



# St. David's Society of Utica

## Newsletter - April 2017



### Upcoming Events

#### **SPRING GYMANFA GANU**

Sunday, May 7th, 3 p.m.

**Ilion First Presbyterian Church,  
80 Morgan Street, Ilion, NY**

Conductor is Jay Williams III, featured soloist is Dominic Fiacco, organist is Sue Bartholomew and pianist is Jeanne Jones. Host is Rev. Rick Riggle.

#### **MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ( MVCC)**

#### **INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**

Start 12.30 pm, Thurs. April 13th

Questions, call 315/792-5539 or email MKHAN@mvcc.edu.

**Donations of Welsh cakes for above events welcomed.**



Please contact Society President Ted Engle (tedengle48@gmail.com and 315-338-3538).

#### **NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES ( NAFW)**

**Aug 31st - Sept. 4th  
at the Rochester Hyatt Regency,  
Rochester, NY.**

Call 585-546-1234 (mention NAFW for special rate).

More information about events of the St David's Society of Utica can be found on our website [www.saintdavidsociety.org](http://www.saintdavidsociety.org) or 315-768-7115.

## St David's Day Flag Raising Ceremony



*L-R: David Dudgeon, Lois Humphreys, Cindy Gilbert, Janet Washburn, Linda Walters, Robert Jones, Ted Engle, and Mayor Robert Palmieri*

An official flag raising at Utica City Hall on March 1st marked our 83rd annual St David's Day celebration. Mayor Robert Palmieri read an official proclamation declaring March 1st as "Saint David's Day in the City of Utica" then assisted in raising the flag.

Committee members Janet Washburn, Cindy Gilbert and Linda Walters presented the mayor with daffodils and Welsh tea cakes. The event was also covered by news station WKTU Channel 2 with a special showing on the Noon, 5PM and 6PM news shows.

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**YOUNGEST GUEST AT THE 2016 CHRISTMAS PARTY** was six-week old Daniel Tolbert, seen here with his grandmother Shirley Tolbert .

The person who traveled the farthest distance to attend was Peter Watts, a recent immigrant to our area from Swansea City, Wales.

More party news overleaf.....

# Members brave blizzard to attend Christmas celebration



Party organizers Ralph and Lois Humphreys and Stew Williams.

Despite a morning blizzard the Christmas party went ahead December 18<sup>th</sup> at New Hartford UMC Fellowship Hall with more than 55 attending.

The society provided cold cuts and pizza with members bringing desserts or a dish to pass.

All enjoyed Christmas carols, games and performances and every child received a Christmas present.



Stew Williams judges the snowmen contest. L-R they are Evan Tolbert, Sydney Banks, Aurora Williams and Gracie Ruganis.

For entertainment, we hired magician, Shawn Robison, who used Aurora Williams, Sydney Banks, and Gracie Ruganis as assistants as he dazzled the audience with magic tricks and zany humor.

Stew Williams conducted a snowman building contest using tissue paper, carrots, and other apparel to determine which team could build the most original snowman.

Gracie Ruganis played “Good King Wenceslas” on the piano, Cody Smith did an acrobatic routine with a spinning plate and David Dudgeon led the group in singing “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Eve”.

## Tell Us What You Think

As we plan future events, we welcome your input. Ideas for social occasions for members, family and friends currently under discussion are listed below. If any of these are of interest to you, please contact St David’s Society President Ted Engle (tedengle48@gmail.com and 315-338-3538) who can also supply more details.



### PAINTING PARTY

A couple of places around Utica host painting parties where instruction and all materials (paint, canvas, smock etc) are pro-

vided for groups along with snacks. For more details contact Ted.

### WALES WORLD CUP SOCCER MATCHES

This would involve getting together to watch the game. We’d have a back room in a bar which would provide food etc. Once again, would be open to members, family and friends.



### WELSH HERITAGE DAY

A presentation/show about Wales at the Oneida County Historical Society, including perhaps help with researching family trees and a cooking demonstration.



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The mayor recognized the area’s rich Welsh history dating back to the

1790’s when hundreds of Welsh settlers staked their claim to the new world. He cited Utica as the hub of the Welsh book publishing industry in

America noting that one of the first Welsh language periodicals - The American Watchman or “Y Gwyheydd Americanaidd” was published there.



**L-R: Guest vocalist David Kolb, Conductor Tristan Jones and organist Susan Bartholomew**

## Fall Gymanfa in New Hartford

More than 110 people attended the Fall Gymnanfa Ganu held at New Hartford Presbyterian Church in October. The conductor was Tristan Jones, soloist was David Kolb with Susan Bartholomew organist and Jeannie Jones pianist. The host pastor Rev. Dr. Sue Riggle gave the Invocation and Rainer Morgan Rzucidlo read the 100th Psalm in Welsh.

A te bach was held following the service organized by Shirley Tolbert, Sharon Lanahan, Linda Walters and Della Williams when traditional Welsh tea cakes and bara brith were served and historic photographs of past venues and events circulated.

Past President Stewart Williams, announced a major financial contribution to the Society's Scholarship Fund from the Trustees of the Salem Congregational Society.

## St. David's Day

### Banquet and meeting

The annual Dinner Meeting in celebration of St. David's Day at Harts Hill Inn on February 26th was attended by 75 people.



Guests were welcomed by President Ted Engle with Kylie Cleary leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Rev Jay G. Williams III gave the invocation and benediction and Robert Jones led the group in singing a rousing edition of the Welsh National Anthem.

Entertainment was provided by John Hutson on guitar who sang a variety of songs including some by Tom Jones.

Edward Brydon a photojournalist from Menai Bridge, North Wales gave a brief talk about his project to trace connections between Welsh descendants in Central NY with their ancestors and relatives in North Wales. This area was the site of immigration 1801 to 1850 and as available land became saturated with farm settlement the Utica area became a launching

point to further immigration west due to its location on the Erie Canal as well as a cultural and publishing center for Welsh Americans.

After dinner, we had a brief annual meeting to review our financial status and current membership. As the officers serve two three-year year terms we did not need new elections. The current officers are: Linda Walters -Vice president, Dolores Pugh-Secretary, Cindy Gilbert-Treasurer, John Rzucidlo-Webmaster, Pat Williams -Membership Chairman, Shirley Tolbert-Sunshine, Robert Jones -Historian and Committee members David Dudgeon, Stewart Williams, Mary Lou Rosecrants, Sharon Lanahan, Leonard Pugh, Ralph Humphreys, Rainer Morgan Rzucidlo and Norm Jones.

### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications can be found on our website ([saintdavidssociety.org](http://saintdavidssociety.org))  
Deadline is June 1st.

**E-NINNAU** - An electronic version of Ninnau, The North American Welsh Newspaper, is now available. Annual subscription is \$20. The newspaper subscription is now \$30 but subscription to both paper and electronic, is \$35.

Ninnau ( which means 'us' and pronounced 'nin-eye') is published every two months providing news and commentary about Welsh North Americans, publicizing events and providing a link between Americans and the people of Wales.

You can subscribe online at [ninnau.com](http://ninnau.com) or call 607-279-6499.



**SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM**

Awarding scholarships is a tradition of St. David's Society and will continue with your help. Please consider making a donation this year. Contributions go into a Trust Fund and provide assistance to students now and in the future.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (payable to St David's Society of Utica, NY)

(IF APPLICABLE: Donation is  in honor of  in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail to: Treasurer: Cindy Gilbert, 3 Woodstock Court, New Hartford, NY 13413**