



St. David's Society of Utica



Newsletter - September 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL GYMANFA GANU

Sunday, October 13th, 3 pm

Tabernacle Baptist Church

13 Clark Place, Utica NY

Jay Williams III conductor,

Susan Bartholomew organist and

Jeanne Jones, pianist.

(Memorials – see form on back page.)

REMSSEN BARN FEST

Sat. and Sun., September 28 & 29th.

Gymanfa, Sun. 29th at Old Stone Church

To volunteer at Welsh Booth

or contribute Welshcakes

Call Stew Williams

315-725-3391

NELSON GYMANFA GANU

Sunday, September 8th, 3 p.m.

Nelson Welsh Congregational Church

Welsh Church Rd (off Rte. 20 5mls west

of Morrisville)

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Thursday, October 24, 11.30-1.30pm

MVCC

STEBEN PLAYERS DINNER THEATRE

Nov. 1 & 2 at 6 pm and Nov.3 at 1 pm

Steuben Town Hall.

REMSSEN STEUBEN DINNER MEETING

Monday, Oct. 7th at 6 pm

Steuben Town Hall.

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Please check our website for details & updates.

www.saintdavidssociety.org

Welsh TV crew at parade

Welsh television crew, Rondo Media joined society members in this year's annual 4th of July parade in Utica.

Rondo Media films a television series called Codi Hwyl (Raise Your Spirits) broadcast on the Welsh language network S4C.

(Continued on page 2)



Young marchers Violet and Evie Pelkey with their parents

Scholarships Awarded

Two scholarships for the 2019-2020 school year were awarded by St. David's Society of Utica according to President Linda Walters.

Scholarships of \$700 each went Nia M. Lloyd and Joseph A. Falvo.

According to St. David's Scholarship Chair David Dudgeon, donations to the scholarship fund may be sent to St. David's Society Trust Fund in care of Treasurer Cindy Gilbert, 3 Woodstock Court, New Hartford, NY 13413.

Spring 2019 Gymanfa

Our Spring Gymanfa Ganu was held in Westernville Presbyterian Church.

Special guest vocalists were Gene and Joseph Falvo of Utica. Gene is president of Falvo Manufacturing and his son Joseph, is a student at TR Proctor High School. Both father and son perform with the St John's Choir. Gene sang Schubert's Ave Maria and Joseph sang Handel's Lascia ch'io Pianga. Together they sang Arglwydd, Dyma Fi in both English and Welsh.

President Linda Walters welcomed guests and Rainer Morgan Rzucidlo read the 100th Psalm in Welsh followed by a reading in English by Rev. Jeff Courter, pastor of the church. Barbara Robinson officiated the Memorial Service. The conductor was Tristan Jones of Scotch Plains, NJ who led the attendees in singing hymns in both English and Welsh. He led the 100-strong congregation in singing such



Tristan Jones, Joseph Falvo, and Gene Falvo

favorites as Cwm Rhondda and Milwaukee in English and Calon Lan in Welsh.

After the Gymanfa, the guests were treated to a Te Bach.

The village of Westernville was settled in the 1790's and one of the first residents, General William Floyd, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Emily Rhoades, a four-time recipient of the St. David's Society scholarship, recently graduated magna cum laude from Siena College. Along with academic distinction, she

graduated as an Honors Fellow and was the recipient of the Major Field Award in English. Emily is currently working as an editorial intern at Assured Information Security in Rome, NY and has plans to continue her education by pursuing a master's degree.

(Continued from page 1)

The series involves Welsh actor John Pierce Jones and his friend Dilwyn Morgan who travel to various locations and features their good-natured dialogue as well as showing interesting scenery. Previously they filmed in Celtic locales like Scotland, Ireland and Britany. This season they have expanded their range and are visiting various locations where the Welsh have immigrated and still have a presence.

David Dudgeon and Shirley Tolbert organized our group with the assistance of the parade committee.



L-R: John Pierce Jones, Dilwyn Morgan and producer Inge Hanson

The parade committee was excited that we were expanding the coverage from a local event to one that could promote our region overseas.

John and Dilwyn led our group which was one of the first divisions in the 75-minute parade and in-

cluded about 50 members of our society and the Remsen Steuben Historical Society dressed in Welsh garb and carrying the flags of Wales but also a sampling of other Celtic countries. In addition, we had three antique vehicles decorated with Welsh banners. The vehicles

were Hugh Humphrey's classic 1957 Chevy, Don Stewards 1946 Dodge Truck, and Barry Jones' antique milk wagon.

By any measure the parade was a great success. TV producer, Inge Hanson, thought the parade film would be a good opening for the series in the upcoming season.

Welsh immigration is theme at Heritage Day

Our Society held its second Heritage Day at the Oneida County History Center on Genesee Street in Utica. The theme was the coming of Welsh immigrants to Oneida County.

The first immigrants were from North Wales in 1795, settling in the Remsen-Steuben area on the estate of Revolutionary War hero Baron von Steuben. After the war, a grateful New York gave him 16,000 acres of land which he subdivided, the first parcels being sold to Welsh families. Soon many others came and the Welsh became the largest ethnic group in Central NY.

Visitors were entertained by Peggy and Timothy Behrendt of Cold Brook, NY. Peggy played the harp, accompanied by her husband Timothy. They also played harmonica, flute and guitar performing a selection of songs including the Welsh folk classic "All through the Night."

Guests visited various booths with Welsh food and memorabilia. Cindy Gilbert and Janet Washburn served tea cakes and bara brith while Wendy Jones Divine served tea. David Dudgeon had a live PC station helping visitors trace their Welsh roots. Norm Jones sold Welsh items and Shirley Tolbert and Barbara Richardson displayed Welsh books, keepsakes and photos.

We hope to expand the festival and perhaps make it a regular celebration of Welsh heritage.



Janet Washburn and Norm Jones



Timothy and Peggy Behrendt

French Road Song Fest

One of summer's Welsh themed events was the French Road Church and Cemetery Association's annual song fest.

The Rev. Credle welcomed guests and his wife Barbara hosted the Te Bach. Pricilla Heburn read the 96th Psalm in English and Welsh.



Hugh Jones and John Andalora

Hugh Jones conducted, leading the congregation in three sessions of hymns, some in English but the majority in both Welsh and English.

The accompanist was Doris MacDonnell of Forestport.

John Andalora was the special guest vocalist and sang "In our Midst" and the Welsh classic. "All through the Night".

MEMORIAL DONATION

(for the Gymanfa Ganu program)

In Memory of _____

From _____ Amount \$ _____

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

Awarding scholarships has been a tradition of our St. David's Society for many years and will continue to happen with your help, so please consider donating this year. Contributions go into a Trust Fund which is used to provide assistance to students for this coming school year and in the future.

From _____ Amount \$ _____

Clip form and send with donation to: **Cindy Gilbert, 3 Woodstock Ct, New Hartford, NY 13413**

Thank you for your generosity. We appreciate your support!