

St. David's Welsh Society of the Suncoast



NOVEMBER 2015
welschsocietyofthesuncoast.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 wel- come.)



NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Who is lucky enough to be invited to examine the inner workings of London's own Big Ben? Why who else besides our own Leslie Jones! On November 17 Leslie will take us inside of Big Ben to examine the behind the scenes workings. "Let's Climb Big Ben" is sure to be an insightful and informative adventure.

Then on December 15 we once again welcome back the popular Tarpon Singers. Be sure to make a note on your calendars for this special program.



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Three Englishmen and a Welshman

Three Englishman walk into a bar and spot a Welshman sitting alone at a table.

One fellow said to the others, 'Let's pick a fight with that Welshman over there.'

His partner replied, 'Wait, we don't want to be arrested. Let's make him start the fight.'

The third Englishman said, 'Wait here chaps. I know how to do it.'

He went over to the Welshman and said, 'St David was a flippin' sissy.'

To this the Welshman replied, 'Ah well you don't say!' and calmly resumed drinking his beer.

The second Englishman now tried his luck and said to the Welshman, 'St David was a stupid fool that wore a dress!'

The Welshman again replied, 'You're very sharp, you don't say!' and calmly resumed drinking his beer.

The last Englishman told his friends he knew how to rile the Welshman and bounced up to the table and yelled, 'St David was an Englishman!'

The Welshman replied, calmly, 'That's what your mates were trying to tell me.'



TRIVIA QUESTION: When was Wales last an independent country?

CELEBRATIONS

November Birthdays

- 10 Cynthia Roberts
- 18 Beth Smidt

December Birthdays

- 4 Ray Denman
- 6 Donna Williams
- 7 Kristy Alderson
- 9 Barbara Giraldi
- 19 Patrick Hardy
- 22 Norma Parry
- 24 Matt Hall



November Anniversaries

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

December Anniversaries

- 27 Kelfryn and Jean James
- 31 Clark and Cindy Durkee Parry

AROUND THE MEMBERSHIP

Sadly, we have news that **Louise Peck** has passed away. For many years Louise was a faithful kitchen worker, devoting many hours to ensuring that the coffee was made and the tables were ready for the buffet offerings.

Gwen Krause has a new phone number—856-286-1615. She would appreciate hearing from her friends.

Kelfryn James reports a lovely visit to St. David's cathedral while in Wales this summer with his wife Jean.

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

ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION: Wales has not been independent since 1282 when it was conquered by King Edward I of England. Until 1999 Wales was ruled directly from London. That year saw the first election to the National Assembly of Wales, which has limited domestic powers and cannot make law.

THE GULF COAST ST. DAVID'S WELSH SOCIETY

Cordially invites you to join us for these coming events:

Saturday, December 5, 2015: free film "A Child's Christmas in Wales" BBC production, at Gulf Gate Library, Sarasota, beginning at 12 noon.

Saturday, January 23, 2016: Gymanfa (Welsh hymn singing) 11 a.m. followed by lunch and Annual Meeting at 12:30, at The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch.

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

Amy Ferrell, 941-349-6069; amyferrell@gmail.com.

REMEMBER YOUR DUES

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.

MANY THANKS TO MARGARET STEWART WHO GRACIOUSLY HELPED SET UP THE HALL AND MAKE THE TEA AT THE LAST MINUTE LAST MONTH.

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 once again sponsored by the very faithful **Don and Jan Briggs**. We appreciate everyone who contributes to keeping this newsletter going.

Pine marten recovery scheme begins in Wales



Pine Martens are Britain's second rarest carnivore after the wildcat. *Photo: Ronald Wittek / PA Images*

Pine martens are beginning a new life in Wales after a recovery scheme is underway to save them from extinction. With no evidence of breeding or natural recovery, reinforcement appears to be the only way to ensure a healthy pine marten population in the country. Leading the project is [The Vincent Wildlife Trust](#), a charity with 30 years experience of pine marten research.

During WWI, pine martens had all but disappeared from southern Britain, due to an increase in game shooting and the loss of much of Britain's woodland. Today's project is aiming to help Wales' marten population recover from this. With the Trust relocating twenty pine martens to woodlands in mid Wales and a further twenty next autumn. They say this number should result in a self-sustaining population that over time will spread to other forests in Wales and across the border to England. The project is likely to cost in the region of £1.2million over five years (itv.news)

Pine marten facts

- The pine marten is a medium-sized mustelid (the weasel family) and is related to the polecat, otter, badger, stoat and weasel
- Adult pine martens are similar in size to a small/medium-sized domestic cat, with males about a third larger than the females
- It has a slim body and a long tail that is thick and bushy in its winter coat. Rich brown fur contrasts with a creamy-yellow 'bib' on the throat and chest, with pale fur within the prominent, rounded ears

Thanksgiving Day Celebration in The United Kingdom

'Harvest Festival' as is popularly known, is one of the oldest festivals in United Kingdom. It began in churches in the year 1843, when Robert Hawker invited local parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at a church in Cornwall. This resulted in the custom of decorating churches with home-grown products. In the old times, the success of crops determined the success or failure of the people. The natives of UK, pleased the God of fertility by offering him the first sheaf of corn. This was done to ensure a good harvest in the coming season. The ritual of offering an animal sacrifice, generally a hare, is accompanied with the cutting of last sheaf of corn. It is said that the last sheaf of corn contains its spirit. "corn dolls" are made to symbolize Goddess of grain. The entire community is invited for a celebratory dinner as part of the festivity. It is held every year in the month of September, on a Sunday nearing the harvest moon. This festival is however not declared a national holiday.

FOR THIS THANKSGIVING AT LEAST COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS



It seems that whenever I count my blessings, some idiot interrupts and I have to start over.

The best (and worst) places to live in Wales for quality of life

The findings are based on everything from pay to bills and education standards - but where in Wales came top and bottom of the pile? The South Wales Valleys are the worst place to live in Wales while Gwynedd is the best, according to new quality of life research.

Findings by price comparison firm uSwitch.com ranked areas on 26 factors including salaries, disposable incomes, food, fuel and energy bills and education standards. Lifestyle factors like working hours, life expectancy, and hours of sunshine were also included.

Wales was broken up into 12 areas for the research and following Gwynedd in second place was Flintshire and Wrexham. The "central valleys" – defined as Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf – were ranked bottom in Wales.

Newport ranked low. Behind Flintshire and Wrexham was Conwy and Denbighshire, Swansea, Anglesey, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, Powys, South West Wales, Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot. Occupying the last few spots were Monmouthshire and Newport and the Gwent Valleys, with Rhondda and Merthyr propping up the table. The strongest areas of difference between top-ranked Gwynedd and the bottom-placed Valleys were in education standards, life expectancy, and council tax.

Here's the list in full

1. Gwynedd
2. Flintshire and Wrexham
3. Conwy and Denbighshire
4. Swansea
5. Anglesey
6. Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan
7. Powys
8. South-west Wales
9. Bridgend and Neath and Port Talbot
10. Monmouthshire and Newport
11. Gwent Valleys
12. Central Valleys

PICTURE PAGES



Dave and Marian Thomas sing the national anthem.



As usual the ladies of the church make sure there are beautiful table decorations for all to enjoy.



Assisted by Wendy Whitaker, Kelfryn James sets out his delicious spaghetti and meatballs of the noontime buffet.



Mary Hughes selects her dessert from the buffet table.

Jack Jacobs passes out his handouts of selected music to Dave Thomas before the program.



Barbara Giraldi
pays her dues
(and receives a
new directory.)



Smiling Kelfryn James always has a
good word to say.



Paul Mellican
salutes the
membership
with his cup of
tea.



Connie Osmulski directs her mother Mary
Hughes as she pays the bills for the society.



Jack Jacobs con-
sults his notes as
he presents a
most interesting
program on Walsh
hymnody.



NEWSLETTER NOW ONLINE

Our newsletter is now online. You can read it anytime at welshsocietyofthesuncoast.org. Many thanks to a tech savvy non-Welsh friend who loads it every month for us. If this will suffice for you and you want to be removed from the mailing list, please let the editor know.