

THE GULF COAST ST. DAVID'S WELSH SOCIETY



LATE SUMMER LUNCH, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

BECKHAMS' BRITISH BAR & GRILL PATIO

8579 S Tamiami Trail at Central Sarasota Parkway

in the Plaza at Palmer Ranch

Sarasota, Florida 34238

Considered the best place for Fish & Chips along the Gulf Coast, Beckhams welcomes back our Welsh Society. Still following Covid guidelines, we will meet on the patio which is under a roof, with fans and breezes. There is indoor seating as well. If you plan to join us, please email: sarasotawelsh@gmail.com or leave a phone message with Linda Mercurio with names of those who will be attending: 941-400-1156. Our red dragon mascot will be coming; we hope you will, too. There is ample parking in the big lot by Haverty's Furniture Store.

This will be a perfect opportunity to welcome vacationers back and for us to get a report on the North American Festival of Wales in Philadelphia over Labor Day week-end. For details on the Festival which you can still plan to attend, see our website home page: sarasotawelsh.com or look up FestivalofWales.org.

20 of us enjoyed the July brunch at Skilllets.

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CONDOLENCES: Our sincere sympathy is extended to Judith Sear and family. Her husband, Tim, passed away on May 9th. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dfw/name/timothy-sear-obituary?id=34903128>.

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SWANSEA UNIVERSITY'S IMPACT ON OUR U.S. INTERIOR SECRETARY:

EXCHANGE STUDENT IN WALES: Deb Haaland "My Journey" in *Swansea University Alumni Magazine 2022*



Deb Haaland made history when she became the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary in the US Government. She was elected one of the first Native American women to serve in Congress and was the first Native American woman to lead a state political party in the country. She is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and a 35th generation New Mexican.

From New Mexico via the Swansea Valley and straight to the heart of US Politics, Deb Haaland, Class of 1993, U.S. Politician.

"Before spending my junior year abroad in Swansea, Wales, I had never had an opportunity to travel anywhere aside from the travel my dad's military career provided. I had lived on both coasts of the United States, but never beyond. I was inspired to apply to the program because of the exchange students I met in several of my classes and one of my lecturers, who was from England. Because I did not speak a foreign language, the United Kingdom made sense to me.

I am an enrolled member of the Laguna Pueblo, a federally recognized tribe of Native Americans in New Mexico. Our history of colonization by Europeans, and the subsequent centuries of assimilation policies by the United States government, made me realize that I would understand and appreciate Welsh history and culture, which I did. "THOUGH IT WAS ONLY FOR A SHORT WHILE, MY EXPERIENCE AT SWANSEA UNIVERSITY LEFT A LIFELONG IMPRESSION ON ME." This experience was made better by the fact that I lived with a Welsh family for the duration of my year abroad. Throughout that year, we cooked together, spoke often about our family histories, and I had the pleasure of attending the Eisteddfod and other Welsh cultural events, where I was lulled by young Welsh singers, and came to understand the pride of the Welsh people as they sang in unison, *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*. One day trip that made an indelible mark on my conscience was to the Museum in Cardiff, where an exhibit on sea turtles made clear the negative impacts human interaction has on our ocean. While at the University, I learned to appreciate Victorian era literature, which inspired me to study Charles Dickens when I returned to the University of New Mexico for my senior year.

I was awed by the method in which my lecturer taught a class on Welsh History – many chapters were often brutal, and it was important to hear the passion behind his voice when he taught the events he felt important for the class to remember. I often quote the instruction he gave us in preparation for our first writing assignment "If you can't be professional – look professional; don't turn in a paper that looks like you wrote it in the bus queue!"

There is nothing comparable to experiencing a place first-hand. Because my Welsh family's children attended Welsh School, I was cognizant of the Welsh language every day and with the spoken word – the culture of the place.

Before returning to America, I travelled to North Wales and had the profound opportunity to hike in that beautiful country. Every step of my journey has played an important role in how I lead, how I tackle complex issues, and how I lift up marginalized communities, and the University of Swansea was an important part of that journey."

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WELSH DOORBELL: Copied from FACEBOOK



Welsh Door Bell

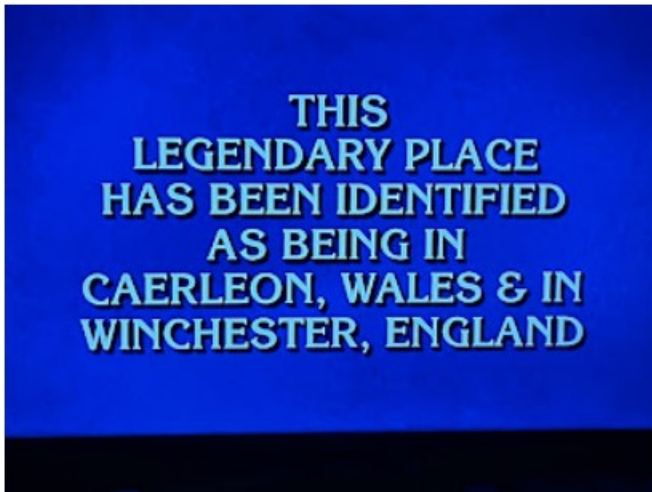


It doesn't really mean "press"! Prestatyn is a seaside town and community in Denbighshire, Wales. Historically a part of Flintshire, it is located on the Irish Sea coast, to the east of Rhyl.

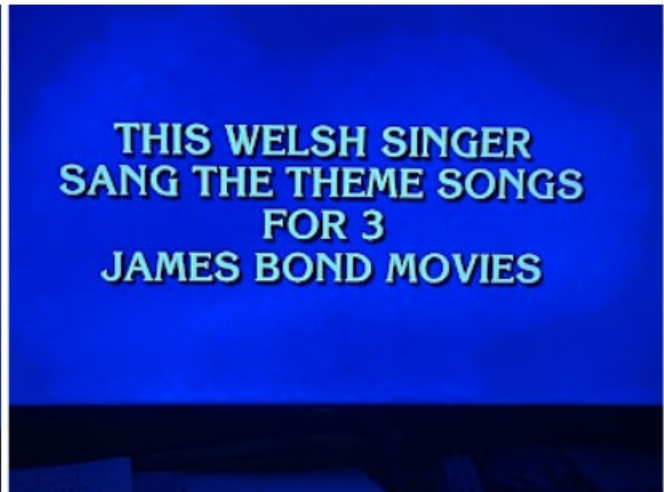
WALES ON "JEOPARDY" AGAIN:

I heard and copied two more Wales questions on *Jeopardy* this month (August, 2022). Answers are at the end of the newsletter.

1.



2.



COOK BOOK:

Welsh Food Stories

A culinary travelogue across Wales.

In *Welsh Food Stories*, Carwyn Graves travels across Wales to sample its rich culinary tradition and listen to stories from cooks, chiefs, and producers. Traveling across the country, Graves tastes oysters, cider, salt-marsh lamb, and more while listening to intimate stories from his hosts, including the owners of a Carmarthenshire chip shop who never forget a customer and the couple behind Anglesey's world-class salt company Halen Môn. For Graves, these stories ultimately shine a light on both the ongoing environmental and social importance of local food making.

Carwyn Graves is author of *Apple of Wales* and was instrumental in establishing the national collection of Welsh varieties at the National Botanic Garden of Wales.

Book Details: Distributed by the University of Chicago Press (petrie@uchicago.edu)

University of Wales Press

Publication Date: August 26, 2022

Cloth \$16.00 272 pages

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WAGS: The Welsh American Genealogy Society (WAGS) proudly announces that the new Poultney Museum of History and Art has an extensive display area for Welsh artifacts and history of the Welsh in Vermont and New York. We are invited to visit the museum to view the display, to read the interesting details, facts and history - about Poultney - about Wales, about WAGS, about Welsh heritage alive in the slate valley of Vermont / New York, and in other regions of the world as well. Click here for a tour of the display area.:

<https://poultneymuseum.org/>. When you are going to be in Vermont, contact the WAGS office to arrange for a personal tour and conversations about Welsh history there:
wagsoff1990@yahoo.com

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BEAUTIFUL GLASS DAFFODILS:

The entrance to the Ringling Glass Museum is outside Sarasota's Ringling visitor center; admission is free. One spectacular item on display now is this "daffodil vase" which I am happy to share with you.



WELSH LOVESPOONS:

The carved wooden spoons, called 'Love Spoons', were carved by young men while they visited their sweethearts. The carving of these spoons apparently was encouraged by the young lady's father as it ensured that the young man's hands were kept occupied! The spoons are beautifully carved and combine both ancient Celtic designs and symbols of affection, commitment and faith.



Lovespoon, with heart-shaped opening on handle



Lovespoon, with panel handle and geometrical designs



Lovespoon, inscribed 'MI 1721'



Lovespoon, with hearts and other geometrical designs



Lovespoon, with panel handle and covered with chip-carving

MABINOGIION: Possibly the most important record of early myth, legend, folklore and language of Wales is contained within The Mabinogion . The Mabinogion is a collection of eleven stories translated from medieval Welsh manuscripts including tales of pre-Christian Celtic mythology and traditions. Although translated from medieval text, the tales record characters and events from several centuries earlier, including mention of a revolting Roman Emperor and even reference to the Arthurian legend.

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WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK:

Thank you to our webmaster, Mona Garrison, for regular updates to our website, where you can find interesting information about Wales, membership and scholarship applications, information about the Welsh Society, the national organization and Welsh Festival, and copies of newsletters. Thank you, too, to Jeff Jones for so many interesting Welsh postings on our Facebook page.

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POSTER COURTESY OF DON HUGHES:



Answers to August "Jeopardy" questions:

1. Camelot 2. Shirley Bassey

Amy Ferrell

Your Welsh Society Board:

Amy Ferrell, Vice-President, Past President and newsletter; Dr John Garrison, Secretary and Song Leader; Meg Larrabee, Treasurer; Maureen and Phil Jones, Corresponding Secretaries; Don Hughes, Founder, Past President and Lifetime Trustee; 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; Susan Lewis, Banquet Accompanist; and Dr. Jim and Jackie Fountaine, Past President and Secretary and active volunteers

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\$10 dues for 2022 may be sent to The Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society, P.O. Box 19343, Sarasota,
FL 34276,

or join / rejoin in person at the September Saturday lunch.

SARASOTAWELSH.COM, SarasotaWelsh@gmail.com