



# Dragon Speak

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the newsletter of the Welsh Society of Portland

We had a grand time at the **March 3 St. David's Day Luncheon!**

We took time for a memorial for Tom Owen, with the Gorsedd Prayer read by John Hasenjaeger, and a verbal tribute by John Evans.

Our delicious lunch meal followed prepared by Janet, Nancy, KarenAlice, Betty, Jane, and Derrick (if you were not mentioned, *so sorry!*) - leek & potato soup, sandwiches, fruit, and green salad; followed by dessert of Welsh cakes, rice pudding, bread pudding, cookies, tarts, and more! We washed it all down with tea and finished quite stuffed.

After the meal, John Evans reviewed the life of St. David (Dewi Sant), with power point slides. We remember this great man because of his caring for and teaching of the Welsh people, his being a Celtic Archbishop, his extreme asceticism, and his spiritual leadership.

Next, Quindlan Porter and John Hasenjaeger sang solos and duets of traditional Welsh songs & hymns.

We were pleased to see everyone (a new face for us was Casey Jones, a continuing member), and the time together was wonderful.

At our **April 7 meeting**, Maggie Rogers and Dick Pugh will describe their trip several months ago to Wales - at least partially to find ancestral sites. They were assisted on the tour by Dr. Mike Davies, a Welsh tour guide and specialist in medieval history, as they searched and researched.

Mike has led several WSOP members as they toured Wales.



this is Dick

this is Maggie

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### The Celtic Lunar Zodiac - your moon sign

		Greco-Roman zodiac	planet
<b>WILLOW</b> tree	<b>15 April - 12</b> <b>May</b>	<b>Aries/ Taurus</b>	<b>Moon</b> 

Gem: Moonstone    Flower: Primrose    Symbol: Serpent

The Willow tree is a graceful sight - its sweeping form an intricate pattern that symbolizes the complexity of the sign.

Willow people are difficult to get to know in any depth or detail - they are ruled by the moon, with a keen understanding of cycles and seasons. They are naturally drawn to the mysteries of life, and act intuitively in all situations.

Willow people show passive tenacity and shrewdness of character. They are wise parents and counselors, with an instinctive maternal nature. They are great traditionalists with great memories, but ready to change and take the advantage.

Some unreliableness of character shows in sudden mood changes, and blurred reasoning. There is a reluctance to forgive and forget, which may limit business success and cause interpersonal difficulties. Persons with this sign are bursting with potential, but have a tendency to hold themselves back for fear of appearing flamboyant or overindulgent.

Willow people usually marry young and are drawn to either younger or older partners (wanting mothering or to be the mothering partner). If the right partner is found, a close bond can be formed. Also, when married, family and children become paramount in the affections.

The Willow person can channel energy positively into the arts with great distinction and invention. Sense of humor is not easy to define, and either could be totally lacking on occasion or be extremely well-directed. Again, strength in counseling can make a Willow person most valued by society.



Helena Patterson, *The Celtic Lunar Zodiac*, 1992, Rutland, VT, Charles E. Tuttle Co.



### The Book Shelf

#### *WELSH HERITAGE FOOD & COOKING*

by Annette Yates    Lorenz Books    2006

Best loved national dishes, each recipe having a page to itself with a short introduction giving a little history of the dish along with its Welsh name. 96 pages in gloriously photographed color.

From one who's come to Welsh cooking only recently, this was perfect: a culinary introduction, customs and traditions, "native foods" (whatever that portends!) and a fine bibliography. We librarians love bibliographies! It was this cookbook that gave me the courage last year to bring a REAL Welsh recipe product to a Welsh Society meeting. The 'Honey and Spice Cake,' my first attempt, I'd noted *hard work!*, but I hope to try the Welsh cakes, Welsh rarebit (thought I don't have an open fire), and perhaps the lamb broth and maybe the *Eftwlyn rhost gyda stueffin cennin, lafiwr a lemon...* if I can find the laverbread!

And yes, I'm happy to load the book for short periods!  
**or** try Amazonbooks    new \$12.97 or used \$7.99

**review by Maggie Rogers**



The last in our series on Welsh cities .....

# NEWPORT (Casnewydd-ar-Wysg)



Newport, located about 12 miles east of Cardiff, is the newest city of Wales, having been granted city status in 2002. Wales' third-largest urban area grew up around the docks at the mouth of the Usk River. Evidence of Newport's rich history was largely erased by unfortunate 20th-century development, some of this now being replaced with contemporary glass and steel buildings. Newport has been ranked as one of the UK's greenest cities, using fewer natural resources than any other urban center.



The Celtic Silures built hillforts overlooking the estuary of the River Usk. In AD 5, the Roman legions built a Roman fort at Caerleon to defend the river crossing. In the late 5th century, St. Gwynllyw, patron saint of Newport, founded the St. Woolos church, which became Newport Cathedral. During the Welsh Revolt in 1402, Rhys Gethin, general for Owain Glyndŵr, forcibly took Newport Castle and burned the town. During the Industrial Revolution, coal and iron was brought from the Valleys, and Newport became Wales' leading coal port by 1830. Newport's economy was varied, and though the docks declined, the city did better than many of the Valley towns. In the late 1800's urban growth necessitated a new River Usk crossing, and the famous Newport Transporter Bridge was completed in 1909. The post WWII years saw renewed prosperity, with varied industry including public sector jobs and a growing reputation as a 'hot spot' for tech companies.

As part of the Newport Unlimited master plan, the city center is being expanded, with high density residential living. The University of Wales, Newport is part of a £35 million riverside renewal. City sights include the Newport Cathedral, Newport Museum, the Tredegar House and gardens (17th century manor home), and the National Roman Legion Museum and Roman Baths Museum at Caerleon. Newport hosted the National Eisteddfod in 1988 and 2004. The City of Newport Male Choir is one of the leading male choirs in the region.

The Newport Rugby Football Club has a world-wide reputation; Newport is also the home to several major soccer teams. Celtic Manor Resort is home to the Saab Welsh Open, and was site of the 2010 Ryder Cup.



**QUICK FACTS** population 141,300

**Area** Gwent

**Post Code District** NP

**Police:** Heddlu Gwent

**Historic county** Monmouthshire

**Phone area code** 01633

**Fire:** South Wales Fire & Rescue Service

Sources: *The Rough Guide to Wales* May 2009, NY: Rough Guides; <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newport>

## CHWARDIDIAU (Laughs)



# PUBS

A leek walks into a pub ....  
the bartender looks up, scowls,  
and says....  
"Sorry, but we don't serve  
vegetables here..."

Two Welsh solicitors arrived at the Goose and Cleaver and ordered a couple of pints. They then took sandwiches out of their briefcases and began to eat. Seeing this, the angry publican approaches them and says, 'Excuse me but you cannot eat your own sandwiches in here!'

The two look at each other, shrug, and exchange sandwiches.

A group of Welshmen traveling home from Paddington became very merry in the pub and were heard at regular intervals to cheer,

'Hurrah for Wales!'

A morose Englishman stood this for some time but finally turned towards them and retorted loudly,

'Hurrah for Hell!'

'Fair enough,' replied Dai, one of the Welsh, 'every man for his own country.'

Within Wales, men from Cardiganshire are not renowned for their generosity, munificence or open-handedness and this is why...

A Scotsman called Angus and a Cardi called Dylan met in Glasgow bus station, both penniless, both thirsty.

The Scotsman had an idea for getting a free drink: 'I know a barmaid in a pub near here who has got a very bad memory. If you get her involved in a conversation she can't remember whether you've paid or not. Let me try it on first.'

Angus went into the pub, chatted to the barmaid and duly got his free drink. Now it was the Cardi's turn to try.

Dylan sauntered up to the bar, ordered his pint and began to tell the barmaid all about life in Wales.

Ten minutes later, he drained his glass and said to the barmaid,

'Well, it's been lovely talking to you but I've go to be off now. What about my change?'

## Mae hin, a bod (This and That)

### Birds in cities get their messages out by singing at higher pitch

In an avian version of ‘Can you hear me now?’ city birds sing at a higher pitch than country birds not only to penetrate the low-frequency roar of urban life, but also to make up for such physical objects as tall buildings - according to researchers at the University of Copenhagen and the University of Aberystwyth (Wales). Controlled sound recordings show that even when there wasn’t traffic noise, the higher frequencies in urban birds’ songs transmit across cities.



*Oregonian* 2/28/2012

**All Wales Coast Path** Lonely Planet, the popular travel publisher, has selected the All Wales Coast Path as the “greatest region on Earth to visit in 2012.” Due to officially open in May, the 870-mile coastal footpath, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government at a cost of L10 million, will stretch around Wales from Chepstow in the southeast to Queensferry in the northeast. Along the way, rambles will encounter dramatic scenery and historic sites. *Ninnau* Jan-Feb 2012

**Northamerican Festival of Wales** the Festival will take place Aug 30-Sep 2 this year in Scranton, PA. Côr Godre’r Garth, a mixed voice choir from Pontypridd will perform. Also, there will be an Eistedfodd, seminars, and lots of singing! Scranton was a magnet town for immigrant Welsh families due to coal and iron mining. For more information - <http://www.wngga.org>

## Calendar

**April 7** Maggie Rogers & Dick Pugh - Welsh trip

**May 5** Movie ‘Patagonia’ 2012 Oscar-nominated with Welsh theme

**June 2** Officer elections - program to be announced

**July 7** Picnic

12:30pm Business Meeting for all  
 1:00pm Refreshments  
 1:30pm Program

**Unless noted, all meetings of WSOP are held at St. David of Wales Church 2800 SE Harrison Street Portland, OR 97214**

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