



## **GWANWYN HAPUS!**

HAPPY SPRING from your Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society!

**APRIL 6 IS A SPECIAL DAY:** Rhianon Hardy will celebrate her 103rd birthday on April 6! You may join the chorus singing to her in her front yard at the corner of Shadow Lawn and Contento on Siesta Key. Let us know if you need directions ([sarasotawelsh@gmail.com](mailto:sarasotawelsh@gmail.com)). Here was Rhianon three years ago as we celebrated #100!



St. David's Day was March 1 . We held a Te Bach to celebrate St. David!



**TE BACH:** March 1, 2022 was a beautiful day in Sarasota for an outdoor event in the lovely Philippi Park gazebo. 35 of us gathered to hear a tribute to St. David from our chaplain, Bob Griffiths before our brief Annual Meeting where officers were introduced and the past year of keeping our Society together through newsletters and picnics was reviewed. There was an appeal for more volunteers, especially a President.

We applauded the granddaughter of Jackie and Jim Fountaine for her outstanding scholarship application and award announced by chairman David Rees.

We savored wonderful treats and delicious hot teas served on colorful china.

We remembered our dear departed Muriel Morgan Patram with a photo board from her special life moments (little girl, engagement, birth of two sets of twins, college degree along with her children, her 100th birthday celebration) presented by David Rees, who also memorialized former members Ken Van Riper and Robert Reeves.

Don Hughes told about Hughesovka, the Welsh city near Donetsk in Ukraine, named for John Hughes of Merthyr Tydfil, who at the request of the Russian government in 1868 took 100 Welsh miners and steel workers to the Donbass region to create an ironworks similar to one he headed in London. (see more below)

Don also led us singing Welsh favorites *Calon Lan* and *Cwm Rhondda* and we also sang Happy Birthday to Renny Phrys, who wore her Welsh costume while helping the festivities run smoothly. Thank you all.

Here are some photos from that special celebration, including the link to the recorded memorial for Muriel.





that the US join the League of Nations, work together "in a limitation of naval armaments", stop the trafficking of women and drugs, and join the Permanent Court of International Justice. Three Welsh women traveled to the US and presented the appeal to leaders of many of the leading women's organizations; they also met President Coolidge. The petition has been housed in the National Museum of America since those days. Today Women in Wales, and in North America, are preparing to remember, celebrate and realize the dream for a warless world."

**WALES OPENING HOMES TO UKRAINIANS:** From the Welsh Government Website: "The UK Government has set up two routes for people fleeing the war in Ukraine to seek safety and sanctuary in the UK and Wales.

If people in Ukraine have family ties in the UK they can apply for a visa through the [Ukraine Family Scheme](#). This scheme allows people to join their family members or extend their stay in the UK. It is free to apply and people will be able to live, work and study in the UK and access public funds.

The other route is the [Homes for Ukraine](#) scheme, which is specially designed for people in Ukraine who do not have family links in the UK. It allows people in the UK to sponsor someone in Ukraine to come and live in the UK.

People in Wales can sign up for the Homes for Ukraine scheme, offer to become a sponsor and offer a space in their home to someone fleeing the conflict in Ukraine to live for at least six months. People signing up to the scheme via the [Homes for Ukraine website](#) can be matched with people escaping the war in Ukraine who want to come to the UK."

**SPRING PICNIC:** Let's have a May Day party! Sunday, May 1, come by 1 p.m. to Bee Ridge Park, just south of Bee Ridge Road on Lockwood Ridge and Wilkinson. We won't dance around a "MayPole", as my mother remembered doing in North Wales, but we'll have fun. Please bring a dish to share and your own beverage. We will have water available. There are plenty of picnic tables but you might feel more comfortable in your lawn chair. There is a playground and a basketball court. Restrooms are attached to the pavilion which is very close to parking. Please RSVP to the Sarasota Welsh email or contact Corresponding Secretary Maureen Jones: 941-918-2318 so we will know how many to expect. No charge.

**HUGHESOVSKA:** "Within two years, John Hughes' team had eight blast furnaces up and running. Collieries, mines, brickworks and rail lines followed. So did churches, hospitals, a school and a fire brigade. By the time of Hughes's death in 1889, aged 75, the site had become a city. And in Russian fashion, it bore the name of its "creator" – Hughesovka. It was renamed Stalina in 1942." Now as we're all thinking of Ukraine under attack, it's remarkable to learn about the former Welsh community in the eastern Donbass region, near the Russian border.

By Chris Leadbeater, TRAVEL WRITER, *THE TELEGRAPH*, 15 June 2017



**Owain Glyndŵr Painting:**

Our winter Newsletter from Sarasota Welsh described the historic Pennal Letter Owain Glyndŵr sent to Charles VI, King of France, requesting assistance for help in his rebellion against English rule. The letter is in a French museum. This painting by artist Aneurin Jones, depicting the gathering of 1406 led by Owain Glyndŵr is on display at the Century Pennal Church, St Peter ad Vincula in Gwynedd, northwest Wales.

### **Coming Events:**

**April 6:** 4:30 p.m. Birthday greetings to Rhianon Hardy (103) on Siesta Key

**April 24:** "Kirkin of the Tartan": Our Scottish cousins resume this tradition: "Scots in Tartans will parade into the Church of the Redeemer at 11 a.m. ! This is a joint local area cultural event held with St Andrew Society, Caledonian Club of SW Fla, New World Celts-Sarasota, & the Sarasota Scottish Heritage Society." The Church of the Redeemer is located along the Sarasota waterfront at 222 S Palm Ave. As you know, the Welsh have tartans and kilts and bagpipes, too!

**May 1:** 1 p.m. May Day Welsh Society pot luck picnic, Bee Ridge Park

**May 30:** Memorial Day 10 a.m. program at Arcadia, Florida, commemorating the WWII British air cadets who lost their lives while in Florida at flight training, including 3 young Welshmen: Alfred Thomas Lloyd, Thomas John Parry, Mervyn Hugh Ernest Thomas (See bios attached).

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The Gulf Coast St. David's Welsh Society Board:

Amy Ferrell, Vice-President; Dr John Garrison, Secretary; Meg Larrabee, Treasurer, Maureen and Phil Jones, Corresponding Secretaries; Don Hughes, Founder and Lifetime Trustee; David and Sandra Rees, Trustees as Past Presidents, 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 Fontaine, Past President and Secretary and active volunteers

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