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# The Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society



INVITATION: Sunday, August 29, 2021, 1 p.m. Zoom get-together

Due to the Florida virus danger we are suspending in-person gatherings for the summer. We will have a zoom get-together arranged by John Garrison who will lead us singing a few songs, find out how you are, and we will hear from Meryl and Bill about their quarantine time in Treorchy, Wales and how it differs from Florida. Join us on Sunday, August 29 at 2 p.m. Your zoom link will be sent to you by email.

Local Welsh Society news:

Spring picnic at Bee Ridge Park, Don Hughes leading singing. 25 attended



**Farewell and Thank you:**

Pamela Edmunds, an active and dedicated member of the Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society, is moving to the Niagara Falls area of New York to be near her family. Pam served on the board as Treasurer and President (twice) and chair of various committees. Pam is responsible for the production of our Welsh Society song books (getting copyright permission, selecting songs to include, and arranging production), she developed our original website, she established the email communication link we all depend on now. She led the committee to overhaul the by-laws. She printed the Welsh nametags for our banquets and made spectacular Welsh cookies! At our last gathering on March 1, 2020 before covid grounded us all, she created and presided over a Welsh quiz for the banquet participants. Thank you, Pam!







Pam with her late beloved mother, Clara      Succeeding President, Meryl,  
presents thank you gift to Pam      Pam's Welsh dragon  
cookies      March 1, 2020

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Welsh Places of special interest:  
Devil's Bridge:



Here is Renny Lloyd's interesting historical and personal response to my July query about the Devil's Bridge:

"The Devil's Bridge (Welsh: "Pontarfynach", lit."The **bridge** on the Mynach") in Ceredigion is actually 3 bridges, one on top of each other. It was built to cross the chasm made by the River Mynach.

The first bridge was built in the 11th century by the Devil, himself. Whilst visiting the area, he came across a dog and its owner, a little old lady in tears. Seems her cow had somehow managed to jump the chasm, but was unable to return home. The Devil promised to build a bridge so she could cross over and fetch her cow; in return, he could claim the first soul who crossed. The little lady agreed, and the bridge was built. The Devil transported himself to the other side to await his prize. But the little old lady was a wise and wiley Welshwoman. As she started to step onto the bridge, she sent her dog over it before her. And --- Poof ---the Devil had to claim its soul, being the first over the bridge, instead of the woman's which he was

anticipating. This bridge was in use up to the 18th century, at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution.

The second bridge was built to accommodate the growing traffic of West Wales to London, including drovers and other commerce in the 18th century, using new building methods and materials. Some of the decorative ironworks are visible, and give an idea of the scale of the project, and what was a practical as well as a beautiful structure.

The third bridge was built at the turn of the last century, again to accommodate traffic on the expanded Drovers' Trail which became the A4120. It is still in use today. I drove over this bridge several times in daylight when I was a grad student at University of Wales, Aberystwyth....and I always felt a frisson of fear. No way would I be anywhere near it at night! Actually, there is a whole section of the A4120 going east out of Aberystwyth that I tried to avoid. It is an area steeped in myth, mystery, and a few UFO sightings.

The bridge is the setting of the beginning of the Welsh mystery "Hinterland", series 1, now on Netflix. The scene where Detective Mathias goes down the steps from the bridge into the chasm sent shivers down my back. No way would I do that, altho it is a favourite dare of the undergrads at 'Aber Uni'."

-- Renny Lloyd

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Famous tea room:







Tu Hwnt i'r Bont Tea Room is possibly the most photographed building in North Wales! Thanks to Jeffrey Jones for sending that. Has anyone seen it or had tea there? Here is some of its history from its website:

Built as a residential dwelling in 1480, Tu Hwnt i'r Bont (Beyond the Bridge) on the left bank of the River Conwy across Pont Fawr from the town of Llanrwst, is actually considerably older than the Inigo Jones bridge it stands beside. Some years later the building was used as the Courthouse for the surrounding area...Over the centuries Tu Hwnt i'r Bont has fallen into disrepair several times and been rebuilt and restored through the generosity of the townsfolk. During the last century, Tu Hwnt i'r Bont was acquired by the National Trust who have leased the building for over 50 years. The decision made by the original leaseholder, over half a century ago, to turn Tu Hwnt i'r Bont into a traditional Welsh Tea Rooms has proved to be a success. To this day the recipe for the scones remains true and continues to be a well kept secret!

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**UNESCO designates Wales' slate areas as World Heritage Site**

by Gareth Hughes



Don Hughes shared this news:

**Dinorwic slate quarry**. Photo by ohefin, licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

UNESCO has officially designated the slate areas of Gwynedd as a World Heritage Site.

It has announced today that area famed for its slate industry has joined Egypt's Pyramids, India's Taj Mahal and the Grand Canyon in receiving the status.

The decision was made by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, which has been meeting in Fuzhou, China and virtually online.

It also considered bids from Bologna, Nice and the Ribeira Sacra wine district in Spain.

The Plaid Cymru Member of the Senedd for Arfon, which is also Plaid Cymru's spokesperson for the Welsh language has reacted to the announcement.

"I know local people, many of them direct descendants, as am I, of families that depended on the quarrying industry, will feel pride about this announcement.

"It is fitting that the area receives international recognition, as the area's history is of international importance.

"We know very well that Arfon's slate quarries were once an industrial epicentre of the world.

"Slates from Gwynedd were shipped across the world.

"Little did the local communities of Gwynedd see of the immense wealth generated, and I will be thinking of those generations today.

"As we reflect on the rich history of the area, we won't just be thinking about the quarrymen, like my great grandfather, but also of their families.

"The strong women who without their contribution we wouldn't be celebrating today. Our "resilient grandmothers" as the local poet Gwyn Thomas once said."

The area will join existing World Heritage Sites in Wales; the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape, the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct near Llangollen, and the Castles of King Edward in Caernarfon, Beaumaris, Harlech and Conwy.

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## My photo of Canal boats in Wales

Have you been on a canal boat? Tell us about it:



Your Welsh Society would like to hear from you. Send memories, photos,



and suggestions to: [sarasotawelsh@gmail.com](mailto:sarasotawelsh@gmail.com)

If you no longer wish to remain on the Welsh Society contact list, let us know.

Directors: Amy Ferrell, Dr. John Garrison, Meg Larrabee, Maureen and Phil Jones, Mona Garrison, Don Hughes, Meryl and Bill Fell, Sandra and David Rees, Bob Griffiths, Susan Lewis