

# North American Festival of Wales *Gŵyl Cymru Gogledd America*



Ottawa, Ontario  
August 27–31, 2025



*Featuring the 93rd  
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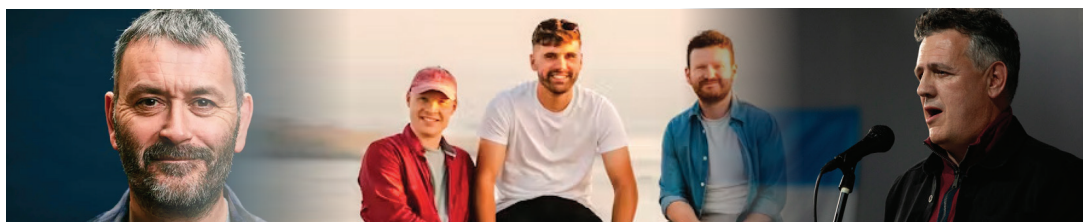
Taith Eisteddfod y Wladfa / Welsh Patagonia Eisteddfod Tour

Hydref/October 2026



Taith Ysbyrd y Mimosa 2026: Bwncath, Rhys a Tudur

Tachwedd/November 2026



TUDUR OWEN

BWNCATH

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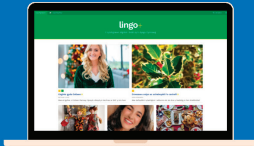
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# Croeso! Welcome to the North American Festival of Wales Ottawa 2025 Cynnwys/ Table of Contents

Schedule at a Glance & Venue Addresses.....	6-8
Festival Bar .....	8
Welcome Letters.....	9-10
Board Meetings .....	10
Celebrate 50 Years of Ninnau .....	10
Festival Highlights.....	12-13
First-Time Attendees Breakfast .....	13
Opening Ceremony .....	15
A Taste of Wales .....	15
WelshFest on Sparks .....	16
Comedy Night.....	16
Late Night Informal Singing.....	16
Gala Banquet & NAWF Heritage Award.....	20-22
Grand Concert.....	24-25
Limerick & Visual Arts .....	30
Eisteddfod Deadlines & Schedule.....	30-31
Cinema from Wales .....	32-35
Tours.....	35
Say Something in Welsh .....	37
Sunday Morning Worship.....	38
WNAA/NAWF Celebration.....	38
Noson Lawen .....	38
Gymanfa Ganu Sessions .....	40-41
Seminars.....	44-55
WNAA Officers, Trustees & Board Assistants.....	57
WNAA Executive Directors & Secretaries .....	57
Sponsors .....	59
Donations, Memorial and Honoring Gifts.....	60-62
Historical Lists .....	63-66
National Anthems .....	67

Cover photo: Ottawa Tourism

Welsh North American Association  
PO Box 1054, Trumansburg NY 14886  
festivalofwales.org, wnaahq@gmail.com

# Schedule at a Glance

All events are on the Convention Level of the hotel unless otherwise noted.

## Wednesday, August 27

3:00-6:00	Registration Desk & Banquet Table Assignment	Lobby-Victoria
4:00-4:45	Opening Ceremony	Garden of the Provinces (Sparks & Bay Sts.)
6:30-8:00	<i>A Taste of Wales</i> (ticket required)	Int'l Ballroom B&C
9:00-11:00	Festival Bar	Penthouse-Panorama

## Thursday, August 28

8:30-12:00	Tour 1: Ottawa with a Welsh Flavour	Hotel Lobby 8:15
9:00-5:30	Registration Desk & Banquet Table Assignment	Lobby-Victoria
10:00-12:00	Writing Workshop: Write About Wales & Yourself	Chaudiere
10:00-12:00	Harp Workshop	Penthouse-Panorama
12:00-5:00	Marketplace, Tea Room, Silent Auction	Int'l Ballroom A
12:30-3:30	Tour 2: Welsh Highlights @ National Gallery	Hotel Lobby 12:15
1:00-3:00	Cinema: Screening of <i>Shoulder to Shoulder – The Film</i>	Capitale
4:00-7:00	WelshFest on Sparks	Sparks St. (between Lyon St. & Kent St.)
8:00-9:30	Comedy Night-Tudur Owen (ticket required)	Int'l Ballroom B&C
9:30-12:00	Informal Singing	Penthouse-Pinnacle
9:00-12:00	Festival Bar	Penthouse-Panorama

## Friday, August 29

8:00-9:00	First-Time Attendees Welcome Breakfast	2nd Flr LeBreton
8:00-10:00	Wales vs. Canada Women's Rugby World Cup	Capitale
8:30-6:00	Registration Desk & Banquet Table Assignment	Lobby-Victoria
9:00-5:00	Marketplace, Tea Room, Silent Auction	Int'l Ballroom A
9:00-10:00	Seminar: Saviour of the Language	Joliet
9:00-10:00	Seminar: A Boy's Childhood in Wartime Wales	Richelieu
10:00-10:30	Coffee Talk: Investments and Legacies	2nd Flr LeBreton
10:30-11:30	Seminar: I am in Part a Welshman	Joliet
10:30-11:30	Seminar: Gwen John	Richelieu
10:30-11:30	Seminar: Welsh I	Capitale
10:30-11:30	Storytelling: Mabinogi I	Penthouse-Pinnacle
12:00-1:00	Harp Workshop	Penthouse-Pinnacle
12:00-1:00	Seminar: Welsh Folk Dancing I	Int'l Ballroom B&C
12:30-1:50	Cinema: National Theater of Wales: <i>Nye</i> part 1	Capitale
12:30-1:30	Seminar: NLW presents 'The Welch Tract'	Joliet
12:30-1:30	Seminar: The Patagonian Dream	Richelieu
1:00-2:00	Seminar: Welsh Folk Dancing II	Int'l Ballroom B&C
2:00-3:00	Cinema: <i>Abandoned Railways from Above</i>	Capitale
2:00-3:00	Seminar: Tracing N.A. Welsh Back to Wales	Joliet
2:00-3:00	Seminar: Cynefin ... Curriculum	Richelieu
3:00-3:30	Cinema: <i>Pouring Water on Troubled Oil</i>	Capitale
3:30-4:30	Seminar: Roofing the World – Llanberis 2026	Richelieu
3:30-4:30	Seminar: Women's Peace Petition	Chaudiere
3:30-4:30	Cinema: <i>Cymru Wales on Screen</i>	Capitale
5:00-6:00	Meeting: Penn. Group – Preserving Welsh Heritage	Chaudiere
5:00-6:00	Say Something in Welsh Meetup	Bytowne

## Schedule at a Glance—continued

### Friday, August 29 (continued)

6:00-7:00	Pre-Banquet Social Hour	Int'l Ballroom B&C Foyer
7:00-9:30	Gala Banquet & NAWF Heritage Award	Int'l Ballroom B&C
<i>Attire is semi-formal, preregistration &amp; reserved seating is necessary</i>		
9:00-12:00	Pub Night with Hogia'r Penrhyn	Penthouse-Panorama
10:00-12:00	Informal Singing	Penthouse-Pinnacle

### Saturday, August 30

9:00-4:30	Marketplace, Tea Room, Silent Auction	Int'l Ballroom A
9:00-5:00	Registration Desk	Lobby-Victoria
9:00-10:00	Seminar: Fun Look at Rugby	Chaudiere
9:00-10:00	Storytelling: Mabinogi II	Penthouse-Pinnacle
9:00-10:00	Cinema: <i>Cymru Wales on Screen</i>	Capitale
9:30-10:00	Eisteddfod Comp.: French Recitation	Int'l Ballroom B&C
10:00-10:30	Eisteddfod Comp.: Welsh Recitation	Int'l Ballroom B&C
10:30-11:00	Eisteddfod Comp.: English Recitation	Int'l Ballroom B&C
10:30-11:30	Seminar: Canada in Y Drych	Chaudiere
10:30-11:30	Seminar: Roofing the World – Llanberis 2026	Richelieu
10:30-11:30	Seminar: Welsh II	Capitale
10:30-11:30	Seminar: NLW-Q&A on Library Resources	Joliet
11:00-11:45	Eisteddfod Comp.: Harp Beginners Solo	Int'l Ballroom B&C
11:30-12:30	Mtg: AWO (Affiliated Welsh Orgs.) BYO lunch	2nd Flr LeBreton
11:45-12:30	Eisteddfod Comp.: Harp Advanced Solo	Int'l Ballroom B&C
12:00	Silent Auction Bidding Ends	Int'l Ballroom A
12:00	Limerick Submission Deadline - Registration	Lobby-Victoria
12:30-1:15	Eisteddfod Comp.: Harp Ensemble	Int'l Ballroom B&C
12:30-1:30	Seminar: Voices ... Glenys James Interviews	Joliet
12:30-1:30	Seminar: Cranogwen's 1870 Visit to California	Chaudiere
12:30-1:30	Seminar: A Boy's Childhood in Wartime Wales	Richelieu
12:30-1:30	Cinema: National Theater of Wales: <i>Nye</i> part 2	Capitale
1:00-3:00	Meeting: North America Wales Foundation (NAWF)	Bytowne
1:30-2:30	Eisteddfod Comp.: Hymn Singing Solo	Int'l Ballroom B&C
2:00-3:00	Cinema: <i>Abandoned Railways from Above</i>	Capitale
2:00-3:00	Seminar: I am in Part a Welshman	Chaudiere
2:00-3:00	Seminar: The Patagonian Dream	Richelieu
2:00-3:00	Seminar: Cynefin ... Curriculum	Joliet
2:00-3:00	Seminar: Ysgol Gan	Penthouse-Pinnacle
2:30-3:30	Eisteddfod Comp.: Solo Voice/Semi-Prof.	Int'l Ballroom B&C
3:00-4:00	Cinema: <i>Patagonian Bones</i>	Capitale
3:00-5:00	Silent Auction Items – Pickup & Payment	Int'l Ballroom A
3:30-4:30	Seminar: Saviour of the Language	Joliet
3:30-4:30	Seminar: Gwen John	Richelieu
4:00-4:30	Cinema: <i>A Pack of Five</i>	Capitale
4:00	Visual Arts Voting Deadline	2nd Flr LeBreton
4:00-5:00	Eisteddfod Winners Concert	Int'l Ballroom B&C
4:30-5:30	Say Something in Welsh Meetup	Bytowne
4:30-5:30	Celebrating 50 Years of Ninnau	2nd Flr LeBreton

## Schedule at a Glance—continued

### Saturday, August 30 (continued)

5:30-6:30	Pre-Concert Dinner (pre-purchase ticket)	Grand Salon
7:00-9:00	Grand Concert (ticket required)	Christ Church Cathedral
9:00-12:00	Festival Bar	Penthouse-Panorama
10:00-12:00	Informal Singing	Penthouse-Pinnacle

### Sunday, August 31

9:00-12:00	Marketplace & Tea Room	Int'l Ballroom A
9:00-9:45	WNAA Annual General Meeting (AGM)	Chaudiere
10:30-11:30	Worship Service (bring hymnal)	Int'l Ballroom B&C
12:00-12:30	Celebration of WNAA and NAWF	2nd Flr LeBreton

*Gymanfa Ganu—Bring your Hymnal and Program Book!*

Christ Church Cathedral, 414 Sparks Street, Ottawa Canada

2:00-3:30	Gymanfa Ganu Session I	Christ Church Cathedral
3:30-4:30	Complementary Afternoon Tea	Int'l Ballroom Foyer-Hotel
4:30-6:00	Gymanfa Ganu Session II & Closing Ceremony	C C Cathedral
6:30-7:30	Sunday Evening Meal (pre-purchase ticket)	Grand Salon
8:00-10:00	Noson Lawen	Int'l Ballroom B&C

Limerick Competition is judged by popular vote, also folk song singing & open-mic performances by festival attendees; pre-signup required

### Monday, September 1

8:30-5:00	Tour 3: Upper Canada Village	Hotel Lobby 8:15
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## Festival Bar

*Refer to Schedule at a Glance for times Penthouse-Panorama*

An opportunity to socialize and maybe sing a pub song or two!

On Friday night Hogiau'r Penrhyn provides an evening of well-known Welsh songs designed to get you singing along. This ensemble is a small group of Côt y Penrhyn singers formed especially for this year's festival. Some songs will demand some physical energy from the listeners, but most of all ... bring your voice!



The repertoire includes established popular Welsh songs like Lleucu Llwyd and Ysbryd y Nos, some Rugby anthems - Sosban Fach and well-known Welsh melodies and hymns. We hope to see you there and let's raise the roof, it's not every day you get the opportunity to join in with a live Cor-aoke!!



## Welcome Letter from WNAA President

Welsh North American Association  
Cymdeithas Cymru Gogledd America



Welcome to Ottawa!

We are thrilled to be back in Canada for this year's festival. Thanks to the hard work of our venue chairs Myfanwy Davies and Alison Lawson and our own executive secretary Megan Williams, this festival promises to be one of our most exciting ever.

We are so grateful to the officials and people of Ottawa for welcoming us back once more. We are also indebted to the Welsh government for a very generous donation which has allowed us to put together a spectacular lineup for the street festival on Thursday. Don't miss it!

As always, our board members will be on hand to help you during the programs and festivities. Use this booklet as your guide and stop by the registration desk if you need any extra assistance.

This year we are planning a special ceremony to acknowledge the merger of WNAA with our longtime collaborator NAWF. This is the result of many months of careful planning and negotiations and will make our Welsh presence on the North American continent even more robust. We hope you will join with us in celebrating this bold new alliance.

Be sure to take advantage of your time in this wonderful capital city by visiting national monuments, art galleries, the Byward Market, local shops and restaurants. Stroll across the bridge to Quebec province for even more novel experiences.

We are so glad to have you here with us. Croeso!

Dilys Rana, President WNAA

## Venue Addresses

**Opening Ceremony:** Garden of the Provinces, located off Sparks Street at Bay Street

**WelshFest:** Sparks Street between Lyon Street (which runs in front of the host hotel) and Kent Street (one block east)

**Host Hotel:** Delta Hotels Ottawa City Centre, 101 Lyon Street N, Ottawa ON

**Concert/Church:** Christ Church Cathedral, 414 Sparks Street, Ottawa ON

# Welcome Letter from Venue Chair



Welcome to Ottawa! Bienvenue! Croeso! It has been 25 years since we last welcomed our Welsh friends to Canada's Capital, and we're glad you're here. We're also thrilled that some of you are here for the first time. Enjoy.

This year's program is jam-packed with events that are sure to entertain, inform and amuse you. We are thrilled that the Welsh Government have joined us and are supporting many of the artists that are coming from Wales, particularly those who are entertaining us at the WelshFest on Thursday. There is a lot of buzz around the City of Ottawa about that show. Diolch yn fawr.

All of your other favourites are on the schedule as well. Seminars, Cinema, Eisteddfod, Grand Concert, Tours, Folk Dancing, Gymanfa Ganu, Church Service, Pub Night, Marketplace, Silent Auction, Tea Room and meals. New ideas for this year are A Taste of Wales, a Comedy Night, Mabinogian Storytelling and two workshops, one for writers and one for harp players. Hopefully there is something for everyone.

We also know that seeing your Welsh friends is important, and we look forward to hearing your squeals of delight and peals of laughter when you see someone for the first time since last year. We hope you enjoy our beautiful city, and all the marvelous activities that are planned for NAFOW this year. By the time you leave, you should have fully charged your Welsh batteries for another year.

A Festival this size is the work of many, and I have been supported by a wonderful group of local volunteers, in particular Alison Lawson. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

Myfanwy Davies

## Board Meetings

### **North America Wales Foundation Board Meeting**

*Saturday 1:00-3:00 p.m.* Meeting of the North America Wales Foundation board.

Bytowne

### **Welsh North American Association (Annual General Meeting)**

*Sunday 9:00-9:45 a.m.* All WNAA members are encouraged to attend.

Chaudiere

## Celebrate 50 Years of Ninnau

*2nd Floor-LeBreton, Saturday 4:30-5:30 p.m.*

Join us as we celebrate 50 years of Ninnau, The Welsh North American newspaper. It was founded by Arturo Roberts in 1975. Ninnau means 'Us' and connects the Welsh North American community. This informal reception gives an opportunity to meet contributors and to celebrate this important part of our North American community.



Welcome to Ottawa and NAFOW 2025.  
Please see our website for all our news, membership details,  
events and activities.

Croeso i Ottawa a'r Wyl Cymru Gogledd America 2025.  
Ewch i'n wefan ar gyfer ein newyddion, manylion aelodaeth,  
digwyddiadau a gweithgareddau.

Contact us by email at [Ottawa.Welsh.Society@gmail.com](mailto:Ottawa.Welsh.Society@gmail.com)

[www.ottawawelsh.org](http://www.ottawawelsh.org) or on Facebook

## The Calgary Welsh Society Cymdeithas Gymreig Calgary



Founded by John Morris – 'Morris Bach' in 1906

Proud supporters of the Welsh North American Association

Website: [calgarywelshsociety.com](http://calgarywelshsociety.com)

Facebook page: Calgary Welsh Society

# Festival Highlights

**WEDNESDAY OPENING CEREMONY.** 4:00-4:45 p.m. Garden of the Provinces, Sparks and Bay Streets. (See page 15). *Free and open to all.*

**WEDNESDAY EVENT: A TASTE OF WALES.** 6:30-8:00 p.m. International Ballroom B&C (See page 15). *Tickets available at Registration and at the door.*

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON: WELSHFEST ON SPARKS** between Lyon and Kent. 4:00-7:00 p.m. (See page 16).

**THURSDAY EVENING: COMEDY NIGHT WITH TUDUR OWEN.** 8:00-9:30 p.m. International Ballroom B & C (See page 16). *Tickets available at Registration and at the door.*

**FRIDAY RUGBY VIEWING.** 8:00-10:00 a.m. Capitale. View Wales vs. Canada Women's Rugby World Cup.

**FRIDAY GALA BANQUET.** 7:00 p.m. International Ballroom B&C. Co-hosted by the North America Wales Foundation and the Welsh North American Association (See pages 20-22). *Tickets must be pre-purchased and table reservations must be made in advance at the Registration Desk.*

**SATURDAY GRAND CONCERT.** 7:00 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 414 Sparks Street, Ottawa. Welsh artists Côr y Penrhyn (See pages 24-28). *Tickets available at Registration and at the door.*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE.** 10:30 a.m. in the International Ballroom B&C, Rev. Joseph G. Corbin preaching (See page 38). *Free and open to all; bring hymnal.*

**SUNDAY 92ND WELSH NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU.** Two sessions, Sunday afternoon, 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral, 414 Sparks Street, Ottawa. Traditional hymn singing in parts with verses in both Welsh and English. *Admission is included in the Festival Pass or Sunday Pass. Don't forget to bring your WNAA hymnal and Program Booklet!* (See pages 39-43).

**EISTEDDFOD.** (See pages 30-31) A traditional Welsh event: adjudicated competitions in singing, recitation, harp, and visual arts. Competitors must register in advance. Festival passholders may attend the competitions and concert. Separately: The Visual Arts competition is adjudicated by popular vote; cast your vote before 4:00 p.m. Saturday on the 2nd floor in LeBreton.

**LIMERICK.** You are encouraged to enter the Limerick Contest. Pick up instructions (with starting lines) and entry forms at Registration in Victoria on the Lobby level. Turn in your entry by Noon on Saturday. Vote for the best limerick at the Noson Lawen on Sunday night (See page 38).

**SAY SOMETHING IN WELSH MEETUPS.** For those interested in Say Something in Welsh, the online conversational Welsh course (See page 37).

**AFFILIATED WELSH ORGANIZATIONS ROUND TABLE.** BYO lunch. Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the 2nd floor in LeBreton. This is your opportunity to share ideas with representatives from other Welsh organizations.

# Additional Festival Items

*Refer to the Schedule at a Glance for hours*

## Registration

Victoria, Lobby Level

Make the Registration Desk your first stop at the festival. If you pre-registered, pick up your registration packet containing your name tag, program book and tickets for the weekend's events. If you are attending Friday evening's Gala Banquet, sign up for reserved seating. If you haven't pre-registered, we are happy to register you for the festival and answer any questions you have.

## Silent Auction

International Ballroom A, Lobby Level

*Wednesday 12:00 p.m. Begin dropping off items / Saturday 12:00 p.m. Bidding ends*

Be sure to stop by the Silent Auction tables. There are many treasures to be had! One-of-a-kind collectibles, books, and many other donated Welsh-related items. Enter your bids on the signup sheets.

Saturday 3:00-5:00 p.m. items are available for pickup and payment. We will text you. Please be prompt in picking up your items. Cash and credit accepted.

## Tea Room

International Ballroom A, Lobby Level

When you need a break, stop by the Welsh Tea Room and purchase tea and Welsh teacakes. A great opportunity to rest and meet other festival attendees.

*Sponsor: Ottawa Welsh Society*

## Marketplace

International Ballroom A, Lobby Level

Take in the Welsh Marketplace and shop the variety of Welsh items for sale. Talk to representatives from other Welsh organizations at their display tables.

## Book Sale

International Ballroom Foyer

Browse the donated Welsh books and leave a donation to WNAA for those you take. Many treasures to be found!

# First-Time Attendees Breakfast

*2nd Floor-LeBreton, Friday 8:00-9:00 a.m.*

If this is your first time at a North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW), please come to the first-time attendees gathering! Members of the Welsh North American Association (WNAA) board will be on hand to greet you and answer any questions. Complementary coffee and muffins will be served.

*Sponsored by the Welsh North American Association*

# Free and Paid Events

Free (no pass req'd)	Marketplace; Book Sale; Silent Auction; Opening Ceremony; WelshFest; Worship service; Pub Night & Informal Singing in Evening (cash bar)
Festival Pass req'd	Seminars; Workshops; Eisteddfod; Welsh Cinema
Extra Tickets or Fees req'd	Meals; Tea and Welshcakes in the Tea Room; Gala Banquet; Concert; Tours



Greetings from  
the Welsh  
Society of  
Philadelphia  
and the Welsh  
Guild of Philadelphia as  
we celebrate the 2025  
North American Festival of  
Wales in Ottawa Canada

[www.PhiladelphiaWelsh.org](http://www.PhiladelphiaWelsh.org)

## Wednesday Opening Ceremony

*Wednesday, August 27 4:00-4:45 p.m. at the Garden of the Provinces, located off Sparks Street at Bay Street.*

Enjoy remarks from the local society, WNAA President, local dignitaries, and the Welsh Government, as well as a performance from the Ottawa Police Choir and Shannon Mercer.

Learn more about the talented Urdd artists who will perform for us this year. Their biographies are on page 22.

*Sponsor: RK Bellwood Consulting*

## Wednesday Evening—A Taste of Wales

*Wednesday, August 27 6:30 p.m. at the International Ballroom B&C  
Ticket required, not covered by a NAFOW day pass; Tickets available at Registration and at the door*

Enjoy light refreshments with a Welsh flavor, and a preview of the weekend's performances.

**MENU:** *Lamb slider on brioche bun, aged cheddar and sage aioli, Leek and parmesan turnovers, Welsh cheese with accompaniments*

*Sponsors: David & Janet Allen; Bob & Jan Jones Batty*



WelshSociety.com

Greetings from  
the Welsh  
Society of  
Vancouver



Cyfarchion oddiwrth  
Gymdeithas Gymreig Vancouver

*Best wishes to the NAFOW 2025 festival  
Pôb dymuniad da i'r wyl NAFOW 2025*

The Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.



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*Join as an out-of-town member for only \$15/year.*

## Thursday Afternoon—WelshFest on Sparks

*Thursday, August 28 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Historic Sparks Street between Lyon Street (which runs in front of the host hotel) and Kent Street (one block east)*

Join us for a free outdoor concert featuring some of the best entertainment in Wales today. The lineup includes: Band Pres Llaeggub, Welsh of the West End, Pedair, and the Urdd presents four youth clog dancers.

Held on Ottawa's historic pedestrian Sparks Street, it is less than a 5-minute walk from the Delta Hotel City Center Ottawa.

*Sponsors: The Welsh Government; Optimal Show Experience*

## Thursday Night—Comedy Night with Tudur Owen

*Thursday, August 28 8:00-9:30 p.m. at the International Ballroom B&C*

*Ticket required, not covered by a NAFOW day pass*

*Tickets available at Registration and at the door*



Tudur Owen is a Welsh writer, comedian, and broadcaster known for his vibrant bilingual performances in Welsh and English. With a unique voice and a sharp wit, Tudur's work spans stand-up comedy, radio, television, and written word. Whether on stage, screen, or airwaves, he brings a distinctively Welsh perspective, blending humor with cultural insight. An avid hill walker and motorcyclist, Tudur's storytelling is fueled

by his love for adventure and the landscapes of Wales. He is currently expanding his creative work into playwriting and drama, continuing to share stories that resonate widely.

*Sponsors: Wynrhys Coghlan; Dilys Rana*

## Late Night Informal Singing



*Thursday, Friday & Saturday evenings after the day's events*

*Refer to the Schedule at a Glance for times  
Penthouse-Pinnacle*

Bring your NAFOW hymnal and join an informal Welsh hymn sing in four parts. Volunteer directors and accompanists make this an enjoyable evening to request to sing your favorites.

## Welsh of the West End

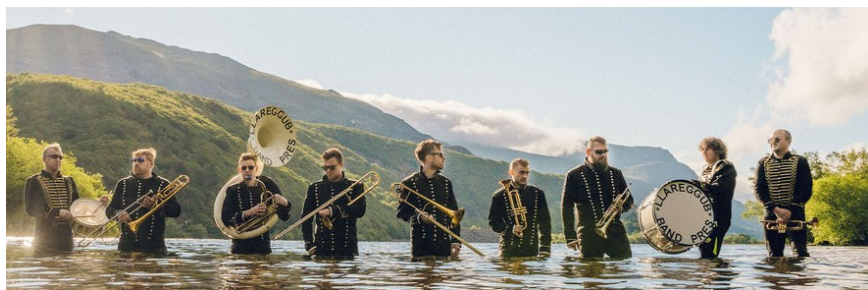


With over 18 million views online, Welsh of the West End has become a viral sensation. Entertaining audiences with their show-stopping versions of musical theatre classics, they have performed at iconic venues such as the Royal Albert Hall and the London Palladium, and wowed audiences internationally by reaching the live semi-finals of ITV's Britain's Got Talent. Featured by Official London Theatre, What's on Stage, ITV and BBC, this musical theatre super-group includes Welsh performers from shows such as *Les Misérables*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Wicked*. Members Mared Williams, Steffan Hughes, Celyn Cartwright and Glain Rhys look forward to joining the festival lineup for Ottawa.

## Pres Llareggub

Owing to the age-old tradition of brass bands from the slate mining villages of north Wales, Llareggub Brass Band ascend from the ashes of the past and bring with them an immense dose of heavy brass! Their music invokes the sumptuous flavours of New Orleans marching bands, together with Bronx-inspired Hip Hop and Welsh language pop music.

Formed by their bandleader Owain Roberts back in 2015, the band has released four studio albums and numerous EPs and are quickly making their mark as Wales' best live (brass) act. Their live sets often feature guest vocals by the likes of Mr Phormula (Welsh Beatboxing Champion), Lisa Jên (9Bach), Alys Williams (BBC's *The Voice*), Tara Bethan, Mared Williams and many more.



## Pedair

Pedair, feminine form of 'pedwar' ('four' in Welsh) draws on the talents of four of Wales' most prominent and award-winning folk artists (l-r): Meinir Gwilym, Gwyneth Glyn, Gwenan Gibbard, and Siân James. Groundbreaking international artists in their own right, all four thrive on collaboration and the thrill of live performance. Together they bring to life traditional material with new arrangements on harps, guitars, piano and accordion.



Their live performances have captured the imaginations and hearts of audiences with their sweeping harmonies, fresh interpretations of the Welsh folk tradition, and intimacy of songwriting, bringing together their unique gifts as song-tellers, the source material and inspiration from the poetic, oral and folk traditions of Wales and beyond. This is coupled with their deftness as songwriters, responding to the current state of the world, the resilience of nature, with a particular interest in giving voice to the woman.

Their first recordings, having emerged during lockdown, gained instant popularity, unexpectedly becoming a source of comfort and hope to many (including Pedair themselves!). With their much-anticipated debut album released by Sain in 2022, Pedair's creative synergy is only beginning to reach its full potential.



British Isles Family History Society of  
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*The Heritage Medallion – Y Medaliwn Treftadaeth*

*to*

**David Matthews**

*at the North American Festival of Wales in Ottawa  
on August 29, 2025*



## Friday Evening North America Wales Foundation Gala Banquet and NAWF Heritage Award

Highlighting the Accomplishments of Welsh North Americans  
Performance by Manon Ogwen Parry accompanied by Steve Jensen

*Friday August 29, 7:00-9:30 p.m. International Ballroom B&C  
Pre-purchased ticket required, not covered by a NAFOW day pass  
Tickets available at Registration; preassigned seating required  
Attire: Semi-formal*

**MENU:** *Leek and potato soup; Stuffed chicken breast with wild mushrooms, herbed fingerling potatoes; pan jus (gluten free); Maple vanilla crème brûlée, burnt brown sugar, seasonal berry*

This annual gala evening is co-sponsored by the North America Wales Foundation (NAWF) and the Welsh North American Association (WNAA).

Established in 1980, the North America Wales Foundation was the initiative of several individuals, inspired by the late Jack K. Evans, a native of Wales. The Foundation has a commitment to preserve, share and promote the common culture and traditions of Wales and North America.

The NAWF has distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in awards over the years and runs an annual scholarship and grant program.

Its highest honor, the Heritage Medallion, is awarded to individuals or organizations distinguished by their contributions to North American Welsh life.

This year it will honor the 2025 recipient of the NAWF Welsh Heritage Medallion, David Matthews.

Following the award presentation, we will be entertained by Manon Ogwen Parry, the 2024 recipient of the coveted Osborne Roberts Blue Riband Memorial Award at the National Eisteddfod in Wales.

## Manon Ogwen Parry



**Manon Ogwen Parry** is a sought-after Welsh soprano who is currently studying with Marilyn Rees on the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, having gained a First Class Honours Bachelor of Music and a First Class in Master of Music.

In 2024, she was awarded the Paul Hamburger Prize, Susan Longfield Bursary, Osbourne Roberts Bursary and won second prize at the 2024 Llangollen International Voice of the Future competition. She had previously been awarded the Kathleen Ferrier Society Bursary for young singers.

She made her recital debut in 2024 at Carnegie Hall NYC. Other notable performances included Brahms' *Requiem* and Dvořák's *Te Deum* in Oxford, Rossini's *Petite messe solennelle* with conductor Robert Dean and an appearance at the Ludlow English Song Festival with Iain Burnside.

Manon recently made her recital debut at Wigmore Hall with Graham Johnson OBE and performed at the Machynlleth Music Festival alongside Julius Drake.

In addition to concert activity, she has recently studied Lieder with artists such as Elly Ameling, Helmut Deutsch, Wolfram Rieger, and Roger Vignoles and participated in masterclasses at Wigmore Hall with Olaf Bär. In 2022 she was featured in BBC Radio 3's Immersions Concert Series for composer George Walker. She has also represented the Urdd Gobaith Cymru at the North American Festival of Wales.

## David Matthews

**David Matthews**, born in Aberystwyth, raised in the seaside village of Borth, Ceredigion, trained as a teacher in Trinity College, Carmarthen. After two years of teaching in England and unable to find a job in Wales, he immigrated to Canada in 1967. After marrying his French-Canadian wife Mona in Manitoba, they spent 37 years in Canada's subarctic, raising their family and working with the indigenous Tlicho in isolated communities and Yellowknife.

Now in Calgary, David is a member of the Calgary Welsh Society, a music lover, a so-so gardener and an avid hiker, having walked around Wales as well as up the Cambrian Way through Wales' hills and mountains.



# 2024 Urdd Gobeith Cymru National Eisteddfod Winners



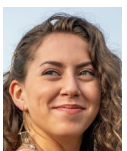
These four award-winning Urdd folk dancers will perform as part of Thursday's outdoor concert, WelshFest. They'll also join us for a folk dancing session on Saturday afternoon and you'll get a sneak preview of their talents at our kick-off event, Taste of Wales.



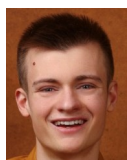
**Caian Wyn Evans** has years of experience dancing in numerous competitions and concerts representing his school, Dawnsywyr Talog, and Aelwyd Hafodwenog. He loves performing clog dancing as a soloist, in addition to group performances, and is very much looking forward to performing in Canada. He also sings with Cor Hafodwenog, and has performed solo in Eisteddfodau. Caian started clog dancing later than most – just three years ago – after watching others dance and wanting to try it himself. Remarkably, he won the solo clog dancing competition in his very first year competing.



**Erin Eluned Jones** is a passionate and accomplished Welsh folk dancer and clogger with years of experience performing across Wales and internationally. Erin performed with Dawnsywyr Talog and Aelwyd Hafodwenog, and has taken part in festivals in Ireland, Poland, and France, in addition to performing as a member of the group 'Twmpdaith' at the Lorient Interceltic Festival. Her work seamlessly blends technical skill with powerful storytelling, and she continues to refine her craft through solo and group performances on stages of all sizes.



**Gwennan Heledd Staziker** is a Welsh clog and folk dancer with a strong background in ballet. She began competing at 14, winning first place at both the Urdd and National Eisteddfod (2021) and placing second in Pontypridd (2024). She performs with Dawnsywyr Nantgarw and will compete with them at this year's Eisteddfod. At the University of Cambridge, she founded Clocsywyr Caergrawnt, led workshops, and choreographed for the university dance team. Her ballet training includes seven years with Ballet Cymru, performances with English Youth Ballet, and a Cambridge Blue in ballet and contemporary dance.



**Ioan Wyn Williams** is a dynamic and versatile performer who graduated with a BA in Dance from the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) in 2024. His training spans Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz, Tap, Commercial, Aerial Hoop, and Bungee-Assisted Dance. Proud of his Welsh roots, Ioan is also a skilled clog and folk dancer, blending traditional and modern styles in his choreography. He performed at MOVE IT in London, competed for the prestigious Bryn Terfel Scholarship, and danced in the Eurovision 2023 final. A dedicated competitor since childhood, Ioan took part in the Urdd Eisteddfod for many years and choreographed standout performances for both small and large groups.

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# Saturday Evening—Grand Concert

Featuring Côr y Penrhyn

Saturday August 30, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Christ Church Cathedral, 414 Sparks Street, Ottawa Ticket required, not covered by a NAFOW pass. Tickets available at Registration and at the door.

Adult \$40USD/\$45CDN. Youth (18 & under/student ID) incl. in Youth Weekend Pass

Sponsors: Women's Welsh Clubs of America; Susan & Rob Atchison

## Star-Spangled Banner\*

O Canada!\*

Y Ddau Wladgarwr.....J. Parry, arr. O. A. Davies  
Ave Verum.....W. A. Mozart, arr. O. A. Davies  
O Gymru.....Rhys Jones

Côr y Penrhyn and Meinir Wyn Roberts

La Vergine from *La forza del Destino* ..... G. Verdi  
My Little Welsh Home ... W. S. Gwynne Williams, arr. O. A. Davies

Meinir Wyn Roberts

Si Mi Chiamano from *La Boheme* ..... G. Puccini  
Ar Hyd y Nos..... arr. Chris Hazell  
It's My Wedding from *The Enchanted Pig* ..... Jonathan Dove

Côr y Penrhyn

Tears in Heaven..... E. Clapton, arr. O. A. Davies  
The Seal Lullaby ..... Eric Whitacre  
Gwinllan a Roddwyd ..... S. Lewis, C. Williams  
Perein Wyf..... Traditional, arr. O. A. Davies

## INTERMISSION

Côr y Penrhyn

Moliannwn..... B. Thomas, arr. O. A. Davies  
Y Weddi..... Foster, Sager, Renis, Testa, arr. O. A. Davies  
Ysbryd y Nos ..... Hefin Ellis  
Herwin Wynebwn y Wawr..... G. Glyn, E. Cwyfan

# Saturday Evening—Grand Concert (continued)

Meinir Wyn Roberts

Vissi D'Arte from <i>Tosca</i> .....	G. Puccini
La ci darem from <i>Don Giovanni</i> (Meinir & Caleb).....	W. Mozart
We'll Gather Lilacs .....	I. Novello
Rusalka—Song to the Moon.....	A. Dvorak
Cymru Fach.....	David Richards

Côr y Penrhyn

Nkosi Sikelel iAfrika .....	Traditional, arr. O. A. Davies
Myfanwy.....	J. Parry, arr. O. A. Davies
Benedictus.....	R. Arwyn
Mor Fawr Wyt Ti.....	Traditional, arr. O. A. Davies

Côr y Penrhyn, Owain Arwel and Meinir Wyn Roberts

Byd o Heddwch (World in Union).....	Holst, Travin, O. A. Davies
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Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau\*

\* Words on page 67 of this booklet

## Saturday Evening Dinner

*Saturday August 30, 5:30 p.m. Grand Salon*

*Pre-purchased ticket required, not covered by a NAFOW day pass*

*Tickets available at Registration*

**MENU:** *Chef's seasonally inspired soup; Mixed green salad - cucumbers, tomatoes, Bermuda onions & assorted dressings; Potato salad, chipotle mustard dressing; Lemon chicken with a creamy caper sauce; Beef bourguignon with pearl onions and cremini mushrooms; Penne pasta with tomato and bean ragout; Herbed rice pilaf; selection of fresh market vegetables; Fruit salad; Double chocolate brownie squares*

# Côr y Penrhyn



Côr y Penrhyn has its roots in the slate quarrying village of Bethesda in the Ogwen Valley which lies on the edge of the Snowdonia National Park about five miles to the southeast of the university of Bangor.

The choir can trace its origins back to the 1880's when a united choir was formed from a number of smaller groups that existed on the various galleries or levels in the mighty Penrhyn Slate Quarry. It is now one of the busiest choirs in Wales with around 30 concerts a year.

The choir has sung, more than once, as part of the pre-match concert on the pitch at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff to a capacity crowd of nearly 75,000, and has recently had the privilege of recording and performing with the "supergroup" The Good, The Bad and the Queen; its lead singer is Damon Albarn who was also part of the Gorillaz and Blur.

Mae gwreiddiau Côr y Penrhyn ym mhentref chwarelyddol Bethesda. Saif y pentref ynghanol Dyffryn Ogwen ar gyrion Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri oddeutu pum milltir i'r de ddwyrain o ddinas Bangor a'i phrifysgol enwog.



Gall y côr olrhain ei wreiddiau yn ôl cyn belled â'r 1880au pan ffurfiwyd côr mawr allan o'r corau llai oedd yn bodoli ar y gwahanol bonciau yn Chwarel Fawr y Penrhyn gerllaw.

Mae'r côr wedi cael y fraint o ganu o flaen torf o 75,000 o gefnogwyr rygbi yn Stadiwm y Mileniwm yng Nghaerdydd ar dri achlysur ac wedi gwneud sawl ymddangosiad ar y teledu mewn rhaglenni Cymraeg a Saesneg. Mae'n o'r corau prysuraf yng Nghymru gyda dros 30 o berfformiadau y flwyddyn.

Yn ddiweddar iawn bu'r côr yn gweithio ac yn recordio gyda band byd enwog The Good, The Bad and the Queen, eu prif leisydd yw Damon Albarn a oedd yn rhan o'r grwpiau Gorillaz a Blur.

## Côr y Penrhyn Director Owain Arwel Davies

Owain Arwel Davies graduated with honours from the School of Music at Bangor University in 1999, and was Head of Music at Ysgol Tryfan, Bangor from 2005. In 2017 he was appointed Head of Inclusive Education for Gwynedd and Anglesey Education Authority, and is currently the Deputy Head Teacher at Ysgol Glan Clwyd, recognised as the first Welsh Language Secondary school in Wales.

In 2025, Owain Arwel will celebrate 21 years as musical director of Côr y Penrhyn. Under his direction the choir has established itself as one of Wales' foremost vocal ensembles and is famous for its lively and exciting presentations.



## Choir Accompanist Frances Davies



Frances Davies M.A., B.Mus., Ph.D was raised in Dihewyd, Ceredigion. She graduated from Bangor University in 1988 with a B.Mus. (Hons). She then became a primary school teacher for 17 years whilst simultaneously studying for an MA (Ed). As a mature student, she read Linguistics again at Bangor University. This led to her subsequently attaining an ESRC scholarship to study for a PhD on language use in Caernarfon. She attained her doctorate in 2013. More recently Fran studied for a Dip ABRSM in piano (2018) and she currently works part-time as a piano tutor.

## Accompanist Ross Craigmile



Ross Craigmile studied at the Royal College of Music where he did a degree in Music and a diploma in piano. Subsequently, he won a scholarship from the Italian Institute of Culture to further his skills in Italy. He taught piano in various music schools and gave several solo concerts throughout the north of Italy. In 1985 he gained the position of repetiteur at the Teatro Massimo Bellini (TMB) in Catania, accompanying world class singers and working with world class conductors. He has also worked in opera theatres all over the world and accompanied many famous singers in concert, mainly in Spain, Italy, and France. Recently he returned to the TMB where he worked as chorus master for five years. He ran the professional 70-strong chorus and conducted several performances. He was invited to the Shanghai Opera and has worked there on several productions. He also runs various festivals and master classes for young musicians in Italy, Spain, the UK and China.

# Welsh Soprano Meinir Wyn Roberts

Meinir Wyn Roberts is originally from Caernarfon in north Wales and currently lives in London. She graduated from the Royal Academy of Music with an Advanced Diploma in Opera and a Distinction for her Master of Arts in Performance Degree. Previously, she earned a First-Class Honours Degree from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

She is a very popular concert artist and has won numerous prizes, including the Voice of the Future Competition at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and the prestigious W. Towyn Roberts Scholarship and Osborne Roberts Blue Riband at the National Eisteddfod of Wales. Growing up in Wales, Meinir was a keen Musical Theatre performer, starring in the first Welsh production of *Les Misérables* at the Welsh Millennium Centre. She was also a member of Ysgol Glanaethwy Performing Arts School who came second on BBC One's Last Choir Standing Competition.



## **The American Friends of St Davids Cathedral**



From a most sacred place in Wales to Ottawa, Canada, The American Friends of St Davids Cathedral (Eglwys Gadeiriol Tyddewi) send best wishes to the North American Festival of Wales for a joyous gathering.

**For information on how to support the ongoing mission and ministry of hospitality of The Cathedral, go to [AFSDC.org](http://AFSDC.org), or email [AFSDC.USA@gmail.com](mailto:AFSDC.USA@gmail.com).**

**Canolfan Madog ar gyfer Astudiaethau Cymreig**  
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### **Welsh-American Heritage Museum**

*412 Main Street, Oak Hill, OH 45656*

The Welsh-American Heritage Museum was established in 1972 and is housed in the beautiful old brick Welsh Congregational church built in 1868. The museum is home to books, artefacts and memorabilia of the Welsh Settlement of Southeast Ohio.



**Facebook:** @welshmuseum

**Website:** [welshmuseum.com](http://welshmuseum.com)



### **Welsh Scenic Byway**

*Gallia and Jackson counties, Ohio*

This 64-mile byway loops through Gallia and Jackson counties and celebrates the Welsh immigrants who settled in southeastern Ohio during the 19th century. The byway connects many Welsh churches, Welsh farms and cemeteries, and more.

**Website:** [www.transportation.ohio.gov/traveling/ohio-byways/welsh](http://www.transportation.ohio.gov/traveling/ohio-byways/welsh)

### **For more information:**

[welsh@rio.edu](mailto:welsh@rio.edu) / +1.740.245.7186

# Saturday Eisteddfod Deadlines

## 12:00 Limerick Composition Deadline

Lobby-Victoria

Elimination Adjudicator: Ian Samways

A fun competition open to everyone in attendance! Pick up guidelines, including first lines and entry forms, at the Registration desk. Submissions are due by noon, Saturday, at the Registration desk. Adjudicators will choose finalists for popular voting at the Noson Lawen on Sunday evening.

*Sponsored by Alan & Greta Upshall*

## 4:00 Visual Arts Voting Deadline

2nd Floor, LeBreton

Visual art on the theme of "Friendship." Entry deadline was August 23. For those who pre-registered to enter the competition, entries for the Visual Arts Competition will be accepted at the Visual Arts table in the LeBreton Room on Friday, August 29 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. They will remain on display through Sunday. Festival attendees will vote for the winners by secret ballot at the Visual Arts table. Viewing and voting is open to all. Voting closes on Saturday at 4:00. Winners will be announced during the festival weekend.

*Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin Award: 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25*

**NOTE: The 2025 Welsh and English  
poetry composition competitions for the  
David Llewelyn Williams prizes  
are deferred to a later time of the year.**

## EISTEDDFOD ADJUDICATORS

Many thanks to Eisteddfod Adjudicators: Côr y Penrhyn representative, Betty Cullingworth, Gwennan Gibbard, Siân James, Edward Morus Jones, Mary Glassman Jones, Rhys Meirion, Manon Ogwen Parry, Hefina Phillips, David Roberts

Thanks also to Eisteddfod competitors for their dedication to their Welsh heritage and interest in Welsh culture.

## EISTEDDFOD PRIZE SPONSORS

Rick Bellwood & Myfanwy Davies  
Huw Christopher in memory of  
Rachel Christopher

Ian K. Samways  
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Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of  
Wisconsin Inc.

WNAA Eisteddfod Committee

# Saturday Eisteddfod Schedule

**9:30-10:00 French Language Recitation Competition** Int'l Ballroom B&C

Adjudicator: David Roberts

Set piece is "Les Feuilles mortes" by Jacques Prévert recited from memory.

*International Friendship Award: 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25*

**10:00-10:30 Welsh Language Recitation Competition** Int'l Ballroom B&C

Adjudicators: Edward Morus Jones, Hefina Phillips

Set piece is "Heb Deitl" by Waldo Williams recited from memory.

*WNAA Eisteddfod Committee Award: 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25*

**10:30-11:00 English Language Recitation Competition** Int'l Ballroom B&C

Adjudicators: Edward Morus Jones, Mary Glassman Jones

Set piece is "Pact" by R.S. Thomas recited from memory.

*St. David's Society of Minnesota Award: 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25*

**11:00-11:45 Harp Beginner's Solo Competition** Int'l Ballroom B&C

Adjudicators: Gwennan Gibbard, Siân James

Perform "My Little Welsh Home" and another piece of entrant's choice.

*Myfanwy Davies & Rick Bellwood – Capital Award: 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25*

**11:45-12:30 Harp Advanced Solo Competition** Int'l Ballroom B&C

Adjudicators: Gwennan Gibbard, Siân James

Perform "The Ash Grove" and another piece of entrant's choice.

*Myfanwy Davies & Rick Bellwood – Parliament Hill Award: 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25*

**12:30-1:15 Harp Ensemble Competition** Int'l Ballroom B&C

Adjudicators: Gwennan Gibbard, Siân James

Each entrant will perform two pieces of their own choice.

*Myfanwy Davies & Rick Bellwood – Rideau Hall Award: 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25*

**1:30-2:30 Hymn Singing (Solo)** Int'l Ballroom B&C

Adjudicators: Betty Cullingworth, Côr y Penrhyn representative

*Rachel Christopher Memorial Award: 1st \$75 and invitation to sing in Sunday*

*Worship Service, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25. Sponsored by Huw Christopher*

**2:30-3:30 Solo Voice/Semi-Professional** Int'l Ballroom B&C

Adjudicators: Rhys Meirion, Manon Ogwen Parry

Open to residents of the Americas. Two selections from memory, one in Welsh.

Welsh North American Prize: Winner: \$500 with the possibility of an additional scholarship of \$3000 for travel to compete at the 2026 National Eisteddfod of Wales or the 2026 International Eisteddfod. Winner is also invited to sing an appropriate piece in the NAFOW Sunday Worship Service. Runner-up \$250.

*Sponsored by Ian K. Samways*

**4:00-5:00 Eisteddfod Winners Concert** Int'l Ballroom B&C

# Shoulder to Shoulder

## A Screening of SHOULDER TO SHOULDER - The Film



The film features a new contemporary chamber opera, created by Swansea City Opera, inspired by the members of Men's Sheds Cymru. *Shoulder to Shoulder - The Film* features the acclaimed male voice choir Only Men Aloud as the chorus. Running alongside a full performance of the opera, the film includes interviews with members of Men's Sheds Cymru.

As featured on ITV Wales, BBC Radio Wales and in the Western Mail, *Shoulder to Shoulder* is an uplifting and accessible new chamber opera created and staged by Swansea City Opera based on the moving, uplifting, and humorous stories from Men's Sheds Cymru. This unique organisation supports lonely men by creating warm and welcoming spaces where they can learn new skills, build friendships, make new beginnings, and drink tea! "This is simply brilliant in every department."

How do you beat loneliness? How do you learn to laugh again?

Busy young mum Gwen is at her wits end with her dad, Rhys, who's hitting the whisky, having lost his wife and son. Bereaved and lonely, Rhys reluctantly joins his local Men's Shed. Experienced Shedders Dai, Ioan and Charlie, with difficult stories of their own, show Rhys the ropes...woodworking, garden gnomes, and where the teabags live.



### CAST

Rhys - Dyfed Wyn Evans - baritone  
Ioan - Robyn Lyn Evans - tenor  
Gwen - Jessica Robinson - soprano  
Dai - Aled Hall - tenor  
Charlie - Mark Saberton- bass baritone  
Musical Director - John Beswick  
Composer - Lenny Sayers  
Librettist - Brendan Wheatley

*Sponsors: Garfield Weston Foundation;  
Gwendoline and Margaret Davies Charity;  
The Waterloo Foundation;  
UK Men's Shed Association;  
Arts Council Wales - International  
Opportunities Fund*

## Shoulder to Shoulder Librettist and Director



Brendan Wheatley was born in Hinckley, Leicestershire and studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where he was awarded a three-year scholarship on the Performers Course. Another scholarship enabled him to attend the Opera Course. On leaving college Brendan sang for three seasons with Glyndebourne and its tour, making his debut as The Keeper

of the Madhouse in the internationally acclaimed production of Stravinsky's *The Rakes Progress*, designed by David Hockney, touring the UK and France.

As a freelance singer he worked with many companies in Britain and abroad, and has now sung many major roles, including the roles of Don Giovanni; The Flying Dutchman; the title role in *The Marriage of Figaro* in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Penang; the 4 Villains in *The Tales of Hoffman*; Don Bartolo in both the Rossini and Mozart operas and many others. He also created the role of Figaro in the world premiere of Giles Swayne's *Le Nozze di Cherubino*.

His concert and oratorio work has taken him to such prestigious places as The South Bank, Royal Albert Hall, Huddersfield Town Hall and many cathedrals and churches throughout Britain.

In 1989 he founded the touring company Opera Box with his partner Bridgett Gill and in 2004 the company received funding from the City and County of Swansea and became Swansea City Opera.

Over the years Brendan has directed and designed many operas for the company, including commissioning, creating and directing the world premiere of Alun Hoddinott's opera *TOWER*, which told the story of the workers' buyout of the last deep coal mine in Wales.

He has assisted in translations of several operas, but *Shoulder to Shoulder* is his first complete libretto.

Greetings from

### **The Welsh Club of the Milwaukee Area**

Established in 1952

We meet for Welsh culture, music,  
food, fun and fellowship.

We participate in the  
Highland Games,  
Holiday Folk Fair International  
and St. David's Day Celebration.

Contact: Scott Lange  
jrobie@msn.com  
MilwaukeeWelshClub.org



**Best Wishes for a Successful  
Festival in Ottawa**

# Cinema from Wales



## ***Abandoned Railways from Above: Aberystwyth to Carmarthen***

*Friday 2:00-3:00 p.m. in Capitale; Saturday 2:00-3:00 p.m. in Capitale*

Episode 4 in the series explores various lost railway lines across Britain, highlighting their unique stories and the landscapes they traversed. Travel along a line in Wales that connected rural communities and helped industries boom, from Aberystwyth to Carmarthen, via the eerie ruins of a once-thriving milk factory. The line was particularly significant for rural communities and the booming textile and dairy industries in the region as well as featuring the Vale of Rheidol Railway, a narrow-gauge heritage railway that runs between Aberystwyth and Devil's Bridge. *Shown courtesy of High Rock Media and Channel 4.*

## ***Cymru Wales on Screen***

*Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Capitale; Saturday 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Capitale*

A series of shorts, featuring Welsh people, Welsh places, and aspects of Welshness. All filmed by Cymru Wales, the Welsh Government's international marketing team. [www.wales.com](http://www.wales.com)

## ***National Theatre Live: Nye***

*Part 1 Friday 12:30-1:50 p.m. in Capitale*

*Part 2 Saturday 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Capitale*

From campaigning at the coalfield to leading the battle to create the NHS, Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan is often referred to as the politician with greatest influence on our country without ever being Prime Minister. Confronted with death, Nye's deepest memories lead him on a mind-bending journey back through his life, from childhood to mining underground, Parliament and fights with Churchill in an epic Welsh fantasia. Michael Sheen reprises his role as Nye Bevan in this celebration of the life and legacy of the man who transformed Britain's welfare state returns to the Olivier following a sell-out run. Written by Tim Price, directed by Rufus Norris. *Shown at NAFOW by special permission of the National Theatre Live.*



## ***A Pack of Five***

*Saturday 4:00-4:30 p.m. in Capitale*

With our world ablaze by war, this moving film is a convincing and persuasive message from the WWI battlefield which advocates the need for peace. It features soldiers taking a moment's rest from the horrors of battle, sharing a smoke and memories of home. John Parr, a rock legend and Grammy-nominated artist, has written, directed and composed the music for the film. John has worked on 15 Hollywood films and achieved the highest musical success with two No.1 hits, one of which was the notable St Elmo's Fire. "My hope is that all who see the film will take its message to heart and work dauntlessly for a world without war," said John. *Presented in loving memory of Gerald Williams MBE*



# Cinema from Wales (continued)

## **Patagonian Bones**

*Saturday 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Capitale*

In 2025 it will be 160 years since Welsh settlers arrived in Patagonia. Their descendants still live in southern Argentina. But not all the settlers survived – discovered bones may be those of Catherine Roberts, the first Welsh woman to die in Patagonia. This film tells us how a set of human remains may close the circle on a fascinating story that spans half the globe. Director/Writer/Producer: Ricardo Preve.



## **Pouring Water on Troubled Oil—Dylan Thomas in Abadan**

*Friday 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Capitale*

Popular Welsh poet Dylan Thomas encounters a world of oil, exploitation and political upheaval in this poetic film charting his haunting journey through Iran in 1951 on an assignment to write a script for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. Directed by Nariman Massoumi, narrated by Michael Sheen. *Courtesy of S4C.*

## **Shoulder to Shoulder** (see pages 32 and 33)

*Thursday 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Capitale*

*Sponsors: Gerri Baker Parry; Welsh Society of Philadelphia; S4C; National Theatre Live; BY Experience*

*Acknowledgments: National Theatre at Home; Catrin Brace; Laurie Jacobs at BY Experience; Mark Pieracianowski at Cineplex; Richard Preve; Fintan Maguire at High Rock Media; Nariman Massoumi*

## Tours

### **Tour 1: Ottawa with a Welsh Flavor**

*Thursday, August 28. Hotel lobby 8:15 a.m.; Depart 8:30 a.m., return 12:00 p.m.*

*Cost includes transportation; Pre-booking required.*

A 3-hour coach tour of the sights of Ottawa, identifying early Welsh settlers, personalities and connections.



### **Tour 2 Welsh Highlights at the National Gallery of Canada**

*Thursday, August 28. Hotel lobby 12:15 p.m.; Depart 12:30 p.m., return 3:30 p.m.*

*Cost includes transportation; Pre-booking required.*

This half day tour includes admission and a one-hour guided tour of the Museum which focuses on paintings by Welsh artists or with Welsh connections. Return transportation from the Delta Hotel included.

### **Tour 3: Upper Canada Village**

*Monday, September 1. Hotel lobby 8:15 a.m.; Depart 8:30 a.m., return 5:00 p.m.*

*Cost includes lunch, transportation and gratuities; Pre-booking required.*

This full-day tour starts with a one hour bus trip to the village of Morrisburg on the shores of the St. Lawrence River then we'll spend the day at Upper Canada Village.

## *David R. Allen — LPL Financial*



David R. Allen has had the pleasure for over twenty-five years to work with many people to help them invest their hard-earned dollars. Together with his daughter, Siân E. Matt, he looks forward to working with you as an independent financial advisor. As independent financial advisors they are free to offer advice that puts their client's interests first. They are not limited by external guidelines or special interests; this allows them to provide tailored services to address each client's specific needs. Here at David Allen LPL Financial we love our community and would love an opportunity to help you save for your retirement, your child or grandchild's education, or work with you to ensure a loved one is well looked after once you are gone.

David R. Allen, Siân E. Matt

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You are invited to a week-long residential Welsh course at

**Cwrs Cymraeg Bryn Dderw**

20–27 July 2026

University of Rio Grande

Rio Grande, Ohio

Whether you are a beginner or a fluent speaker,  
join us for a week of learning and fun!

[www.madog.org](http://www.madog.org)

## Say Something in Welsh

### Say Something In Welsh Meet-Ups

*Friday 5:00-6:00 p.m. in Bytowne; Saturday 4:30-5:30 p.m. in Bytowne*

Do you speak Welsh or want to learn yr hen iaith? Speakers and learners of all levels of Welsh are welcome. We will host two informal Welsh chat sessions for learners and speakers of any level on Friday and Saturday.

Say Something in Welsh offers an online course that focuses entirely on speaking and includes a free trial period.

Created from the belief that language acquisition is a natural process at which anyone can succeed, it has no reading or writing components. Rather, through built-in revision, each lesson builds and expands on the spoken language skills taught in the previous lessons. Northern and southern dialect versions available! Use it online or download it to your favorite device, and make sure to spend time on the friendly forum where learners can get help and encouragement from each other: [saysomethinginwelsh.com](http://saysomethinginwelsh.com)



# Oedfa'r Bore/Sunday Morning Worship

*Sunday August 31, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in International Ballroom B&C  
All are welcome; no festival pass is required; bring your hymnal*

## **A traditional Protestant church service in English and Welsh.**



This year, the Festival Sunday Morning Worship Service is led by Rev. Joseph G. Corbin and accompanied by Steve Jensen. The traditional "In Memoriam" of our Festival is celebrated as part of the service as we remember those members of the Welsh North American Association who have died since the 2024 North American Festival of Wales.

Rev. Joseph Glenn Corbin is a retired and "retreaded" Presbyterian minister, living on a lake near Montello, Wisconsin with his wife Kim. Their home is across the lake from where he met his wife 52 years ago at a church camp. Retiring in 2020 after 32 years serving in three separate churches, he now serves as a supply pastor for four different churches holding two services

each Sunday.

He studied Vocal Music at UW-Madison, Wisconsin, and earned a B.A. in Music and an M.Div. from The University of Dubuque and Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa.

## **WNAA/NAWF Celebration**

*Sunday August 31, 12:00-12:30 p.m. in 2nd Floor-LeBreton*

Members of the boards from the WNAA and NAWF come together to celebrate an historic occasion as the organizations formally merge and come together to continue to serve the Welsh North American community.

## **Noson Lawen**

*Sunday, August 31 8:00 p.m. in International Ballroom B&C*

Join in for a relaxing evening to cap off the weekend's festivities. We will sing folk songs and enjoy short, open-mic performances by festival attendees and vote for the winning Limerick!



If you wish to contribute your talents, sign up at Registration. You are permitted to perform one three-minute act. If necessary, please arrange for your own accompanist.

*NAFOW 2022 Philadelphia: Myfanwy Davies, John Ieuan Jones and Edward Morus Jones attempt to sing Calon Lân to the tune of La Bamba*

## Organist



Steve Jensen will play for the Sunday Morning Worship and both sessions of the 93rd National Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday afternoon.

Steve Jensen began playing the piano and organ at the age of nine. He had his first regular church job at the age of thirteen. During grades 9-12 he studied at Lawrence Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wisconsin. He continued his organ study during college at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

His first Gymanfa Ganu was in 1977 in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. The conductor was Lyn Harry of Canada. Mr.

Harry requested that Mr. Jensen play the following year at the National Gymanfa Ganu in Minneapolis in 1978. Since then Steve has played for many local, state and national Cymanfaoedd. Mr. Jensen is retired and serves as Organist at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

## Gymanfa Ganu Sponsors

*The 2025 Gymanfa Ganu sessions were generously sponsored by Paula Evans, Will & Donna Fanning, Elinor Kelliher, Peter Jacobs, Barbara Jones, David Jones, Kay Thomas, Jack Williams, Welsh Society of Philadelphia and in memory of Barbara Barnes, Martha Davies, David 'Buddy' Evans, Marion Hoffman, Myra Thomas Lawrence and in memory of the parents of Franklin Haydn Williams; the Joyce McCullough family bequest and David E. Jones.*

## Rhys Meirion—Special Guest



Welsh tenor Rhys Meirion has enjoyed international success in opera and recording, and national success in broadcasting. After two years on the Opera Course at The Guild Hall of Music and Drama in London, he joined the English National Opera Jerwood Young Singers Programme and was subsequently a Company Principal before becoming a freelance performer.

His roles include Rodolfo in *La Boheme*, Pinkerton in *Madam Butterfly*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Nadir in *The Pearl Fishers*, Marcello in Leoncavallo's *La Boheme*, Duke in *Rigoletto*, Tebaldo in *Capuletti e Montecchi*, Tamino in *The Magic Flute*, Ernani, Sailor in *Tristan und Isolde*, Faust, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*, Italian Singer in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Froh in *Das Rheingold*, Zinovy in *Lady Macbeth of Mtzensk*, Fenton in *Falstaff* and more.

Concert highlights include The Karl Jenkins 70th Birthday Celebrations Concert at The Carnegie Hall New York, a gala concert at the Royal Albert Hall with Bryn Terfel, and his BBC Prom debut at the opening night of the BBC Proms (televised on BBC 2).

# 93rd National Gymanfa Ganu

First Session

Owain Arwel Davies, Director

*Sunday, August 31, 2:00 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral*

Organ Prelude Steve Jensen

Welcome Dilys Rana, WNAA President

Invocation Rev. Neil Wallace

Hymns..... 'R wy'n canu fel cana'r aderyn (1W, 2E, 3W) ..... 65  
Godre'r Coed (1W, 2E, 4W) ..... 12  
Crugybar (1E, 2W) ..... 37 (J38)  
Pantfyfedwen (1W, 2E, 3W) ..... 98 (J97)

Special Music Manon Ogwen Parry

Hymns..... Pembroke (R. Arwel) (1W, 2W) ..... Pgm bk pg 42  
Llef (1W, 2E, 3W) ..... 56  
Mawlgan (1W, 2E) ..... 106 (J105)  
Hyfrydol (1E, 2W) ..... 16

Special Music Rhys Meirion

Hymns..... Sarah (1E, 1W, 4W) ..... 57  
Bro Aber (R. Arwel) (1W, 2W, 3W) ..... Pgm bk pg 43  
Llanfair (1E, 2W) ..... 44  
Bryn Myrddin (1W, 2E, 3W) ..... 23

Benediction Rev. Neil Wallace

Organ Postlude Steve Jensen

*Note: Hymn numbers beginning with J refer to the older "Jubilee" edition of the hymnal.*

*Complementary Afternoon Tea following the First Session  
Ballroom Foyer - Delta Hotels Ottawa City Centre*

*Gymanfa Ganu sponsors are listed on page 39 of the Program Book.*

# 93rd National Gymanfa Ganu

Second Session

Owain Arwel Davies, Director

*Sunday, August 31, 4:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral*

Organ Prelude Steve Jensen

Welcome Dilys Rana, WNAA President

Invocation Rev. Chris Clarke

Hymns..... Rachie (1E, 2W) ..... 1  
Sirioldeb (1W, 1E, 3W) ..... 52  
Calon Lân (1W, 2E, 3W) ..... 66  
Sanctus (1E, 2W, 3W) ..... 30

Special Music Cór y Penrhyn  
Mae D'eisiau Di bob Awr

Hymns..... Rheidol (1W, 2E, 2W) ..... 81  
Penpark (1E, 2E, 1W, 2W) all verses A Cappella ..... 26  
Morte Christe (1E, 2W, 4E) ..... 104

Passing the Flag to the 2026 Local Venue Chair

Hymns..... Rhys (1E, 2W A Cappella, 4E) ..... 89  
Gwahoddiad (1W, 2E, 4W) ..... 96  
Blaenwern (1E, 1W) ..... 75  
Cwm Rhondda (1W, 1E, 2E, 3E) ..... 40

Benediction Rev. Chris Clarke

Closing Remarks Dilys Rana, WNAA President

Hen wlad fy nhadau  
*Words on page X of hymnal or page 65 in this book*

Hymn ..... God Be With You ..... 117  
*Words on page 67 in this book*

Organ Postlude Steve Jensen

# Pembroke

Geiriau: Watcyn Wyn  
1844-1905

M16 / 886.D

James Foster  
1807-85

1. 'Rwy'n gweld o bell y dydd yn dod bydd pob cy -  
2. Mae teg o - leu - ni blaen y wawr o wlad i

fan - dir is y rhod yn ei - ddo Ie - su mawr;  
wlad yn dweud yn awr fod bo - re ddydd ger - llaw;

13 a holl yn - y - soedd maith y môr yn cyd - ddyr -  
mae pen y bry - niau'n lla - wen - hau wrth weld yr

18 cha - fu mawl yr Iôr dros wý - neb dae - ar lawr.  
haul yn a - go - sáu a'r nos yn ci - lio draw.

# Bro Aber

John Roberts, 1910-84

M61/10.10.10.10.10.10

J. Haydn Phillips, 1917-85

1. O ty - red i'n gwa - re - du, le - su da, fel cynt y dae - thost  
2. Yn d'a - berth di mae'n go - baith ni o hyd, ni ddaw o'r ddae - ar  
3. Cyd - fyw'n gy - tûn fel bro - dyr fy - ddo'n rhan, a'th gar - iad yn ein

ar dy - ne - wydd wedd, a'r dry - sau 'nghau, at rai dan  
ond llo - ny - ddwch brau, o hen gae - thi - wed barn rhy -  
cyn - nal drwy ein hoes, na foed i'r ar - fog cry' or -

of - nus bla, a'u ca - darn - hau â ner - thol air dy  
fel - oedd byd hi - raeth - wn am y cy - mod sy'n rhydd -  
thry - mu'r gwan, ac na bo grym i ni ond grym y

hedd: lle - fa - ra dy dang - ne - fedd y - ma nawr a  
hau: ty - di, Gy - fry - ngwr byw rhwng Duw a dyn, rho  
groes: rhag gwae y di - lyw tân, O tru - gar ha a

dan - gos in - ni grei - thiau d'a - berth mawr.  
yn ein ca - lon ras i fyw'n gy - tûn.  
thy - red i'n gwa - re - du, le - su da.

# Seminars

**The 'Patagonian Dream' and the Next Generation:** The early Welsh settlements of Patagonia and Saskatchewan in the writings of John Coslett Thomas (1863-1936)

*Friday 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Richelieu; Saturday 2:00-3:00 p.m. in Richelieu*

Based on his two autobiographies and extensive articles, this presentation explores the activities and life of John Coslett Thomas (1863-1936), one of the pioneers in both Patagonia and Saskatchewan. He stands out as one of those who brought the so-called 'Welsh Patagonian Dream' of his parents' generation to early twentieth century Canada. His writings reveal him as the gifted author of vivid descriptions of the people and lives of the Welsh communities of North and South America. Against this backdrop, questions will be raised about the nature and impact of Welsh emigration. Can it be seen as merely part of the colonial history of the Americas, or is it an example of a national minority seeking renewal and survival?



Former Chair of Celtic Studies at the University of Ottawa, **Paul Birt** took his undergraduate degree in Welsh Language and Literature at St. David's University College in Lampeter, Wales, and was later awarded a PhD at the University of North Wales, Bangor. He has taught widely in the field of Celtic Studies, especially Welsh language and literature, and taught courses on Medieval Welsh and Irish literature. His main area of research has been the history and culture of Patagonia. He has published many book chapters and articles on the early period of Y Wladfa. Paul Birt has also published in the area of literatures in lesser-used languages and minoritized languages.

*Sponsor: Ottawa Welsh Society*

\* \* \*

**Savior of the Language: The Role and Impact of the 1588 Welsh Bible**

*Friday 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Joliet; Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Joliet*

The publication of the 1588 Welsh Bible, the result of a political gamble by Elizabeth I, was a turning point in the survival of the Welsh vernacular. At a time when Welsh was banned from use in public life, the Welsh Bible played a fundamental part in the development of Welsh language and culture. The legacy of the 1588 Welsh Bible remains strong today. This talk will combine academic research and fun travel anecdotes!



**Anastasia Llewellyn** is a PhD candidate in political science and public policy, with a focus on Welsh language resilience. Her doctoral work, which focuses on the link between language and housing activism, builds on her master's in translation studies, for which she completed a thesis about the sociopolitical context and impacts of the 1588 Welsh Bible. When she is not immersed in a pile of old books or the latest census data, Anastasia can be found at a choir rehearsal or at a meeting of the Ottawa Welsh Society, of which she is president.

*Sponsor: Ottawa Welsh Society*

\* \* \*

## Seminars—continued

### Voices From the Past: the Glenys James Interviews

*Saturday 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Joliet*

In 1974, Glenys James travelled more than 8,000 miles in three months, interviewing Welsh families who had migrated from Patagonia to Canada earlier in the century. Fifty years on, Dr. Dafydd Tudur shares experiences from the recordings which have been conserved and digitised by the National Library of Wales as part of the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project.

### The 'Welch Tract'

*Friday 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Joliet*

Dr Dafydd Tudur introduces a recent important addition to the National Library of Wales's unique collections: a 17th century hand-written book documenting land sales and settlement in the area known as the 'Welch Tract' in Pennsylvania. He explains how its conservation, restoration and digitization nearly 350 years later could mark the beginning of a new chapter in its remarkable story. *The book was recently purchased by the Library and is a record of the sale of land in an area of Pennsylvania.*



**Dr. Dafydd Tudur** is Head of Digital Services at the National Library of Wales (NLW) and has nearly 20 years of experience in the delivery of digital projects and resources ranging from NLW's Welsh newspapers, journals, and title maps to the Dictionary of Welsh Biography, People's Collection Wales and the Wales Broadcast Archive. Dafydd represents NLW in the Hawlio

Heddwch Peace Partnership and has co-ordinated the project to digitise and make the Welsh Women's Peace Petition of 1923 available online.

*Sponsors: National Library of Wales; Madog Center for Welsh Studies*

\* \* \*



### *A Welsh Community Established 1859*

Lap the Lake Bike Race through Arvon	October 11th
Match Day	November 17th
Donations for Match Day accepted after	October 13th
Christmas Candlelight Service	December 7th

Dates are tentative – Watch Facebook for updates.

[www.facebook.com/arvoniaks](http://www.facebook.com/arvoniaks)

For tours or private events, call 620-794-3917.



The WNAA values your feedback.  
After the festival, you will receive an email survey.  
Please complete and return it.  
Thank you.

## Seminars—continued

### **Tracing the North American Welsh Back to Wales**

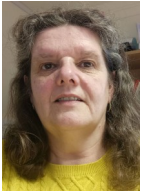
*Friday 2:00-3:00 p.m. in Joliet*

Beryl Evans, The National Library of Wales' expert on genealogy, will give advice on resources and processes on how to trace your family history.

### **The National Library Workshop/Q&A session**

*Saturday 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Joliet*

Beryl Evans explains how to use the collections and resources at the National Library of Wales.



**Beryl Evans** is the Research Services Manager at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, where she has been researching Welsh family history for nearly 40 years. She is the author of *Tracing Your Welsh Ancestors: A guide for family historians* (Pen & Sword, 2015). Over the years Beryl has contributed many articles to family history publications and given presentations on various aspects of Welsh family history to global audiences online and in person, including the British Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah. Currently she is the Chair of Cardiganshire Family History Society and Treasurer of the Association of Family History Societies of Wales.



**Rhian Gibson** is the Director of Communications and Engagement for The National Library of Wales. The Library published its new Strategic Plan in 2025 “Connecting Wales and the World” which guides how the Library develops the national collections of the nation’s memory and engages with a wider range of audiences over the next five years. Rhian will lead on the engagement work to strengthen the role of the Library as a cultural hub, building global connections to share and celebrate Welsh culture on a world stage and strengthening partnerships across Wales and internationally.

*Sponsors: National Library of Wales; Madog Center for Welsh Studies*

\* \* \*

### **Roofing the World: A New Home for National Slate Museum Wales**

*Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Richelieu; Saturday 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Richelieu*

The National Slate Museum, located in Llanberis, north Wales, is nestled within the Grade I-listed Victorian workshops of the historic Dinorwig Quarry. The Museum tells a globally significant and inspirational story of the growth of the slate industry from the 1770s and how this special corner of Wales came to ‘Roof the World’.

It is currently undergoing an ambitious £22 million GBP transformation and will become a gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales. This exciting project has already involved meticulously moving nearly 10,000 objects and has places, people and communities at the heart of its globally important collections and interpretation.

## Seminars—continued

Discover how the Museum is preserving and celebrating the globally significant story of the Slate Landscape, including its intangible heritage of skills, memories, and traditions. We will explore how this rich history, with its transatlantic connections to North America, and beyond, through slate exports and migration, is being brought to life for diverse audiences, ensuring community voices are central to our exhibitions and programmes as part of this once-in-a-generation redevelopment.

Amgueddfa Cymru-Museum Wales, is one in a unique family of seven National Museums and a Collections Centre. Located across Wales, each museum offers a window into our culture and heritage, driven by our mission to inspire learning and enjoyment for the people of Wales through the national collection.

### **Gwen John: Strange Beauties**

*Friday 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Richelieu; Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Richelieu*

Celebrated for her intimate paintings of women and interior scenes, Gwen John (1876-1939) is considered one of the most accomplished Welsh artists of the twentieth century. After her death, she left behind a studio filled with hundreds of drawings and studies which were subsequently entrusted to Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales. The largest public collection of Gwen John's works on paper in the world, this extraordinary and rarely seen collection provides a privileged insight into the artist's processes and techniques.

Gwen John's quiet, contemplative works have long been admired and loved. Now, 150 years after her birth, we celebrate her as a trailblazing Welsh artist as we reveal the creative processes and passionate life that drove her work. Amgueddfa Cymru-Museum Wales is developing Gwen John: Strange Beauties -a major international partnership exhibition with National Galleries of Scotland, the Yale Center for British Art, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington D.C. This will be the first major exhibition dedicated to Gwen John in over forty years. Foregrounding the artist's studio collection, Gwen John: Strange Beauties brings together rarely seen sketches and drawings that reveal her unique creative processes.



**Nia Elias**, Director of Relationships and Funding. Nia joined Amgueddfa Cymru in April 2021 and brings with her a wealth of experience and connections from across the cultural sector, having worked at Blood Cancer UK, Wales Millennium Centre, the Tate Gallery, Somerset House Trust and the Imperial War Museum, London. Nia's past roles saw her lead departments across both fundraising and commercial income generation, as well as customer experience and volunteer engagement. A Welsh speaker, originally from Carmarthenshire and now living in the Vale of Glamorgan with her family, Nia also sits on the Board of Directors at Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the Advisory Panel of the Welsh Language Commissioner.

*Sponsors: Amgueddfa Cymru/Museum Wales; Betsy & Tom Teti*

\* \* \*

## Seminars—continued

### Canada in *Y Drych*

*Saturday 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Chaudiere*

Although established as a newspaper for the Welsh people of the United States, *Y Drych* regularly included news from the Welsh in Canada throughout the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. From the slate quarries of Quebec to the prairies of Saskatchewan and the gold mines of the Yukon, Welsh people updated the paper with news about their personal experiences and their communities. Correspondents reported on eisteddfodau and other Welsh gatherings in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, as well as Welsh-Canadian participation in events in the United States. *Y Drych* also advertised and promoted homesteading opportunities in western Canada to Welsh people across North America. In this seminar, Robert Humphries reveals how *Y Drych* reported on the Welsh in Canada throughout its 150-year history, and how this valuable resource can assist researchers in understanding the Welsh-Canadian experience and making connections with their own family histories.

*Sponsors: The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project; Ninnau & Y Drych*

### **“I am in part a Welshman:” Reverend Peter Jones and Wales**

*Friday 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Joliet; Saturday 2:00-3:00 p.m. Chaudiere*

Born to a Mississauga mother and a father of Welsh descent, Peter Jones (1802-1856), also known as Kahkewaquonaby, is a significant figure in the history of Canada’s First Nations. Raised in traditional Mississauga culture and religion, Jones converted to Methodism and became a preacher to the Indigenous people of Upper Canada, translating scripture into Ojibwe and Mohawk, and working to convert the Mississaugas to Christianity and a European way of life at the Credit Mission. Elected as a chief, Jones also served as a spokesperson for the Mississaugas, and traveled to Great Britain twice to preach, lecture and raise funds for the mission. During these tours he preached to a Welsh congregation in London and visited Wales. Drawing on English- and Welsh-language contemporary sources and Jones’s own writings, this seminar considers his relationship with his father’s ancestral homeland and how it may have impacted his life and work.

*Sponsor: The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project*



**Robert Humphries** is director of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre and the Archive for Welsh America, both located in Wymore, Nebraska. A native of Newport, Wales, and a second-language Welsh speaker, he holds an MA in Celtic Studies from the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David. He has presented his research on Welsh-American history at NAASWCH and at the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW). Humphries has also published articles in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* and the *North American Journal of Welsh Studies*. A regular contributor to *Ninnau*, he also wrote and co-produced the mini-documentary film, *Pobl y Paith/People of the Prairie: The Welsh in Nebraska*. He served as a board member of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre for several years before being appointed director in 2023. He lives in Spring Green, Wisconsin with his wife Jenafer and son Rhys.

\* \* \*

## Seminars—continued

### Welsh Language I—Absolute Beginners

*Friday 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Capitale*

Emphasizes the structure of the spoken language of Welsh. This level is for anyone who needs a comfortable environment to begin learning Welsh.

### Welsh Language II—Next Steps in Welsh

*Saturday 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Capitale*

Suitable for those with some knowledge of the language who want to practice and improve. This class follows on from Absolute Beginners and you are encouraged to attend both, but it is not a requirement.



**Dan Rowbotham** is originally from Llangeitho in Ceredigion, Wales and has been a Welsh tutor since 2018. Dan is the Director of the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at the University of Rio Grande / Rio Grande Community College in Ohio, where he started his tutor career during his tenure as Davis Intern at the Center as he worked on his Master's in Education. Dan teaches a number of weekly Welsh classes both online and in-person, and he also holds a weekly Welsh language conversation hour on-line for those who are learning Welsh and for those that are fluent and wanting an opportunity to speak Welsh in North America. Before returning to Ohio, he oversaw the administration and teaching of Extracurricular Welsh language classes at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSU) and was Coordinator of its Community Welsh Learning Centre, Yr Atom. Dan is an Ex-President of the Urdd and received the prestigious Merêd memorial award at the National Eisteddfod in 2016.

*Sponsors: Madog Center for Welsh Studies; Cymdeithas Madog*

\* \* \*

### Ysgol Gân

*Saturday 2:00-3:30 p.m. in Penthouse-Pinnacle*

This is an informal singing practice session where you will learn some of the hymns we will sing on Sunday afternoon and evening. This is your opportunity to hear some Welsh verses pronounced and to practice your part, whatever it may be, with joyful abandon. Fun and enlightening. Be sure you bring your hymnal and this program book.



**Edward Morus Jones** is a farmer's son born in Llanuwchllyn, near Bala, Meirionnydd. He discovered his passion as an educator early in life. His activities as a teacher span many years at schools and institutes in both north and south Wales. His passion and talents as a musician and sublime communicator led to a career of entertaining, performing on stage and in radio and television programs.

*Sponsors: Betty Cullingworth; Evans Paschal*

\* \* \*

## Seminars—continued

### **Cranogwen's 1870's visit to California**

*Saturday 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Chaudiere*

Sarah Jane Rees was born in Llangrannog in January 1839. She was the first woman to win the poetry prize at a National Eisteddfod. Her bardic name was Cranogwen. She made two trips to North America to preach to Welsh communities. For her first trip, in 1869-1870, she travelled from New York to San Francisco and back. She kept a journal of her travels and published extracts from part of the trip in her magazine, *Y Frythones*, in 1883. This seminar is drawn from those extracts. It will describe where she went and present some of the observations that she made during the trip.



**Fred Long** was appointed to a lectureship at the then University College of Wales, Aberystwyth in 1974. He is now partly retired but still works for Aberystwyth University one-third time, now as the Associate Dean for Learning, Teaching and the Student Experience in the Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences. Following a sabbatical in 1992 at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Fred became a visiting scientist there and continued to visit Pittsburgh for research for about 20 years. He joined the St. David's Society of Pittsburgh and became involved in projects to preserve the Welsh heritage in North America.

*Sponsor: Ninnau & Y Drych*

\* \* \*

### **Cynefin: A Sense of Belonging in the Curriculum for Wales**

*Friday 2:00-3:00 p.m. in Richelieu; Saturday 2:00-3:00 p.m. in Joliet*

This seminar explores the concept of Cynefin and its inclusion in the Curriculum for Wales, highlighting its importance in fostering a sense of belonging and community among learners. Participants will gain insight into the development process, the challenges faced, and the powerful impact Cynefin has in shaping education and identity in Wales.



**Dr. Huw Griffiths** is a senior lecturer in Education Studies at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, focusing on pedagogy and teacher development. He teaches on the Masters in Education course and supervises doctoral students. With a Doctorate in Welsh History from Cardiff University, his research explored Welsh involvement in the American Civil War.

After over 20 years of teaching Welsh History, Sociology, and Politics, he now works on Welsh education policy. As chair of the Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative, he promotes the teaching of Welsh history, and is collaborating with the National Library of Wales on developing a National Welsh History Teaching Centre.

*Sponsors: Hywel & Mari Davies*

\* \* \*

## Seminars—continued

### **A Boy's Childhood in Wartime Wales**

*Friday 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Richelieu; Saturday 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Richelieu*

This seminar highlights the life of 88 year-old Welshman Brian Lewis and focuses on his illustrated book of writings and verses: *A Boy's Childhood in Wartime Wales*. The book illustrates life in the village of Gilfach Goch, its people and coal-mining industry as experienced through the eyes of Brian as a youngster. Photos of some of Brian's Welsh and wonderful Canadian life experiences and several illustrated verses from his book will be projected on a screen to allow the audience to follow and enjoy.



**David Matthews**, born in Aberystwyth, Wales, and trained as a teacher in Trinity College, Carmarthen, immigrated to Canada in 1967. He and his wife Mona spent 37 years in Canada's subarctic raising their family and working with the indigenous Tlcho. He met Brian Lewis in Fort Smith in 1972. Now in Calgary, David is a member of the Calgary Welsh Society, a music lover, a so-so gardener and an avid hiker having walked around Wales as well as up the Cambrian Way through Wales' hills and mountains.



**Elaine Westlake** was born in Nantyllyffyllon, south Wales. She immigrated to Canada on the day of the Aberfan disaster, October 21, 1966. She completed teacher training in Swansea Training College then did a Special Education degree in Canada. She spent the next 25 years teaching special needs and grade one students, loving every minute of it! Elaine met Brian Lewis at a Calgary Welsh Society meeting. They discovered they had attended the same Elementary and Grammar Schools! She enjoys volunteering and coordinates a monthly ladies group. She reads, does chair yoga, spends time with family and friends and performs with a Readers Theatre group.

*Sponsor: Debbie Gabse*

• \* \*

### **Writing About Wales...and Yourself**

*Thursday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Chaudiere*

Taking inspiration from your love for the people, culture, history, and landscapes of Wales, this hands-on workshop will have you writing for family, friends, and perhaps the public. We'll begin by exploring the topics and themes that interest you most, then practice ways to render those interests into a story, essay or poem. Before leaving you'll have the option to share what you wrote with others. Bring a sense of humor and an eagerness to express your relationship with Wales. If you have photographs, letters, or other keepsakes, bring them along too.

## Seminars—continued



**Peter E. Murphy** is the author of a dozen books and chapbooks of poetry and prose including *A Topsy Fairy Tale*, a memoir about growing up in Wales and New York City. His writing has appeared in hundreds of publications on both sides of the Atlantic including *The Anglo-Welsh Review*, *Barddas*, *The Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The New Welsh Review*, *Ninnau*, *The North American Review*, *Poetry Wales*, and *The Sun*. As the Founder and Director Emeritus of Murphy Writing of Stockton University, Peter leads workshops for writers and teachers in the US and Europe. [www.peteremurphy.com](http://www.peteremurphy.com)

*Sponsors: Jack Williams & Peter Jacobs*

\* \* \*

### Welsh Folk Dancing I & II

*I: Friday 12:00-1:00 p.m. in International Ballroom B&C*

*II: Friday 1:00-2:00 p.m. in International Ballroom B&C*

Welsh folk dancing, led by a caller and supported by musicians, returns to NAFOW. Laurel, a certified Welsh folk dance instructor, will lead dancers through the steps and Danny will lead the band. This session will leave you with a smile on your face and endorphin-charged liveliness to your day.



**Laurel Bradshaw**, a certified Welsh folk dance instructor, has been teaching and leading dance groups since 1988. She founded and directed Traed y Ddraig, a performance group in Minnesota (1990 to 2015), and led folk dance sessions at NAFOW, GPWHP, Welsh Heritage Week, and at the Cornish gathering in Mineral Point, Wisconsin. Laurel has taught Welsh language classes in Minneapolis since 1994 and is active in the Saint David's Society of Minnesota.



**Danny Proud**, Madison, Wisconsin, is a former long-time member of the Traed y Ddraig dance group in Minnesota, and has been dancing and accompanying dancing at Welsh Heritage Week for two decades. Danny leads Welsh folk dancing for the general public at various festivals, retreats, and courses as opportunities arise.

*Sponsor: Urdd*

\* \* \*

### A Fun look at the Game of Rugby

*Saturday 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Chaudiere*

Rugby is a sport played all over the world, is growing significantly at the college level and is attracting many young athletes who like the physical nature of sport, but do not wish to play American football. (We may even get you learning a rugby skill or two!)

## Seminars—continued



**Hugh Anderson** hails from the UK and has been involved in rugby all of his life, starting in 1969 as a schoolboy in Hertfordshire; playing at Haileybury College; in the army; and then at Loughborough where he played and coached. Then a switch the USA where he has coached Baltimore Men's Club (now Chesapeake) and Loyola University Maryland.

Sponsors: *Myfanwy Davies & Rick Bellwood*

\* \* \*

### Storytelling Performance: Tales from the Mabinogi Part I and Part II

I: Friday 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Penthouse-Pinnacle

II: Saturday 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Penthouse-Pinnacle

The stories from *The Mabinogi* will carry you into an ancient and beguiling world for the time of listening. The stories are rich in imagery, full of love and loss, magical creatures, shape-shifting, kings and queens and all manner of ferocious power struggles. Some of the characters you may meet as you listen are Pwyll, Prince of Dyfed, Rhiannon, a mysterious rider from the other world, the tragic princess Branwen, the magician Gwydion and Blodeued, the woman made of flowers. While the world of *The Mabinogi* can feel deeply mysterious to the contemporary listener, the ways of humankind are constant and the contemporary world is not so very far away.



**Jennifer Cayley** is a beloved and well-seasoned storyteller, welcomed at venues including the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, a community centre in mid-Wales, a tiny club in Melbourne Australia, a garden in Hawaii, and too-many-to-count Canadian festivals and schools. Her passion for the traditional folk and fairy tales and the ancient myths and epics have built an uncommon repertoire.



**Ellis Lynn Duschenes'** repertoire of stories was forged in lucky primary school classrooms. There, she brought stories, storytelling and young tellers to life in wide, vivid worlds of wonder. Her long experience, with language and storytelling and children's life-learning bring great depth to her storytelling. A founding member of Ottawa Storytellers, listeners have, over and over again, fallen into her telling of such traditionally great stories as *The Odyssey*. Over the years, the strength, wisdom and beauty offered by the old tales have served her as valuable guide posts along the way.



**Daniel Kletke** is ever on the hunt for a good story. He experienced his first taste of traditional storytelling at Rasputin's Folk Café in Ottawa one wintry night many years ago when local storytellers performed selections from Homer's *Odyssey*. Daniel was instantly hooked. And so began a great journey as a listener and, eventually, as a storyteller in his own voice. Now a veteran of the old epics, Daniel has participated in the grand twelve hour performances of the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad* at the National Arts Centre Fourth Stage.

## Seminars—continued



**Johanna Kuyvenhoven** (Jo), a founding member of Storytellers of Canada, has told and listened to stories across the continent and beyond. Author of *In the Presence of Each Other: A Pedagogy of Storytelling*, she has worked globally for every child's right to stories in school, loosed from the page. Being an education and literacy specialist does not interfere with her deep belief in Magic, the power of hope, and in love that sees beyond the surface of seeming. She tells the traditionally dark as well as the light folktales; stories that expand classrooms; and ridiculous family stories.



**Mary Muckle**, harpist, teacher and composer is director of The Ottawa Youth Harp Ensemble. Among her publications is *Harp and Soul, a Harp Tutor*, a book of 18 ensembles she wrote for her students over a 28 year period of teaching in Ottawa . She is a frequent performer at Ontario Welsh Festivals, where she has given a harp workshop and a workshop on the history of the harp in Wales. She was harp accompanist for The Ottawa Storytellers in their 2022 performances of *The Mabinogi*.

*Sponsor: Ottawa Welsh Society*

\* \* \*

### **Remember, Celebrate, Realize: The Welsh Women's 1924 Peace Petition Lives On**

*Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Chaudiere*

In 2018, a seven-mile-long petition, carefully stored in the Smithsonian, reignited a powerful story of peace and solidarity. In 1924, three Welsh women, including Elined Prys, hand-delivered a petition signed by nearly 400,000 Welsh women urging American women to support the U.S. joining the League of Nations. Elined Prys' letters are soon to be donated to the National Library of Wales. Now, a century later, the Peace Partnership in Wales and Our Grandmothers' Peace in North America have brought this inspiring action back to life—connecting past, present and the future, in the name of peace.



**Ann Griffith** is the Coordinator of Heddwch Nain/Mamgu (Our Grandmother's Peace), in North America, and a member of the Peace Partnership in Wales. She was raised in a very Welsh speaking community in Aberystwyth. Ann has lived on five continents and is currently the chair of Wales International (Undeb Cymru a'r Byd).



**Susan Davies Sit**, born in north Wales and now living in Connecticut, was in the Hospitality Management business in Wales and overseas. In retirement, she is President of the Welsh Society of Western New England and a board member of Cymdeithas Madog. She is a member of the Heddwch Nain/ Mam-gu Gogledd America publicity and research team, whose mission is to uncover more of the history of the 1923–24 Welsh women's peace appeal and petition.

*Sponsor: Ninnau & Y Drych*

\* \* \*

## Seminars—continued

### Harp Workshop

*Thursday 10:00-12:00 p.m. in Penthouse-Panorama*

*Friday 12:00-1:00 p.m. in Penthouse-Pinnacle*

Mary Muckle, well-known Ottawa harp teacher, composer and performer will lead these workshops. She plans to use the medley of harp tunes called “Ottawa” which was composed by Ann Hopcyn for Welsh Heritage Week. Mary will also introduce a piece she has composed called “Harp and Soul.”

Both of these pieces are separated into several parts, so that any players, from an absolute beginner to an experienced harpist can participate. Copies of both pieces will be available for sale at NAFOW, or in advance by prior arrangement. If time permits, the workshops will look at “She’s Like the Swallow,” a Newfoundland folk song, and “En Roulant ma Boule” a French-Canadian voyageurs song.

*Sponsors: Myfanwy Davies & Rick Bellwood*

### **An Informal Discussion & Coffee:** Tax Breaks for Investors – Investing in your Favorite Charities

*Friday 10:00-10:30 a.m. in 2nd floor LeBreton*

Significant permanent changes in the tax law have major implications for US taxpayers over the age of 70 who have any kind of retirement account. Only a very few financial advisors and accountants are alerting their clients to these changes. Taking advantage of them could significantly benefit you and your heirs. These changes affect everyone who gives any kind of contributions to charity or who plans to leave some of their estate to a charity.



**David Allen**, Treasurer of WNAA, lives in Owego, New York, He earned his PhD from Columbia University and was a Fulbright Scholar to Belgium and a Danforth Graduate Fellow. David is a Professor Emeritus at City University of New York, where he taught a variety of courses in economics and American government.

*Sponsor: Welsh North American Association*



*Ble bydd e'n digwydd?  
Oes rhywun yn gwybod?  
Where will it happen?  
Does anyone know?*

**Write Beth and be the first to find out.**

**Join us for a fun week learning Welsh language, music and culture.**

**Welsh Heritage Week, end of July 2026**

**For more information, contact Beth Landmesser, [hwyl@ptd.net](mailto:hwyl@ptd.net)  
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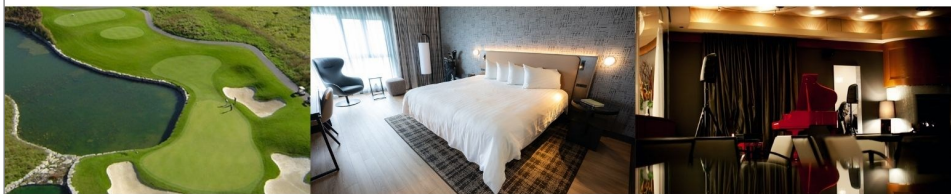


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For information contact: Megan Williams, WNAA Executive Secretary  
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We are honored to recognize the founding members of the Legacy Society who made bequests to WNAA in their estate plans. Gifts made through wills, trusts, insurance policies or other instruments are placed in WNAA's Endowment in perpetuity to ensure the continued vitality, growth and expansion of WNAA into the future.

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**WNAA gratefully acknowledges the organizations and individuals who have provided goods, in-kind and other services, and countless volunteer hours that have enhanced the quality and scope of the Festival.**

- The Ottawa Welsh Society for serving as local hosts. Special thanks to local venue chair Myfanwy Davies, and Alison Lawson for their help..
- Volunteer conductors and accompanists for the Informal Singing; Gwen Giffin Carter and Kit Proud for organizing the Silent Auction; Registration and seminar monitor volunteers; Jan Jones Batty and Evans Paschal for ad layout, assembling the Program Book pages and preparing them for printing.
- Affiliated Welsh Organizations that support the WNAA throughout the year.
- NINNAU Publications for providing the vehicle for general publicity.

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Windsor & Meryl Davis.....	Our Welsh Parents
Paula Evans.....	David W. "Buddy" Evans Jr., Marilyn Hoy
Gwen Foulkes.....	Dr. Robert & Kathryn Foulkes
The Girls.....	Marian (Rinkuns) & Gloria (Kondrat) Collins
Their beautiful voices and spirit lives in our minds and hearts.	
Cleo Griffith & David Henkel.....	William B. Griffith (Bethlehem PA), John B. Griffith (Baltimore MD)
Lynne Griffiths.....	John Griffiths
George & Sandy Groom.....	Dr. Lewis M. Chere
The Hunter Family.....	Bessie Hunter (Venn), William Hunter
Steve Jaren.....	Nelda Jaren (née Davies)
Delyth Johns and Family.....	Don & Meriel Mills
Barbara Jones.....	Barbara Barnes
Jeanne Jones Jindra.....	Edwin Jones
KarenAlice Jones.....	Richard T. Jones
Lauranne Jones.....	Ruth Watson
Mary Glassman Jones.....	Dr. Donald Marcus, Gwyneth Morus Jones
Elinor Kelliher.....	Martha A. Davies
Geraint Lewis.....	er cof annwyl Mary Lewis Penrhos
Beth Lloyd.....	James & Rozona Lloyd
Susan Jenkins Meers.....	Maude Miles Jenkins, Albert Roderick Jenkins
Mary Morris Mergenthal.....	Jack Nesbitt
Roderic & Linda Owen.....	Rev. John R. Owen, Dr. David L. Mandry
Lynn & Wilf Owens-Whalen.....	Ken & Phyllis Owens, Arthur & Ella Morgan, cousins Buddy Evans & David Griffiths
Margaret Pemberton.....	Mair Jones Pemberton, Caroline Jones Sears, Robert Tilley Jr.
Danny & Robin Proud.....	Leslie Proud
David Reichert & Jeanne Thoreson.....	The Jones Girls—Elaine & Doris
Virginia Howells Reardon.....	Beatrice Tewkesbury Howells
Audrey Roberts.....	John Tudor Roberts
Moryn Shah.....	Mary Winter
Susan Davies Sit.....	My Welsh father Ian Richard Davies

## Memorial Gifts-continued

<b>Donor</b>	<b>In Memory Of</b>
Betsy Teti.....	Anne E. Watkins Lynn
Mary & David Timmer.....	Helen & Glyn Lloyd Roberts, Lloyd Glover
Mark Thomas .....	Margaret Dane Griffiths Thomas
William B. Thomas .....	John & Elizabeth Jones (Ty'n Rhos), David J. & Eleanor Thomas
Elaine Westlake.....	Morfudd Jones
Welsh Folk Dance Society .....	Jack Nesbitt (Lee's Summit), Carolyn Adkins (Kansas City), Scot Powell, (Lee's Summit)

## Honoring Gifts

<b>Donor</b>	<b>In Honor Of</b>
Arvonnia Historic Preservation Society.....	Our Welsh Heritage
Marian Owen Bieniek.....	Joan Owen Mandry
Karen Conley.....	Rev. Richard P. Baskwill
Will & Donna Fanning.....	Dick Donohoe, Ellis J. Jones
Christa Benjamin Jorudd, Karla Benjamin Clark (daughters) & Adrienne Burgess (granddaughter).....	Dr. Lawrence & Shirley Benjamin
Puget Sound Welsh Association.....	Alan & Greta Upshall
Ian K. Samways.....	All Festival Volunteers
Anne Marie Sheridan.....	Prof. Wayne Harbert
Sue Stealey.....	Dilys Rana
Karen & Michael Wojahn.....	Ellis J. Jones

### Longyfarchiadau ... 96 Mlynedd! Mwynhewch Ottawa!

The Minnesota Welsh Association extends its warmest greetings and heartiest congratulations to the WNAA and the Ottawa Host Committee on the 2025 North American Festival of Wales and the 93rd Annual Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu!

Join us for the

*90th Jubilee*

of organized hymn singing  
(Welsh and English)  
in south central Minnesota.

Sunday, September 28, 2025 1:30pm  
at the **First Presbyterian Church**  
220 East Hickory, Mankato, MN

**Visiting Conductor Dr. Mari Morgan**



For information on the Minnesota Welsh Association:  
<https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaWelshAssociation>

## WNAA Presidents

1929-31	William E. Lewis	Youngstown, Ohio
1931-32	James Attwood	Youngstown, Ohio
1932-33	George D. Rees	Chicago, Illinois
1933-34	Edward Blythin	Cleveland, Ohio
1934-35	Edward B. Williams	Youngstown, Ohio
1935-37	Dr. John Evans	Chicago, Illinois
1937-38	George Hopkins	Canton, Ohio
1938-41	Caradoc Ellis	Johnstown, Pennsylvania
1941-49	Henry T. Jones	New Castle, Pennsylvania
1949-53	Allen Thomas	Ferndale, Michigan
1953-55	Henry T. Jones	New Castle, Pennsylvania
1955-57	Dr. M. D. Thomas	Salt Lake City, Utah
1957-60	John G. Roberts	Cleveland, Ohio
1960-62	Douglas C. Jones	Toronto, Ontario
1962-64	H. L. Roberts	Pelham Manor, New York
1964-66	Angharad Lloyd Roberts	Vancouver, British Columbia
1966-68	John G. Roberts	Cleveland, Ohio
1968-70	Lewis Edwards	Niagara Falls, Ontario
1970-72	Emlyn Lloyd	Detroit, Michigan
1972-74	Owen C. Roberts	Montreal, Quebec
1974-76	Gwynn J. Parri	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1976-78	Eluned M. Thomas	Toronto, Ontario
1978-80	Dr. David L. Mandry	Ravenswood, West Virginia
1980-82	J. Humphreys Jones	Toronto, Ontario
1982-84	Norman E. Williams	Utica, New York
1984-86	Gwenfyl E. Jones	Vancouver, British Columbia
1986-88	David E. Thomas	Edina, Minnesota
1988-90	Paul E. Stevens	Poland, Ohio
1990-92	Don Mills	Kanata, Ontario
1992-94	Ellis J. Jones	St. Peter, Minnesota
1994-96	William John Lewis	Kettering, Ohio
1996-98	R. Cerwyn Davies	Scarborough, Ontario
1998-00	Col. Alfred J. Reese, Jr.	Lehighton, Pennsylvania
2000-02	Alan Upshall	Kenmore, Washington
2002-04	Lynn Owens-Whalen	Vancouver, British Columbia
2004-06	Richard Baskwill	Lutherville, Maryland
2006-08	Roy Morris	Kanata, Ontario
2008-09	Robert D. Hughes	Akron, Ohio
2009-11	AdaMae Lewis	Ames, Iowa
2011-13	Hywel M. Davies	Bethesda, Maryland
2013-15	Barbara E. Leedy	Grand Rapids, Michigan
2015-17	Ian Samways	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2017-19	William L. Fanning	Orange, California
2019-22	David Matthews	Calgary, Alberta
2022-24	Jeanne Jones Jindra	Rio Grande, Ohio
2024-26	Dilys W. Rana	Wilmette, Illinois

## Venue Chairpersons

1976	Elisabeth Griffith	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
1977	Don Mills & Tal Griffiths	Ottawa, Ontario
1978	David E. Thomas	Minneapolis, Minnesota
1979	Gwyneth Cryslar & Lewis Edwards	Niagara Falls, New York
1976	Elisabeth Griffith	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## Venue Chairpersons—continued

1977	Don Mills & Tal Griffiths	Ottawa, Ontario
1978	David E. Thomas	Minneapolis, Minnesota
1979	Gwyneth Crysler & Lewis Edwards	Niagara Falls, New York
1980	Gwenfyl E. Jones	Vancouver, British Columbia
1981	Robert A. Jones	Utica, New York
1982	Eluned Thomas	Toronto, Ontario
1983	Jack A. Pritchard	Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
1984	Emmaline Davies & Betty Pierce	Portland, Oregon
1985	Terry Pierce	Montreal, Quebec
1986	Tom Brownfield	Columbus, Ohio
1987	Mae Howells Anderson	St. Paul, Minnesota
1988	Barbara A. Morgan	Baltimore, Maryland
1989	David Lewis	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
1990	Yvonne Griffiths-Evans	Victoria, British Columbia
1991	David Taliesin Richards & Jack Lewis	Cincinnati, Ohio
1992	Jack A. Nesbitt & Ann McFerrin	Kansas City, Missouri
1993	Jack A. Pritchard & Beth Landmesser	Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
1994	Alan Upshall	Bellevue, Washington
1995	Glenn Grove & Pat St. Clair	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
1996	Stephen L. Reese & Patricia C. Divers	Utica, New York
1997	David T. Williams & Arline H. Barsamian	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1998	Mary Ellen Morgan & Marietta Riggs Schumann	Columbus, Ohio
1999	Ellis J. Jones & Mary Morris Mergenthal	Minneapolis, Minnesota
2000	Ian Morris	Ottawa, Ontario
2001	Howard Thomas	San Jose, California
2002	Glenn Grove	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
2003	Alan Upshall	Richmond, British Columbia
2004	Myfanwy S. Davies	Buffalo, New York
2005	Jan Briggs & Trudy Howells	Orlando, Florida
2006	Ian Morris	Cincinnati, Ohio
2007	Hywel Davies	Washington, DC
2008	Barbara M. Jones	Chicago, Illinois
2009	Ian Morris	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2010	Janet Figini & Betty Pierce	Portland, Oregon
2011	Barbara Jones & Sue Stealey	Cleveland, Ohio
2012	Beth D. Landmesser	Scranton, Pennsylvania
2013	Betty Cullingworth	Toronto, Ontario
2014	Kay Gavin & Mary Morris Mergenthal	Minneapolis, Minnesota
2015	Laura Jenkins Gorun	Worthington, Ohio
2016	Elaine Westlake & David Matthews	Calgary, Alberta
2017	David & Janet Allen	Owego, New York
2018	Katherine De Francis & Diane Owen	Washington, DC
2019	Jan Jones Batty & Danny Evan Proud	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
2020	(The Festival was on-line during the COVID-19 pandemic)	
2021	Ted Engel & Jean Kraeger	Utica, New York
2022	Jack Williams & Taylor Williams	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2023	Gwenith Closs-Colgrove & Susan Evans Atchison	Lincoln, Nebraska
2024	Jessica Davies, Ian Samways & Betsy Teti	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

## Gymanfa Ganu Venues and Directors

1929	Niagara Falls, New York	Prof. Isaac Prosser	Youngstown, Ohio
		Prof. Evan Harris	Buffalo, New York
1930	Niagara Falls, New York	Miss Dilys Hughes	Buffalo, New York
1931	Niagara Falls, New York	Prof. Evan Harris	Buffalo, New York
1932	Niagara Falls, New York	Prof. John T. Roberts	Utica, New York
1933	Chicago, Illinois	Prof. David Jenkins	Scranton, Pennsylvania
1934	Cleveland, Ohio	Dr. T. Hopkins Evans	Cleveland, Ohio
1935	Youngstown, Ohio	Dr. Joseph Lloyd	Youngstown, Ohio
		Rev. Rees Williams	New Castle, Pennsylvania
1936	Atlantic City, New Jersey	W. B. Jones	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
		The Hon. Stanley Davis	Scranton, Pennsylvania
1937	Johnstown, Pennsylvania	Prof. Samuel J. Evans	Utica, New York
1938	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Dr. D. West Richard	Youngstown, Ohio
1939	Buffalo, New York	Rev. George Middleton	Rochester, New York
		Rev. Canon John Samuels	Hamilton, Ontario
1940	Detroit, Michigan	Evan R. Edwards	Rome, New York
1941	New Castle, Pennsylvania	Dr. Griffith J. Jones	Cleveland, Ohio
1942	Utica, New York	Lewis Thomas	Chicago, Illinois
	(The Gymanfa Ganu was suspended during the War)		
1946	Akron, Ohio	Prof. William A. Hughes	Cleveland, Ohio
1947	Akron, Ohio	William R. Hughes	Scranton, Pennsylvania
1948	Detroit, Michigan	Prof. John T. Roberts	Utica, New York
1949	Salt Lake City, Utah	Prof. William A. Hughes	Cleveland, Ohio
1950	Canton, Ohio	T. Herbert Davies	Cleveland, Ohio
1951	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	David J. Pritchard	Seattle, Washington
1952	Columbus, Ohio	Prof. Hywel C. Rowland	Grand Forks, North Dakota
		Ann Davies Thomas	Salt Lake City, Utah
1953	Rochester, New York	Meredydd Evans	Princeton, New Jersey
		E. J. Hughes	Caernarfon, Wales
1954	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	E. J. Hughes	Caernarfon, Wales
1955	Salt Lake City, Utah	Ann Davies Thomas	Salt Lake City, Utah
1956	Cleveland, Ohio	Prof. William A. Hughes	Cleveland, Ohio
1957	Washington, DC	Prof. William A. Hughes	Cleveland, Ohio
1958	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Prof. William A. Hughes	Cleveland, Ohio
1959	Toronto, Ontario	Ann Davies Thomas	Salt Lake City, Utah
1960	San Francisco, California	Albert T. Davies	Detroit, Michigan
1961	Chicago, Illinois	Mansell Thomas	Cardiff, Wales
1962	Utica, New York	Prof. William A. Hughes	Cleveland, Ohio
1963	Detroit, Michigan	Albert T. Davies	Detroit, Michigan
1964	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Dr. Leslie Wynne Evans	Cardiff, Wales
1965	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Morris Wrench	Youngstown, Ohio
1966	Los Angeles, California	Dr. Terry James	Cardiff, Wales
1967	Toronto, Ontario	Alun John	Pontycymer, Wales
1968	Buffalo, New York	Alun John	Pontycymer, Wales
1969	Cardiff, Wales	Dr. Terry James	Cardiff, Wales
	Cleveland, Ohio	Morris Wrench	Youngstown, Ohio
1970	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Alun John	Pontycymer, Wales
1971	Salt Lake City, Utah	Dr. Llewellyn Roberts	Los Angeles, California
1972	Chicago, Illinois	Miss Frances Williams	New York, New York
1973	Toronto, Ontario	Helen Evans	Cardiff, Wales
1974	Swansea, Wales	Alun John	Pontycymer, Wales
	Cleveland, Ohio	Ann Davies Thomas	Salt Lake City, Utah
1975	New York, New York	Dr. Terry James	London, England
1976	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Lyn Harry	Hamilton, Ontario

1977	Ottawa, Ontario	Noel Gwyn Davies	Gorseinon, Wales
1978	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Lyn Harry	Hamilton, Ontario
1979	Niagara Falls, New York	Alun John	Pontycymer, Wales
1980	Vancouver, British Columbia	D. Eifion Thomas	Llanelli, Wales
1981	Utica, New York	Iwan Edwards	Lachine, Quebec
1982	Toronto, Ontario	Noel John	Llandeilo, Wales
1983	Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania	Alun Guy	Cardiff, Wales
1984	Portland, Oregon	Noel John	Llandeilo, Wales
1985	Montreal, Quebec	Iwan Edwards	Lachine, Quebec
1986	Columbus, Ohio	Colin Jones	Rhosllanerchrugog, Wales
		John Tudor Davies	Rhosllanerchrugog, Wales
1987	St. Paul Minnesota	Iwan Edwards	Lachine, Quebec
1988	Baltimore, Maryland	Dr. Carlton Jones Lake	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
1989	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	T. Gwynn Jones	Llanfairfechan, Wales
1990	Victoria, British Columbia	D. Eifion Thomas	Llanelli, Wales
1991	Cincinnati, Ohio	Delyth Hopkins Evans	Pontrhydygroes, Wales
1992	Kansas City, Missouri	Hywel Thomas	Fort Worth, Texas
1993	Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania	Alun Guy	Cardiff, Wales
1994	Bellevue, Washington	Mary Morris Mergenthal	St. Paul, Minnesota
		D. Eifion Thomas	Llanelli, Wales
1995	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	Glynne Jones	Merthyr Tydfil, Wales
1996	Utica, New York	Iwan Edwards	Montreal, Quebec
1997	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Geraint Wilkes	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1998	Columbus, Ohio	Lloyd Savage	Chillicothe, Ohio
		W. Tudor Jones	Rhosllanerchrugog, Wales
1999	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Meirwyn I. Walters	Hamilton, Massachusetts
2000	Ottawa, Ontario	Roy Morris	Ottawa, Ontario
2001	San Jose, California	Rhiannon Evans Acree	Los Angeles, California
		D. Eifion Thomas	Llanelli, Wales
2002	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	Donald Boothman	Hardwicke, Massachusetts
		Rev. Gareth Thomas	Swansea, Wales
2003	Richmond, British Columbia	Haydn James	London, England
2004	Buffalo, New York	Meirwyn I. Walters	Hamilton, Massachusetts
2005	Orlando, Florida	Haydn James	London, England
2006	Cincinnati, Ohio	Roy Morris	Kanata, Ontario
2007	Washington, DC	Trystan Lewis	Degannwy, Wales
2008	Chicago, Illinois	Mari Morgan	Scotch Plains, New Jersey
2009	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Eilir Owen-Griffiths	Taffs Well, Cardiff, Wales
2010	Portland, Oregon	Eirian Owen	Dolgellau, Wales
		Rhiannon Evans Acree	Long Beach, California
2011	Cleveland, Ohio	Ilid Anne Jones	Talysarn, Wales
2012	Scranton, Pennsylvania	Gareth Hughes Jones	Llandudno, Wales
2013	Toronto, Ontario	Clive Phillips	Murton, Wales
2014	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Meirwyn I. Walters	Hamilton, Massachusetts
2015	Columbus, Ohio	Owain Arwel Davies	Bethesda, Wales
2016	Calgary, Alberta	Tudur Eames	Tremeirchion, Wales
2017	Rochester, New York	Meirwyn I. Walters	Hamilton, Massachusetts
2018	Alexandria, Virginia	Eilir Owen-Griffiths	Taffs Well, Cardiff, Wales
2019	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Dr. Mari Morgan	Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania
	(The Gymanfa Ganu was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic)		
2021	Utica, New York	Meirwyn I. Walters	Hamilton, Massachusetts
2022	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Mike Williams	London, England
2023	Lincoln, Nebraska	Robat Arwyn	Talysarn, Wales
2024	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Jonathan Rogers	Swansea, Wales

## National Anthems

### O Canada!

O Canada! Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all of us command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise  
The True North strong and free;  
From far and wide, O Canada,  
We stand on guard for thee.  
    God keep our land glorious and free!  
    O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.  
    O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.

### The Star-Spangled Banner

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
    Oh, say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave  
    O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

### Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau

Mae hen wlad fy nhadau yn annwyl i mi,  
Gwlad beirdd a chantorion, enwogion o fri;  
Ei gwrol ryfelwyr, gwlad garwyr tra mad,  
Tros ryddid gollasant eu gwaed,  
    Gwlad, Gwlad, pleidiol wyf i'm gwlad,  
    Tra mor yn fur i'r bur hoff bau,  
    O bydded i'r hen iaith barhau.

### Closing Hymn

God Be With You  
God be with you till we meet again,  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.  
    Till we meet, till we meet,  
    Till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
    Till we meet, till we meet,  
    God be with you till we meet again.

### NAFOW Diaspora-gifting-Argentina Diaspora



The Ottawa Welsh Society is raising funds to support **Ysgol y Cwm** (The Valley School) in Y Wladfa, Trevelin, Patagonia.



Look for the flags on the **Het Gymreig** Booth in the NAFOW Market. Come! Make a gift!



to the pupils, teachers and parents of The Valley School that preserves the Welsh Language in the Welsh Colony in y Wladfa

A gift will give you a chance to win one of the four Het Gymreig.

#### ***The Draw will be at the Concert on Saturday night***

Gifts of cash, cheques and e-transfers will be managed by the Ottawa Welsh Society. OWS is not a charity and cannot issue a tax receipt.

Donations for Ysgol y Cwm welcome from NAFOW member Welsh Societies.



**Bryn Seion  
Welsh Church**  
Beavercreek, Oregon  
Est. 1884

**87<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Gymanfa Ganu**  
September 28, 2025

[BrynSeionWelshChurch.org](http://BrynSeionWelshChurch.org)



### **Welsh-American Genealogical Society (Cymdeithas Orlhain Achau Cymry America)**

Formed in 1990 in the United States to serve as a common link for Welsh genealogical researchers in the USA or anywhere throughout the Welsh world.

Member: National Genealogical Society

For information:  
send S.A.S.E. to WAGS  
c/o 60 Norton Avenue  
Poultney, VT 05764-1029 USA  
Email: [wagsoff1990@yahoo.com](mailto:wagsoff1990@yahoo.com)

For a sample newsletter:  
Please include \$3.50 (US) check payable to WAGS.

You'll find us on the web in Facebook and at <https://www.welshamericangenealogicalsociety.org>.

# Rehoboth Welsh Church



## Rehoboth Welsh Church Preservation Partnership

**Founded in 1854, the Church is a non-denominational Christian church which specializes in conducting religious services and musical events in the Welsh tradition.**

**The Preservation Partnership is a membership association open to all persons who wish to support the culture, heritage and upkeep of the Church – no residency or church membership requirements to join.**

*Weekly Sunday Worship Services – Bi-Lingual English and Welsh*  
April thru mid-October 6:00 PM (ET), mid-October thru March 2:30 PM (ET)

*Featured Worship Services – Guest Directors, Organists, Special Music*  
Spring Gymanfa Ganu and Te Bach – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in May, 2:30 PM (ET)  
Fall Gymanfa Ganu and Te Bach – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in October, 2:30 PM (ET)

*Special Seasonal Worship Services*  
Celebration of St David's Day , Saints of Wales, Festival of Lessons and Carols

**See our Website to sign up for weekly emails or to donate and see our Facebook page for regular updates**



Search "Rehoboth Welsh Church"  
or scan the QR code below



Search "Rehoboth Welsh Chapel"  
or scan the QR code below



Rehoboth Welsh Church  
1029 Atom Road  
PO Box 248  
Delta, PA 17314

Revised: 2025\_05\_06



**The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu  
Association of Wisconsin Inc.  
sends its wishes to Ottawa, Canada  
for a successful**

**2025 North American Festival of Wales**

**Join us in Wisconsin  
for a Cymanfa Ganu each month from  
May through November  
including the**

**Christmas Gymanfa Ganu**

**and featuring the**

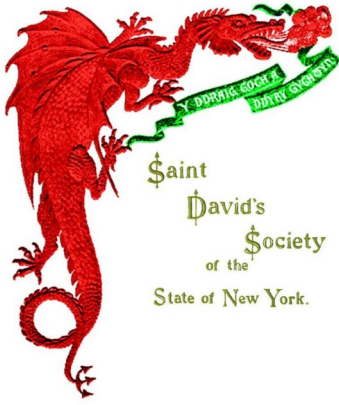
**Welsh Weekend for All**

**Eisteddfod competitions, seminars, workshops,  
Pub Night folk singing, Gymanfa Ganu and Te Bach**

**wggaw.org**



Proud sponsor of the 2025  
North American Festival of Wales



Saint  
David's  
Society  
of the  
State of New York.

The St. David's Society of the State of New York remains committed to accepting applications for Academic Scholarships for Welsh and Welsh American Students.

[www.stdaidsny.org](http://www.stdaidsny.org)

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*Sends its sincerest  
good wishes to our  
Canadian friends  
for a very successful  
festival in Ottawa!*

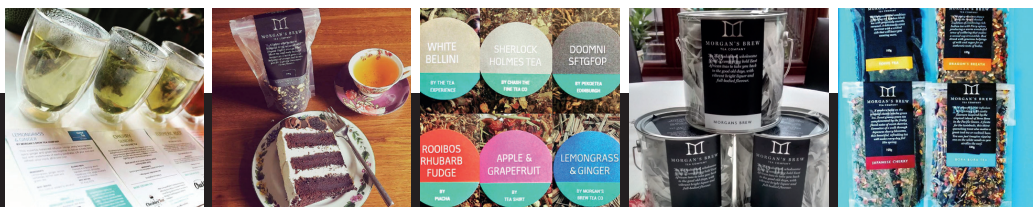
*From Chicago's  
oldest Welsh  
Society (formerly  
The Cambrian  
Benevolent Society  
of Chicago) founded  
in 1853.*

# Notes





## MORGANS BREW TEA COMPANY



We are specialist suppliers of loose leaf teas and infusions from established plantations. Our blends are sourced from a collection of old and new recipes. We sell our own brand of 46 loose leaf teas and accessories via online webshop.

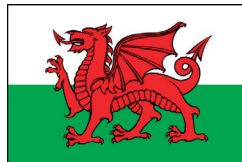
We love to share our passion for tea in all its myriad forms and delight in inspiring our customers to try new flavours and recipes. We want to encourage our customers to think differently about they use tea and infusions for drinking and culinary use.

Our aromatic and flavour-rich blends are endlessly versatile; whether it be a satisfying cuppa, a delicate herbal pick-me-up, as an aromatic culinary ingredient or as a twist to an elegant cocktail. From black teas to caffeine-free, from herbal to fruit infusion – all our teas are blended for your enjoyment. You can drink our teas and infusions in the morning, mid-day, afternoon, evening - and as a nightcap.

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Oldford House, Berriew Road, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7SS

## Welsh Society of Western New England

Welsh Culture, Language, History,  
Music, Literature, Poetry, Luncheons,  
Outings, and More.



WSWNE proudly invites you to Springfield, Massachusetts, host city for NAFOW 2026! Step into history where Welsh pioneers like Miles Morgan and Reice Bodurtha helped shape a bold new frontier in the 1600s. Discover the spirit of early America and immerse yourself in the rich Welsh legacy that helped build it. Join us in New England for a celebration of culture, community, and colonial adventure!

Visit [www.WelshWNE.org](http://www.WelshWNE.org) to learn more.



# ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

For over 130 years, working to celebrate,  
preserve, and promote Welsh cultural heritage in  
the southwestern Pennsylvania region.

**PROUDLY SUPPORTS**

## naFOW 2025 in OTTAWA, CANADA



**Welsh Language Classes**

**Cultural Festivals**

**Wales-Pennsylvania Digitization Project**

**Annual Daffodil Luncheon**

**Gymanfa Ganu**

**Owain Glyndwr Pub Crawl**

**Carnegie Library Welsh Collection**

**University of Pittsburgh Welsh Nationality Room**

**[stdavidssociety.org](http://stdavidssociety.org)**

## The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project and Archive for Welsh America

Experience Welsh history & culture in Wymore, Nebraska!

The only museum dedicated to the story of Welsh settlers on the Great Plains.

- Historical & Cultural Exhibits
- Wales to Nebraska Mural
- Memorial Garden
- Gift Shop
- Historic One-Room Schoolhouse

We welcome visitors, researchers and tour groups.  
For more information visit our website, email [director@greatplainswelsh.org](mailto:director@greatplainswelsh.org) or call (402) 432-3656.

[greatplainswelsh.org](http://greatplainswelsh.org)



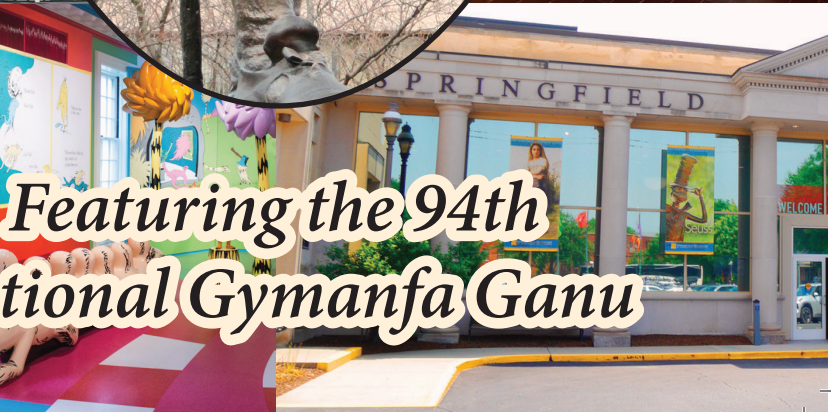
*Your donations to our Expansion Project are greatly appreciated.*

# North American Festival of Wales *Gŵyl Cymru Gogledd America*

Credit: Springfield Visitors Bureau, Susan Davies Sit



## Springfield, Massachusetts September 2–6, 2026



## Featuring the 94th National Gymanfa Ganu

**The Women's Welsh Clubs of America**  
*is proud to support the:*



The Women's Welsh Clubs of America is proud to support U.S. undergraduate students of Welsh heritage or with a connection to Wales who are looking to spend a semester or full academic year at a Welsh university.

Up to three scholarships are awarded per year to cover travel and living expenses. A one-semester scholarship recipient will receive \$4,000, and students spending a full academic year in Wales will receive \$7,000.



**Study in Wales**  
*Scholarship Program*