



St. David's Society of Utica

Newsletter, Sept. 2022



Email: info@SaintDavidsSociety.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nelson Gymanfa Ganu

September 11th 3 p.m.

Nelson Welsh Church
(Old Church Rd off Rt 20)

Remsen Barn Fest and Gymanfa

Sat. Sept 24 & Sun 25th, 9am– 5pm

Fall Gymanfa Ganu

Oct 2nd, 3pm

New Hartford Presbyterian Church, 45
Genesee St.

Sue Bartholomew, organist, Jay Williams III
conductor,



Induction of Robert Everett To Abolition Hall of Fame

Weekend Oct. 21st, 22nd and 23rd

Peterboro, NY

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WALES SOCCER

Wales has qualified for the finals in the
International World Cup in Soccer!

1st match v USA is 2pm, Nov 21

2nd match v Iran is 5am, Nov 24

3rd match v England is 2pm, Nov 29.

All times are EST so need to set an alarm
on 24th!

Please check our website for details & up-
dates.

www.saintdavidsociety.org

St David's Day Flag Raising



Brian Hughes hoists the Welsh Dragon above Utica City Hall watched by (L-R) Roger Williams, Janet Washburn, Norm Jones, Cindy Gilbert, Jon Gilbert, Linda Walters and Mayor Palmieri. (Story page 2)

Remsen Barn Fest Weekend

This year we're sharing a booth with the Remsen-Steuben Historical Society. The booth will be located on the west side of Main Street just before Didymus Thomas Library.

Volunteers are needed as always to bake tea cakes and staff the booth. We'll be selling tea cakes, flags, T-shirts and hats etc.

A Gymanfa Ganu will take place 2.30 pm Sunday in the Old Stone Meeting House.

Robert Everett inducted into Abolition Hall of Fame

Robert Everett, Calvin Fairbank, and Stephen Myers will be inducted into the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum (NAHOF) in Peterboro NY on Saturday, Oct. 22. The event has been postponed twice due to Covid.

The weekend begins Friday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. with a Musical Trib-

ute to Rev. Robert Everett with Welsh music and Everett poetry readings. Saturday, there's a guided tour of the Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark with the Abolition Symposia in the afternoon followed by a dinner .

Full details of the weekend program and how to register - page 3

St David's Day Dinner and tribute to David Dudgeon

Our dinner, held in March 2022 at Hart's Hill Inn Whitesboro, provided occasion to pay tribute to David Dudgeon III, a long-time member of our society, who had recently passed away. In addition to being an organizer of the society events, David was also an avid participant in other area Welsh events such as Remsen and Nelson. He also participated at the North American Gymanfa and was instrumental in developing and maintaining the society's scholarship program.

At the dinner, Rev Roger Williams gave the Invocation and Benediction. Daron Rees-Rohrbacher led the group in an enthusiastic singing of Calon Lân and Jay Williams III gave an instructional talk on the famous Welsh explorer Prince Madog. Prince Madog was once believed to have settled in North America long before the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1170. Although the accomplishments of Madog are now disputed by most historians, he still remains a legendary figure in local folklore.

At the yearly meeting, outgoing President Linda Walters introduced the slate of officers for the upcoming year. Judge James Griffith is the new President of the Utica Society. Judge Griffith is a retired Oneida County Family Court Judge. Brian Hughes is the new Vice President. Dolores Pugh and Cindy Gilbert continue as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

New additions to the executive board are Gene Falvo and Janet Washburn. Returning board members include Wendy Jones-Divine, Roger Williams, Pat Williams, John Rzucidlo, Rainer Rzucidlo, Stewart Williams, Leonard Pugh, Barbara Robinson, Mary Lou Rosecrants, Shirley Tolbert and Norm Jones.

Flag ceremony speech about Welsh settlement in NY

On March 1, 2022 the St David's Society of Utica was welcomed by Utica Mayor Robert Palmieri for the annual flag ceremony at City Hall to commemorate St David's Day.

Mayor Palmieri presented the members with a declaration proclaiming March 1st as St David's Day in Utica, then gave a brief talk outlining some of the contributions of the Welsh to Central New York

The Welsh first came to Central New York in 1795. Six families from North Wales purchased land from Baron von Steuben who was a Revolutionary War hero. Baron Von Steuben was a Prussian soldier who volunteered his service to General George Washington at Valley Forge. He is credited with training and restoring the morale to the struggling Continental Army. A grateful New York State granted Steuben 16,000 acres in Upstate New York which he gradually subdivided into farms.

The original Welsh settlers were soon joined by others from primarily North Wales attracted to the area by the



L-R: Janet Washburn, Norm Jones Cindy Gilbert, Linda Walters and Mayor Palmieri

available land. Eventually the Welsh migrated into the various cities and towns and became the dominate ethnic group in Central New York. The earliest settlers were farmers but others became involved in the construction of the Erie Canal and the Industrial Revolution. Because The Erie Canal was a gateway to the West, Utica became a cultural center for the early Welsh immigrants. Utica was the site for four North American Gymanfa Meetings and the early site for Welsh publishing

Rugby Party: Wales v England

On Saturday 2/26/22 the Utica St David's Society held their annual Rugby party at the Celtic Harp on Varick Street in Utica. It has been a tradition to have a party to watch the Wales National team play in the yearly Six Nations Tournament. The Six Nations Tournament is a round-robin competition with the national teams of Wales, England, Scotland, Ireland, France and Italy all vying for the championship. Despite being the smallest nation in the tournament, Wales has always acquitted themselves well and won last year's competition.

This year the game closest to St David's Day was the match chosen and it was against traditional rival England. It was a difficult match as England scored early and had a commanding lead at half-time. Wales, however, was able to make a spirited comeback and the final score was only a 25 to 22 deficit.

We had 23 in attendance which was smaller than recent years but still a good turnout considering New



(L-R) Norm Jones, Leonard Pugh, Dolores Pugh, Brooke Villiere, Shirley Tolbert, Janet Washburn, Linda Walters

York State had just removed the Covid restrictions on group gatherings. The restaurant had an upper room with four available televisions so everyone could get a good viewing and it was an opportunity to have people socializing again.

Everyone enjoyed the event and we had a good cross-section of both younger and older members in attendance.

National Hall of Fame induction of Robert Everett: weekend program

FRI , Oct 21, 7 pm Welsh Concert

SAT, Oct. 22 10 am Tour Gerrit Smith Estate NHL
11 am Hall of Fame and Museum Opens
(12:30 pm NAHOF Annual Meeting)

1.30 p.m. Abolition Symposia

1:30 Robert Everett
2:30 Calvin Fairbank
3:30 Stephen Myers
5:00 pm 19th C. Antislavery Box Dinner
7:00 pm Inductions & Banner Unveiling

SUN, Oct 23 9:00 am Florence Farming Settlement
10:00 am Fairbank Home
Noon 1835 Abolition Walk Enactment

COST is \$50 for all weekend programs

Contact information is:

NATIONAL ABOLITION HALL of FAME and MUSEUM (NAHOF)

P.O. Box 55 5255 Pleasant Valley Road
Peterboro NY 13134

www.NationalabolitionHallofFameandMuseum.org
nahofm1835@gmail.com 315-684-3262



David Dudgeon

In Memoriam

David was very active organizing society events , served terms as president and designed and ran the Scholarship program .

Jeanne served terms as president , was musical director and accompanist for the St. David's Welsh Choir and accompanist at Gymanfas



Jeanne Jones

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!

St. David's Society of Utica
c/o Roger Williams,
4 Fairlane Drive,
Whitesboro, NY 13492