

## Message from the WNAA President



*WNAA President  
David Matthews*

Dear Members and Friends of the Welsh North American Association

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda I chi gyd! Happy New Year to you all!!

2021 was, to say the least, a challenging year. It was a year that disrupted our lives with a mix of uncertainty, disappointment, sadness, hope and joy. For members of the WNAA, the disappointment we experienced in the cancellation of NAFOW Ottawa was replaced with hope when we learned of the possibility of a Utica NAFOW.

And indeed, NAFOW Utica turned out to be a great success. And that was because of you, its members who, despite following the rigorous Covid restrictions, participated with enthusiasm, joy, celebration and good voice!! Huge thanks go to the group of board members and local society members, ably led by Megan Williams who, in an incredibly short time, were able pull together such a successful event.

And now, full of hope, vigour and anticipation as the New Year unfolds, we look forward to NAFOW 2022, Philadelphia!

While preparation for the Philadelphia NAFOW is well under way, the WNAA board has been discussing the ways that it can keep in contact with its members, particularly during these often 'stay at home' times. And so, it is our pleasure to introduce you to the 'NAFOW - Off Season' program.

Please join us on Zoom for our new series of online programming:

- January 16, 2022: With Dave Western ~ "A Seduction of Spoons...The History and Future of the Welsh Lovespoon"
- February 20, 2022: A Cooking Class with the Puget Sound Welsh Association ~ "The Best Leek and Potato Soup"
- March 20, 2022: Celebrate Women's History Month with a Presentation from Heddwch Nain

AND, to celebrate our Patron Saint, there will be, once again, a St. David's Day Youth Competition. This year, in addition to the Youth Singing Competition there will be a Youth Poetry Competition. As you may remember, last year's singing competition was, by all reports, a huge success, thoroughly enjoyed by viewers.

For more details about the 'NAFOW Off Season' program as well as NAFOW Philadelphia 2022, please go to [nafow.org](http://nafow.org) - NAFOW's information center.

And so we begin this year full of great expectations, looking forward with renewed vitality and enthusiasm to events that will keep all of us entertained and involved.

A special thanks to you who continue to support our organization financially, attend our events, and to those of you who 'build' the events with their active, creative participation.

Diolch yn fawr iawn! Thank you very much!  
David Matthews

## 2022 North American Festival of Wales

Registration is now open for the 2022 North American Festival of Wales in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 1 through 4, 2022.

Register through: [www.nafow.org](http://www.nafow.org)

The festival hotel is the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Philadelphia City Center, located at 237 S. Broad Street.

Festival rates:

Rooms: \$129+ tax per night

Parking: \$25 per day

Call now to book your room: 1-800-HILTONS  
Group name: North American Festival of Wales

The festival hotel is located on the Avenue of the Arts, and only nine miles from the Philadelphia International Airport.

There are many nearby attractions and restaurants.



*DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Philadelphia City Center at 237 S. Broad Street, with City Hall at the end of Broad Street*

## Airport Transportation

Trains run from the airport to center city from 6 am until about midnight every half hour and cost \$6-8.00 pp depending on the time of day. The train station nearest the hotel is Jefferson Station, about a five block walk to the DoubleTree Hotel. It is about a 25 minute train ride.

Taxi fare is just under \$30 pp plus \$1 for each additional person; taxi is about 20 minutes

**FYI from IHQ**



*WNAA Executive Secretary Megan Williams*

It was nothing short of a miracle that we were able to hold the 2021 festival in Utica, New York. The St. David’s Society of Utica was a wonderful co-host and I will always remember how quickly they accommodated our request to have Utica as the host city for the festival.

Within a few short months we put together an extensive program and I would like to extend a special thanks to all who took part; volunteering, performing, presenting and attending! It was one for the books and I am so glad that we were able to make it happen!

I join President Dave Matthews in looking ahead with optimism to the 2022 festival and finally returning to Philadelphia for the first time since 1976. As you can see from reading this issue of Hwyl, we have a lot planned to keep you busy at the festival.

The festival hotel is downtown in the theatre district near many great shops and restaurants. We have wonderful venues for the concerts, the 90th national gymanfa ganu and the Sunday church service. Registration will open by March 1 with a full schedule of events available at that time.

At this time, the city of Philadelphia mandates COVID vaccination for indoor events, including conferences. We anticipate that proof of vaccination will be required to attend the 2022 festival. Further details will be made available at the time of registration. We appreciate your cooperation as we make the event as safe as possible for all who attend.

I am happy to answer any questions and hope to see many familiar faces back in person in Philadelphia!

Wishing you all a healthy and happy 2022, full of Welsh events!

Hwyl am y tro,  
Megan Williams, Executive Secretary

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Website: [festivalofwales.org](http://festivalofwales.org)

**WNAA MISSION**

The Welsh North American Association strives to preserve, develop and promote our Welsh cultural heritage and traditions, including the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, and to do all things necessary and appropriate to accomplish these goals.

**Sponsors Wanted**

We are looking for sponsors for the 2022 North American Festival of Wales. Support from donations and sponsorships is crucial to keeping the organization running throughout the year.

We have an extensive and exciting program lined up for Philadelphia and are looking for sponsors ranging from \$250-\$2,500. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor and would like to know what opportunities are available, please contact Megan Williams: [wnaahq@gmail.com](mailto:wnaahq@gmail.com).

WNAA, PO Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886



**Annual General Meeting**

The next AGM will be held Saturday, September 3, 2022 in Philadelphia, PA in conjunction with the 2022 North American Festival of Wales.

**HWYL** is published in the fall, winter and spring by the Welsh North American Association.

Editor: Jan Jones Batty

Direct comments or inquiries to:  
[editor@theWNAA.org](mailto:editor@theWNAA.org)

## Local Hosts Jack Williams and Taylor Williams Plan Warm Philadelphia Welcome



Local co-chairs Jack Williams and Taylor Williams (no relation to one another) and their local committee have been hard at work putting together some great plans for a warm Philadelphia welcome.



Taylor Williams is recently retired as the Chief of Litigation for the Pennsylvania Judiciary, representing the Pennsylvania court system and Pennsylvania justices and judges in litigation matters, predominately in cases involving federalism, civil rights and employment issues. She practices before the bars of the Supreme Court of the United States, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Middle and

Western Districts of Pennsylvania, and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Taylor was formerly an attorney in private practice. Taylor holds a B.S. in education, and two Master of Arts degrees--one in communications, and one in theatre arts --as well as a law (J.D.) degree.



Jack Williams is currently the President of the Welsh Society of Philadelphia and the past President of the Welsh Guild of Philadelphia. He also serves as the Music Director of the WSOP. He graduated as a conducting major from Temple University in Philadelphia. He was the Organist in 1976 for the US Bicentennial Gymanfa Ganu in Philadelphia. He previously served on the Board of the NAWAF.

He served as a senior executive in the US General Services Administration directing operations of an 800-person team providing business, acquisition, and logistical support to US civilian agencies and military bases worldwide, a \$4 billion annual business. Concurrently he did advance work for three Presidents.

He is the proud father of another Megan Williams born on March 13, 1981, and the proud grandfather of two beautiful granddaughters, Penelope and Jocelyn.

## Theatre Production on Alice Paul presented by Taylor Williams

The year 2020 celebrated the 100th anniversary of national suffrage for women: the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting the right to vote was declared ratified by Congress on August 26, 1920, and American women cast their first ballots in November, 1920.

The catalyst, indeed the very reason the suffrage amendment passed at all, was due to the untiring work of a woman of Welsh heritage: an amazing woman named Alice Paul. Alice Paul had Philadelphia area roots, and was raised in nearby Moorestown, N.J. Alice Paul's home, Paulsdale, is a designated National Historic Landmark and now houses the Alice Paul Institute. (<https://www.alicepaul.org/>).

As an actor, Taylor Williams has performed throughout the Philadelphia region and is a member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors. For the American Historical Theatre, she performs a one-woman show on the struggle to pass the 19th Amendment for woman suffrage. Taylor has trained in master classes at the Royal National Theatre, London, has been artist-in-residence at Theatre Horzycy, Torun, Poland, and taught classical acting at the Walnut Street Theatre School. Taylor also teaches continuing education courses for lawyers on adapting theatre skills to courtroom advocacy.

Taylor is Counselor and Corresponding Secretary to the Board of Stewards of the Welsh Society of Philadelphia and is President of the Welsh Guild of Philadelphia. She currently sits on the Boards of the Pennsylvania Young Playwrights Program, Inc. and the Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre. Taylor's home, which she and her late husband restored together, was originally the home of early Welsh Settlers to Pennsylvania. [www.ahtheatre.org/](http://www.ahtheatre.org/).



*Taylor Williams as Alice Paul*

## Cinema Wales at NAFOW

Don't forget to carve out some time at NAFOW 2022 in Philadelphia to view a film or two. Selections are still being made, but they are always worth the time.

In Utica last fall, we enjoyed the 2020 film "Dream Horse," about the horse Dream Alliance, bred by a Welsh bartender and raced in the Welsh Grand National. The film premiered in

January 2020 at the Sundance Film Festival and received positive reviews.

Other 2021 selections were "Merthyr Mermaid" about Welsh swimmer Cath Pendelton's February 2020 Ice Mile Swim inside the polar Antarctic Circle, and "Stonehenge: The Lost Circle Revealed," a historical quest to reveal a hidden secret about this landmark.

## 2022 Thursday Evening Opening Concert

Winners of the Urdd National Eisteddfod will perform in a contemporary concert with some of the finest young talent from Wales. The Urdd is celebrating its centenary in 2022 - a hundred years of offering the youth of Wales exciting activities and opportunities in the Welsh Language.



## 2022 Friday Evening NAWF Banquet



Join us for the North America Wales Foundation annual banquet where we are pleased to welcome Dafydd Jones as our entertainment.

Welsh tenor Dafydd Jones has just completed his undergraduate degree with First Class Honours at the Royal College of Music, London, under the tuition of Mark Tucker and Simon Lepper.

Recently, Dafydd won the Ted Moss and Bertha Taylor-Sach award for First Prize in the College's Lieder Competition, and was also

Runner Up and recipient of the Cuthbert-Smith prize in the College's Lies Askonas Competition. At the college, Dafydd has also been a finalist in the Brooks-Van der Pump English Song Competition.

Dafydd has gained many accolades in competitions in Wales, winning the Osborne Roberts Memorial Prize – The Blue Ribbon at the National Eisteddfod of Wales, giving him the opportunity to perform at the North America Festival of Wales held in Philadelphia, USA in 2022. Other successes at the National Eisteddfod include 1st Prize 'Hen Ganiadau' (Welsh Song) competition (2019), 2nd on the Tenor Solo under 25 (2019) and 1st in the Lieder solo under 25 (2018).

Dafydd has had the honour of being the tenor soloist in the World Premiere of Bob Chilcott's remembrance work 'Move him into the sun' conducted by the composer himself. At the Royal College of Music, Dafydd has been fortunate to work in masterclasses with renowned Sopranos Louise Alder and Rosa Manion. As a Young Artist at this year's Leeds Lieder festival, Dafydd also sang in masterclasses with James Gilchrist and Anna Tilbrook as well as Amanda Roocroft.

In the summer of 2019, Dafydd made his operatic debut as Don Ottavio in Opra Cymru's touring production of Mozart's Don Giovanni and was cast for his international role debut as Clotarco in Haydn's Armida at the Bregenz Festival in Austria, but was unfortunately cancelled due to the current circumstances.

### North America Wales Foundation



Established in 1980, the North America Wales Foundation was the initiative of several individuals, inspired by the late Jack K. Evans, a native of Wales. The Foundation has a commitment to preserve, share and promote the common culture and traditions of Wales and North America.

The NAWF has distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in awards over the years and runs an annual scholarship and grant program.

## Edward Morus Jones, Recipient of NAWF Heritage Medallion



Edward Morus Jones is from Llandegfan, where he was a teacher and headmaster for 18 years. Over the years he has written and recorded scores of songs and albums for children, and written shows, plays, and musicals. He sings with the renowned Côr Godre'r Aran Male Choir in the Bala area. In addition, he teaches hymn-singing and has conducted many cymanfaoedd canu.

Few individuals have extended their contributions to the cultural and social lives of their communities in Wales to Welsh-American life as Edward Morus Jones. He is described as a folk singer, school headmaster, campaigner, and political candidate. That only begins to describe this gentle, warm-hearted person whose own vivacity makes him no stranger to anyone he meets. He has long been a leader of Undeb Cymru a'r Byd, now Wales International, serving it in many capacities over the years. He is a familiar face in our gatherings, particularly at the North American Festival of Wales and especially in Philadelphia. The North America Wales Foundation is particularly pleased that he has accepted an invitation to receive the Foundation's highest honor, its Heritage Medallion – Y Tlws Treftadaeth.

## 2022 Festival Book Advertisements

Promote your Welsh organization or business by placing an advertisement in the program booklet. What a great way to get the word out! Full, half and quarter page ad sizes are available, and a limited number can also be printed in full color.

On the festivalofwales.org website, click on ABOUT THE FESTIVAL and choose ADVERTISE AT NAFOW. Fill out your ad information online, or mail in the advertising form. The deadline for placing a festival book advertisement is August 1, 2022.

## Eschoir to Perform at 2022 Grand Concert

Festival planners are pleased to announce that Eschoir will perform at the Grand Concert at NAFOW 2022 in Philadelphia.

Eschoir is a Welsh male choir based in London. The choir formed in 2009 at the Borough Welsh Chapel near London Bridge with the aim of encouraging the male choir tradition among younger men, as well as creating a home-from-home in the busy city.

The first public performance was at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, singing the anthems at the Wales v. Italy Six Nations tournament. Since, Eschoir has been fortunate to sing for the British Prime Minister at 10 Downing St, at the British Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia, and for the Archbishop of Canterbury's retirement reception at Lambeth Palace.

It has shared the stage with pop artists Katie Melua, Cerys Matthews, and Super Furry Animals, and has appeared on popular UK TV programmes as well as Welsh tourism adverts. The choir supports the London Welsh community by singing at charity events, as well as weddings and funerals. Indeed, the choir sang at the funeral of the late actor Alan Rickman, whose mother was Welsh. On St David's Day, it can be seen at Paddington Train Station, Borough Market, and the House of Commons, followed by a 'noson lawen' at a West London bar. 2017's noson lawen was attended by David Beckham and Ed Sheeran, who popped into the bar for a quiet drink.

Eschoir is grateful and excited to be sharing a wonderful occasion with likeminded, fellow expats at the North American Festival of Wales. Eschoir most recently performed at the 2018 festival in Alexandria, Virginia.



## Talented Artists Lead 2022 Gymanfa Ganu

### Director Mike Williams

Eschoir director Mike Williams will lead the Gymanfa Ganu at the NAFOW 2022 in Philadelphia. Mike Williams comes from Port Talbot and graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Before moving to London, Mike was a conductor of three Cardiff choirs and an accompanist to the Morryston Orpheus Choir.

In 2008, Mike conducted the youthful Black Mountain Male Chorus of Wales on its US tour, which included a performance at the Los Angeles Welsh Chapel. The fun had on this tour inspired Mike to form a new, young male choir when he moved to London in 2009. Mike formed the choir with the support of Dr. Haydn James, and also formed a Welsh ladies choir (Côr Merched Cymry Llundain) and mixed choir (Côr y Boro) which continue to gain success at Eisteddfodau.

### Organist David Enlow

David Enlow is a "commanding" organist (The New Yorker), teacher, and conductor based in New York, who is active in North America and Europe. Credited with "immense virtuosity" (Stuttgarter Zeitung) and "performances full of color, passion, invention, and power" (The American Record Guide), David works in concert music and church music.

David has taught church music, service playing, improvisation, and organ repertoire master classes for local, regional, and national events of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and at the Juilliard School, from which he received two degrees.

David also received the Fellowship diploma, with both prizes for highest marks, from the AGO, which resulted in his joining the committee on professional certification, which sets the standards for the national organist examinations and grades them. David then served two terms as Dean of the New York City Chapter AGO.

David serves as Assistant Conductor and répétiteur to the Clarion Choir and has appeared in most all of New York's major concert halls as an accompanist at the piano with choruses, solo singers, and in performances of chamber music. In early music, David is also organist of the Clarion Music Society, and appears with various groups at the organ, harpsichord, and fortepiano.

David has been one of the North American Festival of Wales accompanists since 2012, playing previously in Scranton, Columbus, Rochester and Alexandria.



*Organist David Enlow, New York*

## Seminars for NAFOW 2022



Phil Cope is a photographer, writer, and exhibition and book designer, currently living in the ex-coal-mining, 'dead-end' Garw Valley in South Wales. He was a guest speaker at two previous NAFOW events (Minneapolis 2014 and Rochester 2017), and is a regular contributor to Ninnau. Phil Cope presents:

**After Coal** Illustrated with images I have found and made over the past three decades, 'AFTER COAL' will follow the river Garw from its source above Blaengarw where I live, revealing in its journey both the pre- and the post-coalmining histories of the valley. Although only six miles in length, the 'dead-end' Garw provides a picture in microcosm of the whole of the South Wales coalfield, today urgently demanding alternative strategies for survival.

**The Living Wells of Wales** An illustrated exploration through new photographs and old tales of our sacred springs, holy wells and spas, based upon my new book, THE LIVING WELLS OF WALES, published in Wales by Seren.



Born in Wales, Dulais Rhys has been a professional musician for over 30 years and is currently based in Billings, Montana. His music and teaching qualifications include Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate degrees from the University of Wales. He also studied composition and conducting at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dulais Rhys presents:

**Joseph Parry, his opera Blodwen ... and the Philadelphia Connection!** Wales-born and Pennsylvania-raised musician Joseph Parry composed Blodwen, the first Welsh opera, probably as a result of seeing Beethoven's Fidelio in Philadelphia in 1861. The 1878 premiere of Blodwen in Aberystwyth was a huge success, as was the first fully staged American performance of the opera in Billings, Montana in May 2019. This is how it all came about.



Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Jerry Hunter is a Professor in the School of Welsh, Bangor University and also Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University. He is an award-winning author and has published novels for children and adults as well as five academic books, winning prizes at the National Eisteddfod and Wales Book of the Year. Jerry Hunter presents:

**Welsh Writing in Philadelphia** A look at ways in which the city of Philadelphia has figured in Welsh literature through the ages. The focus will be on texts written in Welsh (English translations of all selections will be provided), starting with Quaker literature from the early 18th century and ending with poetry from the late twentieth century.



Before her retirement, Professor Christine James was Head of the Department of Welsh at Swansea University. Her research interests focus primarily on the literature of late medieval and early modern Wales, but she has also published on the modern period. She won the Crown at the 2005 National Eisteddfod, and was Archdruid of Wales 2013–16. She is currently the Gorsedd Recorder. Christine James presents:

**Taffy was a Welshman ...Welsh National Identity in English Broadside Ballads.** English broadside ballads paint a comic and derogatory portrait of the Welsh as a hot-headed people whose love of eating toasted cheese, brandishing leeks and riding goats is matched only by their delight in swearing oaths and reciting pedigrees, and expertise in deceiving and thieving. This seminar will reassess this caricature, and consider the ballad-Welshman's most grotesque characteristic: his speech.



E. Wyn James was, before retiring, a Professor in Cardiff University's School of Welsh and co-Director of the Cardiff Centre for Welsh American Studies. He has published widely on various aspects of Welsh literature and culture. He is a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, and was, in 2012, a Fulbright Scholar and Visiting Fellow at Harvard University. Wyn James presents:

**Morgan John Rhys and His American Travel Diary, 1794–95** The radical Welsh Baptist minister, Morgan John Rhys (1760–1804), was a complex and fascinating figure. Emigrating to America in 1794, he settled initially in Philadelphia before conducting a year-long horseback journey through the States, keeping a journal which is a remarkable primary source. This talk will give an overview of Rhys's life and work, focusing especially on that journal.



Tony Curtis is Emeritus Professor of Poetry at the University of South Wales. He is an award-winning writer with over forty published books. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society for Literature and is an alumnus of Goddard College, Vermont. [www.tonycurtispoet.com](http://www.tonycurtispoet.com). Tony Curtis presents:

**Wales and Second World War** Poets, painters, pacifists and my parents. Professor Tony Curtis' talk follows the chronology of his parents' war service – the Royal Artillery and the Women's Land Army – and the experiences of their contemporaries in Wales and beyond, at war and on the home front – including the work of Dylan Thomas, Vernon Watkins, Raymond Williams, Ceri Richards, Glyn Jones, John Tripp, Alun Lewis, Ray Howard Jones, Dannie Abse, Wynford Vaughan Thomas, Raymond Garlick and David Lloyd George.

Seminar descriptions continue on the next page



Menna Elfyn is an award-winning poet and playwright. She has published 14 collections of poetry, children’s novels, libretti for UK and US composers as well as plays for television and radio. She is Professor of Poetry at University of Wales, Trinity Saint David and President of Wales PEN Cymru. She has been a columnist with the

national newspaper of Wales since 1994. Menna Elfyn presents:

**Cwsg/Sleep** The subject of sleep has always fascinated Menna, as an experience that is both universal and private, unremarkable and mysterious. It is a subject that is common to us all, close to our pillows! It has since time immemorial been the subject of medical research, psychology and creativity. It is also a subject of huge concern in today’s world of 24/7. Menna’s new book ‘Cwsg’ delves into this field with whimsical and disturbing ‘found stories’ which have been reimagined as short fiction. There are notably over 80 different sleep disorders discovered and so many more still to be unearthed. Why is it that babies before the age of four dream more than adults, and why do older people dream less? Why do we read to children before sleeping and sing lullabies to them? Why are there sleep pods available to rent for an hour or two in cities and workplaces? Why do we all get recurring dreams, whether it be fire or floods or other disasters which jolts us to wake up? Can we really control our sleep with ‘lucid dreams’ as adopted in some other cultures? Come to this interactive session to share or just to listen. The one thing you should not do is ‘sleep’!



Sian Lewis is the energetic and determined leader of the largest youth organisation in Wales. Sian has brought drive, discipline and flair to the century-old organisation, raising its standards and profile, broadening its horizons and forging ambitious partnerships around the globe from Sydney, Kenya and Alabama which gives a flavour of the scale of her international

intentions. Sian Lewis presents:

**Urdd Gobaith Cymru-Serving** Urdd Gobaith Cymru is the largest youth organisation in Wales. Over 4 million have been members of the Urdd since its beginning back in 1922. As we approach our centenary, the Urdd has ambitious plans to ensure through our members more people get to know about Wales as we offer international experiences to celebrate the cultural richness of Wales to the world.



Dr Richard C. Allen is a Welsh and Transatlantic Historian. He holds visiting fellowships at the Australian National University, Canberra, and at Newcastle University. He is a former Fulbright Professor of British History and Reader in Early Modern History. He has published extensively on

radical dissent, migration, and identity. His works include Quaker Communities in Early Modern Wales: From Radicalism to Respectability (2007), and the co-edited Irelands of the Mind (2008); Faith of Our Fathers: Popular Culture and Belief in Post-Reformation England, Ireland and Wales (2009); The Religious History of Wales: A Survey of Religious Life and Practice from the Seventeenth Century to the Present Day (2013), and with Rosemary Moore and Specialist Contributors, The Quakers, 1656–1723: The Evolution of an Alternative Community (2018). He is currently writing Welsh Quaker Emigrants and Colonial Pennsylvania, and co-authoring, with Erin Bell, Quaker Networks and Moral Reform in the north east of England. Dr. Richard C. Allen presents:

**The Golden Chain of Fellowship: The Welsh Society of Philadelphia, 1798 – 1839** On 1 March 1798, sixty-four Welshmen (or the descendants of Welshmen) gathered at the house of William Ogden in Philadelphia. These men proposed to launch a Welsh Society which had, as part of its remit, a commitment to provide moral support, financial assistance and practical relief for Welsh exiles who would struggle in a foreign land without help. From this date the Welsh Society of Philadelphia was established. It is a society which has had a continuous history to the present day and naturally a long-lasting association with Welsh-Americana, particularly its promotion of Welsh cultural activities and its annual St David’s Day festival. This organisation was one of many similar Welsh societies which sprang up in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Britain and in America.

The purpose of this lecture (and the book that has subsequently been published) is not, however, to record the complete history of this Philadelphian Welsh Society and its predecessor (the Society of Ancient Britons c.1729), but rather to focus on the development of this cultural body, its early membership and the significant position and experiences of members in Philadelphia – the spiritual home of the Welsh exile in America. It will explore why this Society appealed to Welsh exiles and their wealthy descendants. Finally, it will consider the role of the Society as a provider of charitable assistance to the needy who, from the late-eighteenth century onwards, saw America, especially Philadelphia, as an alternative to a life of hardship in Wales.

## Silent Auction

While at the North American Festival of Wales, consider spending some time perusing the offerings at the Silent Auction. Each year volunteers bring Welsh items to the Festival. These items are displayed in the marketplace or tea room, and a silent auction is held. Proceeds from the auction benefit the WNAA and go toward funding scholarships and festival activities. Be sure to fill out a donation form to accompany your donation. What types of items are accepted? Almost anything! Last year there was Welsh wool, dolls, books, collectibles, and artwork, to name a few of the variety of items.



## NAFOW 2022 Tours Showcase the Philadelphia Area

Here are the tentative plans for the tours. Keep in mind that changes may be necessary in the coming months.

### Welsh Tract Tour: Early Welsh Settlement in America

William Penn and the 17th century Welsh Settlers of Pennsylvania had ambitious plans for a Welsh home in the new world, free from the religious persecution they often experienced back home.



*Harriton House, originally known as the Bryn Mawr estate*

Join us on a daylong journey to the picturesque area of suburban Philadelphia that was known as the Welsh Tract or Welsh Barony. Here, Welsh-speaking Quakers and later Baptists and Anglicans found a new home to call their own.

To this day, many communities' names, such as Merion, Bala, Haverford and

Bryn Mawr, bear witness to their Welsh heritage.

Highlights of the tour include stops at an early Welsh homestead (the original "Bryn Mawr" estate), an early Welsh church (St. David's Episcopal Church, Radnor), and Washington Memorial Chapel in the heart of Valley Forge National Historical Park.

Enjoy lunch amidst the lush surroundings of the Merion Cricket Club.



*Merion Cricket Club*

### Highlights of Center City Philadelphia: City Hall and the Magnificent Masonic Temple

Our walking tour of Center City Philadelphia includes tours of two of the city's greatest architectural and historical treasures:



*Masonic Temple*

Philadelphia City Hall with its Welsh Plaque and the neighboring Masonic Temple.

Lunch is on your own at the nearby renowned Reading Terminal Market, where over one hundred vendors and food stalls offer almost every kind of food imaginable—from Pennsylvania Dutch specialties to sushi to Philadelphia cheesesteaks.

### Longwood Gardens and Brandywine Valley

Join us on a memorable day in the heart of the Brandywine Valley in beautiful Southeastern Pennsylvania. We'll begin our day with a visit to world-renowned Longwood Gardens, one of North America's loveliest and most extensive botanical gardens and fountain displays. We will have lunch onsite.

Our afternoon includes a scenic drive with a short visit to one of the area's other numerous attractions, such as a winery or historic site before returning to Philadelphia.



*Longwood Gardens*

## Practice and Learn Your Conversational Welsh

Cymdeithas Madog's Board of Directors has launched a free service for Welsh learners: monthly "Siop Siarad" conversation groups on Zoom. Siop Siarad is held on the third Saturday of each month (unless otherwise indicated). There are three sessions: two at the beginning/intermediate level and one at the advanced level, each facilitated by an experienced Welsh speaker. Read more about the details on their calendar page: <https://speakwelsh.org/courses/calendar/>. They are also on the lookout for advanced or fluent Welsh speakers willing to volunteer as a moderator for these sessions. Please send an email to [president@madog.org](mailto:president@madog.org) if you are interested.



Please visit [SpeakWelsh.org](http://SpeakWelsh.org) for information about future online and in-person learning opportunities.



## Affiliated Welsh Organizations

### Iowa Welsh Society

Submitted by AdaMae Lewis

The Iowa Welsh Society (IWS) was formed in 1985 and that summer Cymdeithas Madog held its Welsh language course, Cwrs Cymraeg, at Central College, Pella, Iowa, to promote the new Welsh society. Over the years, Cwrs Cymraeg was hosted by the IWS three more times at Simpson College in Indianola.

The original Society founders were Ruth Hall, Indianola, and Phillips G. Davies, (now deceased) from Ames. While we are a small society, we continue to attract new members mostly through the website <https://iowawelshsociety.org/>. We have a Facebook page as well: <https://www.facebook.com/IowaWelsh>. We have several members who emigrated from Wales and they are a wonderful part of the Society.

It has always been a statewide organization and because members drive such long distances, meetings are held in the daytime. We meet 2-3 times annually. Certainly for St. David's Day and late fall for a holiday get together. Other times we have a summer meeting as well. A Welsh group in southeast Iowa organizes an annual St. David's parade in Columbus Junction, Iowa, that is attended by many IWS members.



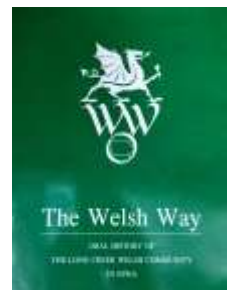
*IWS members hearing a presentation "Dig Into Your Welsh Roots" at St. David's Day celebration in Pella, IA, 2020.*



*IWS members and tour guide for our program at the John L. Lewis Memorial Museum of Mining and Labor, Lucas, IA, 2019*

We are fortunate to be able to meet occasionally at the John L. Lewis Memorial Museum of Mining and Labor, Lucas, Iowa. It is located close to Fry Hill Cemetery with many grave markers in Welsh. The Board of Directors meets at the place of the meeting, prior to the meeting and program.

The Society initiated an oral history project in 1994 to document the history of the immigrants from Wales and their descendants in the Long Creek Welsh community in Louisa County, Iowa. This area was the oldest and least changed Welsh settlement in Iowa. There were still some Welsh speakers at that time. We interviewed 24 descendants of the Welsh immigrants. The results were published in *The Welsh Way*, a 79 page book that includes photos and comments on various topics by those interviewed. The book is on People's Collection Wales. <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/collections/1364891>. The project



was partially funded by a grant from the Iowa Humanities Board and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Our fall meeting in 2019 was held in Columbus Junction, Louisa County, in the Long Creek Welsh community. We planned to take a drive to see the Welsh churches, Salem and Cotter, and stop at Cambrian Cemetery, but a heavy downpour kept us indoors singing Welsh hymns and other Welsh songs.

Current officers are Margaret Patterson, President; AdaMae Lewis, Vice-President; Wendy Knowles, Secretary and Jenifer Mercer-Klimowski, Treasurer and Immediate Past President. Other IWS Board members are Danny Davis, Ruth Hall, Richard Phillips and Sharon Rees.

We have been unable to meet since St. David's Day 2020 because of the pandemic, but we are looking forward to being together soon.



*Above: IWS members waiting for Welsh lunch to be ready, Long Creek Welsh community, 2019.*

*If you would like us to profile your Welsh organization in an upcoming issue of HWYL, contact: [editor@theWNAA.org](mailto:editor@theWNAA.org).*

## NAFOW 2021—Utica, NY

Submitted by Jan Jones Batty, reprinted from the November/December 2021 issue of Ninnau

“So, how was it?” they asked after I returned home from the 2021 NAFOW. “What did you miss?” I missed seeing friends who could not attend, and the festival was fantastic with nothing lacking!

Upon arrival, the ample lobby with its generous seating area made it easy to meet and greet. The local committee was very accommodating, seeing as we popped the “Utica” idea on them in June! Although we didn’t expect it, they put together two very popular tours – one of which had to be repeated a second day due to its rave reviews from the first day.

At registration, everyone was gracious and patient in providing proof of COVID vaccinations. There were plenty of “newbies” who we warmly welcomed. We directed them into the marketplace/tea room so that they could begin to experience some Welsh culture. Many Welsh organizations had displays and representatives, and there was a wonderful variety of Welsh goods to purchase. Welsh tea cakes came from far and wide – Oregon, Wisconsin, Illinois and New York. We made it work!

Seminars and workshops were varied in topic, and well-attended. Quilters, genealogists, historians, readers, musicians, explorers, and those interested in contemporary Wales all found more than one event to attend. We even had an eisteddfod with poetry reading, a visual arts competition, solo voice competitions and Welsh and English language recitations.

Saturday’s Grand Concert, in the incomparable Stanley Theatre, featured soloists Catrin Davies, Nerys Jones and Todd Thomas. Jenny Oaks Baker & Family Four rounded out the fantastic talent lineup. Jenny joked that it was actually “Family Three” that night because her oldest child had just left for college.

On Sunday, director Meirwyn Walters and organist Steve Jensen provided a most memorable gymanfa ganu at the beautiful Westminster Church – steps away from the hotel. Karen Jones Wojahn and Steve Jensen performed a wonderful organ and piano duet. We sang 32 of our favorites and there were still many we missed! There was only one fatality the whole weekend. In the evening, during the third set of hymns we “sang the organ to death!” Acapella sounded amazing, but Steve nimbly picked up his music, moved to the piano, and we carried on.

Outside of the organized activities, everyone pitched in to direct and accompany the late-night singing and Noson Lawen on Sunday night. All in all, a great event.

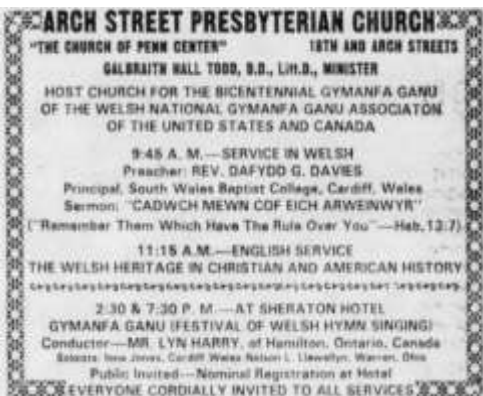


June 2021—NAFOW 2021 planners celebrate “we did it,” or maybe rather “we can do this,” on the grand staircase of the Stanley Theatre in Utica NY

## 1976 “National Gymanfa Ganu” in Philadelphia

The last time we met in Philadelphia was during the United States’ bicentennial year. It was reported that 1,500 attended. What was this event like, 46 years ago?

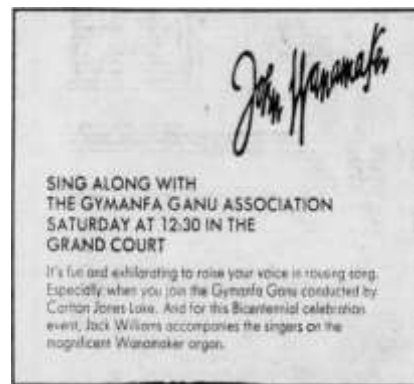
Highlights of the “Bicentennial Gymanfa Ganu” weekend, headquartered at the Sheraton Hotel, included a banquet on Friday night (\$15) and a historical pageant.



On Friday a tour of the Gwynedd Valley and Welsh tract west of the Schylkill River with lunch at Gwynedd Friends Meeting House was offered, and on Saturday attendees gathered for (excerpted from The Tribune (Scranton PA) 27Jul1976) “... a ceremony at the Welsh Plaque on the east side of City Hall, followed by a “sing” in the Wanamaker Store Grand Court with accompaniment on the famous Wanamaker organ.”

The Sunday worship service was conducted in Welsh by Rev. Dafydd G. Davies of Cardiff, Wales.

Capping the weekend’s events were the afternoon and evening sessions of the national gymanfa ganu held at the Arch Street Presbyterian Church.



The Philadelphia Inquirer, September 3, 1976—An invitation to sing at the Grand Court at the Wanamaker Store.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, September 4, 1976—Weekend Welsh Events were advertised

## Eisteddfod Competitions—Still Going Strong in 2021!

Submitted by Ian K. Samways

The challenges of the current year were an issue for the NAFOW Eisteddfod as much as they were for the festival at large, but the Eisteddfod’s contributors and participants likewise rose to the occasion and pulled off a very memorable set of competitions. A huge diolch yn fawr goes to fellow Eisteddfod Committee members Danny Proud, Karen Wojahn, David Matthews and Megan Williams for their assistance, along with Gerri Baker Parry and Evans Paschal. And as always... a big thank you - and congratulations - to all who competed!

All of this year’s competitions were dedicated to the memory of our great friend and former Committee member, David Llewelyn Williams of Vancouver, BC. In also honoring his immense contributions over the years, the winners of the David Llewelyn Williams Prizes in Poetry Composition were:

- Welsh Language Poem: "Nid Ffin" by Mike Jenkins (Merthyr Tydfil, Wales)
- English Language Poem: "On Clevedon Pier, June 2020" by Robert Walton (Bristol, England)

The poems were recited at the Opening Concert, and the poets themselves contributed videos of their recitations for the Festival’s Facebook page. Many thanks to adjudicators Menna Elfyn and Eurig Salisbury (Welsh) and Tony Curtis and Robert Dayton (English) for their expert work in selecting from a large number of entries on each side, on a requested theme of "Hiraeth." (Thank you as well to the prize sponsors, Bob Dayton and Anonymous.)

We also had robust participation in our on-site competitions, including some brand new faces! It was certainly an enjoyable occasion for all, including spectators, adjudicators and competitors alike. All prize winners are listed below. A big diolch yn fawr iawn/thank you also goes out to: Kathy Crusi, Bob Dayton, Robert Humphries, Nerys Jones and Mari Morgan (stage adjudicators); Steve Jensen (piano accompanist); festival attendees casting votes for Visual Arts; and our generous competition prize founders and sponsors (NAFOW Eisteddfod Committee, St. David’s Society of Minnesota, Seattle Welsh Women’s Club, and Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin).

We are also very pleased to announce that Dean Humphreys is donating his winning piece from Visual Arts to the festival, and it is planned for offer at the Silent Auction next year in Philadelphia. Diolch yn fawr iawn, Dean!

Indeed, we look forward to carrying on the great eisteddfod tradition into 2022, in what we trust will be an even “bigger and better” year for us all ... stay tuned for announcements, and thank you, as always, for your interest and support!

### Visual Arts:

- 1 - Dean Humphreys (NY), "Longing for the Land" (hand carving in slate)
- 2 - Myfanwy Davies (ON), "Caernarfon Castle" (cross-stitching)
- 3 - Ellis Jones (MN), "Gymanfa Ganu Lap Robe" (hand-knitted creation)



*Above: The visual arts entries for 2021*

### Solo Voice:

- 1 - Nancy Wright (NY)
- 2 - Joseph Corbin (WI)
- 3 - Jen Rizio (NY)

*Right: Solo Voice Adjudicators and Competitors left to right: Jen Rizio, Nerys Jones, Steve Jensen, Joe Corbin, Nancy Wright and Kathy Crusi*



### Welsh Language Recitation:

- 1 - Heather DeFer (MI)
- 2 - Nancy Wright (NY)
- 3 - Jen Rizio (NY)

*Below right: Welsh Language Recitation Adjudicators and Competitors left to right: Jen Rizio, Robert Humphries, Bob Dayton, Nancy Wright, Heather DeFer*

### English Language Recitation:

- 1 - Nancy Wright (NY)
- 2 - Jen Rizio (NY)
- 3 - Michele Starwalt-Woods (NY)





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### Contact List Cleanup

Postage and printing costs continue to rise.

If you or someone you know had a change of address, or you know someone who should be removed from our list, let us know.

We would also like your email address; occasionally we send email updates. And indicate if you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email. Please direct corrections to our mailing address (above) or to: [editor@theWNAA.org](mailto:editor@theWNAA.org)



*October 2021*

*“Meet Me at the Eagle”*

*Members of the WNAA Executive Board and local committee members pause for a photo in front of the Eagle at Macy’s in downtown Philadelphia*

### Welsh Heritage Week 2022

Next summer, Welsh Heritage Week will be held in person in Madison, Wisconsin.

WHW is a fun week of learning about the Welsh language, music and heritage. We have language classes, singing classes, Welsh folk dance class, session band (any instruments welcome) and the opportunity to learn Welsh folk music and harp classes (total beginner to experienced).

If you have any questions, check with the website, [welshheritageweek.org](http://welshheritageweek.org), or contact Beth Landmesser, 570-815-7689 or [hwyl@ptd.net](mailto:hwyl@ptd.net). You can also follow Welsh Heritage Week on Facebook.

