

St. David's Welsh Society of the Suncoast



NOVEMBER 2016

welshsocietyofthesuncoast.org

Nancy Mellican, editor



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.)



PROGRAM

Matt Hall promises a few surprises in November as he teaches us non-Welsh speakers to sing the Welsh National Anthem properly. If you already speak Welsh, Matt could use all the help he can get. If you wish to improve your Welsh pronunciations, be sure to join us on November 15.

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

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 **Todd Roberts**. We appreciate everyone who contributes to keeping this newsletter going.

PLEA FOR DUES AGAIN

Our dues are still a bargain at only \$10.00 per person per year. With the new social year starting, it is time to send in your money. 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!



COMING IN

DECEMBER

This is a heads-up to mark your calendars now for our annual date with the Tarpon Singers who always bring lots of fun and music to our December meetings. As has become our tradition, the December meeting will be the second Tuesday, December 13. Come hear what frolicking songs the Singers bring this year.

TRIVIA QUESTION: Who designed Lady Diana Spencer's wedding dress?



AROUND THE MEMBERSHIP

With what must be some sort of record, **Pat and Rhianon Hardy** report they have been loyal members of this Welsh Society since 1970. Prior to settling down in this area, they lived in London, Ghana West Africa, and North Bay Ontario, Canada. They are now in their 55th year of marriage and hope to see everyone soon.

Mary Hughes is getting around very well with her new hip. What was first diagnosed as bursitis turned into a need for a whole new hip.

Jan Briggs fell and broke some ribs, which resulted in her missing the last meeting.

It was good to see **Todd Roberts** made it to the October meeting—even walking with a cane.

While still enjoying her time in New York, **Norma Parry** looks forward to getting to Florida in January.

Mavis Lamont sends greetings along with her dues.

Suffering a broken foot, **Cathy Reed** was forced to miss the last meeting.

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



NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 10 Cynthia Roberts
- 13 Connie Osmulski
- 18 Beth Schmidt

ANNIVERSARIES

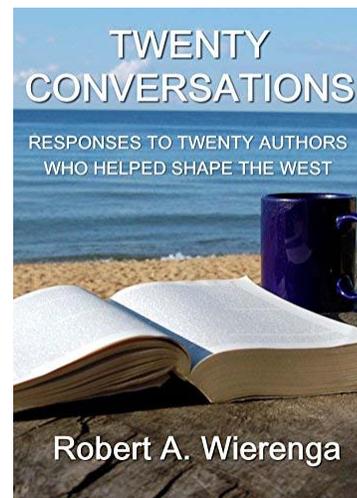
- 13 Roger and Lynne Hughes
- 28 J Richard and Sue Owens



PASTER BOB TO RETIRE

Paster Bob announced that he is retiring at the end of the year. He will be sorely missed by our society. An avid football (soccer) fan, he always kept us abreast of the latest news from Welsh soccer teams and cheered for Wales whenever possible. He even knew that Swansea City of the Premier League of Great Britain just appointed the first ever American manager, Bob Bradley.

He plans to keep busy with his writing. His second book is available now, with a third one due out in the spring. The current book, Twenty Conversations, describes the writings of twenty men and women who shaped the values of the West. It is available in print or ebook format from Amazon.



ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION: David and Elizabeth Emanuel designed Lady Diana Spencer's wedding dress. David was born and brought up in Glamorgan, South Wales. Speaking Welsh as his first language, Emanuel attended Porthcawl secondary school where he excelled in music and art. He became head choir boy at his local church, sang in the County Youth Choir, played violin in the County Youth Orchestra and taught himself to play the cello. He was accepted by the Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff, but chose to study design at Cardiff School of Art and Design (1972-1975).

Restoration work at haunted Gwrych castle leads to sightings of 'woman in white' in grounds

The people behind the restoration of a 19th century castle say the work has led to sightings of a 'woman in white'. Strange goings-on have been reported at Gwrych Castle since work began back in 2014 to revamp the Grade I listed building and its gardens. Visitors claim to have seen a ghostly white woman hovering in the air while dogs have also been spooked while walking through the grounds. Gwrych Castle was built between 1812 and 1822 by Lloyd Hesketh Bamford-Hesketh as a memorial to his mother's ancestors

Last year, a tower which had been derelict since the 1940s was refurbished to look how it would have when its last resident, Winifred Bamford-Hesketh, Countess of Dundonald, lived there a century ago. The countess inherited the castle in 1894 and she used the first floor chamber in the Gardener's Tower as her writing room until she died in 1924. Dr Mark Baker, chairman of Gwrych Castle Preservation Trust, said the restoration of the tower could have stirred up the countess's spirit

He said: "We started doing restoration work on the castle, particularly in the garden, and lots of strange things have been happening. We've had reports of people seeing a women dressed in white walking around the garden. During the summer I was walking with someone and we saw a bright light hovering above the garden which I just can't explain. It is thought that the white lady could be the Countess of Dundonald as we have just restored her private writing room. People have reported smelling her perfume which is a scent of violets."



Dr Baker said: "Dogs have been acting very strangely and seem to be getting spooked at something in the gardens. One dog walker was walking their dog and it suddenly just bolted and jumped over a tower and it fell 50ft. Luckily it hit some branches on the way down and was fortunate to survive."

"We've had several people visit who say they are psychics and they say the countess had lots of pet dogs and there is also a pet cemetery. It's hard to say if it is supernatural but I'm not sure if they are seeing something that we can't."

In a bid to get to the bottom of the spooky goings-on ghosthunters Deadlive have been called in to investigate. Dr Baker said: "I find it all really fascinating - if one person says it you think they're a bit mad but so many people have reported experiencing things that nobody seems to be able to explain logically. It could be the case that because the site is being regenerated it is making things active again. We've decided to do a ghost hunt over Halloween to try and find out more about what might be happening."

There will be a ghost walk on Friday, October 28, Saturday, October 29, Monday, October 31 from 7-8pm and a ghost hunt will take place on the Friday and Saturday only from 8pm until 1.30am. On Sunday, October 30, there will be a family fun day in the castle gardens from 3-7pm.

A new 12-sided £1 coin is about to enter circulation

The new, 12-sided £1 coin will be released in March, 2017, and businesses have been told to prepare. The Treasury has warned retailers and vending machine operators to be ready for the new coin. A new [website has been launched to help businesses](#) prepare for the introduction of the new coin, that is lighter, thinner and slightly wider than the round one pound coin.

Made in Wales

The coin is being made at the Royal Mint's facility in Llantrisant, and features a design that shows the English rose, the Welsh leek, the Scottish thistle and the Northern Irish shamrock emerging from one stem within a royal coronet. The design was created by David Pearce who won a public design competition at the age of 15. The other side features the fifth coin portrait of the Queen.

"We are hugely proud of the new 12-sided £1 coin, which has been designed using cutting edge technology at our South Wales site," said Adam Lawrence, Chief Executive of The Royal Mint.

David Gauke, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said: "The pound as we know it will not be round for much longer. The introduction of this new £1 coin will be a highly significant event and we are working with The Royal Mint to ensure key industries are ready and to ensure a smooth transition. The new £1 coin will be the most secure of its kind in the world and its cutting-edge features will present a significant barrier to counterfeiters, reducing the cost to businesses and the taxpayer."

Security

The new £1 is billed as the most secure coin in the world.

- 12-sided gives it a distinctive shape and is easily identified by touch
- The coin is bimetallic, made up of two metals, with the outer ring gold coloured and the inner ring silver coloured
- There is a hologram that changes from a '£' symbol to the number '1' when the coin is seen from different angles
- The coin has micro lettering around the coin, with one side saying "one pound" and the other its year of production
- There are grooves on alternate edges

There is also a hidden security feature built into the coin that the Royal Mint have not disclosed.

Preparation

Businesses are being urged to start preparations now ahead of the £1 coin joining the circulation in March.

- Check equipment can handle the £1 coin
- Contact equipment supplier to check if you need adaptations or replacements
- Make changes to your coin handling equipment
- Train staff on the features of the new £1 coin.
- Consider any changes to your cash handling processes, such as counting, storing and banking during the co-circulation period.

After the coins introduction there will be a co-circulation period between March and September when there will be the two pound coins in use. In this period both coins are legal tender. During this time it is also acceptable that vending machines are only able to take or give one of the coins, customers just need to be told which one. Next autumn though all machines will have to accept the new 12-sided coin, retailers should no longer accept or distribute the old. The old £1 coins will still be able to be deposited into bank accounts.

Changing currency

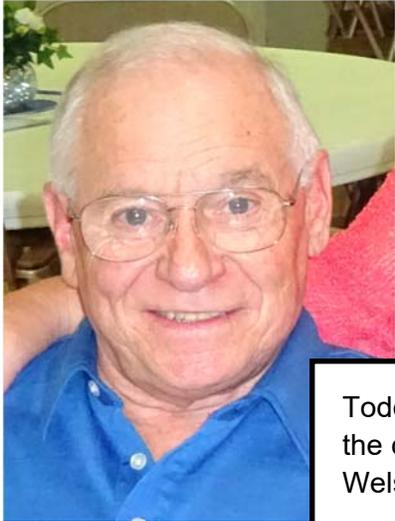
The £5 note changed in September, switching from paper to plastic. The paper fivers are still legal tender, while we are in the co-circulation period, but they will cease to be accepted on May 5, 2017. The £10 and £20 are also both scheduled to change. The £10 will be issued in summer 2017, and like the £5 will be made of the polymer material. The new £20 will be introduced in 2020.

PICTURE PAGES



Barbara Giraldi shares a most interesting account of her recent adventures in Wales with her daughter—hiking and driving a rental car on the “wrong” side of the road as well as in the “wrong” country.

Dressed appropriately for the season, Vera Ruben tries to scare everyone.



Todd Roberts enjoys the comradery of the Welsh Society.



Kelfryn James salutes his friends with his cup of tea.



Mary Hughes is pleased with her new hip.



Always happy to collect dues, Treasurer Roger Hughes prepares a deposit slip for the bank.



Pausing before enjoying her meal, Cythia Roberts takes a moment to give thanks.



Wendy Whitaker shows off her stylish new pink spectacles.



Instead of his usual beer, Paul Mellican enjoys a bottle of water.



Connie Osmulski listens to the incredible adventures of Barbara in Wales.



Usually behind the camera, Nancy Mellican is happy to be part of the group.



Matt Hall relaxes before presiding at the October meeting.