



DRAGON SPEAK

the newsletter of the Welsh Society of Oregon

image 1: en.wikipedia.org

Mawrth (March) 2017

**Come and celebrate St. David's Day with us !!
March 4th 12:30pm**

the meal ...

**Leek & Potato Soup a la
Figini
Sandwiches
Delicious Desserts
Hot Tea**

The Welsh Table will be open for sales

Our member, Gwen Newborg, took a 'Roads Scholar International' tour this past summer called, "Celtic Wales: Snowdonia and Pembrokeshire."

After our meal, she will be presenting this tour with slides, her recollections, and possibly some other 'show and tell.'

The tour had Manchester arrival, several days near Betwys-y-Coed, and several days in Snowdonia, Lamphey.

It was an amazing tour, and we will certainly enjoy her presentation.

\$10.00 for members
\$12.00 for non-members
(to cover costs)

**Please contact us if you
plan to come:
Janet Figini
971.295.4311 OR
jpfigini2@gmail.com**

COME !

COME!

COME!



WELSHLANDIA

our members & friends and their
Welsh interests



image 2: [flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/14811111@N00/10111111111/)

We are dedicating this edition of ‘Welshlandia’ to our special and revered friend, Betty Pierce.

When Betty sees a friend, we always hear her say, “Hello, Love!”



image 3: WSOR archives

That warmth for others come from inside and from a traditional Welsh childhood.

Betty was born in, and lived her childhood in Abertillery, Monmouthshire, South Wales. Because her grandmother spoke English, her whole family did so. The family were ‘Chapel’ people -going to the Primitive Methodist Chapel a couple of times a week. She has loved hymn-singing since then!

During World War II, Betty had an ‘official’ designation as ‘Butcher’s Assistant’; she also spent much time providing support for her mother after a serious accident. Betty met an American soldier who she married, and they came to the U.S.A., living on Long Island for more than 10 years.

After the end of the marriage, Betty went to California where her sister, Margie lived. She met her second husband Bill; he was a Navy man and they lived for 4 years in the Phillipines. In 1963, they moved to Oregon, where Bill had family.

After discovering an ad in the *Oregonian* about a St. David’s Day Celebration of The Cambrian Society, Betty had to go to “check it out!” At the time she first went, there were 60-70 people attending meetings. Betty also began attending service at Bryn Seion Welsh Church, where she has been a member and leader for many years. Husband Bill supported Betty in her Welsh interests; he carved wooden Welsh love spoons which Betty has in her collection.

Betty likes: hot tea with milk; lamb

Betty is: an expert at cooking Welsh cakes

Betty has: attended the National Gymanfa Ganu for many years.

Betty was: instrumental in securing, and then planning for the Portland National Gymanfa Ganu in 1984.

Betty has: just completed a term as Director on the Board of Directors, and will not be holding office - at least for the foreseeable future.

We all thank you, Betty Pierce, for being with us and for all you do!



Our Welsh-American Family Names

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DAVIES

Lloyd

Roberts

Thomas

Llewellyn

Hughes

OWEN

Lewis

Pritchard

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Price

Griffiths

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My daughter, Meagan, is currently studying at the University of Bangor. When she arrived, I remember a number of people commenting that she had a good Welsh name. This of course, shouldn't be surprising, since my great great grandfather David Lewis emigrated from Wales, but it's still interesting to me because I never thought of the name Lewis as being particularly Welsh. So let's dig a little. In the book *Welsh Genealogy* by Bruce Durie, we learn that in the 1850s, once you make it past the expected Jones and Davies and Evans, Lewis is right up there as the eighth most common surname. And even a little nugget - the name was also spelled Lewys. If one trusts wikipedia, Lewis is currently the sixth most popular surname in Wales. So, I guess it is a good Welsh name - and one that I've perhaps been mispronouncing all this time. When spoken back to me by folks I've met in Wales, it often comes back as "LEHwis."

My great great grandfather David remains a bit of a mystery, as no-one in my family knows where in Wales he emigrated from. However, his wife Elizabeth Michael has been traced by my cousin to the town of Amlwch on the isle of Anglesey, in the far north of Wales. I've even found the family home along a country road just outside of Amlwch with the help of my cousin, who visited in the 90s (I've not visited it personally at this point - only via Google maps!). Despite his wife's roots in the north, I have at least circumstantial evidence that David came from the south. My dad taught me several rote phrases in Welsh that he learned from his father, and presumably he learned from his father, and so on. It's a bit of a game of Chinese telephone interpreting phrases handed down by non-Welsh speakers, but one of the phrases sounds like "shood ee tee" - which I take to be "sut wyt ti" (how are you), and in the southern dialect "sut" (pronounced in the north like "sit") can sound very much like "shood."

But a little more about my surname. According to Ancestry, the name Lewis has its roots in the Norman personal name Lodovicus (from germanic elements hlod 'fame' + wig 'war') from which the French name Louis is also derived. The name was introduced to Wales by the Normans, where it became confused with the Welsh name Llywelyn. Welshmen who formerly took the patronymic name ap Llywelyn would change it to (perhaps in a desire to sound more "English") ap Lewis. An example of this can be found in the son or Llewelyn Anwyl ap Rys, who took the name Richard Gwyn ap *Lewis* Anwyl (from *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain* by Sir Bernard Burke).

So, the Welsh name Lewis arguably links back to the noble Welsh name Llywelyn, a name prominent in the genealogies of Welsh kings and princes, most notably Llywelyn ap Iwerth, also known as Llywelyn Fawr (the great), the greatest of the Welsh rulers of the middle ages. So, I'd have to conclude that Lewis is indeed a good Welsh name! *Jeff Lewis*



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We welcome all contributions to this newsletter. Please send your news, stories, anecdotes, poems, jokes, or anything else that you would like to share with the Welsh Society

Membership

Membership in the Welsh Society of Oregon is open to all people interested in Wales. To join, please contact our Treasurer: Claudia Sterling
 20600 SW Shoshone Dr
 Tualatin, OR 97062
 503.692.9108 claudia.sterling@comcast.net



The Oregon
 Welsh Kitchen

WELSH WHITE COOKIES

RECIPE

permission granted 5/21/13 Cardcow.com

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1/2 cup butter | 1/2 tsp vanilla | 1/4 tsp salt |
| 1/2 cup sugar | 1 cup flour | |
| 1 large egg | 1/2 tsp baking powder | |
| 1 1/2 tsp vinegar | 1/4k tsp baking soda | |

Cream together: butter, sugar; add the egg, vinegar, and vanilla. Beat till fluffy. Whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt; stir into the creamed mixture. Chill... roll into 1" balls ... place onto your "silpat" or an ungreased cookie sheet ... flatten with a glass dipped in sugar (I used a Dragon stamp to flatten). Bake at 375 for 6-7 min until edges slightly brown ... cool 1-2 min ...then onto a rack to finish cooling.



LLŶR WILLIAMS

Welsh pianist Llŷr Williams is widely admired for his musical intelligence, and the the expressive and communicative nature of his interpretations. He has played with major orchestras of Britain, and Europe. Williams is an acclaimed performer of Beethoven, and his great love of lieder (songs) has led to him being a regular accompanist at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. Williams was born in 1976 in Pentrebychan, North Wales. photo and bio permission of Portland Piano International

LLŶR WILLIAMS

will be performing in Portland on April 1,2, 2017 at Lincoln Performance Hall of Portland State University. This is part of the Portland Piano International Series.

He will play two separate programs including music by Schubert, Schumann, Beethoven, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff

CALL 503.228.1388



CHWARDDIADAU (Laughs)

for MARCH, the month of St. David's Day

Old Lowri asked her female friend how she was getting on.

Annie replied "Not so good, Rhodri died last night. I asked him to dig up a leek for me so that I could make Leek and Potato soup. He went into the garden, had a massive heart attack and died instantly"

"Oh you poor thing" replied Lowri. "What did you do?"

"I opened a can of peas instead."

Caldey Island is off of Tenby, Wales, and is the home to a community of Cistercian monks. Part of their discipline is little to no speaking.

So, here we go:

Four Caldey Island monks were in a common prayer session, when, all of a sudden, the wind sock on the roof starts flapping.

The youngest monk comes out of his deep prayer and says, "Sock is flapping."

The second, more experienced monk says, "Wind is flapping."

The third monk, who has been there for more than twenty years, says, "Mind is flapping."

The fourth monk, who is the eldest and most experienced, says, "Mouths are flapping!"

adapted from psychologytoday.com

Trey, an American, decided to visit the grandest cathedrals in Britain. The first cathedral he goes into is St. Paul's in London. Near the altar, he spots a golden telephone on a wall. Above it is a sign reading, "£10,000 A MINUTE". The rector explains it's a direct line to heaven, so anyone who calls can speak directly to God.

Trey visits cathedrals throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland. At each one, he notices the same golden phone with the same sign. Each rector or priest tells him the same thing. It's a direct line to heaven.

On his first day in Wales, in Cardiff, he visits Llandaff Cathedral, which is the seat of the Bishop of Llandaff. He walks to the altar area and again he spots a golden telephone. But this time the sign reads, "20 pence per call." He immediately seeks out a pastor, and says, "In every cathedral throughout Britain, a call to God costs £10,000 a minute. How come a direct line to heaven from your phone only costs 20 pence?"

The pastor smiles and says, "That's easy, son. You're in Wales now, so it's a local call."



Happy Birthday to WSOP'ers born in March! !

Mar 3 Barri Hinkson
Mar 6 Griff Lloyd
Mar 8 Dick Pugh
Mar 9 Janet Figini
Mar 11 Maryanne Dehner

Mar 25 Selenna Baxter
Mar 21 Gabbi Shaw



if we missed you, we may not have your birthday on the list. Please call or email John Evans (see below). **also note: we are including only 2016 & 2017 paid members**

image 4: pixabay.com



The Welsh Society of Oregon is an IRS-approved 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Our mission: The Welsh Society of Oregon 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 Board

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Our Meetings

- Mar 4 St. David's Day Celebration
- April 1 Andrea Wild's kids skits
- May 6 to be announced

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

Unless noted, all meetings of WSOR are held at

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