

St. David's Welsh Society of the Suncoast



SUMMER 2015

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.)



For the summer, noon-time luncheon get-togethers are arranged at various restaurants around the county. A calling committee will remind members of the dates and locations which are listed below. Make a note on your calendar now so you do not forget.

Summer Luncheons

12:00 noon

- May 19—Kally Ks, Dunedin
- June 16—Olive Garden, Clearwater
- July 21—Red Lobster, Clearwater
- August 18—Kally Ks, Dunedin

Summer Early Bird Dinner

5:00 pm

- September 15, 2015
- Alfanos, Largo

OFFICERS for 2015-2016

Nominating Committee chairman Roger Hughes presented the following slate of officers for the upcoming year.

President—Matt Hall

Vice-president—Nancy Mellican

Secretary—Connie Osmulski

Treasurer—Roger Hughes

Marshall—Ray Denman

All were elected unanimously. As he accepted his new responsibilities, President Matt Hall reminded the membership that everyone has to help to make a successful organization function. He stated that he would be calling on members to assist from time to time.



NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

This newsletter is sponsored by **Betty Walker, Wendy Kearns, Meg Zeigler, and Leslie Jones**. We appreciate everyone who contributes to keeping this newsletter going.

Trivia Question: Where is the headquarters of the United Kingdom Royal mint located ?



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

May	19	Mavis Lamont
June	11	Shirley Lewis
	22	Kathryn Keller
July	3	Mark Taber
	6	Donald Jenkins
	11	Leslie Jones
	13	Kelfryn James
	13	Tegwyth Alderson-Taber
	15	Todd Roberts
	23	Helen Jones
	23	Wendy Whitaker
	30	Vera Ruben
August	7	Cindy Durkee
	16	Dave Thomas
September	5	Pamela Lewis
	5	Bill Fell
	12	Jean James
	25	Wendy Kearns
	28	Meryl Kindle

ANNIVERSARIES

May	28	Emyr and Lisa Morris
June	12	Paul and Nancy Mellican
June	15	Gareth and Donna Williams
August	10	Mark and Kristy Alderson Taber
August	11	Andy and Vickie Anderson
August	14,	Donald and Janet Bri



ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION: The United Kingdom Royal Mint is located in Llantrisant, South Wales. It employs more than 900 people who produce 90 million coins and blanks a week—amounting to 5 billion coins a year!



WELSH LOVESPOONS

A Lovespoon is a wooden spoon decoratively carved that was traditionally presented as a gift of romantic intent. The spoon is normally decorated with symbols of love, and was intended to reflect the skill of the carver. Due to the intricate designs, lovespoons are no longer used as functioning spoons and are now decorative craft items.

The lovespoon is a traditional craft that dates back to the seventeenth century. Over generations, decorative carvings were added to the spoon and it lost its original practical use and became a treasured decorative item to be hung on a wall.

The earliest known dated lovespoon from Wales, displayed in the [St Fagans National History Museum](#) near [Cardiff](#), is from 1667, although the tradition is believed to date back long before that. The earliest dated lovespoon worldwide originates from Germany, and is dated as 1664.

The lovespoon was given to a young woman by her suitor. It was important for the girl's father to see that the young man was capable of providing for the family and woodworking. Sailors would often carve lovespoons during their long journeys, which is why anchors would often be incorporated into the carvings.

Certain symbols came to have specific meanings: a [horseshoe](#) for luck, a [cross](#) for faith, bells for marriage, hearts for love, a [wheel](#) supporting a loved one and a [lock](#) for security, among others. Caged balls indicated the number of children hoped for. Other difficult carvings, such as chains, were as much a demonstration of the carver's skill as a symbolic meaning.

Although the Welsh lovespoon is the most famous there are also traditions of lovespoons in [Scandinavia](#) and some parts of [Eastern Europe](#), which have their own unique styles and techniques when it comes to the Lovespoon.

Wikipedia

Wales' native bluebells face being wiped out within 50 years as 'onion-scented' Spanish flowers take over

They make a stunning show this time of year but charity Plantlife has warned the number of Spanish bluebells has doubled in the last 15 years. Wales' native [bluebells](#) are facing being wiped out within 50 years because of an advancing army of foreign flowers.

Spanish bluebells were introduced hundreds of years ago. But this century they took root and began to genetically fuse with the UK flower. Now there are more of the aliens – which smell like onions – than the fragrant homegrown variety. Charity Plantlife warned the number of Spaniards had doubled in the last 15 years.

Spanish invasion

“Spanish bluebells were introduced in 1683,” said the organisation’s Trevor Dines. “That is the first time we know it was brought here from Spain, and somewhere in Portugal. That was people bringing it for their gardens. It was not recorded in the wild until 1909.”

The Spanish flowers are “big thuggish things” with a pale flower. Wales’ plants are more delicate with darker petals. No-one took much notice of the Spaniards until the 1980s.

Hybrid bluebells

“Then we realised the Spanish bluebell was hybridising with the native and this was what people were being sold in garden centres,” the botanist said. “They were labelled as English or British bluebells but they were actually hybrid bluebells. “People were planting them in their gardens, but we were also finding people were doing woodland restorations.” Thousands were buried in Britain’s forests.

Mr Dines mapped the advance of the aggressor. “We mapped plants over the OS grid across Britain,” he said. We found that the hybrid was growing in 1,080 of the map’s squares and the Spanish was in 834. There were more hybrids than we imagined. Some people told him: “We shouldn’t worry, there is no real threat.”

“But the latest data suggests there is a 52% in-

crease in Spanish bluebells and a 55% increase in hybrids,” he said. “That’s in the last 15 years. The numbers have doubled in the wild.”

What happens 100 years from now?’

The Natural History Museum found there were almost no native bluebells in towns and cities. “People say we should not make a fuss about bluebells,” Mr Dines said. “But in 50 or 100 years time we’ll find ourselves in a situation where we have got none left. “It can’t really be stopped. All we can do is slow down the process. He urged people to make sure they were buying native bluebells.

Plantlife lobbied to make it an offence to allow Spanish bluebells to spread into the wild. That would have put them in the same category as Japanese knotweed. The government refused. Mr Dines also wanted people stopped from selling the invaders as British flowers.

Unscrupulous bulb sellers

“There are still cases of people buying them when they are labelled as English,” he said. “They are being duped. There are a lot of unscrupulous bulb sellers out there. “What we are trying to do is get in place some sustainable sources of bluebells so the market is supplied with native bluebells.”

Radio 2 gardening expert [Terry Walton](#) warned Britain’s bluebells were doomed. “The Spanish one has taken over and we have lost our heritage,” he said. Without being too pessimistic this thing has gone too far, they have been here too long. “They have been naturalised. We would have to wipe them out and start again. It’s like the grey squirrel and the red squirrel.” The only way to save the native flowers would be to keep them apart.

Japanese knotweed

“We would have to be very vigilant,” Terry said. The onslaught was happening “because we let it happen.” “We already have a wide, diverse range of plants, why did we want them?” he said. “It’s like these big estates planting [Japanese knotweed](#) because it looks pretty. It escapes and wipes out all the native stuff. “Plantlife is running a poll to find the nation’s favourite flower. The bluebell is currently number one. *BBC news*

SARASOTA GULF COAST WELSH SOCIETY INVITES YOU

Friday, May 15, you are invited to come between 4:30-4:45 to Cafe Baci, 4001 S. Tamiami Trail, just south of Bee Ridge Rd. for their excellent 3-course "early bird" \$15 dinner (or \$10 if you omit starter and dessert); the order must be in the computer before 5 p.m. Then many of us will go to Riverview High School for their end of the year choral concert which begins at 7 p.m. and costs \$5 (pay at door). Let me know by May 12 if you want to be added to the restaurant list: amy.ferrell@verizon.net, or 941-349-6069.

May 25: Arcadia Memorial Day Service. Each year on Memorial Day a service coordinated by the Arcadia Rotary Club is held in the British section of Oak Ridge Cemetery to honor the 23 RAF trainee pilots who were killed training at nearby Carlstrom and Riddle flight schools during WWII and their American instructor. Meg Larrabee will be representing the Welsh Society; let her know if you want to go, too: MegLarrabee@hotmail.com or 941-923-2062.

June 28: You are invited to come to Turtles on Little Sarasota Bay, 8875 Midnight Pass Rd. Siesta Key, Sarasota, FL 34242 (941-346-2207) at the south end of Siesta Key, by 1 p.m. for our first summer Sunday brunch of 2015. An extensive menu is available for \$9.99 which includes a drink. Ronnie Crain will take your reservations for that event: rccrain61@verizon.net or 941-922-4801 by June 25.

Summer dates for your calendar: July 26, August 30, September 27.

October 25: Turtle Beach Picnic Pavilion is again reserved for our annual picnic, scheduled from 1:30 to 3:30. Do you think the Red Dragon will put in an appearance again this year? We plan to have games for children, sing favorites from our song books, make new friends and renew old acquaintances while enjoying the beautiful location and delicious food. Invite your Welsh friends to our gatherings.



Who sports the sexiest legs in the Suncoast Welsh Society? See the picture pages for the answer!

UPDATED WEB SITE

Check out the new updated web site at welsh-societyofthesuncoast.org. You can read the latest newsletter as well as checking on past issues. Once again we have to thank Candy Helber (a non-member) who so generously donates her time and expertise to help maintain this site. We will try to add more improvements as time goes by.



NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES

September 3-6 will be the North American Festival of Wales, this year to be held in Columbus, Ohio. www.Nafow.org is the link to read details, to register, and even to apply to compete in various Eisteddfod categories.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Roger Hughes reported that the Welsh Society ended this fiscal year with \$4,280 in the bank. This is approximately where we started the year, so the society is in good financial shape. However, with declining membership, we must continually be conscious of the future.

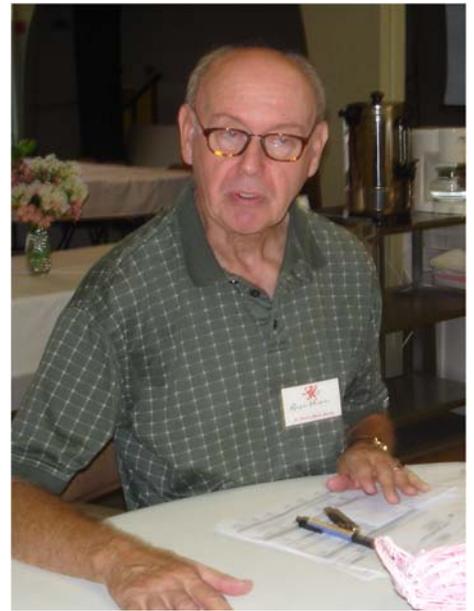


Who else but our own Leslie Jones could look so good in such sexy socks?



Kathy Roberts leads a program of singing—both popular songs and the familiar hymn tunes.

Good to see Vera Ruben smiling with us again.



Treasurer Roger Hughes keeps the bills paid.



Loyal members Pat and Rhianan Hardy get the prize once again for coming the farthest to attend meetings—all the way from Sarasota!

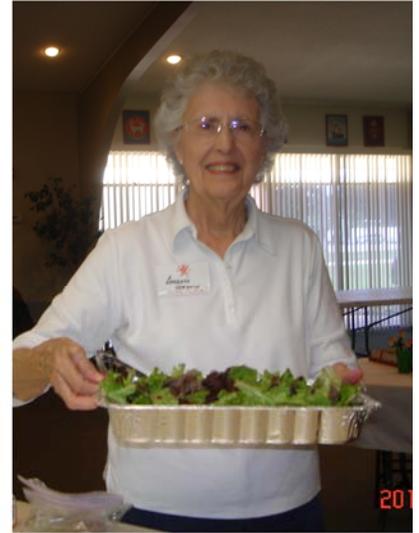


Paul Mellican enjoys a good story.

PICTURE PAGES



The smartest girl in her class, Ashley comes to the source for information for her class report about Wales. She brought her mother along as she needed to get back to school since she gave up her lunch hour to come to do her research.



Barbara Giraldi brought a healthy salad to share on the buffet table.

Pastor Bob reports on the latest football results before offering the blessing.



Ray Denman reports he will be heading north for the summer soon, but looks forward to seeing everyone again in the fall.



One can always count on the presence of Jan Briggs when there is a gathering of the Welsh.

Wendy Whitaker gives a good Welsh salute with her tea.