given to the Welsh Presbyterian Church members when they decided to move to the Miami Avenue site, for they sold the Long & Sixth Street location before the Miami property was even built. There must have been a great deal of will and faith that the congregation would survive not having a building of their own for almost two years. They were fortunate to have the assistance of many area churches who allowed them to use their buildings for services and meetings, including the Welsh Congregational Church that was located at the corner of Gay and Washington Streets (about where the Columbus Museum of Art parking lot is). The final cost of the building was \$125,000.

The move to the building was indeed successful in 1921 and the congregation continued to thrive. Many groups which started in the former church maintained and often times grew based on what was happening at the time, such as music, Sunday school, the Ladies Aid and Missionary Society, the Miami Friendly Guild, and the Men's Brotherhood. In 1949 the church celebrated its 100-year anniversary by having a reception and writing a historical tribute book. We have found some photographs from this reception, which highlights the Reverend **Frederick Kirker**, who was the pastor at the time. Beginning in 1948 the Welsh Society of Central Ohio also used the building to hold their Board meetings.

With the assistance of several of you we have found archived documentation from the three churches, but especially the Miami Avenue Church, to further preserve the history of the Welsh in Columbus.

The history of Columbus display that was created for the North American Festival of Wales will be shown at the WSCO Gymanfa Ganu in October, along with some of the pictures and documents that have been located.

WSCO's Welsh Exchange Travel Scholarship Winner



Cydnie Few has completed her sophomore year at the University of Rio Grande. A native of Cincinnati, Cydnie graduated with honors from the School of Creative and Performing Arts, focusing on drama and violin. She is majoring in Early Childhood Education at URG, but Cydnie has a variety of interests in life.

During her study abroad experience at Trinity Saint David, in Carmarthen, Wales, she will take modules in early childhood education, and theater, eager to experience the creative exploration of performance theory. She also wants to compare the government of Wales to that of the US.

On the URG campus, Cydnie is active in Student Senate and also the Economic Education group ENACTUS. She was recently awarded the \$1000 Lloyd Family Scholarship from the National Welsh American Foundation.

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2015 NAFOW in Columbus!

Many of you attended one or both of the concerts and gymanfa sessions. Below are photos of other happenings during the festival. Some photos were borrowed from WSCO's Facebook page -- see more at www.facebook.com/WelshSocietyOfCentralOhio (capital 'O' on the word "Of"!).



Folk Dancing Seminar
Sponsored by WSCO's own

Welsh Country Dancers of Central Ohio
Yes, there *were* men present (attendance was about 50/50). In this photo, a man and his partner just went through the arch and the woman with the braid is reaching out for her male partner's hand before they go through.



WSCO's Chuck Caudy chats with visitors to WSCO's Marketplace booth. His wife, Kay, was also working there.



Former board member Evan Jones speaking during the Opening Ceremony.



Two LVC members - Tegwyn Lantz (left) and Beth Ransopher (right).



Sian Frick, giving folk dancing instructions.



Board member Jeff Jones helping with rugby demo.



Part of the rugby demo.



WSCO members Becky (Speakman) Crossover and her mother Peggy (Morgan) Speakman monitoring the Tea Room tables in the Marketplace.



Bob Evans, down on the farm...
Scene from "That Was Bob" program.

WSCO Items For Sale

Available at the Te Bach after the Oct. 18th Annual Gymanfa Ganu

- 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

Memorials, Honors and Donations for October 18, 2015, WSCO Gymanfa Ganu

Remember your loved ones and honor the living.

To be included in the gymanfa program, all information and checks **need to be received no later than October 8, 2015**. All gifts are tax deductible. Please make checks **payable to WSCO** and send to: WSCO, PO Box 12023, Columbus, OH 43212.

I would like to donate \$ _____ in loving memory of _____ (Deceased's name, as you would like to see it in the program).
Relationship to you (i.e., grandmother, father, etc.) _____

I would like to donate \$ _____ in honor of _____ (Honoree's name, as you would like to see it in the program).
Relationship to you (i.e., grandmother, father, etc.) _____

I would like to help defray costs by donating \$ _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

**A very sincere
diolch yn fawr iawn
(thank you very much)
from all who love
their Welsh heritage.**

_____ Email _____

Please use the back of this form for any additional memorials or honorariums.

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Please use the back of this form for any additional memorials or honorariums.



FEATURING THE WINNING DESIGN FROM THE WSCO YOUTH EISTEDDFOD ART COMPETITION



CHRISTMAS CARD ORDER FORM

Order cards in Packages of eight (8), including envelopes, for a suggested donation** of \$10 per 8-pack.

of 8-packs: _____ X \$10 each = \$ _____ add\$6* for S&H = Card Order Total: _____

Additional Donation** (optional): \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

* For \$6 Shipping refund, Order by October 1st, and PICK UP IN PERSON at Te Bach, after WSCO's Gymanfa Ganu (3rd Sun. in Oct).

** Any donations received in excess of printing and shipping costs will be used to support future Eisteddfodau.

SHIPPING ADDRESS / CONTACT INFO PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY (WSCO will not share or sell your contact information)

NAME (for Mailing Label) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL and /or PHONE# _____

(in case we need to reach you with a question or problem with your order)

Check this box if you are a WSCO member, and you want your membership info updated with the above information

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY WSCO by OCTOBER 31st, and will be shipped in mid-November.

Please make check payable to "WSCO", and mail, with this completed form to:

WSCO; PO BOX 12023; COLUMBUS, OH 43212

***Diolch (Thank you) for supporting WSCO's Youth Eisteddfod,
and helping to foster and preserve Welsh Culture and Heritage in Central Ohio and beyond!***

Questions? Contact WSCO by email: info@WelshSocietyofCentralOhio.org; or by phone: (614) 500-7998

Our Website - www.WelshSocietyofCentralOhio.org; Our Facebook Page - facebook.com/WelshSocietyOfCentralOhio