

Y Ddolen

Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Gorffennaf, Awst, Medi 2026

Volume 44, Issue 3

July, August, September 2026



PSWA & South Sound Group Annual Picnic Sunday, August 9, 2026 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Our picnics this year will be combined and we will meet at the Moore/Mooredrall home and gardens.

Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share, any special dietary dish you prefer/require, and your own beverages (coffee, hot/iced tea, & bottled water provided). PSWA to provide main dish.

For carpooling, address, and driving instructions, please RSVP to: PSWA@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Join us for a relaxing time of Food, Fun, and Singing!

Look for the Welsh Flag on the house above the driveway. We have a large oak where our driveway is. You can park in the driveway, which can hold a few vehicles, or there is street parking in front of the fenced area as well as across the street a gravel parking area in case people might need to leave separately and don't want to be trapped!

SAVE THE DATE!

PSWA Annual Holiday Party & Annual General Meeting 🎄 **Sunday, November 8 | 1:00–4:00 PM**

Mark your calendar for one of PSWA's favorite gatherings of the year! Join friends old and new for an afternoon of **holiday festivities, singing, and Welsh camaraderie.**

As part of the celebration, we'll take just a few minutes for our **Annual General Meeting** to elect Board members and share highlights, accomplishments, and plans for the coming year. **Your participation** helps shape the future of our Association! We hope you'll make plans now to celebrate with us!

Location and event details coming soon! Keep an eye on your **email, Facebook,** and the **next issue of Y Ddolen** for more information. Questions or more info: President@PugetSoundWelsh.org



President's Letter

Dear Readers,

It has been a warm spring with some surprising weather, and we are now into summer with a slim snowpack. We can all hope for enough rain to keep the cedars green and the farmers happy.

Meanwhile, our Association members have been quite busy hosting local events for our Welsh community. Following a fine Saint David's Day celebration in Ballard, our Puget Sound Welsh hosted a regional rehearsal of the North American Welsh Choir at Ballard First Lutheran Church, whose spacious sanctuary and fellowship hall once again rang with Welsh music. The Choir's July 4–17 tour includes a joint concert with two Vancouver-based Welsh choirs, and choristers will doubtless return with many stories to share. We are grateful to Ballard First Lutheran Church for helping make these events a success and hope to continue this partnership in the years ahead while expanding the reach of PSWA programs and activities.

We also hosted a virtual Drunken Daffodil Pub event featuring storytelling in a very Welsh tradition. We plan to continue this series, expanding to new topics, thus making it easier for distant and homebound members to take part in our cultural life.

Our most recent event was in Black Diamond, celebrating Welsh Day along with the 250th anniversary of the USA (see separate article). The day brought rain, rain, more rain, and wind, delivered in six separate squalls, by my count. Our indefatigable exhibit staff set up twin booths and kept everything dry enough. Despite the challenges, they greeted visitors, welcomed potential members, and even marched in the parade! Well done!

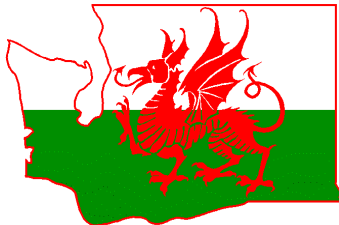
Our next event will be fun, food, and fellowship in August for our annual summer picnic (see separate article).

After that, many of us will travel to Massachusetts for the North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW). With several members involved in production and support, a fine festival is to be expected (see separate article).

Let me know which Welsh traditions are most interesting to you – and which events you would like to see more of? Let me know! President@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Pob Hwyl!

Joel Ware IV, President



Self-Nominations Sought: Join the PSWA Board

By Karyn Davies

Have you been looking for a way to get a little more involved with the Puget Sound Welsh Association? The Board is always open to fresh energy, new ideas, and members who care about keeping Welsh culture active and connected in our region.

Serving on the Board is a practical, friendly way to support the community you're already part of. It's not an intimidating commitment—just a handful of short evening meetings via Zoom or conference call each year, with occasional help at events like St. David's Day, the summer picnic, and our holiday gathering. Most work is shared, and everyone contributes in ways that fit their time and abilities.

More than anything, Board service is about helping shape what PSWA becomes next—how we gather, what we offer, and how we keep Welsh heritage visible and welcoming for others.

If you've ever thought, "I should probably get more involved," this is your invitation.

Board elections take place at the Annual General Meeting during PSWA's annual holiday potluck. If you're interested in self-nominating or learning more, please contact President@PugetSoundWelsh.org before this year's November gathering.

We'd genuinely welcome your voice at the table.

The Drunken Daffodil Opens For August Virtual Pub Meet

-Mary Lynne Evans

Mary Lynne Evans and Gwen Weinert invite you to join our **August Virtual Pub via Zoom on Sunday, August 16, from 2:00–4:00 PM**. Bring your favorite summer beverage and enjoy an afternoon of stories centered on the theme, “*Welsh Miners—Any Place, Any Time.*” Whether drawn from history, family tradition, or even a bit of creative imagination, all stories are welcome. If you have a family connection to Welsh mining, we would be especially delighted to hear it. Please contact us if you would like to contribute a story.

A Zoom invitation will be sent about a week before the event. If you are not already on our list of interested participants, please email PSWA@PugetSoundWelsh.org to receive the invitation. We also welcome suggestions for future Virtual Pub topics and look forward to hearing your ideas.

North American Welsh Choir – West Coast B.C. Concert Tour

Don't miss this chance to hear the North American Welsh Choir live on their West Coast tour—three concerts, three cities!

Wednesday, July 8 – 7:30pm

Nanaimo, BC | St. Andrews United Church, 315 Fitzwilliam St
North American Welsh Choir with Island Bel Canto Singers
Donation at the door (benefiting Selby Street Mission)

Thursday, July 9 – 7:30pm

Victoria, BC | Broad View United Church, 3703 St Aidan's St
North American Welsh Choir with Vancouver Island Chamber Choir
Donation at the door

Saturday, July 11 – 7:30pm

Vancouver, BC | Pacific Spirit United Church, 2195 W 45th Ave
North American Welsh Choir with Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir & Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir
Donation at the door



South Sound Night Out of Hŵyl

South Sound Group continues to search for a host(ess) for monthly meet ups.

Please contact southsound@pugetsoundwelsh.org to volunteer or ask questions.

Check Facebook Group Page regularly for future Nights Out: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/31450906189>

88th Annual Bryn Seion Gymanfa Ganu & Tea

Sunday, September 27, 2026 | 22132 S Kamrath Rd, Oregon City, OR 97045

11:00AM Traditional Church Service – No potluck – local restaurants nearby.

2:00PM Gymanfa Ganu with Nerys Jones, director, and Geneva Cook, organist.

*Parking: BeavercreekGrange & Beavercreek Telephone lot

4:00PM Welsh Tea (Beavercreek Grange)

\$15/adult \$8/children under 18 years of age.

<http://www.brynseionwelshchurch.org/events.html>



Photo from www.brynseionwelshchurch.org



Meet Your Board – Chris Mooreddrall

By Gwen Weinert

Chris Mooreddrall became a member of the Puget Sound Welsh Association while searching for a larger Welsh organization in the Seattle-Tacoma area. Over time, he joined the board and eventually was elected Treasurer, becoming the careful guardian of our finances and a dependable helper at PSWA events. For several years, he hosted our South Sound Night Out group until work obligations prevented his involvement. Along with his husband, Nick, and his mother, Jill, Chris has generously opened his home for several PSWA and South Sound events, including picnics and Christmas luncheons. Many members especially appreciate the wonderfully creative desserts he brings to our gatherings.

Chris is a native son of Washington state - born in Seattle to Terry and Jill Moore and raised in Lynnwood. After high school, he attended the University of Washington and graduated in 2005 with a degree in Earth and Space Sciences, Geology/Geophysics. Like many graduates entering the workforce during uncertain economic times, Chris took a winding path before finding his place. He worked as a bartender, in security, and as an auditor for a luxury hotel before securing a position in his chosen field. When the housing market crashed, he transitioned to disability services, supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. Today, he works for the Washington State Department of Transportation as a Transportation Engineer, overseeing fish passage and culvert projects that help restore migration routes for salmon and other fish throughout Washington. Because the position involves travel, he is no longer able to host the South Sound gathering. *[Editor's Note: should anyone in the South Sound area be interested in hosting a monthly or even quarterly lunch or dinner meetup, please contact SouthSound@PugetSoundWelsh.org.]*

Chris met husband, Nick, in March 2009, and they were married on Pi Day, March 14, 2015, a nod to the mathematical constant π (3.1415). Their wedding reflected both their personalities and interests, featuring elegant 1930s- and 1940s-inspired attire, live jazz music, and a science theme. To honor Chris's Welsh heritage, the couple combined their surnames to create the family name Mooreddrall, pronounced "Moore-thrall."

Chris and Nick share a love of travel, food, and family. Chris enjoys cooking dishes from around the world and is an especially talented baker. The couple has traveled extensively throughout Europe, Mexico, and Canada, and they have visited family in Wales and England several times. Recently, they had the pleasure of taking Jill to Wales for her first visit. Future travel plans include Hong Kong, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

We are fortunate to have Chris on our board. He brings organization, reliability, creativity, and a genuine love of Welsh culture to everything he does. Chris hopes to help attract younger members to PSWA and introduce more contemporary Welsh music—from modern ballads to Welsh rock—alongside the traditions we already cherish. We thank him for his hard work, hospitality, and enthusiasm for the future of our organization.



North American Festival of Wales – September 2-6, 2026

The North American Festival of Wales is just around the corner, bringing together Welsh communities from across the continent for a week of music, learning, fellowship, and celebration. Attendees can look forward to concerts, seminars, tours, the Eisteddfod, and the cherished Gymanfa Ganu, along with opportunities to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

If you have been considering attending, there is still time to join this year's gathering. For festival information and registration details, visit www.nafow.org.

Three Important Anniversaries Converge At Black Diamond

By Mary Lynne Evans



Photo credit: Joel Ware IV

June 6, 2026 was a rip-snorting day! The Black Diamond Historical Society marked its 50th anniversary, the United States its 250th, and the Puget Sound Welsh Association (PSWA) and the Historical Society celebrated 33 years of Welsh Days on the first Saturday in June. With so many milestones converging, the Society harnessed the energy of all these anniversaries and produced a very fine party on June 6th.

A large crowd gathered in front of the museum for the opening ceremonies. Sherrie Evans, M.C. for the Black Diamond Historical Society, welcomed everyone, introduced dignitaries, and reflected on the Society's 50 years of service. She also thanked PSWA for 33 years of partnership in Welsh Days. She then introduced Owain Weinert, who

sang *Calon Lân*, a beloved Welsh hymn. His fine baritone brought tears to the eyes of bystanders. And the day of celebrations began!

The Black Diamond Elementary School Children's Choir followed with several American songs and the National Anthem, their youthful energy providing a bright beginning. Next came the Color Guard in Revolutionary-era dress presenting arms and the flag. George Washington himself appeared—white wig and tricornered hat—to enthusiastic cheers. A Fife and Drum Corps struck up the cadence, and the Parade of Flags was underway!

The procession included the Daughters of the American Revolution, including youth in period costume, carrying the American flag. Margie Hunt and Mary Lynne Evans carried our heroic red dragon of Wales. PSWA members followed with Welsh and American flags, joined by representatives of other nations reflecting Black Diamond's mining heritage. Additional Revolutionary-costumed participants added a dash of excitement.

The route led to the museum's newest exhibit—a facsimile of a mine—where a ribbon-cutting ceremony provided a fitting highlight of the day. The day featured antique cars and fire trucks, costumed participants, music, community messages, and a beautifully prepared museum. Afterward, visitors continued to tour, mingle, and enjoy the festivities as the weather shifted from rain to sun and back again.

Mary Lynne Evans – dressed in Welsh costume made by the late Rebecca Teeters, long time PSWA member.



Photo credit: Joel Ware IV

The PSWA tent welcomed guests with displays on Welsh immigration to Washington State. Children colored dragons, castles, and daffodils while adults shared stories of Welsh ancestors who settled in Black Diamond. Laura Lovell provided lively fiddle music throughout the day, adding warmth to the conversations. We enjoyed seeing familiar faces—the Evans family, Ron and Claudia Greene, and others—as well as new friends discovering Welsh connections.

Special thanks go to Ellen Webber, event chair, and to PSWA members who staffed the tent: Sally Bell, Mary Lynne Evans, Lori Gibson, Margie Hunt, Laura Lovell, Joel Ware, Gwen Weinert, and Owain Weinert.

Congratulations to the Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum on a successful 50th anniversary celebration!

PSWA thanks the Black Diamond Historical Society and Museum for including us in this larger celebration of America's 250th anniversary and for a truly memorable event! The weather offered everything except snow—sun, downpours, and drizzle in quick succession. As Gwen Weinert put it, "It was a very clean event; we all showered together." Clothes were dampened, but spirits were not!

We look forward to gathering again on the first Saturday in June 2027 for the 34th Annual Welsh Day in Black Diamond, Washington.

From Wales to Puget Sound: A Welsh-American Journey Through 250 Years

By Karyn Davies

As the United States marks its 250th anniversary in 2026, the Welsh-American story offers a striking perspective: a heritage that spans nearly the entire modern history of Washington State within the broader arc of the nation's 250 years. From the earliest documented arrivals around 1880 to present-day cultural gatherings in Seattle, Welsh immigrants and their descendants have helped shape the cultural fabric of the Puget Sound region during nearly 150 years of the nation's history. *Editor's Note: Many of the historical records, photographs, newspapers, and programs referenced in this article can be accessed through People's Collection Wales (<https://www.peoplescollection.wales>) by searching "Puget Sound Welsh Association."*

Early Community Foundations

In the early 1880s, Welsh families were arriving in Washington Territory in growing numbers, drawn by opportunities in coal mining, railroads, shipping, and commerce. For many of these immigrants, the Welsh church became the focal point of community life. In Seattle, the first Welsh Presbyterian Church was organized in 1882 at Seventh Avenue and Olive Street, where services, Sunday schools, literary gatherings, and social events were conducted in Welsh as well as English. The congregation grew rapidly, and a larger church was built in 1893 at the corner of Tenth Avenue and East John Street. For many early immigrants, the Welsh church preserved language, culture, and social connections in a rapidly changing city.

A Statewide Cultural Expression

By 1890, Welsh cultural life in Seattle had expanded well beyond the chapel. An event billed as the "Eisteddfod of the State of Washington" was held on Christmas Day at the Seattle Armory, reflecting the established presence of Welsh musical and literary traditions in the city. The news article noted that the value of the prizes would aggregate \$2,000, a substantial sum for the time that demonstrated the confidence and vitality of Washington's growing Welsh community. A traditional bardic chair was among the prizes, linking the young state's Welsh settlers to customs that had been celebrated in Wales for centuries. Choirs, singing societies, and literary gatherings continued to flourish in the decades that followed.

Community Gatherings Across the Region

By 1904, the annual Welsh picnic at Woodland Park had become one of the region's major Welsh gatherings. Newspaper reports anticipated "1,000 Welsh people and their families" from throughout the Northwest, where the "sons and daughters of Wales" would gather to renew acquaintances and celebrate their shared heritage. Photographs from 1930 show the tradition continuing as an annual gathering centered around the Seattle Welsh Church community, preserving both fellowship and cultural identity across generations.



Twentieth-Century Continuity

Welsh cultural life in Washington remained active throughout the twentieth century. A notable example within this continuing annual tradition was the 63rd Annual Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, held in Bellevue in 1994 and organized by the Puget Sound Welsh Association in cooperation with the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association, as part of a long-established rotation of Welsh heritage celebrations among host cities across North America. This weekend of Welsh heritage encompassed music, poetry, and eisteddfod competition and drew more than 1,000 attendees. In the context of Washington history, the gathering also served as a quiet harkening back to nearly a century of Welsh community life in the region, linking modern participants to the early Seattle chapel, choirs, and eisteddfodau that had taken root in Puget Sound nearly 100 years earlier.





Continuing Legacy

As America enters its next 250 years, the Welsh story in Washington continues. The community is smaller than it once was, and some traditions that flourished in earlier generations are now observed less frequently. Yet Welsh heritage remains present in the Puget Sound region through St. David's Day celebrations, cultural organizations, family traditions, language study, and the participation of local singers in the North American Welsh Choir. The long-standing tradition of annual Welsh picnics also continues, bringing together members and friends of the community to renew old friendships and welcome new generations.

From the first arrivals around 1880 to the present day, the legacy of Welsh language, music, faith, and community endures. This story reminds us that cultural heritage is preserved not only through institutions and events, but through the commitment of each generation to remember, share, and carry it forward.

Further Reading

- People's Collection Wales: <https://www.peoplescollection.wales>
- *The Welsh in Washington State* (2007), MOHAI & Puget Sound Welsh Association [PCW site # psw00970]
- Welsh Heritage Center, Wymore, Nebraska
- Alan Upshall, *Conversations with the Welsh of the Puget Sound Region* [PCW site # psw00409]
- *Y Llais* and *Y Ddolen* (Puget Sound Welsh Association newsletters)

Image References

1930 Woodland Park Picnic: [PCW site # psw01031]

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/604240>

1904 Picnic Article: [PCW site # psw00960]

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/539422>

1909 St. David's Day Article: [PCW site # psw00098]

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/1018096>

1929 Cymrodorion Picnic: [PCW site # psw01025]

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/574878>

1928 10th & John Church: [PCW site # psw00808]

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/537459>

1928 Women's Club Article: [PCW site # psw02044]

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/909331>

Black Diamond's Welsh Story

By Sherrie Evans, Black Diamond Historical Society



Welsh immigrants played a central role in the founding and early development of Black Diamond. The town was established in the early 1880s when the **Black Diamond Coal Mining Company** moved from Nortonville, California to Black Diamond, drawn by the high-quality coal found here. Most Welsh miners came from South Wales, where they had extensive experience in underground coal mining. They were highly valued for their skills and often took leadership roles in the mines, including positions like fire boss, the first worker to enter the mine at the start of a shift to ensure safety.



In partnership with the Puget Sound Welsh Association, the Black Diamond Historical Society (BDHS) has long honored this heritage by sponsoring **Welsh Day on the first Saturday in June** each year for more than 30 years.



Did you know that 16 of the Founding Fathers who signed the American Declaration of Independence were of Welsh descent? This means that Welsh Americans were the largest ethnic group to have signed the document!

The Black Diamond Historical Society and the Puget Sound Welsh Association are committed to preserving and sharing the stories of Welsh immigrants and their contributions.

Modern Welsh Musical Artist Highlight: Gwenno

By Chris Mooreddrall



In an era of algorithmic pop, Welsh musical artist **Gwenno Saunders** stands out. Recording simply as Gwenno, she has spent over a decade constructing a singular sonic universe out of marginalized languages, psych-pop, political defiance, and folklore. As a singer, multi-instrumentalist, and cultural archivist, Gwenno is taking the preservation of minority languages—specifically Welsh and Cornish—into a radical act of modern artistic expression, treating them as living, breathing landscapes for futuristic ideas.

Born in Cardiff, Wales, Gwenno grew up where culture and activism intertwined. Her father, Tim Saunders, is a noted Cornish-language poet and linguist, and her mother, Lyn Mererid, is a Welsh nationalist activist.

Before her solo breakthrough, Gwenno trained as an Irish dancer, performing in Lord of the Dance. In the mid-2000s, she joined the Brighton-based indie-pop group The Pipettes who was a modern take on 60's girl groups. While international touring and mainstream indie circuit work sharpened her pop sensibilities, the constraints of corporate pop ultimately pushed her back to Cardiff to explore the potential of her native tongues.

Gwenno's solo career was defined by a monumental trilogy of albums. Her 2014 debut, *Y Dydd Olaf* (The Last Day), was a synth-pop concept album sung almost entirely in Welsh. Inspired by a 1976 sci-fi novel, it critiqued corporate globalization and won the Welsh Music Prize.

For 2018's *Le Kov* (The Place of Memory), Gwenno shifted to her paternal heritage. Written entirely in Cornish—a language once declared extinct—the record decoupled the language from textbooks, injecting it into driving, psychedelic pop.

The culmination came with 2022's *Tresor* (Treasure), an intimate exploration of isolation and motherhood sung primarily in Cornish and some in Welsh. The album elevated Gwenno to international critical heights, earning a Mercury Prize nomination.

Every great artist eventually disrupts established patterns, and Gwenno did exactly that with her fourth studio album, *Utopia*, recorded predominantly in English. *Utopia* explores the concept of "non-places"—the anonymous routes and fleeting moments between life stages. Musically, it ranges from club-ready floor-fillers to sparse piano ballads, featuring collaborations with fellow Welsh avant-garde luminaries Cate Le Bon and H. Hawkline. Bolstered by singles such as "Dancing on Volcanoes" and "Y Gath," the album was a critical success, later followed by the companion release, *Utopia (Remixes)*.

By framing cultural preservation as an act of radical inclusivity, Gwenno invites global audiences into her world. She has redefined what it means to be a contemporary folk artist—not by preserving the past in amber, but by launching it into the future.

Official website: <https://www.gwenno.info/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@gwenno8760/videos>

PSWA Board Members & Elected Officers

Joel Ware IV, President

President@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Mary Lynne Evans, Vice President

PSWA@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Chris Mooreddrall, Treasurer/ South Sound

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SouthSound@PugetSoundWelsh.org

Laura Lovell, Secretary

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*Appointed; not a board member or elected officer.

We welcome your contributions of relevant articles, news, announcements, events, and photos:

Newsletter@PugetSoundWelsh.org



DEADLINE FOR NEXT SUBMISSION: September 20th

PSWA Membership/Renewal, Donations, T-Shirts, & Red Dragon Band CD

Annual memberships renew each January. Your contributions entitle you to a subscription to *Y Ddolen*, our wonderful quarterly newsletter, and provide vital support for our St. David's Day celebration and other activities through the year. In addition to our sponsored events, the Puget Sound Welsh Association acts as a valuable resource for anyone interested in Welsh culture, language, and music. Questions? Contact Ellen Webber.

Annual Memberships/Fees

- Individual (\$10) \$ _____
- Family/Couple (\$15) \$ _____
- Y Ddolen mailed to you (\$5) \$ _____
- Life (\$100) \$ _____
- Overseas Annual Postage (\$50) \$ _____
- Overseas Life (\$150) \$ _____



Membership is annual
from Jan 1 through Dec 31
Thank you for your prompt
renewal!

Donations

- General Fund Donation \$ _____
- Memorial Scholarship \$ _____
- Memorial Fund \$ _____ In Memory of (Name): _____

Retail Products – *prices include shipping/postage (\$15 if picked up at events)

- PSWA T-Shirts** Total number of shirts ___ x \$19.95 \$ _____
\$19.95* each. Indicate how many of each size and color:
Steel Green: ___ LG ___ XL *Limited quantities; Email for availability: membership@pugetsoundwelsh.org
Dark Green: ___ SM ___ MED ___ XL *Limited quantities of XL; Email for availability.
- Welsh Music CD** Total number of CDs ___ x \$15 \$ _____
Y Ddraig Goch, Traditional Welsh Folk music of Wales: \$15* each

Make check payable to PSWA

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Membership Information (please print):

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____



PSWA is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization 501(c)(3). Contributions may be tax-deductible.
Please mail this form with payment to: **PSWA, PO Box 98131, Lakewood, WA 98496**



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Photos by Joel Ware IV: St. David's Day Celebration 2026 (Left & Middle); Black Diamond Celebrations 2026 (Right)

