

St. David's Welsh Society of the Suncoast



FEBRUARY 2016
welshsocietyofthesuncoast.org



EVERYONE INVITED *CROESO*

Regular meetings of the St. David's Welsh Society of the Suncoast are held at noon on the **third Tuesday of the month**. From October to April at the **Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church**, 8600 113th Street N, Seminole Florida (right on the corner).

A potluck luncheon and program entertain all persons with an interest in celebrating Welsh heritage. We have great fun so bring a friend to socialize. (They do not even have to be Welsh to be welcome.



HOW THE WELSH LOVE THEIR POETRY AND MUSIC!

We look forward to a special Valentine treat in February. Poetry and music in one meeting. Barbara Girdali will present an ancient Celtic poem in translation that she discovered. Continuing his program on the history of Welsh hymnody, Jack Jacobson will explain the relationship of the Welsh harp and the hymns that were influenced by it. See you on February 16.



shutterstock · 242476774

TRIVIA QUESTION: Who was the Welshman that Shakespeare called 'not in the role of common men'?

St. David's Day Banquet

March 6

Kally Ks Restaurant

RESERVATION TIME FOR BANQUET

This year we are trying a new location for our St. David's Day Banquet. We will gather at the same time (4:00 social hour) at a new but familiar location—Kally Ks Restaurant on Main Street in Dunedin. It has been the site of many successful summer luncheons.

Donna Anderson, who has enchanted us before with her lovely voice, will entertain us after dinner. She always brings a selection of Welsh songs and modern popular tunes.

Our reservation form is at the end of this newsletter along with your dinner choices. Again this year there are children's selections for the young ones.

Mark your calendar now to join your friends to celebrate our Welsh patron saint day. Guests are welcome, too.

SILENT AUCTION

Once again we are planning a silent auction at the St. David's Day Banquet. Now is the time to check your cupboards for items that you might want to donate to the auction. You can bring items to the next meeting or even bring them to the banquet. This auction is one of the few fund raisers we have during the year and everyone seems to enjoy bidding on the wonderful donated items. Clear your clutter and do your good deed at the same time.

St. David's Day Banquet

Sunday March 6, 2016

Kally K's Restaurant

1600 Main Street

Dunedin FL

4:00 pm Social Hour

5:00 pm Dinner

Entertainment to follow

Please make your reservations by March 1

Please enclose a check for \$27.00 per meal (\$8.00 for each child).

A cash bar will be available

Return the following reservation form with your check to

Roger Hughes

1858 Springbush Lane

Clearwater, FL 33756

Name _____

Guest/s _____

Phone number _____ Email address _____

Select entrée/s (\$27.00 each)

Stuffed flounder _____

Chicken cordon bleu _____

Strip Steak _____

Children's (\$8.00 each)

Chicken fingers _____

Hamburger _____

We look forward to seeing you!

CELEBRATIONS

March Birthdays

- 7 Marian Thomas
- 21 Don Briggs
- 20 John Richard Owens, Jr.

March Anniversaries

- 22 Larry and Connie Osmulski
- 23 Dave and Marian Thomas

No February birthdays or anniversaries.

AROUND THE MEMBERSHIP

Don and Jan Briggs uncharacteristically missed the last meeting. They had unexpected last minute guests. Their absence was questioned by everyone. Happy to hear they are just fine.

He suffered a minor set back when he developed an eye infection, but **Leslie Jones** is recovering nicely. His son is here with him.

Rhianon and Pat Hardy escaped damage from the tornado that hit near them on Siesta Key this month. They report only a few fronds down at their place.

If you have any news to share, please contact Nancy. She can only report what she is told.



Sheep dipping

Some sheep farmers in mid-Wales have formed a society of teetotalers.

There is a clause in the rules that permits the use of alcohol at sheep-dipping time.

One member keeps a sheep at home which he dips every day.

WHERE ARE YOU

Our dues are still a bargain at only **\$10.00 per person**, due in October each year. In return you will receive a new membership directory and our monthly newsletters to keep you informed of Welsh news. If you cannot attend the next meeting, send your dues to

Nancy Mellican
6 Fernery Lane
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Our treasurer thanks you. We have only 47 paid members for 2015-16. Sadly, so far this year we are missing the following people:

Gwen Carter	Tom and June Edwards
Trudy Howells	Helen Jones
Kathryn Keller	Meryl Kindle
Pamela Lewis	Clark Parry
Lucinda Durkee	Gareth and Sue Thomas
Gareth and Donna Williams	

We miss you all.

YOUR HELP NEEDED

It still costs a great deal to publish and mail this newsletter—much more than our meager dues can cover. Sharing news from our friends is one of the ways we keep in touch with our Welsh friends. Again this year we are soliciting donations to cover the costs. Large or small donations are appreciated.

This month's newsletter is sponsored by **Don and Jan Briggs**. We appreciate everyone who contributes to keeping this newsletter going.

SARASOTA WELSH SOCIETY

The Sarasota Welsh Society invites you to attend their upcoming meetings.

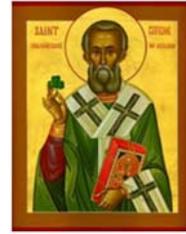
Tuesday, March 1, 2016: St. David's Day Celebration at Heritage Oaks Golf Club beginning at 6 p.m.

For details contact Amy Ferrell 941-349-6069 amyferrell@gmail.com



ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION: Owain Glydwr, in Henry IV Part 1 was the man Shakespeare called 'not in the role of common men'.

St. David: The Rest of the Story



Made Pilgrimage to Jerusalem

Other stories of Saint David say that after a vision, he traveled to Jerusalem with two companions to aid the patriarch, and that the patriarch of Jerusalem, John III, consecrated him archbishop. Back in Wales, he allegedly assembled a Synod of Victory to officially celebrate the end of the Pelagian heresy in Britain. This synod also presumably ratified a set of rules written by Saint David for the "regulation of the British church," but Rhygyfarch maintained the writings were lost to "age and negligence, and also ... the frequent attacks of pirates."

Died in Mynyw

Saint David died in his monastery at Mynyw, some say at the age of 142 or 147 (he is credited with predicting the day), and an observer watched angels carry Saint David's soul up to heaven. Saint David's last words to his monks are said to be, "Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed. Do those little things that you have seen me do and heard about." The year of his death varies; it may have been in 560, 589, or 601.

Sanctified

In 1120 Pope Callistus II declared David a saint. *Butler's Lives of the Saints* casts doubt on a legend that the pope also declared that visiting Mynyw twice would be "equal to one visit to Rome" in indulgence value. Saint David's feast day is March 1 (his mother Saint Non's is March 3), and according to *Butler's Lives*, "There can ... be no question that he was a highly popular saint in his own country. More than fifty pre-Reformation churches in South Wales are known to have been dedicated in his honour. Moreover, even in England, Archbishop Arundel in 1398 ordered his feast to be kept in every church throughout the province of Canterbury." Although the monastery Saint David built is gone, today's Saint David's Cathedral, much of it dating from the twelfth century, is Wales's largest cathedral.

Saint David Symbolized

Several symbols are associated with Saint David. William Shakespeare referred to the Welsh custom of wearing leeks or daffodils in Saint David's honor on March 1 as "an ancient tradition begun upon an honourable request," as quoted in Farmer's *Oxford Dictionary*. Some say the custom comes from a battle between the Welsh and the Saxons; Saint David reportedly wanted the Welsh to wear leeks in their hats so they could recognize other Welsh. Saint David's day now is marked by festivals that feature singing, dancing, and reciting, and the leek and the daffodil are national symbols of Wales.

Other symbols associated with Saint David come from yet another legend about his birth: An angel told Saint David's father, Sant, in a dream that when he went hunting the next day, he would kill a stag and find a fish and a beehive. The stag, said to eat snakes, represents Christianity's conquering Satan (the serpent); the fish represents Saint David's abstinence from liquor; and the bees represent his wisdom and spirituality.

PICTURE PAGES



Barbara Girdali presented a most informative program on her visit to St. David's Cathedral in Wales this summer with technical assistance from her son-in-law Bryan Dolan.



Meg Zeigler is happy to celebrate her Welsh heritage with her Florida friends.



Andrew Anderson, grandson of Mary Hughes, enjoys some warm soup on a cold winter day in Florida.



Enjoying a serious discussion, Roger Hughes and Kelfryn James compare what they learned from the excellent program today.



Newest member Cathy Reed is researching her Welsh heritage.



Guests Fr. Dan Moore and his wife Pat enjoy checking over the Welsh hymnal.



Mary Hughes and Paul Mellican chat before the meeting.



Fr Dan and Pat Moore chat with president Matt Hall.



Always with a smile on her face, Wendy Kearns greets everyone.



Ray Denman can always be counted on to brighten the meeting.



Not sure how two Irishmen got in to the meeting, but here they are—Paul Mellican and Danny Kearns.



Original painting of two Welsh women in traditional costume having tea. Inspired by a Victorian photo of the same subject.



Volunteers Connie Osmulski and Cynthia Roberts pull kitchen duty.