



Dragon Speak

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the newsletter of the Welsh Society of Portland

Our mission: The Welsh Society of Portland develops, 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.

THE WELSH-AMERICAN PUB QUIZ

at our January Meeting was great fun! You'll get a chuckle at the self-named teams:

- The Creative Corgis** (5 persons)
- The Leeky Leeks** (5 persons)
- The Snowdownian Sows** (4 persons)

a message from our President:

Greetings and Happy New Year! Our pub quiz, planned by John Evans, in January, was a perfect way to start off the New Year. The chocolate prizes were yummy and the bangers and mash and bubble and squeak were consumed rapidly. There were no seconds to be had. Maybe, if we're lucky, Evans the Pen will repeat some of those jokes he so willingly threw at us between rounds. We hope to see you at our next meeting, and most certainly don't forget St. David's Day celebration with us. Sincerely, **Megs Lloyd-Patton**

at the February 2 meeting ...

HERALDRY &

WALES

Connections between heraldry and genealogy

History of Welsh heraldry

How to build a coat-of-arms for yourself

Larry Snyder
will be
the speaker

INDIE ROCK IN WALES

'Indie Rock' is short for independent rock, and refers to a category of music in which bands and musicians are on small labels, and styles are extremely diverse, including punk, rock, and country.

Here are some established and some on-the-rise bands !!



THE HOT PUPPIES indie band Becky Wood is the charismatic lead singer; songs have witty lyrics and infectious tunes; based in Cardiff

MASTERS IN FRANCE alt rock 5 piece group, performing in Welsh and English based in Gwynedd area



SUPER FURRY ANIMALS post-alternative rock; has been described as "upside-down, Beach-Boys-esque bubblegum-pop, psychedelic rock perform in English & Welsh. Several years ago when the band felt its English songs weren't being played on the radio, they decided to record in Welsh. Their song, 'Mwng' was a surprise hit, and became the biggest-selling Welsh-language album of all time (until Bryn Terfel released a Christmas album later that year). In a recent album, 'Dark Days/Light Years,' the song, "Cardiff in the Sun," was called a 'lovely homage to the city that birthed them.'

<http://www.nme.com/reviews/super-furry-animals/10203>

VICTORIAN ENGLISH GENTLEMENS CLUB 3 piece art rock band based in Cardiff; while touring in 2009, they performed at the National Museum of Art, in a forest, on a mountain, in a kitchen, and in a theater.



for more groups, visit:
www.bbc.co.wales/music/sites/indie



LOS CAMPESINOS! indie pop Cardiff-based met at university described as "madcap - every second zips through flitty rhythms, quippish lyrics, manic guitar lines and vocals that suggest the band swallowed 10 lbs of sugar before they opened their mouths to sing." NY Daily News 2008

MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!!

The Welsh Society is holding our first SILENT AUCTION at the time of our normal meeting --- March 2nd --- and our St. David's Day Celebration! Members and friends are donating exciting items and services for us to bid on.

Early 'teasers' for you to think about:

High Tea for several persons

Private genealogy session

Hand-made bird house

Old copy of the classic book, *Mabinogion*

See the March *Dragon Speak* Newsletter for more information about St. David's Day and the Silent Auction



Catherine Zeta-Jones donates cash to buy 'lost palace of the ancient Welsh princes'

Hollywood star Catherine Zeta Jones has given a boost to efforts to preserve the site of the 'lost palace' of ancient Welsh princes. She has made a 'substantial' donation to a trust bidding to buy up farmland thought to be the site where the last independent rulers of Wales had their royal residence. The 700-year-old lost palace of Llywelyn the Great and his grandson Llywelyn the Last is believed to have stood in what is now mostly fields. A spokesperson for the Garth Celyn Trust said: 'The home of the Welsh princes of Wales, has been for far too long. The trustees are delighted that Catherine Zeta-Jones is taking a personal interest in the work of the trust. Her involvement will undoubtedly help to raise the profile of this Welsh project internationally. The historical and archaeological evidence is overwhelming and we want to ensure its guaranteed preservation for the benefit of present and future generations.' Former Monty Python star Terry Jones is also keen on backing efforts to buy the 29 acres of land from the current owners. The ancient palace was, according to legend, situated at the place where a mansion called Pen-y-Bryn, dating back to 1624 itself now stands. While the stories told locally were sometimes doubted by historians, a number of archaeological digs were carried out over the past few years suggesting that there was indeed a large complex of buildings on the site, including an impressive great hall, supporting the idea that Garth Celyn was indeed the location of a palace. It seems to have been one of the final strongholds of the independent princes of Wales, as Llewelyn the Last spent time there before his death at the decisive battle of Orewin Bridge in 1289, which handed over control of



country to England's King Edward I. The mansion's current occupier Kathryn Gibson said: "The locals have always called the house Llewelyn's Tower and it seems this local lore has been handed down over the centuries. It's great that Catherine Zeta-Jones is showing an interest." <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2256416/Catherine-Zeta-Jones-donates-cash-buy-lost-palace-ancient-Welsh-princes.html>

CHWARDDIADAU (Laughs)



Gareth was visiting his well-to-do friend Trefor at his posh home in Cardiff. It was a wonderfully sunny day and the statue in the reflecting pond was glistening, and Trefor pointed out the fish in the pond, took out his wallet and threw the wallet in the pond. One of the fish grabbed it in his mouth. Then the fish gave it to another fish. That fish swam it around the pool and then passed the wallet to another fish. And this went on 'til they got to the end of the beautiful reflection pond. The fish leaped out of the water, dropped the wallet in front of its owner, and then leaped back in the water. Gareth was astounded, and had never seen such a spectacle. All he could say was, "What on earth?" Trefor looked surprised and said, "Oh, you've never seen carp to carp walleting before?"

thanks to Megs Lloyd-Patton

A man goes into a fish and chip shop in Swansea with a 20 lb cod under his arm.
He asks, 'Do you sell fish cakes here?'
'No' was the reply.
'Oooooo, that's a shame..... it's his birthday.'

On a tour of Pembrokeshire, the Pope took a few days off to visit the coast for some sightseeing. He was cruising along the beach in the Pope-mobile when there was a frantic commotion just off the shore.

A helpless man, wearing a English rugby shirt, was struggling frantically to free himself from the jaws of a 25 foot shark.

As the pope watched in horror, a speedboat pulled up with three men wearing Welsh rugby shirts. One quickly fired a harpoon into the shark's side while the other two reached out and pulled the limp semiconscious Englishman from the water. Then using the long clubs, the three beat the shark to death and hauled it into the boat.

Immediately the Pope shouted and summoned them to him "I give you my blessing for your brave actions. I heard that there were some bitter hatreds between the Welsh and the English, but now I have seen with my own eyes that this is not true."

As the pope drove off, the harpooner asked his pals, "Who was that?" "It was the Pope" one replied. "He is in direct contact with God and has access to all of God's wisdom."

"Well" the harpooner said, "he may have access to God and his wisdom but he doesn't know anything about shark fishing.

Is the bait holding up OK or do we need to get another one?"



Fish and Chips 90p
Children 50p

Actual sign seen in
Rhyl !!

Happy Birthday to WSOP'ers born in FEBRUARY! !

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

Chris Foley Feb 20



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

John Evans (see below)

Our 'Daffodil' members for 2013 - persons who renewed or joined for \$50. or more:

Janet Figini, KarenAlice Jones, Megs Lloyd-Patton, Sharon Owen, Betty Pierce



Our new members for 2013:

Gwen Baldock, Marianne Dehner, Maureen Lee (returning!)

YAY!!

Information

Feb 2 Heraldry and Wales

Mar 2 St. David's Day Celebration & Silent Auction

April 6 Celtic calligraphy

May 4 'Under construction'

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**

Our website -

www.portlandwelsh.org

President	Megs Lloyd-Patton	503-284-9805	Mellp99@comcast.net
Vice-President and DRAGON SPEAK editor	John Evans	503-777-4518	Squam-lake@comcast.net
Secretary	Sharon Owen	503-706-7059	skowen45@comcast.net
Treasurer	Janet Figini	503-630-5317	jpfigini@cascadeaccess.com
Trustee	KarenAlice Jones	503-636-1118	kaj97034@comcast.net
Trustee	Betty Pierce	503-657-6988	betbpierce2@yahoo.com
Trustee	Claudia Zahorcak	503-692-9108	claudia.zahorcak@comcast.net