

---

# GULF COAST ST. DAVID'S WELSH SOCIETY

## WINTER, 2023



**CONDOLENCES in WALES:** Politicians and family members gathered in Cardiff Thursday, February 16 for the funeral of Clare Drakeford, the wife of Wales' First Minister who died suddenly in January 2023, aged 71. Funeral notice: "Clare and Mark had been wife and husband for 47 years. A cherished mother to Jonathon, Tony and Emma, a grandmother, daughter, sister and friend. Clare will be sadly missed by her extended family and many friends." From *Wales Online*.

**MARCH 1:** The Sarasota area St. David's Day event for 2023 will be a luncheon at noon on Wednesday, March 1, in a private room at the Stoneybrook Country Club. Thanks to Jeffrey Jones and Mary Lou Guy for arranging it. We look forward to visiting, singing, and enjoying lunch while summarizing our year and having a brief annual meeting (offices of President and Secretary are open so we're seeking volunteers). Our scholarship winner will be announced. If you did not receive or misplaced your invitation, it is attached here for your convenience and to share. Prospective members are always welcome. A special treat will be our own Marilyn Parry, daughter of a proud Welshman, who is available to sing for us on March 1!

**WELSH CHOIR COMING TO SARASOTA IN 2024:** We are delighted and excited that the renowned Treorchy Men's Choir has asked if they can present a concert in the Sarasota area! Our board is all in favor and will be working with the choir representatives on the details. Look for more information to come.

**ST. PATRICK --THE MOST CELEBRATED WELSHMAN IN AMERICA?** On March 17, celebrate with our Irish cousins their patron saint who was born in Wales, captured and enslaved in Ireland, escaped back to Britain, became a priest and returned to convert the Irish pagans!.

**OUR SCOTTISH COUSINS:** The Caledonian Club announces that the Lion Ramparts bagpipers will play at Bayfront Park in Sarasota to usher in sunset on the last Sundays of February and March: February 26, sunset at 6:29 (playing begins at approximately 6), and March 26, sunset at 7:44 (playing begins at approximately 7:15). There will be a Scottish dancing presentation on February 23 at 5:15 p.m. at the Shrine Center on 600 N. Beneva Road. To reserve, contact [Lindascot5770@gmail.com](mailto:Lindascot5770@gmail.com). Scottish or Welsh kilts are appropriate but not mandatory. The St. Andrews Society invites us to Kirken of the Tarten at The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer on April 23, 2023 beginning at 10:30 a.m., across from Marina Jack's, which was the landing site of the Scottish Ormiston Colony in 1885, founding Sarasota! To reserve a spot for their buffet luncheon (\$20) Make checks out to "SASS" and mail to St. Andrew's Scottish Society, 5828 Lakeside Woods Cir, Sarasota, FL 34243)

**CORONATION PARTY:** From our friends in the Brit Club: "KC3 Coronation party on May 6th at the Turtle Beach Pavilion on Siesta Key". It's in the planning stage so they're seeking volunteers.

**WELSH QUESTIONS ON JEOPARDY AGAIN:**

**EPIDEMIOLOGIST  
ARCHIE COCHRANE  
STUDIED  
PNEUMOCONIOSIS,  
A DISEASE OF  
THESE ORGANS, IN  
WELSH COAL MINERS**

**AFTER THE QUEEN'S  
DEATH,  
THE NAMES OF  
PRINCE WILLIAM'S  
CHILDREN NOW END  
WITH "OF" THIS PLACE  
INSTEAD OF CAMBRIDGE**

Answers below.

**THEATER PARTY?:** For many years our Welsh Society has enjoyed supporting the Booker High School Performing Arts spring play. When everything was cancelled in the spring of 2020 we missed out on their performance of "Seussical the Musical". Now in 2023 they will again present that delightful show with undoubtedly a new cast. Shall we try again? Now the performance will be at the Neel Center, 5840 26th Street W, Bradenton, while the Booker theater is undergoing remodeling. Let us know if this interests you and we can reserve seats. The dates are Friday, April 29th at 2 and 7 p.m. and Sunday April 30 at 2. Tickets are \$24.

**WILD CARNEDDAU WELSH PONIES:**By Begu Arian, reprinted from the *Western New England Welsh Society Newsletter*

"The Carneddau Mountains in Snowdonia are amongst the most hostile and inhospitable places in the UK. During the winter, they are often shrouded in deep sea fog. Some of the peaks soar to more than 3,000 feet above sea level. Rain fall is heavy, wind is high, and temperatures, especially during the winter months, are bitterly low.

A small population of about 300 semi-feral Carneddau ponies have access to more than 13,500 acres of common between Conwy, Capel Curig, Bethesda, and Llanfairfechan. At the height of the mining industry, they were used to pull carts down the mines. These days, they are left free to roam the hillsides as they please. They meander freely amongst the remains of long lost farming settlements and Roman forts, sharing the land with thousands of sheep. A group of farmers from Bethesda and Llanfairfechan who are supported by Natural Resources Wales, maintain the herd, grazing to the benefit of wildlife on the mountains from chough to dung beetles.

These native Welsh mountain ponies, which are no longer domesticated, add to the raw beauty of this awe-inspiring landscape. They have a shared ancestry with the Welsh Section A Mountain Pony and have

been recognized as a unique and rare breed. They date back to the Bronze Age and carry genes specifically related to hardiness and waterproofing. A study of their DNA shows they have bred in isolation for several hundred years.

King Henry VIII ordered their destruction in 1509, deeming any horse or pony not fit to carry soldiers should be destroyed. Fortunately, the harsh terrain and unforgiving elements of the Carneddau deterred his henchmen. In 2013, a winter snow-storm wiped out 100 ponies, but the population recovered in a few years.

Seven local families retain the rights of guardianship of the ponies. They round them up once a year for health checks and to allow some ponies to be sold to keep the herd in balance.

The turbulent political landscape has brought a new challenge. Proposed agricultural funding cuts by the Welsh Government could bring an end to the centuries of protection that hill farmers have provided the ponies."



Photo by Erika Dawson-Davies

**GLOBALWELSH:** GlobalWelsh, the non-profit Welsh diaspora organization, announced that it has launched a new global hub in the U.S. GlobalWelsh USA. The new 'virtual' hub will be focused on growing and connecting the business diaspora network in the USA and facilitating opportunities for mutual growth between members both home and away. Here links to the articles.

English >> <https://globalwelsh.com/news-item/94/globalwelsh-launches-new-hub-in-the-usa>

Welsh >> <https://globalwelsh.com/news-item/95/globalwelsh-yn-lansio-hyb-newydd-yn-uda> If you would like to get involved with the Hub in any way or would like to catch up with the GlobalWelsh USA team, please reach out via [usa@globalwelsh.com](mailto:usa@globalwelsh.com) or Jan Griffiths directly via [jan@globalwelsh.com](mailto:jan@globalwelsh.com).

**FESTIVAL OF WALES (Mark your calendar):**



# North American Festival of Wales Lincoln, Nebraska

August 31 - 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 Steffan Lloyd Owen

## **SPORTS:**

Wales Six Nations Rugby games (all times Eastern):

- Saturday, February 25, 11:45 AM: England at Wales
- Saturday, March 11, 9:15 AM: Wales at Italy\*
- Saturday, March 18, 10:45 AM: Wales at France

**ANSWERS to JEOPARDY QUESTIONS:** "Lungs", "Wales"

## **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 volunteers Renny Phrys and Mary Lou Guy

.....  
\$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](http://SARASOTAWELSH.COM), [SarasotaWelsh@gmail.com](mailto:SarasotaWelsh@gmail.com)