



St. David's Society of Pittsburgh

Spring-Summer 2020 **NEWSLETTER**

This year, the St. David's Society of Pittsburgh was proud to host its first official **Wales Week Pittsburgh** as a part of Wales Week Worldwide—an international collection of locations sharing their love of Wales and Welsh culture around St. David's Day with their communities and one another. **Have a look inside to see how our celebrations went.**

We feel very fortunate for the timing of our St. David's Day activities this year. Only a couple weeks later, it seemed all the world had come to a standstill as all but essential services were shutdown in an effort to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We are glad to have been able to enjoy our Wales Week activities together while it was safe for us to gather and we hope all of our friends and community are keeping well, safe, and stable!

While **many of our routine activities and gatherings are on hold** until we receive the official "all-clear", we hope you will keep in contact with us. One of the easiest ways to do that is to follow us on our Facebook page where we post announcements, updates for our Society as well as other Welsh-related organizations, and items of general interest to the Welsh and Welsh-friendly community. It's perhaps more important now than ever to maintain or renew our connections to one another—and some distraction from the news of the day doesn't hurt, either!

As many of our members may already be aware, this year's **North American Festival of Wales**, scheduled for Labor Day weekend in Philadelphia, PA, has been cancelled in the interest of the safety and wellbeing of our communities.

A keen disappointment for many, no doubt. Our sincere sympathies are with the organizers of this year's festival and we greatly hope to gather in Philadelphia as planned for an upcoming Festival. While we are unable to gather physically this year, the Festival is putting some wonderful content online, including musicians, a lecture series, and the virtual Eisteddfod for poetry composition. While you are enjoying the content at festivalofwales.org, please also consider a donation to the Welsh North American Association in order to help bridge the gap left by a year without a Festival.

As you can see below, one activity we have temporarily moved to a virtual format is our **Welsh chat group**. Many people are using the quarantine time to develop new hobbies and skills. Has learning Welsh always been on your list, "if only there were more hours in a day"? If so, why not get in touch with us for some starter ideas and resources!

What's On?

September 4-30—NAFOW content on-demand

September 12—Grŵp Sgwrsio Cymraeg

10:30 AM, Zoom Conference

September 15—Noson Sgwrsio Cymraeg

8:00 PM, Zoom Conference

October 10—Grŵp Sgwrsio Cymraeg

10:30 AM, Zoom Conference

October 20—Noson Sgwrsio Cymraeg

8:00 PM, Zoom Conference

October 24—Celtic Culture Event (virtual)

3:00 PM, Details to follow

November 14—Grŵp Sgwrsio Cymraeg

10:30 AM, Zoom Conference

November 17—Noson Sgwrsio Cymraeg

8:00 PM, Zoom Conference

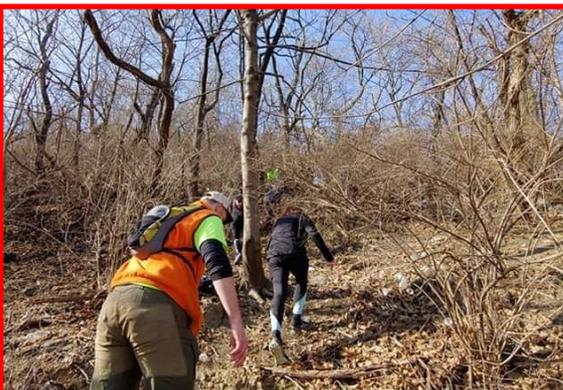
Wales Week & St. David's Day Celebrations



We had great support for the Welsh side at our new **Six Nations** host venue, Ruggers Pub in the Southside. With the Tournament being unfinished, there's a chance some of the matches may be rescheduled. Stay tuned!



The **Daffodil Luncheon**, once again held at the University Club in Oakland, had another great turn out this year. It was wonderful to see so many great friends!



You never know where the trail will lead on the annual **St. David's Day Hash Run**, put on by the Pittsburgh Hash House Harriers!

The **St. David's Day Downtown Pub Crawl** is always a hit. Welsh flags in the windows at our stops are supplemented by a giant, inflatable dragon in Market Square.



St. David's Day Sunday Service was celebrated at First Presbyterian in Tarentum by our President,

Rev. Bob Dayton. Te bach, including rarebit, Welshcakes, and tea was served after.



Our **St. David's Day Downtown Light Up Night** continued for the third year, and the Gulf Building's neighbor, the Koppers Building got in on the act, too!

Memoriae

In the course of the last few months, we have bid farewell to some of our longtime members and supporters. Please join us in remembering the following:

Barbara Barnes

Barbara was a long time member, Director and Vice President of our St. David's Society of Pittsburgh, Inc. Barbara took on many projects over the years and was a strong proponent of all things Welsh. She was always willing to pitch in and help with planning events, mailing newsletters, balancing checkbooks and the like. Barbara was also a member of the Welsh Nationality Room Planning and Fundraising Committee. Barbara was a great help in the process of raising the substantial sum necessary to build the WNR. Barbara will be sorely missed by our Society.

E. Maxine Bruhns

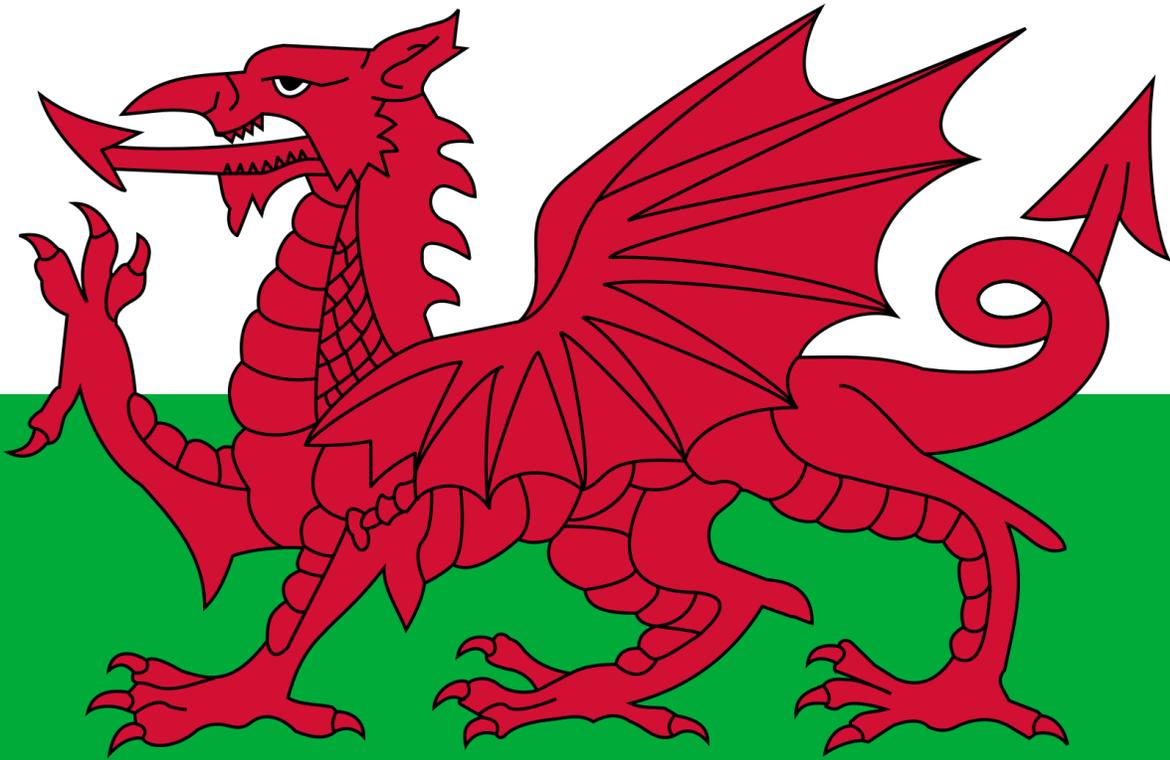
Maxine has been a good friend of the Welsh, both locally and internationally, and she has recently passed. Maxine was the long time Director of the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh and was the key person at Pitt in coordinating our beautiful Welsh Nationality Room. In the late 1990s, Maxine was instrumental in convincing us that we could build the Welsh Nationality Room. Maxine was with us every step of the way in guiding us, including in receiving the authentic Welsh Grandfather Clock in a shipment from Wales. Maxine was a great proponent of the Welsh and her voice will live on in our Welsh Nationality Room as the narrator. Rest in peace Maxine!

Richard Davies

The Very Rev. Canon Richard W. Davies was extremely proud of his Welsh heritage and served as member and volunteer of the St. David's Society of Pittsburgh, Inc. for most of his life, and as a Board Member, newsletter editor, Secretary and Treasurer for over 30 years. Richard was on the planning committee for the 1989 Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu held in Pittsburgh. He was also instrumental in starting the Welsh Nationality Room at the University of Pittsburgh. For many years, a Gymanfa in Pittsburgh was not complete without Richard praying for us in some capacity!

Evan Davis

Evan Davis was a great friend of the St. David's Society of Pittsburgh. In addition to attending events with his wife Elizabeth, Evan was an early supporter of our Welsh Nationality Room at the University of Pittsburgh. Not only was Evan a major donor to the WNR, he also helped us to promote the WNR throughout the North American Welsh Community. Several of us enjoyed attending events in Oak Hill and getting to know our Ohio Welsh friends. He and his wife have been vocal supporters of all things Welsh for decades, and Evan will be sorely missed. Our prayers go out to Elizabeth and family.



We Miss You!

Remember to keep an eye out for St. David's Society activities resuming when it is once again safe to gather. In the meantime, *cadwch yn ddiogel ac iach / keep safe and well!*

Support our efforts to celebrate, preserve, and promote our Welsh culture!

Join online at www.stdavidssociety.org or complete this form:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Yearly Membership Dues \$15 per person: _____ x \$15 = \$ _____

Checks payable to: ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY

Mail to: Jan Kowalski, Treasurer, 166 Hampshire Drive, Cranberry Township, PA 16066

The St. David's Society of Pittsburgh is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. EIN 31-1736807.



Do you follow our page on Facebook? It's the quickest way to keep up-to-date on our activities, events, and items of interest to the Welsh community! When you visit our page, you can even set your preferences to be sure our posts show up on your Facebook feed.

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