



**Dragon Speak**  
*Dragon Speak*  
**Dragon Speak**  
 the newsletter of the Welsh Society of Portland

**OCTOBER MEETING**

We had a short update on information and then a delicious spread of munchies.

Our presenter was Susie Wilson , who runs SuDan Farm along with her husband. Susie does the sheep husbandry and wool products, while Dan is in charge of lamb and mutton meat production. One of their main sites is the Portland Farmers Market. Susie gave us a full range of information about how wool is used, how she sends it to weavers and blanket makers, and had fresh wool - natural and dyed for us to see and handle.

Susie was describing the differences between mutton and lamb, and our member Judith Ford gave us a great Welsh saying during the presentation - "She's mutton dressed as lamb!" (this refers to a woman who is trying to look younger than her years)

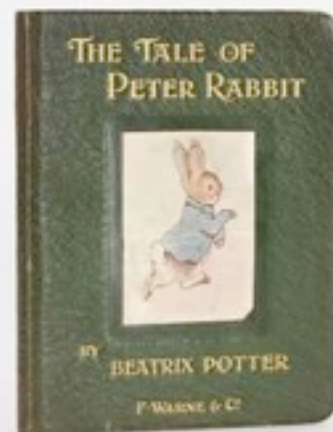
This presentation was great fun because Susie spoke with humor and showed real enjoyment of her work. The farm sells meat of several types of animals, and eggs from domestic birds.



**November 3rd meeting**

**BEATRIX POTTER & WALES**

presented by Mary Ann Spear



**BEATRIX POTTER --**

- Young artist**
- Illustrator of fungi and flowers**
- Author and illustrator of beloved tales for children**
- Sheep breeder and farmer**
- Conservation advocate for the English Lake District**

## The Celtic Lunar Zodiac - your moon sign

	Greco-Roman zodiac	planet	
REED	28 Oct - 24 Nov	Scorpio/ Sagittarius	Pluto 

Gem: Jasper      Flower: Watermint      Symbol: The Stone

The Reed grows wild on the riverbank and reminds us of the season of Samhain - the Celtic new year - and the time when the doors are opened between the natural and supernatural world. Reed characters have powerful presence or personal magnetism that can attract and overpower sensitive people. These are people who are a mystery to family and friends alike. Reed folks have a strong sense of purpose, are highly imaginative, and have strong insight into the complexities of life. They love people because they represent a diversity of meanings for the reed person to interpret. The characteristic of jealousy is strong - resentful of other people's success - leading to rages and violent anger. Reed characters are naturally secretive and will not openly admit to feelings of fear or inadequacy. Reed folks are passionate people, inclined to jealousy and suspicion, the fact of the matter being that they enjoy the intrigue more than anything else. On the positive side, anyone brave enough to get involved with reed characters will find that they are immensely caring people and highly imaginative lovers. Indeed, they make very persistent lovers, even if it is hate at first sight. They are very subtle and determined people. Their determination often has an inflexible quality and, as parents, they can be overly authoritarian. They will not extend favors to their children unless they feel they have earned them. The children, however, are deeply loved for themselves, no matter their faults or shortcomings. The reed person's life-pattern is a series of dramatic adjustments to life rather than normal transitions. They are extremely hardy people, and can endure harsh conditions that would defeat anyone else.



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

## Town of Note

### ABERTYLERI (Abertillery)

Abertillery means mouth of the river Tyleri. The town lies 16 miles from Newport in South Wales, in the mountainous mining district of the former counties of Monmouthshire and Glamorganshire, in the Ebbw Valley. The town grew steadily during the period of mining development (10, 846 in 1891 and 21,945 ten years later).



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abertillery>  
Our good friend, Betty Pierce, was born and grew up in Abertillery. Her home was one of many row houses with a garden and alley - called a gully (pronounced 'goolie'), where now folks park their cars. She walked one mile to school - uphill going and downhill coming home. She recounts her fond memory of Whitsun season (Pentecost), when the children learned and then sang hymns in the streets. After the singing, they all went back to chapel for a feast. She had a new dress and hat for the occasion.

Today, Abertillery has a population of about 11,000. Many of the old industrial scars have been removed by land reclamation and environmental improvements - playing fields, business parks, or mixed use land.

Abertillery has a Blues Festival in July, and its mens choir is the *Cor Meibion Abertillery*. There is a rugby football club, and the Ebbw Fach Trail links together 14 community Green Spaces - a total of almost 16 kilometers. [www.abertillery.net](http://www.abertillery.net)



Church Street, about 1955

## Dylan Thomas

Oct 27, 1914–Nov 9, 1953 (so, a good November Welsh subject!)

### In My Craft or Sullen Art

In my craft or sullen art  
Exercised in the still night  
When only the moon rages  
And the lovers lie abed  
With all their griefs in their arms,  
I labour by singing light  
Not for ambition or bread  
Or the strut and trade of charms  
On the ivory stages  
But for common wages  
Of their most secret heart.

Not for proud man apart  
From the raging moon I write  
On these spendthrift pages  
Nor for the towering dead  
With their nightingales and psalms  
But for the lovers, their arms  
Round the griefs of the ages,  
Who pay no praise or wages  
Nor heed my craft or art.

Dylan Thomas (1946)

Dylan Thomas *The Collected Poems of Dylan Thomas*. 1939 New York: New Directions.



Study at Laugharne



# CHWARDDIADAU (Laughs)

y ddraig goch  
the red dragon



THE NEW YORKER

has a Cartoon Caption Contest in each issue, in which a cartoon is provided, and readers can write their own caption. After an elimination process, a winner is selected and then published on the Contest page. Your editor found this cartoon in the Mar 26, 2012 New Yorker, long after the contest was over. Here is the cartoon and his caption:



"Why does your Welsh heritage keep rearing its head in all our conversations?"

How do you tell if there's a DRAGON in your closet?

THE DOOR WON'T CLOSE

What did the DRAGON say when he saw the knight in shining armor?

'OH NO, NOT MORE CANNED DINNERS!'

Why do DRAGONS sleep during the day?

SO THEY CAN FIGHT KNIGHTS

WIZARD OF ID



Meddle not in the affairs of  
DRAGONS, for thou art  
crunchy and go well with  
ketchup!

*Happy Birthday to WSOP'ers born in  
NOVEMBER! !*

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

Ruth Takahashi Nov 10



If we missed **you**, we may not have your birthday on the list. Please call or email John Evans (see below)

We have been working on establishing WSOP as an IRS-approved nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. One part of this work is to have a **mission statement**.

Here is the proposed mission statement. Members will vote on this at the November meeting. Please review - you can comment at the meeting or contact an officer or trustee if you have comments!

"The Welsh Society of Portland develops, promotes, and perpetuates Welsh heritage, culture, and music in Oregon. We strive to sustain: pride in being Welsh, support for learning about Wales, the Welsh language, and exploration of Welsh-American issues by our members and for others in the community."



### Information

- Nov 3** **Beatrix Potter & Wales**
- Dec 1** **Christmas Tea**
- Jan 5** **Welsh Pub Quiz**
- Feb 2** **To be announced**
- Mar 2** **St. David's Day Celebration**

- 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**

President	Megs Lloyd-Patton	503-284-9805	<a href="mailto:Mellp99@comcast.net">Mellp99@comcast.net</a>
Vice-President and DRAGON SPEAK editor	John Evans	503-777-34518	<a href="mailto:Squam-lake@comcast.net">Squam-lake@comcast.net</a>
Secretary	Sharon Owen	503-761-7059	<a href="mailto:skowen45@comcast.net">skowen45@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer	Janet Figini	503-630-5317	<a href="mailto:jpfigini@cascadeaccess.com">jpfigini@cascadeaccess.com</a>
Trustee	KarenAlice Jones	503-636-1118	<a href="mailto:kaj97034@comcast.net">kaj97034@comcast.net</a>
Trustee	Betty Pierce	503-657-6988	<a href="mailto:betbpierce2@yahoo.com">betbpierce2@yahoo.com</a>
Trustee	Claudia Zahorcak	503-692-9108	<a href="mailto:claudia.zahorcak@comcast.net">claudia.zahorcak@comcast.net</a>