

# GULF COAST ST. DAVID'S WELSH SOCIETY

APRIL, 2023



## **CONGRATULATIONS TO RHIANON HARDY! On April 6 she will celebrate her 104th birthday!**

Her Welsh Society friends will gather at her front patio at 4 p.m. to congratulate her and sing to her. Bring a lawn chair or stand. If you wish to participate or write to her and need her address, respond to this email or contact any board member. Here she was at last year's 103rd birthday.



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**ST. DAVID'S DAY:** The Sarasota Welsh dragons displaying the Welsh flag on the lawn outside Stoneybrook Country Club announced the special day to all, when we gathered on the 39th anniversary of our Welsh Society in the Gulf Coast of Florida! March 1 was a delightful celebration, not only honoring our patron saint of Wales, but reuniting with old friends and welcoming new members. We had a brief Annual Meeting, authorizing continued support of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center and approving treasurer and minutes reports. Thanks were extended to John Garrison for his work as Secretary in addition to Song Leader (now we need a new Secretary, as well as President, please!). All were in favor of promoting and helping with a 2024 anticipated concert by the renowned Treorchy Welsh Choir which is planning a Florida tour, including Sarasota! We send congratulations and thanks for an excellent application to our scholarship winner, Hannah Yeo, the granddaughter of Meryl and Bill Fell. In addition to reminiscences by our Master of Ceremonies, David Rees and club founder, Don Hughes, new member Marcia Cruce, gave an account of her family's backpacking trip through Wales last summer, and we heard Renny Phrys' presentation on Holy and Unholy places in Wales. Her information is included as an attachment.



## **WALES QUESTION ON JEOPARDY AGAIN:**

**'Which European country has the longest city name?'**

**WALES IN A FASCINATING BBC ARTICLE:**

Welsh people could be most ancient in UK, DNA suggests - BBC News

Excerpts from this study:

**"Welsh people could lay claim to be the most ancient Britons, according to scientists who have drawn up a genetic map of the British Isles....**Research suggests the Welsh are genetically distinct from the rest of mainland Britain....the Welsh carry DNA which could be traced back to the last Ice Age, 10,000 years ago....People from Wales are genetically relatively distinct, they look different genetically from much of the rest of mainland Britain, and actually people in north Wales look relatively distinct from people in south Wales.... In north Wales, there has been relative isolation because people moved less because of geographical barriers....The mountains were also the reason why DNA may have remained relatively unchanged, as people would have found it harder to get from north to south Wales or into England compared with people trying to move across the flatter southern English counties, making them more likely to marry locally and conserve more ancient DNA."

**DARK SKY SANCTUARY:** From another BBC report: **"An island in north Wales has been officially recognised for having one of the best night skies in the world.** Ynys Enlli (Bardsey Island), off the Llŷn Peninsula, has become the first site in Europe to be awarded International **Dark Sky Sanctuary** certification. It joins 16 other sites worldwide recognised as the most remote and dark places on earth. Ynys Enlli's new dark sky status comes as light pollution across the globe continues to rise. In the last 12 years the night sky has brightened by 10% every year which, according to a **recent global study**, means that a child born in an area where 250 stars were visible would probably see fewer than 100 stars in the same location 18 years later."

**KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS:** Sarasota's St. Andrews Scottish Society invites all to this annual event to be held on Sunday, April 16 at 11 a.m. at the Church of the Redeemer featuring 5 pipers and 2 drummers. The new Bishop of SW Florida will participate.

Jeopardy answer: "WALES"

**Your Welsh Society Board:**

Don Hughes, Founder, Past President and Lifetime Trustee; Amy Ferrell, Vice-President, Past President and newsletter; Dr John Garrison, Song Leader; 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; 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

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