



Dragon Speak Dragon Speak Dragon Speak

the newsletter of the Welsh Society of Portland

At our June Annual Meeting, we had a report from our President on the current state of the Welsh Society, and our plans for the future. We also held elections: President is Megs Lloyd-Patton, Vice President is John Evans, Secretary is Sharon Owen, Treasurer is Janet Figini, and a new Trustee is KarenAlice Jones.

We were so pleased about our opportunity to have the meeting at Kenilworth Presbyterian Church - we were met with great hospitality - including a full banner ("Welcome Welsh Society of Portland") above the doors, a welcome from Rev. Jewel, the pastor, and a beautiful building. We plan to return in August!



JULY 7 is our PICNIC !

The picnic will start at 1pm at Bryn Seion Welsh Church
(22132 S. Kamrath Road, Beavercreek, OR 97004)

If your last name begins with A-L, bring main dish or salad.

If your last name begins with M-Z, bring sweets/dessert.

The Welsh Society will provide chicken main course & drinks.

PLEASE CALL JANET FIGINI (503-630-5317) IF YOU ARE COMING
- TO HELP US PLAN!!




We have a great program planned for the July picnic - Mike Brown, an archer with Sylvan Archers, is going to come and tell us about and demonstrate the longbow.

The Battle of Crécy (1346) was a victory for Edward, The Black Prince, in which Welsh archers demonstrated the effectiveness of the longbow against the French army. The Welsh wore green and white coats and hats - possibly the first military uniforms. They may have also worn the leek.



The Celtic Lunar Zodiac - your moon sign

		Greco-Roman zodiac	planet
HOLLY tree	8 July - 4 Aug	Cancer/Leo	 Earth

Gem: Red Carnelian Flower: Meadowsweet Symbol: Flaming spear

The Holly tree is the most important evergreen in the British isles. Among the Celtic tree astrology signs, the Holly is one of regal status - noble, high-minded persons reflect this sign. The Druids decorated their huts with evergreen during the winter, and their curative powers of holly leaves in the relief of intermittent fevers and rheumatism.

Holly tree characters have personal integrity - exerting power from behind the scenes. Their word is quite literally their bond and the virtue of honor their guiding principle. They are extremely sensitive to criticism, but they invoke great loyalty and devotion from friends and colleagues.

People born under this sign are not inclined to take risks until they have carefully check the odds. They may still take risks, but they will hold on tightly to the pursestrings, possibly attracting them into banking and insurance. There is a spiritual aspect to their nature, however, and most holly people have a deep and abiding faith.

Also, they are quite generous, and are great benefactors, expecting others to work as hard as themselves. Holly tree characters are great collectors, and with a good eye for a bargain, their homes are often full of extraordinary collections.

With regard to relationships, they are loving partners in every sense, if somewhat overprotective. They are not inclined to have affairs at any time during their lifetimes, and often marry childhood sweethearts. They are ideal parents, tolerant, affectionate, and very supportive. There is a serious side to their nature, which can make them appear lacking a sense of humor, but broad slapstick, leaves them doubled over with laughter. Holly people may have but they are fully conversant with life, and use the reclusive tendencies to gain gain perspective on their many responsibilities.



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

Mae hin, a bod (This and That)

Scientists have finally pinpointed the exact Welsh source of some of the rock believed to have been used 5,000 years ago to create Stonehenge's first stone circle. By comparing fragments at and around Stonehenge with rocks in southwest Wales, they have been able to identify the original rock outcrop that some of the Stonehenge material came from - Craig Rhos-y-Felin. By detailing the mineral content and the textural relationships within the rock, a process known as petrography, they found that 99% of the samples could be matched to rocks found in this particular set of outcrops. *Ninnau March-April 2012*

Dr. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, has announced he is stepping down after 10 years as the head of the Church of England and worldwide Anglican Communion. Williams, 61, was born in Ystradgynlais, Swansea, South Wales. The first Welsh Archbishop since the English Reformation, is widely praised for his attempts to maintain church unity. He has addressed issues of controversy within the church - relations with Islam, consecration of gay priests, and same-sex marriage. Williams will take the position of Master of Magdelene College at Cambridge beginning next January.

supplied by Mary Ann Spear from *British Heritage* July 2012

The appearance of medieval Welsh warriors

The warriors were dressed in a linen shirt (often red) and linen drawers; they covered these with a woolen cloak hanging to their knees, which was sometimes described as being "thin". Several manuscripts depict Welsh warriors as having only one shoe and their other foot bare - this probably allowed them to keep a balance on hilly or rough terrain. Hair was worn short, and was shaped around the eyes and ears; moustaches were popular, but beards were not.

www.castlewales.com/warfare.html

Profile of artist and poet DAVID JONES (1895-1974)

David Jones was born in London, his father Welsh and his mother English. He was a major literary figure, but also one of the finest watercolorists and printmakers of his generation.

From early childhood, drawing was his constant occupation. He went to Camberwell School of Art until the outbreak of war in 1914, when he became

a private in the trenches. His experience there was to have a big impact on the remainder of his life and work. He discovered Catholicism after the war, and in 1912, he was formally received into the Catholic church after fulfilling 3 years at Westminster College of Art.

After a spell of living within a lay community in Ditching, Sussex, he move to live in another lay community at Capel-y-Fin, in the Black Mountains of Wales in 1925, and reveled in the surrounding landscape which greatly inspired him. His paintings, drawings, and etchings have metaphorical, mythical, and historical, metaphysical meanings, and reflect his Roman Catholic faith and Welsh heritage. www.artwales.com

The decorative inscriptions of the 1940's, 50's and 60's were taken from hymns, liturgy, scripture in Greek, Latin, and English, and from Anglo-Saxon and Welsh poetry and prose. Merlin James, *David Jones A Map of the Artists Mind*, 1995 London: Humphries Publishers

The inscriptional paintings often suggest that words carry an 'aura' like the human body. This is evident from the way the words are physically placed on the page, the subtlety of the arrangement, the spacing, the background, and the color. C. Cavin, *David Me Fecit*, *Alphabet* Spring 2002

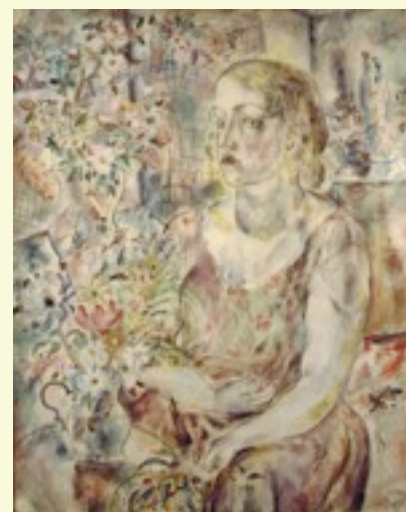
The complete work of David Jones shows a great range - poems, paintings, engravings, and inscriptions. For him, the role of the artist, in its very basic sense, was as the role of the maker. He often signed his work *David me fecit* (David made me) - the importance being in the making.

thanks to
Maggie Rogers
for the idea for this article

Cara Wallia derelicta
(Dear, abandoned Wales) -
a lament for Welsh prince
Llewelyn



Here is a short passage from "The Hunt"
 "It is the boar Trwyth that has pierced through the stout-fibred living wood that bears the sacral bough of gold.
 It is the hog that has ravaged the fair onnen and the hornbeam and the Queen of the Woods. It is the hog that has tusk-riven the tendoned roots of the trees of the llywn whereby are the tallest with the least leveled low and lie up-so-down."
www.flashpointmag.com.davidjon



Petra 1929

CHWARDDIADAU (Laughs)

CHURCH



and

CHAPEL



George, an English visitor to a small Welsh village, was approached by one of the deacons of the local church who asked him whether he would like to attend their service on the following Sunday.

"Wouldn't that be a little pointless?" replied the Englishman, "After all, your services are held in Welsh and I don't understand the language."

"Ah yes, boyo" said the deacon, "but the collection is in English."

<http://jokes-for-laughs.blogspot.com/2010/01/welsh-church-in-welsh>

Gareth James, a Welshman, was shipwrecked and managed to survive, and was marooned on a desert island for ten years. A passing ship's crew finds him, and were amazed to see his little estate built from palm trees, and his cabin.

With pride Gareth took the Captain round the island and points out to him his house, workshop, and electricity generator.

"That's not the best, he says, just come and look at these that I've built," leads them over a hill, and points to two chapels.

"Just look at those - stone built, you know"

"But why?" they ask.

"Well, they're Chapels," he says.

"We can see that, but what do you need the second Chapel for?" demanded the perplexed Captain.

"Come on, boyo", smiled Gareth impishly, "that's the Chapel I don't go to."

To which chapel should I go?

A Welsh clergyman who had received several calls to different chapels asked his wife where he should go.

"Go where there is most sin, dear", advised his wife.

The preacher took her advice and went to the chapel with the most money.

<http://Welshjokes.com/jokes/religion/3.shtml>

The chapel pastor was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play. "Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need £2,000. more. Any of you who can pledge £100. or more, please stand up." At that moment, the substitute organist played "Mae hen" And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

thanks to Betty Pierce 1/30/12

Happy Birthday to WSOP'ers born in JULY! !

Penblwydd Hapus i chi! May your day be full of good friends and family, and good cheer!

Sue Wielesek July 1
 David Pritchard July 6
 Betty Pierce July 25



if we missed you, we may not have your birthday on the list. Please call or email

John Evans (see below)




Calendar

- Jul 7 Picnic & Longbow presentation**
- Aug 4 Richard Burton bio showing of 'Taming of the Shrew'**
- Sep No meeting**
- Oct 6 Wool working**
- Nov 3 to be announced**

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

Unless noted, all meetings of WSOP are held at

**Kenilworth Presbyterian Church
 4028 SE 34th Ave. at Gladstone St.
 Portland, OR 97202**



WSOP will have a booth at the Portland Highland Games, on Saturday, July 21st. We will tell curious folks about our wonderful homeland, sell some trinkets and T shirts, and have some fun!

Come and join us at the booth!

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