



St. David's Society of Utica



Newsletter - September 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL GYMANFA GANU

Sunday, October 7th
Clinton Methodist Church
105 Utica Road, Clinton, NY
Jay Williams III conductor,
Susan Bartholomew organist and
Special Music by harpist Peggy Behrendt.
(Memorials – see form on back page.)

REMSEN BARN FEST

Sat. and Sun., September 22 & 23
To volunteer at Welsh Booth
or contribute Welshcakes
Call President Linda Walters
315-735-9896

NELSON GYMANFA GANU

Sunday, September 9th at 3 p.m.
Nelson Welsh Congregational Church
Welsh Church Rd just south of Route 20

NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU

Labor Day weekend (Aug 31-Sept 2)
Washington D.C.

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Plans for a **CHRISTMAS PARTY** this December and a **PUB NIGHT** in the New Year are in the works.

Please check our website for updates.

www.saintdavidssociety.org



Spring Gymanfa Ganu at New Hartford Presbyterian Church



Conductor Iwan Edwards of Montreal, Canada with guest vocalist Margaret McAvaney of Illion (story page 2)

Four Scholarships Awarded

Four scholarships for the 2018-19 school year were awarded by St. David's Society of Utica according to President Linda Walters.

Scholarships of \$700 went to the following individuals: Sydney R. Gape, Brandon T. Pugh, Emily J. Rhoades and Rebecca G. Williams. A portion of the award for Emily J. Rhoades was funded through the L. John Blumberg Fund for excellence in journalism and music.

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

Spring Gymanfa in Memory of Rev. Stephen L. Reese

Our Spring Gymanfa Ganu on May 6th was in memory of Rev. Stephen L. Reese of Leonardsville who died earlier in the year.

Reese, who served the Columbus Community Church as pastor for 36 years, was a member of the St David's Choir and served multiple terms as president of our society. He was also president and co-chairman of the planning and hosting of the 65th National Gymanfa Ganu held in Utica in 1996.

Famed conductor Iwan Edwards from Montreal, Canada led more than 100 attendees at the gymanfa, singing hymns familiar and new, both in English and Welsh. Edwards was born in Wales and studied music at the University of Wales. After relocating to Canada, he joined the faculty at McGill University in Montreal. Over the years he has conducted many groups in particular the famed St Lawrence Choir. In recognition for his "Outstanding Achievements in the Arts" he was awarded the "Order of Canada".

Guest vocalist Margaret McAvaney of Ilion sang "As the

Deer" and "The Gift of Love". Margaret studied Music Education at Ithaca College and has taught music locally. She is also a music director with the Mohawk Reform Church and performs locally. She was accompanied by Pat Snyder.

Our organist was James Hanosh who is retired organist emeritus of the New Hartford Church. He was also was director of the Utica Free Academy Choir, the Utica Choral group and a member of the B Sharp Musical Society.

Jeanne Jones, a private music teacher and former president of the Utica B Sharp Musical Society, accompanied on the piano. Jeanne organized the event as a homecoming for Edwards and Hanosh who are both now retired.

Guests were welcomed by president Linda Walters and our memorial service was conducted by Barbara Robinson. The Invocation was given by the pastor, Dr. Rev. Sue Riggles who also read the 98th psalm followed by a reading of that psalm in Welsh by Rainer Morgan Rzucidlo.

Following the Gymanfa, a te bach was held in the adjacent church Fellowship Hall.

Welshman wins Tour De France, 2018

Geraint Thomas of Cardiff won the premier cycling event this year - the 2018 Tour de France. He was the first Welshman and third British person to win.

Thomas also won a gold medal for Great Britain in both the 2008 and 2012 Olympics in team pursuit and was honored with the Order of the British Empire (MBE).

Welsh Soccer Stars

Current Welsh heroes on the world soccer stage are Gareth Bale, Aaron Ramsey, Ashley Williams and Joe Allen – valuable players in the Welsh team as it competes in upcoming qualifiers for the 2020 Euro Championship and 2022 World Cup.

IN REMEMBRANCE: Leonard T. Wynne, St. David's Society board member for many years and served as Historian. **Ruth Helen Wynne**, a member of the St. David's Society. She was the sister of Leonard Wynne and an aunt to Douglas Wynne.



Society members Cindy Gilbert (left) and Janet Washburn wear traditional Welsh costumes at MVCC's International day held in April. They and David Dudgeon (right) talked to visitors about Wales and its culture.

Enlli Chapel celebrates 170th Anniversary with Songfest



Enlli Chapel founded in 1848



Rachel Bass and Hugh Jones

Members of our society were among 50 attendees at a songfest to celebrate the 170th Anniversary of historic Enlli Chapel in Remsen.. Shirley Tolbert of the Remsen-Steuben Historical Society organized the event, Hugh Jones of Oneida conducted, Susan Bartholomew of Remsen was organist and Rachel Bass from Syracuse was guest vocalist. Rev. Roger Williams from the Oriskany Waterbury Memorial Presbyterian church did the scripture readings and Jay G Williams III of Clinton gave a history of the founding of the church and some facts about the original Ynys Enlli (Bardsley Island) location in Wales.

He described how Ynys Enlli was known as the island of 20,000 Celtic saints and a source of pilgrimages of early Christians. About 1650 Welsh emigrated to America from this sparsely populated region between 1795 and 1860. More than 400 were from the area around Aberdaron village. Upon arrival in Upstate NY it was natural for the immigrants to name their chapels and hamlets after similar regions in Wales e.g. Penyaerau and Penygraig.

At one time Enlli was both a school and a church that remained in service until the 1960's. Now the building is maintained by the Remsen-Steuben Historical Society and only opened for special events.

Tour of old Welsh Church - now Private Residence

In May, society members had the opportunity to visit the old New Hartford Welsh Church that is now a private residence. The building served as a church from 1905 until the mid-1950's when it became a Masonic Lodge. Then it was bought by John Catera who has spent considerable time turning the building into a home while retaining the basic feel of a formal church.

Several of us were eager to view the structure having attended church events in our youth. Ralph Humphreys had long ties with the church through his grandfather Hugh Humphreys when he emigrated from Caer-narfonshire in the early 1900's.

Utica was a center of Welsh immigration in the 1800's with significant numbers settling in what now is New Hartford. Several farm families formed the Zion Christian Endeavor Society in the late 1880's which eventually became a Welsh church in 1905. Back then it was a hardship to travel from farm country to churches in downtown Utica.

This is a long-term project but we appreciated Catera's attention to detail. We once had many such chapels in our area and it is gratifying to see one renovated rather than fall into decay.



John Catera (2nd right) describes his renovation project to (L.-R.) Janet Washburn, Norm Jones, Len Pugh, Linda Walters, Roger Williams and Pat Williams



SUMMER PICNIC: The St David's Family picnic at Westmoreland Park on Saturday August 4th was enjoyed by more than 40 people. The day was hot and sunny and the food delicious!

MEMORIAL DONATION - FALL GYMANFA GANU program

In Memory of: _____

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!