

# GULF COAST ST. DAVID'S WELSH SOCIETY

AUTUMN, 2023



YOU ARE INVITED  
TO THE GULF COAST  
ST. DAVID'S WELSH SOCIETY'S  
ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023  
4:30 P.M.

TURTLE BEACH PAVILION  
MIDNIGHT PASS & TURTLE BEACH ROAD  
SIESTA KEY, SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Bring a delicious dish to share with serving utensils and your own beverage. Come and enjoy socializing, eating, singing, hearing a report on the national festival and learning about upcoming events and opportunities. If picnic tables are a problem for you, of course bring a cushion or lawn chair. Parking is limited in the front lot with the trolley stop but is readily available along Turtle Beach Road. You are welcome to come early by 4 to help the committee with setting up. Friends of all ages are welcome. Please RSVP to this mailing: [Sarasotawelsh@gmail.com](mailto:Sarasotawelsh@gmail.com) so we will know how many to expect.

**DUES:** You may pay your 2024 \$10 dues at the picnic (those who paid at the August luncheon are also credited for 2024). Your \$10 pays for our website, park rentals, picnic supplies, contribution to the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, reimbursements, decorations, and this announcement in the bulletin of the National Festival (we hope you approve):

# GULF COAST ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY of SARASOTA, FLORIDA

COME TO FLORIDA'S GULF COAST TO ENJOY  
SARASOTA'S WHITE QUARTZ BEACHES

And plan to join us at our Annual Family Picnic Oct. 22, 2023

In 2024, Our 40th Anniversary Celebration Banquet March 1  
Treorchy Men's Choir Concert in Sarasota April 1

Consult our website and Facebook page  
for details and other events

www.sarasotawelsh.com  
sarasotawelsh@gmail.com

P O Box 19343, Sarasota, FL 34276  
941-346-1104

**"201 Years of Sarasota Welsh Women!":** Dorothy McDaniels' son, David, exclaimed that as I photographed Dorothy (97) and Rhianon (104) at our August luncheon:



Remarkable, beautiful women!

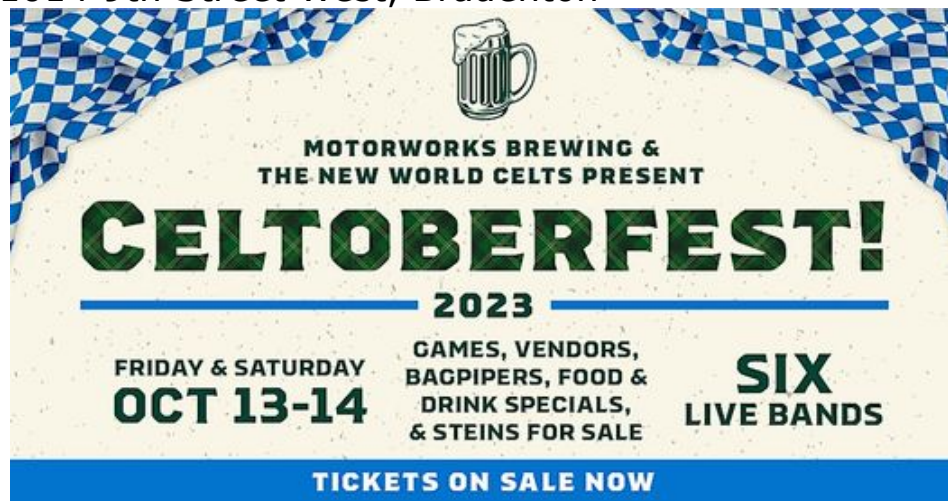
**SCHOLARSHIP:** The school year is underway, so members, it's time to encourage the university scholars in your family to apply for our annual scholarship. Not only will the gift be welcomed and appreciated but awards look good on resumes. Download an application from our website [Sarasotawelsh.com](http://Sarasotawelsh.com).

**40th ANNIVERSARY YEAR 2024:** In 1984 Don Hughes and Diana Jenkins invited the public to a St. David's Day celebration on March 1 with notices in all the local papers and word of mouth. Thank you, Don and Diana! We will celebrate 40 years with another annual St. David's Day gathering on March 1 followed by a spectacular concert on April 1 by the renowned Treorchy Male Voice Choir from Wales as the final concert of their southwest Florida tour. It

will be at 7:30 p.m. at St. Boniface Episcopal Church on Siesta Key. You will want to volunteer as well as to attend.

**WELSH OPPORTUNITY:** The Eagles Inn in Llanuwchllyn needs new owners and investors. From their mailing to our Welsh Society: "The Eagles is much more than a pub, it is a stronghold of the Welsh language and culture, the village shop, restaurant, the meeting place for clubs and societies, and it is currently under threat as the current owners prepare to retire after over two decades at the helm. Llanuwchllyn is a small village of just over 600 people near Bala Lake in North Wales, where over 85% of the people primarily speak Welsh." [www.yreagles.cymru](http://www.yreagles.cymru)

**"CELTOBERFEST" October 13-14:** For information and/or to volunteer contact Steve Grosser, [celtic-steve@att.net](mailto:celtic-steve@att.net).  
Motorworks: 1014 9th Street West, Bradenton



**SCOTTISH LUNCH AND MUSIC:** Join our Scottish cousins at Sofia's 8130 Main Street, Lakewood Ranch on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1:30PM. They will have raffle items and whiskey tasting along with entertainment by Musical Guest Bill Mullen from Dundee, Scotland from 2:00pm-5:00pm. \$15 per person cash only for food (collected at the door). Credit cards are accepted at the bar. RSVP's are required, seating is limited. RSVP to [lindascot5770@gmail.com](mailto:lindascot5770@gmail.com). The raffles will benefit the Scottish Highland Games to be held on February 10, 2024 at the Manatee County Fairgrounds in Palmetto, Florida. Corporate sponsorships and private donations for the Highland Games are welcome.

A St. Andrew's Day invitation for November 30th is attached.

**MEMORY OF WORLD WAR II:**

Each May many of us attend the Memorial Day service held at Arcadia, Florida, honoring the British airmen who died while training during the early years of WWII at Clewiston, Florida with Embry-Riddle instructors. You will be interested to see a photograph of a young trainee, Ron Pottinger (he died in 2021 at 101) and the planes they were flying, from Dr. Jenifer Harding's recent newsletter (her father, George Hogarth was among over 1300 airmen who trained there).

5BFTS Newsletter No 23 September 2023.pdf.



PT-17A No 23. 5BFTS, Clewiston, Florida 1942  
<http://www.vickersvaliant.com/no.5-bfts-clewiston--florida.html>

In her newsletter Jenny includes a letter by a Clewiston history volunteer. You will be interested in this paragraph, referring to Clewiston as "America's Sweetest Town", as we learned from Chris Nind who spoke at this year's Memorial Day event about the caring, hospitable local residents :

*Recently I have been volunteering at our local museum and have found as Paul Harvey would have said, "the rest of the story". I have become enamored with that story, with the role "America's Sweetest Town" played, even before the U.S. entered WWII. Fascinated with how the lives of 'locals' and 'Brits' became entwined and was articulated on tissue paper letters now yellow with age. The story of Riddle Field, where 1,325 British RAF cadets graduated as pilots, returning "home" to defend Britain and to fight over Europe, the Far East and Africa.*

So it's not just the sugar cane which makes it "sweet". It was good to see Jenny back at Arcadia.

**KATHRYN JENKINS AND GIN?** Welsh mezzo-soprano singer, Katherine Jenkins OBE, has launched Cygnet, her own line of gin, crafted in Wales and made six miles from where she grew up in Neath. Cygnet Welsh Dry Gin is made using pure Welsh water and 12 botanicals from around the world. Cygnet 22 is distilled with 22 botanicals, including all of the botanicals in Cygnet Welsh Dry Gin, with the addition of Manuka Honey, chosen by Katherine for its healing properties. The number 22 was chosen as 2022 was the year it was created, and it was the age she was when she was offered the largest

recording deal in classical music history. The Welsh dragon is on both bottles and Cygnet Welsh Dry Gin is also decorated with white daffodils, the national flower of Wales. She hopes the attractive bottles will be used as carafes or vases or at least recycled. (Information compiled from several Welsh news sources).



**WELSH LANGUAGE AND GENEALOGY ZOOM CLASSES:** The president of the Western New England Welsh Society spoke to those of us representing other Welsh societies at the Festival, and said their zoom sessions for people studying Welsh and those researching Welsh genealogy are available to members of other clubs, too. For questions and schedules and applications, write to: [WelshWNE@gmail.com](mailto:WelshWNE@gmail.com).

**NINNAU:** To keep up with news from Wales and around North America, you will want to subscribe to *Ninnau*, the North American Welsh newspaper. 6 issues per year at \$30 printed or \$20 digital. [www.Ninnau.com](http://www.Ninnau.com)

**CONTACTS:** Please share this with friends who have Welsh heritage or love Wales and its music, and let us know if they wish to be on our contact list. If you no longer wish to receive Welsh Society invitations and news, let us know.

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Your Welsh Society Committee

(Please consider joining us, especially if you will be President or Secretary!):

Don Hughes, Founder, Past President and Lifetime Trustee; Amy Ferrell, Vice-President, Past President and newsletter; ; Meg Larrabee, Treasurer; Maureen and Phil Jones, Corresponding Secretaries; David and Sandra Rees, Trustees, Past Presidents and Scholarship; Meryl Fell, Trustee and Past President; Bob Griffiths, Chaplain; Mona Garrison, Webmaster; Jeffrey Jones, Facebook

Administrator; Dr John Garrison, Song Leader; Susan Lewis, Banquet Accompanist; and Dr. Jim and Jackie Fountaine, Past President and Secretary and volunteers Bill Fell, Renny Phrys and Mary Lou Guy

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\$10 dues for 2023 may be brought to the picnic or sent to  
**The Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society**, P.O. Box 19343,  
Sarasota, FL 34276  
[SARASOTAWELSH.COM](http://SARASOTAWELSH.COM), [SarasotaWelsh@gmail.com](mailto:SarasotaWelsh@gmail.com)