

St. David's Welsh Society of the Suncoast



November/December 2014



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.)



December brings back the Tarpon Singers to entertain us. They always have a surprise or two with them so be sure to be on hand to hear them this year. Could Rudolph or Santa or even the Christmas mouse put in an appearance? Do not forget to bring your own table service and put a little bit more in your sharing dish for our guests. Don and Jan Briggs will be bringing a ham, so find a good side dish to go along. REMINDER: This is a combination November and December meeting. We will get together on **December 9** at the usual place and time.



NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

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

2014-2015 Calendar

Regular Meetings at 12:00 noon
(November)/December 9, 2014 (2nd Tues)
January 20, 2015
February 17, 2015
April 21, 2015

St. David's Day Banquet (Banquet Masters)
March 8, 2015 (Sunday)
Social Hour 4:00 pm
Dinner 5:00 pm

Summer Luncheons (*various locations*)
May 19
June 16
July 21
August 18

Summer Early Bird Dinner
September 15, 2015 at 5:00 pm

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. It may take a couple of months to refine everything, but it seems to be working for now.



TRIVIA QUESTION: Where is the largest retractable roof of any sports arena in the World?

BIRTHDAYS

November

10 Cynthia Roberts
13 Connie Osmulski
18 Beth Smidt

December

4 Raymond Denman
4 Fred Roberts
6 Donna Williams
7 Kristy Alderson
9 Barbara Giraldi
12 Meryl Fell
19 Patrick Hardy
22 Norma Parry
24 Matt Hall
29 Sian McCarthy

31
McCarthy

Mac



ANNIVERSARIES

November

12 Tim and Diane Dill-Peterson
13 Roger and Lynne Hughes
28 J. Richard and Sue Owens

December

1 Donald and Doris Jenkins
27 Kelfryn and Jean James
31 Clark and Cindy Durkee Parry

DUE\$\$\$ ARE DUE

The treasury needs replenishing. Your dues are still only \$10.00 per person per year. In exchange you will receive a monthly newsletter and an updated directory listing all your Florida/Welsh friends. What a bargain! If you cannot attend the next meeting, you can send your dues to

Nancy Mellican
6 Fernery Lane
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

Your support is appreciated. Twenty-seven loyal members have paid so far.

AROUND THE MEMBERSHIP

Gwen Krause sends her love. Known as "Gigi" to her grandchildren, she is enjoying her two new great-grandchildren, who recently joined the family. It is good to be close to them.

Still battling the shingles, **Vera Ruben** manages to get out to the meetings.

Proud of their son-in-law's accomplishments, **Jan and Don Briggs** report that he has been appointed head coach of the Ohio girls' soccer team.

Another surgery has **Marian Thomas'** arm in a cast again. It is due to be removed in a couple of weeks, and another lighter one applied. She and **Dave** are planning to travel extensively this winter.

Beth Smidt sends greetings. She says she misses the meetings very much. We hope she will be able to make it down for her annual vacation and to attend the St. David's Day banquet.

Tell everyone hello is the message from **Mavis Lamont**. She hopes to make it to a few meetings this winter.

SAY SOMETHING IN WELSH



Dave Thomas reports there is an internet site that is very good at teaching Welsh. Go to ssiw.com to brush up on your pronunciation or to learn to speak the language from scratch. The emphasis is on speaking and the goal is to enable one to speak a few sentences

(and be understood) in a short time. Should be fun to try. You can even specify North or South Wales pronunciations!

BANQUET MASTERS MOVED

Banquet Masters, the traditional location of our St. David's Day Celebration has moved to 13355 49th Street North, Clearwater. It is now located on the corner of Ulmerton and 49th Street. A map will accompany reservation forms for the St. David's Day banquet. All who have been in the new facility say it is truly very elegant.

MEMORABLE MEMENTOS

Don Briggs started the year by bringing a picture of a Roman bridge built in 68 AD which is located near Janet's family home in mid-Wales near the slate quarries. The picture started Don reminiscing about a hike he took up the mountain to the bridge. Along the way he met some spelunkers who invited him to swim au natural in a flooded quarry. As they were emerging from the water, the Prince of Wales, taking a helicopter tour of the area, flew over. The men and Don (sans clothes) waved merrily to the Prince—and he waved back!

You are encouraged to bring a memento and a story to the next meeting.

PROGRAMS FOR COMING YEAR

January — Dr. Martin Lewis: Walking in Wales and an introduction to his latest book

February — Gareth and Donna Williams: Report on 2014 Eisteddfed and Danube River tour from Budapest to Prague

March — John Wilson and his Welsh connections

April — Kathy Roberts, pianist will lead group singing

Thanks to the hard work of Jan and Don Briggs for securing these programs!

A BIG POOLS WIN



SOON AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL WELSH TRADER DIED, HIS WIDOW WON A LARGE SUM ON THE FOOTBALL POOLS. ONE OF THE NEIGHBOURS CAME ROUND TO CONGRATULATE HER AND REMARKED "WHAT A PITY IT IS THAT YOUR MORGAN CAN'T SHARE IN YOUR GOOD FORTUNE."

"OH, BUT HE WILL", DECLARED THE WIDOW INDIGNANTLY, "I'M PAYING TO HAVE HIM DUG UP FROM THE BACK OF THE CEMETERY AND MOVED TO THE FRONT."

CARDIFF DARE-DEVIL AIMS TO CLIMB MT. EVEREST—THEN PARAGLIDE OFF IT

As if reaching the peak of the world's highest mountain weren't enough of a challenge, in February we reported the extraordinary ambition of former Cardiff Devils star Jeff Smith, who wants to climb Mount Everest. Now he reports he wants to paraglide off the top of Everest when he gets there. Jeff is planning the dramatic challenge to mark his 50th birthday, and despite still needing to get a license for the stunt, he's optimistic about his chances - he plans to paraglide off a series of mountains this year so he's full prepared. Rather him than us!



WELSH CHOIR TO PERFORM

The Sarasota Welsh Club invites you to attend a free performance by the Bois Afan Choir from Port Talbot, Wales. They have sung together for 28 years throughout the British Isles and in many European countries. Their repertoire includes popular music from the 30's through the 60's and from musicals and films in addition to traditional Welsh music.

The concert will be Tuesday evening, December 2, beginning at 7 p.m, at the First United Methodist Church in Sarasota at 104 Pineapple Avenue.

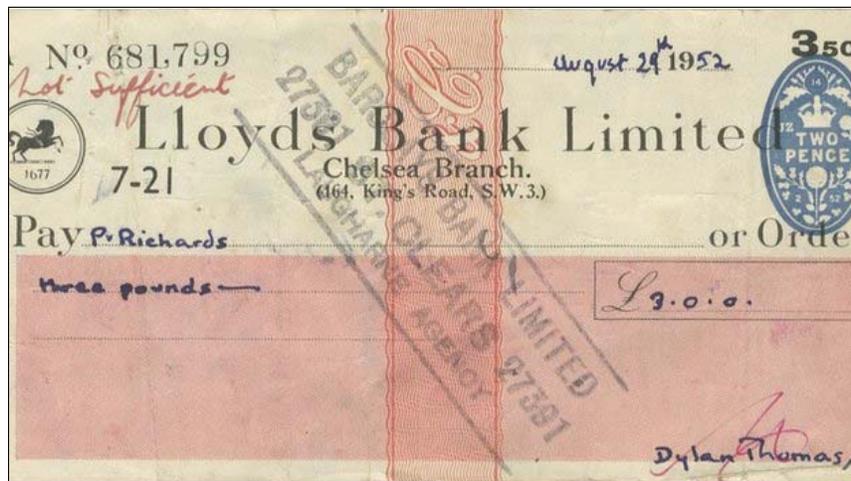
President Amy Ferrell reports that they need everyone's help making sure they have a great turnout. It's a big church, so invite everyone you know to come. There will be a freewill offering. There is a long tradition of Welsh Choirs in most communities in the many valleys of Wales beginning in the 19th Century. The special harmony and enthusiasm can be heard at rugby games as well as in concert halls, churches, and pubs throughout Wales. It is believed that part-singing began in Wales before the 12th century. Wales has long been called "The Land of Song".

WANTED (STILL) :

A portable keyboard for our banquet. The new location does not have a piano. If you know where we can obtain the use of one of these, please call Don Briggs at 938-7561.



Dylan Thomas' bounced cheques to pub landlord up for sale



Two bounced cheques made out by poet Dylan Thomas to the landlord of his local pub are to be auctioned.

The cheques and other Thomas memorabilia are going under the hammer in London next month. The £3 cheques - dated 29 August 1952 and 30 August 1953 - were made out to Phil Richards, the landlord of The Cross House Inn pub at Laugharne, Carmarthenshire.

Auctioneers Bonhams are estimating the value of the memorabilia at £3,000.

The Cross House Inn was one of Thomas's regular haunts when he lived in Laugharne from 1949 to 1953.

The pub and the probably better known Brown's Hotel in the town contributed to the fictional setting for the radio play, *Under Milk Wood*.

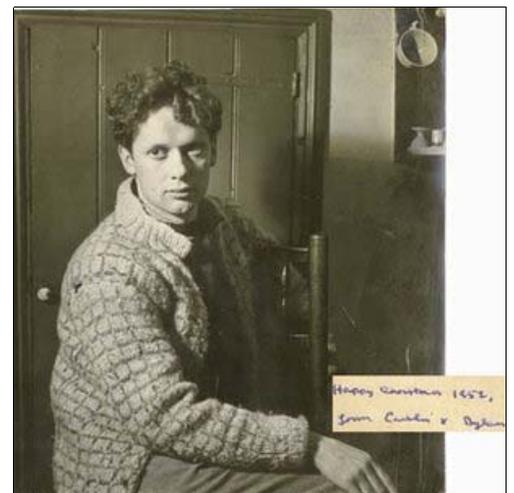
The last of the poet's bounced cheques was written a few weeks before Thomas left on the tour of America during which he died on 9 November 1953. They are drawn on a branch of Barclays Bank in London where the poet also lived and worked and where much of *Under Milk Wood* was written.

A signed picture of the author will also go under the auction block at Bonhams.

A third lot of photographs, signed books and other memorabilia has an estimated sale price of £600-£800.

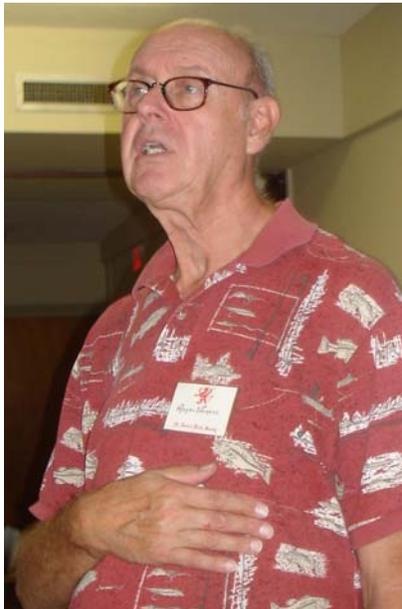
An author's presentation copy of the first edition of Thomas's *Collected Poems* dedicated 'to the Richardses' and dated November 1952, the month of its publication, is also for sale with an estimated price of £1,000-£1,500.

BBC news



PICTURE PAGES

Ever helpful, Janet Mulligan sets out the food for the buffet luncheon.



Treasurer Roger Hughes recites the pledge of allegiance.



A feast of delicious dishes always shows up for the buffet.



Pianist Jack Jacobs accompanies the lusty singing of Cum Rhondda and Calon Lan as well as the national anthems of America and Canada.



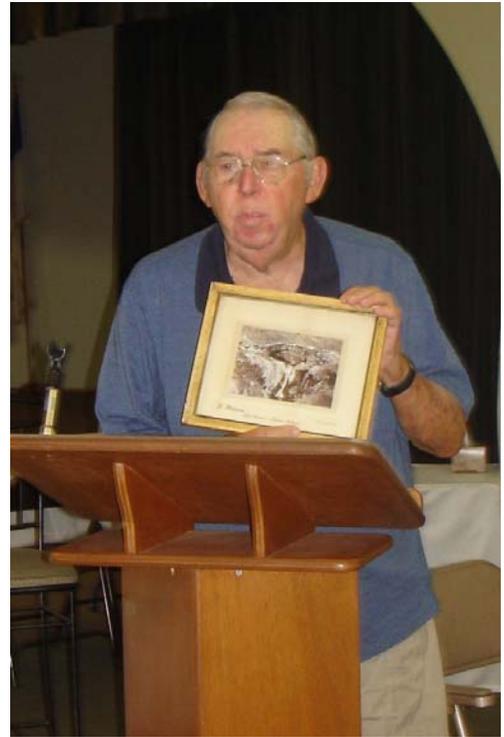
Pastor Bob and Vera Ruben discuss the latest newsletter.



Native speakers Kelfryn James and Wendy Whitaker enjoy lively conversation.



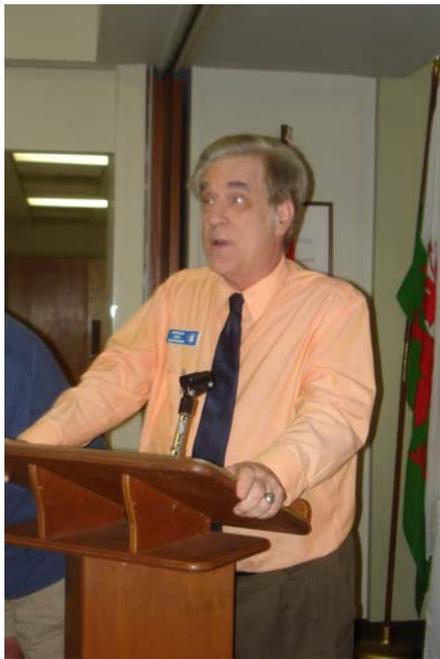
Matt Hall contemplates the program at the last meeting,



Don Briggs shares his memorable memento—a picture of an ancient Roman bridge in Wales (with a story to tell.)



Connie Osmulski struggles with the complexities of modern technology. The machine refused to cooperate.



A soccer/football enthusiast, Pastor Bob reports on the fortunes of Welsh football.



Always brightening the hall with their good humor, Barbara Girdi and Mary Hughes smile for the camera.

