



DRAGON SPEAK

the newsletter of the Welsh Society of Oregon

image 1: en.wikipedia.org

Ebrill (April) 2017

Dreigiau Bach (Little Dragons) will perform at our April 1st Meeting!!

'Dreigiau Bach' is Oregon's first Welsh children's improvisational troupe.

They may be small now - there are only two of them, but they are mighty! And they will grow!

Dreigiau Bach comprises Dylan Burns (age 11), and his sister Phoebe Burns (8). They are the children of Welsh Society member Andrea Wild.

As such, they rather like having an audience, and they are quite keen to act out their Welshness with a couple of amusing skits, a Welsh song and tune, and I dare say a few surprises!

Hopefully, they won't actually breathe fire.

Don't miss out on their premiere performance at the April meeting!



image 2: Andrea Wild



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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:
Janet Figini
243 Ipswich St.
Gladstone, OR 97027
971.295.4311 or jpfigini2@gmail.com

Speaking Welsh in Wales: Information from the latest Census (2011).

Household Language

The census collected information on main language and English or Welsh language skills for the first time. People who did not report English or Welsh as a main language may be fluent English or Welsh speakers and were able to report their English or Welsh language proficiency as 'good' or 'very good.'

As usual, 97 percent (1.3 million) of household in Wales spoke English or Welsh as the main language. In a further one percent (18,000) of households one adult spoke English or Welsh as a main language, while in less than one percent (3,000) of households no adult but at least one child spoke English or Welsh as a main language. In the other two percent (22,000) of households in Wales there were no usual residents who reported speaking either English or Welsh as a main language.

Proficiency in Welsh

In 2011, 19 percent (562,000) of the usual residents in Wales aged three and over reported that they could speak Welsh. Thirty percent (169,000) of this group were aged between three and 15 years old.

The estimate of Welsh speakers is a decrease of two percentage points on the 2001 estimate of 21 percent (576,000), although in 2001 the estimate of those who "can speak Welsh" did not include those who listed speaking Welsh as one of their skills in the 'Other combination of skills' category.

In 2011, the usual resident in Wales aged three and over who said they had no skills in Welsh increased by nearly two percentage points. The group who reported they could speak, read, and write Welsh decrease over one percentage point. ons.uk.gov

In Wales, the Welsh Language Commissioner oversees the Welsh Government's work to promote the language. The Commissioner sets standards and enforces compliance in public bodies, and develops infrastructure to help with the delivery of Welsh language service.

see: gov.wales/topics/welshlanguage/commissioner



Our Welsh-American Family Names

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DAVIES

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Roberts

Thomas

Llewellyn

Hughes

OWEN

Lewis

Pritchard

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Price

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Griffiths

Powell

Calling Tom Jones! Calling Catherine Zeta-Jones! Calling WSOR Joneses!

Jones is a surname of English origins, meaning “offspring of John.” It is most common in Wales and south central England. It first appeared on record as a surname in 1273 at which time the traditional Welsh patronymic system was being replaced by surnames per rule of Henry VIII. As “ab loan,” and “leuan” meaning son of John, became the most popular surname, it was also deemed a “safe” apolitical name so many families adopted it. Strangely enough the Welsh language does not even have a “J!” Close to 15 percent of Wales’ population shares this surname. Fast forward to 2006, 1,224 Joneses descended on Cardiff - creating a new record for the largest gathering of people with the same surname in the world! “Keeping up with the Joneses” is an idiom which refers to the comparison to one’s neighbor as a benchmark for social class or wealth accumulation. In recent, urban culture, Jones or some variation can mean having to do with nefarious activity or illegal substances. Oh my!

My grandfather, Abraham Bryant Jones, emigrated from south Wales in mid-1890’s as the only one of 8 children to do so. Family lore speculates that he was illegitimate and leaving was prudent and might provide more opportunity for him in the new world. An adventurer, he rode with Teddy Roosevelt and was wounded in the Spanish-American War; was nursed back to health by a Cree Indian woman, 30 years his junior, whom he then married; started up the very successful Stockman’s Trading Company in Browning, Montana, and was ultimately murdered by his Scottish business partner, Sam Tweedy. Under the guise of a Ford Model A back-road accident, Tweedy claimed AB Jones sustained a fatal head injury after a crash into a tree on a snowy road. The rumor around town was that it was surely murder with Tweedy then retaining the entire joint business. Wife Justina Jones was cast into abject poverty with three Jones sons. Sadly, I never met my grandfather but I’ve carried on his auburn hair and independent spirit.

Next time, be sure to greet our members by their Welsh family name: Chris & Jan Jones, Bob Jones, Janet Jones Figini, Susan Jones Calhoun, Casey Jones, Carla Jones, and KarenAlice Jones - who else is out there in WSOR Jones-Land??

Hwyl! *KarenAlice Jones*



SIÂN THE SHEEP

by Evans the Pen 03/2017



image 3: John Evans

What did the cloned sheep say to the other sheep? I am ewe.

Why do white sheep eat more than black sheep? Because there are more of them.



image 4: [flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/14811100@N00/10411111111/)



image 5: [publicdomainpictures.com](https://www.publicdomainpictures.com/)



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!

April 11	Andrea Wild
April 13	John Evans
April 15	Sueann Townley
April 16	Joyce Stewart
April 27	Joseph Williams



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 6: 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

- Apr 1** Andrea Wild kids
- May 6** Social Afternoon
- June 3** To be announced
- July 8** Picnic at Bryn Seion Welsh Church

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**