

The Cambrian



A Publication of the Welsh Society of Fredericksburg VA Inc.

PO Box 723, Fredericksburg VA 22401

www.WelshFred.com

E-mail: Welsh Society@aol.com

Tel: 540-659-1879

A 501c3 organization

We Are Still Here

AUGUST/AWST 2017

Rydyn Ni Yma O Hyd

AUGUST MEETING

The annual picnic this year will be at the American Legion Hall off Fall Hill Avenue on Sunday, August 20, beginning at 3pm.

The address is 461 Woodford Street, Fredericksburg.

We'll have our usual potluck. Please call Jeannette or Myra to confirm you are coming and let her know what they're bringing so we don't have ten pots of baked beans!

Please mark your calendars. This is the first time we have had the picnic indoors.

There will be no vote on the by-laws, but we will have a short business meeting to discuss changes to the treasurer's duties.

Jeannette: 540 373-2697

Myra: 540 371-3906

DUES INCREASE FOR 2018

Please note that the Society voted to increase the dues (first dues increase in about 15 years) to \$25 in order to cover the new cost for a place to store Welsh Festival items.

THE 28TH WELSH FESTIVAL

Work on the 28th Welsh Festival in Fredericksburg sponsored by the James Monroe Museum and the Welsh Society of Fredericksburg is well underway. Please mark your calendars for Saturday Sept 16 from 11 AM to 5 PM. We can always use volunteers. Please contact Rik Rice at 540 371-2662 or Jeannette Episcopo at 540 373-2697 if you can volunteer.

A representative of the Welsh Government, Jon Walters, will give a presentation on how Wales is governed. Last year Gareth Morgan gave a similar talk.

NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES

The 2017 NAFOW will be in Rochester, NY 31 Aug – Sept 4. This is looking to be an excellent event. Go to <http://www.nafow.org> for more information.

TWO EMMY NOMS FOR MATTHEW RHYS

Welsh actor Matthew Rhys has again been nominated for an Emmy for his leading role in "The Americans". He has also been nominated as a guest actor in the series "Girls".

CATHOLIC PRIESTS ASKED TO LEAVE PUB

Seven Catholic priests walk into a bar – and get asked to leave because staff thought they were on a stag-do.

It may sound like the beginning of a really bad joke, but it really did happen over the weekend for one cheery group of seminarians.

The group was celebrating in Cardiff on Saturday after father Peter McClaren was ordained at the Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral of St David near Queen Street earlier that day. They decided to head to The City Arms to enjoy a pint or two.

The priests said: “On arrival, the bartender informed us that it was policy not to grant entry to fancy dress parties or stag ‘dos’. Upon hearing this, our initial impression was that this was a joke.

“A gentleman, whom we assumed to be the manager, then approached us at the door and reassured us that he did accept who we claimed to be and subsequently invited us back in. By way of apology, he then very graciously provided us with a round of drinks, at which point the group decided to stay, provoking an outburst of applause from the locals.”

They said: “All in all, the seminarians were both entertained by the whole affair and encouraged by the positive reaction of the local community prompted by the clerical collar. We look forward to future visits to the well-known establishment.”

The Archdiocese of Cardiff added: “We’d like to thank the City Arms for being good sports through all of this and their kind gesture to our seminarians – and please note a number of our clergy, including the Archbishop of Cardiff, frequent your bar so don’t turf any more out please!”

Matt Morgan, assistant manager at The City Arms, said: “At first one of our staff members thought the group were a stag party in fancy dress and suggested they might want to try another pub, as we generally have a quieter crowd of drinkers than others nearby.”



Group of priests at the City Arms

ART TREASURERS HIDDEN IN WALES IN WWII

The collection was worth millions, even back then, and included works by Van Gogh, Constable and Rembrandt.

"Hide them in caves and cellars, but not one picture shall leave this island."

So said Winston Churchill to the National Gallery's director, Kenneth Clark, when asked if the gallery's collection should be moved away from the Nazis. The invasion of Poland was threatened and invasion and widespread bombing was expected in Britain.

In the 10 days that preceded the British declaration of war on September 3, 1939, all the National Gallery's paintings were removed. Most were sent to Wales. They went to the University of Wales at Bangor, the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, Caernarfon Castle, Trawsgoed and Penrhyn Castle.

As the situation for the Allies got worse in 1940, it was decided the collection shouldn't be scattered around Wales. Taking them to Canada by ship was briefly considered but dismissed and it was eventually decided that a disused slate mine at Manod, near Blaenau Ffestiniog, fitted the bill perfectly.

Several small brick buildings - called "houses" or "bungalows" - were built within the caverns to protect the paintings from variations in humidity and temperature. By the summer of 1941, the whole collection was there, underground.



Paintings were moved through the caves on rail tracks (Image: Fred Ramage/Keystone Features/Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

NEW PLAQUE MARKS DEATH OF WELSH POET IN BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE

More than 1,000 people gathered outside the spot for an unveiling ceremony where tragic war poet Hedd Wyn died in Flanders a century ago.

Hedd Wyn, the bardic name of Ellis Humphrey Evans, died on the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele on July 31, 1917.

Wales' Archdruid Geraint Lloyd Owen revealed a commemorative slate planter at Hegebos near Ieper (Ypres) which signifies the rural Snowdonian landscape near Trawsfynydd which Hedd Wyn called home.

Heather brought over from Wales has been planted in it which will be a constant reminder of the poet.

The Archdruid said: "Hedd Wyn represents a lost generation of young men who went to war and never returned home.

"He was a poet who wrote a chair-winning poem and who knows what he might have gone on to achieve had he survived the war."

Among those who attended the ceremony organised by the North Wales Rugby choir, was Bobby Haines, 83, from Caernarfon.

"My grandfather was among those killed in the battle on July 31. He left a wife and four young children and life was very hard for them."

The unveiling of a commemorative item in Flanders had been the wish of the late John Isgoed Williams. After his death in early 2015, his wishes were continued by choir members with the co-operation of local Flemish authorities.

Hedd Wyn had been called up and joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers in January 1917. During his training in Liverpool and while waiting to go into battle, he wrote the epic poem, "Yr Arwr" ("The Hero"), which he entered for the chair competition at the 1917 /national Eisteddfod.

Five weeks after his death Hedd Wyn was announced winner of the competition. The chair was draped in black during a poignant ceremony.



Archdruid Geraint Lloyd Owen at a ceremony to unveil a commemorative planter in memory of Hedd Wyn who died during the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele in July 1917 (Image: Eryl Crump)



Hedd Wyn

WALES IN THE MOVIES SITE

Review of the new film Dunkirk from a Welsh viewpoint.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRXTC7Uo81I>

BEST WELSH BEERS

Two Welsh breweries scooped top prizes at the Great British Beer Festival and one of them was named as the overall third best beer in Britain. Newport brewery Tiny Rebel and Aberdare's Grey Trees both saw their beers pick up gold in their respective categories.

Tiny Rebel's red ale Cwtch - which was named Champion Beer of Britain in 2015 - won the gold award in the Best Bitters category. Grey Trees' American-style pale ale, called Afghan Pale Ale, picked up the top prize in the Strong Bitters category.

And Cwtch also picked up the bronze prize in the overall winners category, which saw Goats

Milk, from West Midlands brewery Church End, named as the overall Champion Beer of Britain.

ST FAGAN'S MAKE OVER

One of Wales' best-loved museums has had a makeover.

Visitors to St Fagans National Museum of History will be greeted by an improved entrance building this summer, along with a new addition to the site.

A revamped main building and new Gweithdy (workshop) are the latest developments of the £30 million Making History project, which will open to visitors on Friday, July 14.

"The complete redevelopment of the main building and the construction of a multi-purpose sustainable building are key to delivering our vision at St Fagans," said David Anderson, director general of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales.

The main building now features a new restaurant, a shop, and the Weston Centre for Learning, while the new workshop includes a studio where craft courses will be held from September 2017, as well as space for science workshops and archaeological experiments. The Museum is still working to raise its final £1m, to complete the project.

New galleries are planned to open in the main building and Gweithdy in October 2018, combining Amgueddfa Cymru's history and archaeology collections for the first time.



(Image: Walesonline)

ANGLESEY MOUNTAIN RICHES

A mountain in Wales could be worth £210m. This is according to a new report into the value of mineral deposits - including gold and silver. The scoping study was commissioned by the mountain's owner, Anglesey Mining, which also looked at the value of deposits of copper, lead and zinc.

While there would be a significant cost to mining the deposits - which would also be subject to price fluctuations - they have been put at £210m.

NATIONAL ARMED FORCES DAY 2018

Up to 200,000 visitors are expected at next year's National Armed Forces Day in Conwy county.

The 10th Armed Forces Day national event will take place in and around Llandudno on the last Saturday in June 2018.

It will see tens of thousands of people visit on the day for a military parade featuring 1,200 service personnel, veterans and cadets as well as other events to celebrate the military.

The Welsh Government will provide up to £250,000 to help stage the day and there will also be £25,000 provided by the Ministry of defense.

SWANSEA NAMED ON CITY OF CULTURE 2021 SHORTLIST

Swansea has made the final shortlist in the race to be named UK City of Culture 2021.

Sunderland, Coventry, Paisley and Stoke-on-Trent are the fellow finalists that stand in the way of Swansea succeeding Hull to take the coveted title.

The winner of the award, which comes with a £3m Heritage Lottery Fund grant, will be chosen in December.

Due to the preparation required for the tenure, UK City of Culture status is only awarded every four years.

"The city, its people and its cultural offering

have been put on the map, they have created some head-turning cultural events and projects, and it is estimated that the value of investment in their programs and in their city center comes in at more than £100m in funding from bodies like the Arts Council and the National Lottery and from private businesses based in and investing in the city.” While the title comes with a grant of £3m it is estimated to be worth much more to the winning city in terms of tourism and economic impact for businesses.

BODELWYDDAN CASTLE

The Trust that runs the popular attraction Bodelwyddan Castle says it will not give up its 125 year lease after it was revealed that Denbighshire council was looking to sell the site.

It was reported on Friday that the county council is in talks over the purchase of the freehold of Bodelwyddan Castle, which is currently run by a Trust as a museum and art gallery.

Although the identity of the potential buyer was not released by the council, Warner Leisure Hotels, which owns Bodelwyddan Castle Hotel, says it is talking to the council about “future plans” for the castle.

But Bodelwyddan Castle Trust bosses say that any “assumption” that they will relinquish its rights under the lease are wrong.



Bodelwyddan Castle

WARNING TO WALES OVER BREXIT

The man negotiating Brexit for the EU has warned that British politicians still don't seem to understand what is possible in future. EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said that the leading politicians calling for "frictionless trade" after we leave the Single Market were deluded.

MCDONALDS IN SWANSEA

UberEats is coming to Swansea - and its arrival will mean you can get your McDonald's delivered straight to your door.

From today (July 7), the on-demand food app will be delivering to homes in Swansea between 8am and midnight every day of the week.

Businesses signed up so far include McDonald's, Brewstone, The Bucket List and Tino's.

As the scheme launches, 20 restaurants have signed up.

The company says it is different to other schemes like Deliveroo as there is no minimum spend.

Users have to download the app and can search by cuisine or restaurant name.

It's a separate app to the car hire one and allows you to have restaurant food delivered to your office or home. The food isn't delivered by car, but by a separate team of couriers using motorbikes or cycles.

JELLYFISH ON WELSH BEACHES



(Image: Peter Bolter)

Huge jellyfish have been washing up on Welsh beaches.

Runners and surfers have been seeing the jellyfish, some of which are up to one meter in diameter.

A runner snapped some of these animals on Coney beach in Porthcawl .

Dr. Peter Richardson is the head of ocean recovery and jellyfish expert at the Marine Conservation Society.

He said: "The jellyfish in these pictures are a barrel jellyfish.

Barrel jellyfish are common in UK seas and they one of our largest jellyfish species, growing to about 1m in diameter and weighing up to 30kgs."

The Latin name is *Rhizostoma octopus* with *Rhizostoma* meaning "root mouth" and "octopus" referring to the eight thick tentacles that hang below the bell.

Are they dangerous?

According to Dr Richardson they have a very mild, nettle-like sting and feed on plankton.

MICHAEL SHEEN ON WALES

If there's one thing Michael Sheen can do, it's get the blood pumping.

So when the One Show's host Matt Baker asked the 48-year-old actor to sell Wales to the watching millions, the Underworld actor duly delivered.

Draped in a Welsh flag, the Newport-born Hollywood star gave a rousing speech to send shivers down the spine of any patriotic Welsh person.

Sheen is working on a bid to bring the Homeless World Cup to Wales. Pitching his bid, Sheen, who's currently dating American comedian Sarah Silverman, said: "We're working on a bid for the next couple of years. We don't know when it might be."

NOTE: "The Homeless World Cup is an annual football tournament organized by the Homeless World Cup organization, a social organization which advocates the end of homelessness through the sport of association football (or soccer). The organization puts together an annual football tournament where teams of homeless people from each country compete. The fifteenth edition of the Homeless

World Cup will take place in Oslo, Norway in 2017. The defending champions are Mexico, who won in Glasgow in 2016. "

And then he dived in with both feet, belting out: "The mighty dragon of Wales is stirring from ancient slumber, from the snowcapped mountains of Snowdonia, along the windswept valleys of the Rhondda, across Cardiff's great fields of glory, the land is awakening.

"The land of Llewellyn. The land of Owain Glyndwr. The land of (Welsh Actor) Rob Brydon."

His epic speech was enough to bring the presenters to their feet, convinced that Michael had just single-handedly brought the Homeless World Cup to Wales.

Not bad considering he made it all up on the spot.

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/tv/michael-sheen-delivered-cuff-speech-13316126?>

[ptnr_rid=388473&icid=EM_WalesOnline_Nletter_News](http://www.walesonline.co.uk/lifestyle/tv/michael-sheen-delivered-cuff-speech-13316126?ptnr_rid=388473&icid=EM_WalesOnline_Nletter_News)



Michael Sheen

COLDPLAY IN CARDIFF

This is the moment Coldplay led the Principality Stadium crowd in a rendition of the Welsh national anthem.

Coldplay - one of the biggest bands on the planet - had performed hits including Paradise, Yellow and A Head Full of Dreams before ending with Hen Wlad fy Nhadau.

Chris Martin played piano as two Welsh singers joined them on stage to sing the anthem.

They also sang a short song dedicated to Wales because guitarist Jonny Buckland grew up in

Flintshire.

http://www.walesonline.co.uk/whats-on/music-nightlife-news/coldplay-ended-cardiff-principality-stadium-13317928?ptrid=388473&icid=EM_WalesOnline_Nletter_News

GORSEDD OF THE BARDS

A rugby international, a football manager and the widow of an inspirational cancer campaigner were among a number of people honoured by the Gorsedd of Bards at a ceremony at the National Eisteddfod. Strong winds and the threat of rain forced organisers to hold the ceremony indoors rather than around the Gorsedd circle on the Maes. Wales, British & Irish Lions and Northampton Saints winger George North and Wales football team assistant manager Osian Roberts were invested as members of the Gorsedd of Bards. Irfon Williams was due to be honored but died of cancer at the end of May just days after his invitation to join had been announced. In a break with tradition his widow Rebecca was invited to attend the ceremony. His citation was read out to the audience and she was presented with his certificate of membership. Rebecca said, “it is important to me to speak Welsh and take the language with me wherever I go and keep Welsh culture alive.” Osian Roberts, who was raised a few miles from the Maes at Bodffordd, added: “It was a great experience.” S4C presenter Nia Roberts and Ysgol Glanaethwy co-founder Rhian Roberts were also invested as members of the Gorsedd. Nia said: “It was a different experience. I am so used to be watching it and commentating on the ceremony and then asking people about it. Today I’m the one being asked questions. “It was nice to join the Gorsedd on home

territory.”

Twins Emyr and Trefor Wyn Jones, originally from Llangristiolus, were among a quartet of people from the village to be invested into the Gorsedd during the ceremony.

Talented singers who have kept audiences entertained across North Wales for many years they said it was a “wonderful experience”.

The other two villagers were keen photographer and historian Derec Owen and musician Elen Wyn Keen.

They were among the 42 people from all walks of life who were welcomed into the Gorsedd by the Archdruid Geraint Lloyd Owen.



George North at the 2017 Gorsedd ceremony

NINNAU SUBSCRIPTION

Ninnau has 'launched' an electronic version of Ninnau, not just a pdf, but an interactive version, starting with the May-June issue. It will continue to have a paper copy available too.

<http://www.ninnau.com>

The Cambrian
A publication of:
The Welsh Society of Fredericksburg,
Inc.
PO Box 723, Fredericksburg VA 22404
(540)- 659-1879
A 501 3 c organization

President:	Jeannette Episcopo
Vice President:	Rik Rice
Treasurer:	Myra Wiggins
Secretary:	Mary Triola
Festival Chair:	Jeannette Episcopo

Newsletter Editor: Bob Roser
Webmaster Bill Reese
Dues are \$15 per year per family (2017)
Dues are \$25 per year per family (2018)
Lifetime membership \$150
Web: www.welshfred.com
e-mail: welshsociety@aol.com
Facebook Group:
Welsh Society of Fredericksburg