



# W.A.Y.

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WELSH AMERICAN YOUTH OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

North Farwell Ave. - Milwaukee, Wis. 53211

January 8, 1971

Dear WAY members and friends,

A very happy New Year to you all. I hope it will be a good and productive year for WAY as a growing group. This newsletter is late due to a hassle with the printer, but now that we have the paper, the next one will come as promised.

The Buffalo area WAY group put on a Christmas entertainment for the Welsh Club there. Jane "Quick-Draw" Thomas challenged them to skits at 30 paces, and I trust WAY duelled to the finish. Milwaukee WAY held a very successful Halloween party, with over 30 WAY members attending. DeDe Breese and Ed Thomas worked on the plans for the party and have others in mind.

The following people were selected in September to serve as a national board to organize WAY: DeDe Breese, Milwaukee; Gary Steinlein, Chicago; Mary Thomas, London, Ont.; Jennifer Monkhouse, Buffalo; Olwen Davies, Winnipeg; Kathy and Megan Lewis, Ohio; Paul Grossman, Rock Island, Ill.; Lynn Edwards, Toronto; the Rev. David Edwards, Pittsburgh, Ronwen Cudlipp, Sault Ste Marie; and Gwentyth Lewis, Albion, Mich. We would be interested in learning what sorts of events and plans are under way in each area, so please contact your nearest Board member for information on local organizations.

On April 19 an internationally-known folk dance expert will be in Milwaukee to teach. He has been researching Welsh dances since we asked him about them last fall, and he will have several dances to teach to anyone interested. He is Vyts Bellajus, publisher of the dance magazine Viltis, and his visit here is being sponsored by the Metropolitan Milwaukee Folk Group Association, who will pay his fee for the Welsh dance unit as a gift to us.

Marvelous plans are underway in Salt Lake City for the participation of WAY in the Gymanfa September 2 - 6, 1971. There will be a large room for WAY, a registration booth, a concert by the Utah Youth Chorus and a luncheon for them after the concert, and many other events. Information on accommodations will be sent you soon.

Ann Davies Thomas of the Salt Lake City committee has asked if WAY members would sing at the Gymanfa, and she will arrange to send the music to all our members so that rehearsal will be cut to a minimum. How would you like to tour Wales in 1972 as part of a WAY youth choir? Mrs. Thomas has suggested such a trip if we can get a group together this September in Utah. She has taken four choirs to Wales in the past and has great experience in this field. Let us know your thoughts on this.

WAY is planning a trip to Wales at student rates for the two weeks before the Gymanfa. We will leave from and return to Detroit, leaving on Wednesday, August 18, and returning to Detroit on Wednesday, Sept. 1. The trip on to the Gymanfa will have to be separate, as Atlantic carriers do not extend as far west as Utah.

Because of the time factor, we shall not be able this year to stay at the League of Youth (Urdd) camp near Bala, but their members are anxious to open their homes to our young people and their national organization has offered assistance in making all sorts of activities available at the camp and throughout the country. The University College of Wales at Aberystwyth has offered their dormitory facilities to us for a very nominal fee for room and board -- they can arrange all sorts of side trips or programs for our group if we stay there. Other colleges and universities are also open for our use, as are hostels.

Here are some of the activities and alternatives for the trip: pony trekking through Snowdonia Park; bike tripping and hostelling; side trips from a base at University College Aberystwyth; visiting Urdd members in their homes and taking part in special camp activities with them; a regular motor coach tour, with hotel accommodations; using university accommodations at Cardiff and taking side trips from there, with local youth groups as hosts and guides. We are assured of warm and pleasant weather in August, and the beaches and parks are especially fine during August. Did you know that some beaches in Wales are ideal for surfing? That gypsy caravans can be rented for days or weeks of leisurely travel? That there are thousands and thousands of young people ready to welcome us to Wales?

Keep in touch with the officers or with me. We can use the names of new members for our mailing list. We want to know your opinions on the direction WAY should take. We would also like any suggestions you have about the trip, our participation in the Gymanfa in Salt Lake City, and the possible choir tour through Wales in the summer of 1972. Keep in touch!

Plan on the Wales trip and the great fun in Salt Lake City, Labor Day weekend, 1971. We'll see you then.

Sincerely,

*Mary Griswold*

Mary Griswold, advisor