

# THE GULF COAST ST. DAVID'S WELSH SOCIETY



"Hirddydd Haf Hapus"  
Happy Summer (Solstice)!

**CONCERT:** Sarasota Young Voices will present a second "Bon Voyage" benefit concert this week prior to their Scotland tour. Saturday, six of our members attended the first concert. Tuesday evening, June 20, plan to hear and support these talented young singers at Church of the Palms Presbyterian Church, 3224 Bee Ridge Road at 7:30 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public with a free will offering toward the tour expenses. We know that some of the young singers have Welsh heritage!

**MEMORIAL:** Herb Larrabee died May 16, 2023 and is survived by his wife of 49 years, Meg, sons John "JP" (Melissa) granddaughter Calista, Drew (Sharon), brother Philip (Carole) and several nieces and nephews. A service will be held at St Boniface Episcopal Church 5615 Midnight Pass Road on Siesta Key in Sarasota, on June 30, 2023 at 11:00 am.

Shown: Herb and Meg



**JULY LUNCHEON:** Join us at Der Dutchman, Sarasota's popular Amish restaurant, 3713 Bahia Vista St, Sarasota at Beneva, Thursday July 27 at 12:30. You may order from the menu or enjoy the buffet. You must RSVP to

this email by Monday, July 24 if you plan to come, so they will know where to seat our group. We have requested the semi-private sunroom on the east side of the building, but if we have more coming they will seat us all together on the west side.

**AUGUST LUNCHEON:** Join us on Thursday, August 24 at 1 p.m. in the private room at Paradise Grill, 1097 N Tamiami Trail, at Laurel Road, Nokomis. Turn west onto Laurel Road at the light, then left into the shopping area. Paradise Grill faces Laurel Rd. RSVP by August 17th.

**NORTH-AMERICAN FESTIVAL OF WALES:** I'm hoping to go, are you? <http://festivalofwales.org/ticket-registration-overview.html>



North American  
Festival of Wales  
Lincoln, Nebraska

August 30 - September 3, 2023

Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel

Room Rate: \$114 - \$134

[www.nafow.org](http://www.nafow.org)

Featuring Robat Arwyn, Ifor ap Glyn, Dylan Morris,  
Rhys Meirion, Gwawr Edwards, and Triano

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**MEMORIAL DAY in Arcadia:**



Chris Nind



Bagpiper

Several of us attended this year's tribute to the World War II British fliers who died in Florida during their flight training. A bagpiper played at the beginning and the end. Wreaths from participating British groups were displayed. Volunteers laid poppy wreaths and British and Welsh flags at the graves. Chris Nind, whom we met at our Ibis evening, was the guest speaker. He gave one of the most interesting addresses we have heard at the Memorial Day event. Afterward we were joined by gentlemen from the Tarpon Springs area for lunch at the delightful tea room in Arcadia. David Trick had been in touch with us about the event and he and friends added to our party. Members of the Brit Club and Scottish Societies were also there.

**TREORCHY CHOIR:** Plans are progressing for this famous Welsh choir's North American tour in 2024. This year is their 140th anniversary! We are delighted and excited that Sarasota will host one of their concerts during our 40th anniversary year! The tentative date will be the Monday following Easter. Please submit your recommendations of a concert venue to this email. It will be a free concert with freewill offering, so we can expect a large crowd. We need a large, accessible hall with excellent acoustics, piano and organ, three tiers of risers for 70 singers, a room for an afterglow reception, and ample parking. We hope that the concert will be considered part of the church's music series so there would not be a facility fee. We will need help with publicity (invite all of your friends!), greeters and ushers and providers of refreshments for the choir and committee. You can hear some of their recordings on YouTube and their Facebook pages.

**WELSH RAILWAY NEWS:** From the current issue of *NINNAU*, (which also contains photos of our Sarasota group at our Ibis dinner party): "RAILWAY history was made on the Borderlands Line between Wrexham and Bidston as

Transport for Wales introduced the first battery-hybrid trains used in regular passenger service in Wales. The first service operated by one of TfW's Class 230 trains left Wrexham Central, following months of testing and crew training. TfW owns five three-carriage class 230 trains, each having over 120 seats and with capacity for over 420 customers, a significant increase over previous trains. The metro-style trains, which were repurposed from former London Underground trains, provide a more efficient and environmentally friendly service using diesel and batteries. The trains feature fully accessible toilets, power sockets, electronic passenger information screens, Wi-Fi, bike racks and air conditioning."

Some of you will spend time in Wales this summer; let us know if you ride on this special train!

### **Patagonia History from the Wellington (NZ) Welsh News:**



"The settlers who arrived in July 1865 were not expecting the arid, semi-desert conditions they encountered and had very few people with experience of farming in their party. On 19th April 1866, the Welsh settlers in Patagonia made their first recorded contact with the Tehuelche people of the southern pampas regions of Argentina and Chile. They were a hunter-gatherer nomadic people who had inhabited the area for the previous 1400 years. They spent the winters in the lowlands hunting whale and catching fish and during the remainder of the year, they migrated to the higher grounds where they hunted game. According to reports they were unusually tall, clean-shaven and often painted their bodies for protection from the sun. It was the Tehuelche who assisted the early Welsh settlers of Y Wladfa, the Welsh settlement in Chubut Province of Patagonia to survive their harsh early years. The Welsh settlers had been made aware of the Tehuelche by their founder Michael D. Jones who had emphasised the need to treat them as the rightful owners of the land. They first made contact with them after the first year of hardship and struggle. Initially, there was suspicion between the two groups and some violence. However, a mutual respect developed between them which resulted in good relations. The Tehuelche taught the settlers how to ride the wild horses and how to hunt for guanaco (similar to the llama) and rhea (similar to the ostrich) using the boleadores, a leather corded weapon holding three stone

balls which would wrap around the animal's legs and bring it down. Over time, trade developed between the Welsh and the Tehuelche, with the Tehuelche trading animal skins and feathers in exchange for bread, sugar, tea and tobacco." Note: Patagonia lies inside two South American countries: Chile and Argentina.

## "THE DOGS OF WALES" submitted to the Western New England Welsh Society

### The Dogs of Wales and the People Who Love Them

By Annie Rodgers

I am a dog lover. Therefore, it did not escape my attention that there were lots of dogs no matter where we went in Wales. They ride the trains, go shopping, dine out, and attend church services. I found that a bit unusual. What I also found unusual, was the number of dog bowls filled with water lining the sidewalks and in front of churches. Some shops display signs in their windows offering free dog biscuits. One can't help but fall in love with a country and people who love dogs as much as the Welsh.



## GAMES:

Wales questions on *Jeopardy* again: Answers below.

WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT?  
THIS WELSH LEGEND'S  
UNPLANNED  
"VOICE U.K." DUET ON  
"IT'S A MAN'S MAN'S  
MAN'S WORLD"  
WITH JENNIFER HUDSON

**WELSH FOOT SOLDIERS  
WIELDING HALBERDS  
ARE SAID TO BE  
BEHIND THE BIG BLOW  
TO THE BASE OF THE  
SKULL OF THIS KING  
AT BOSWORTH**

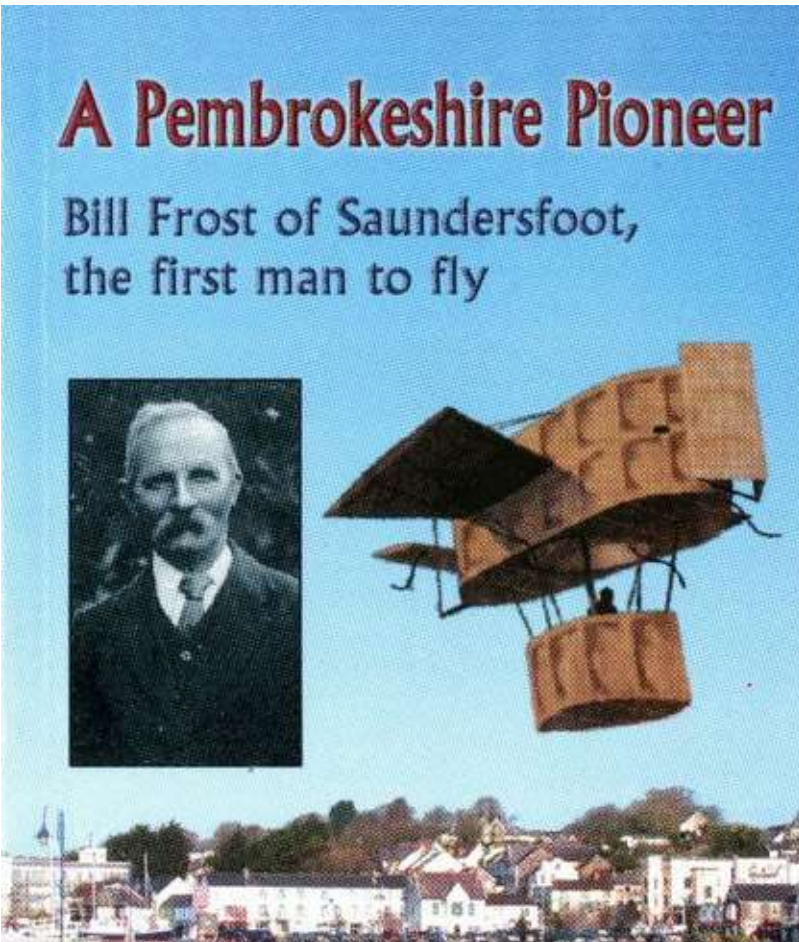
**A 19th C. MIGRATION  
FROM THIS LAND BEGAN  
THE COMMUNITY OF Y  
WLADFA IN PATAGONIA,  
WITH A PATAGONIAN  
FORM OF THEIR  
CELTIC LANGUAGE**

**WELSH JUMBLE: DER GARNDO** -----

Another interesting article from Wellington, New Zealand

# A Pembrokeshire Pioneer

Bill Frost of Saundersfoot,  
the first man to fly



**FIRST MAN TO FLY?:** William Frost was arguably the true inventor of the flying machine! Born 1848 in Saundersfoot, Frost conceived the idea of building a flying machine in the 1890s and despite a lack of funds, constructed the Frost Airship Glider, which seems to have resembled a vertical take-off airplane with gas-filled tanks. Frost reportedly made a flight on or about 2 September 1896. Observers claimed that the machine flew for 500 metres before crashing, outdistancing the Wright brothers in their first powered flight. Unfortunately, Frost's machine was destroyed in a storm the same night, and the flight, though witnessed, was not recorded. Frost applied for a patent which was accepted and registered in London, but he was too poor to pay the renewal fees and the patent lapsed. He died without wealth or recognition in 1935. William Frost, arguably the true inventor of the flying machine!

**ANSWERS:** Jeopardy: (1) Tom Jones (2) Richard III (3) Wales  
Jumble: Red Dragon

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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 Renny Phrys and Mary Lou Guy

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