



The St. David's Welsh Society brings together the various people of the Welsh "village", of the greater Kansas City area and its environs, and their Cornish neighbors, to celebrate the Celtic heritage and spirit.

Membership Information

Annual Dues date - March
Individual - \$10 Family - \$15
Contributing - \$25

Send dues to SDWS
15332 W. 82nd Street, Lenexa, Kansas 66219

Contact

Evan Ash frevanash@gmail.com
Larry Griffiths larrygriff@hotmail.com

<http://www.kcwelsh.com>

SDWS Board

Evan Ash, *President*
Carolyn Adkins, *Vice President, Hospitality*
Bob Adkins, *Vice President, Program Support*
Larry Griffiths, *Treasurer*
Doug Wyatt, *Secretary, Bywyd Cymreig editor*
At-Large Board Members:
Judith Brougham, Ann McFerrin,
John Schaefer, Katherine Spencer, Sue Walston

Enwebiadau Bwrdd – Board Nominations

We will have an election of new officers to the Saint David's Welsh Society of Kansas City at our December meeting. Openings for the office of President and Board Member-at-large will be on the ballot.

Those willing to volunteer are also welcomed. Please send your nominations to Evan Ash at frevanash@gmail.com or by phone at (913) 768-7006. Our nominating committee will be collecting names during October.



In Memoriam



Martha Ann Davies

June 27, 1941 - August 23, 2018

On Thursday, August 23rd 2018, the state of Nebraska and the Midwest region of the United States lost a fluent Welsh Speaker and a member of the Gorsedd of the Bards.

Martha began studying the Welsh language while living with her first husband, James Dickey, in Aberystwyth. During her third winter in Aberystwyth, Martha developed a heavy cold. She spent a week reading T. Rowland Hughes' novel *William Jones* in Welsh. By the time she finished the rather long novel, she was a fluent reader.

In the 1980s, Martha's family returned to the United States. Her love of the Welsh language led her to become a Welsh translator and genealogist. She was instrumental in translating the stories of many Welsh-American settlers and sharing those lost pieces of history with others.

In 2016, Martha was honored by the Gorsedd of the Bards at the 2016 National Eisteddfod, held in Abergavenny Wales. The honor was in recognition of her countless translation of newspaper articles, histories of the Welsh in America, and obituaries of Welsh citizens. Only three Americans have ever been extended this honor from Wales.

Martha was also a tireless worker and promoter of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Center in Wymore, NE. She served as the Center's chief archivist. She also served tirelessly on the Board of Directors for the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project.

Gweddillwch mewn Heddwch – Rest in Peace



Digwyddiadau i ddod - Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 7th, Trip to historic Welsh settlement in Arvon, Kansas. All participants in this event will meet at the historic church in Arvon, Kansas. It is about a 90 mile trip (one-way) that will take about one hour and twenty minutes. Please be at the Arvon church by 11:00a.m. to participate in the church service led by Father Evan Ash. This will be followed by lunch and an informative tour and presentation. Our tour will conclude at 3:00pm.

From Kansas City, travel south on I-35 Highway. Go through all of Johnson County, KS and past the cities of Ottawa and Williamsburg, KS in Franklin County. When you reach Exit 148 (also called KS-131 exit), turn right onto Fauna Road. This will quickly turn into S. Hoch Road. Take Hoch Road 3.13 miles into Osage County. You will eventually reach Arvon which is located on the shores of Melvern Lake. Because of the historic nature of Arvon, the church does not have an address.

Saturday, November 3rd, Shawnee Civic Center, 13817 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, Kansas – Daughters of the British Empire - Brit Faire. Please drop by and see our booth.

Larry Griffiths will be hosting the 19 minute film "Pobl y Paith" or "People of the Prairie". This film was produced by the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project. Berwyn E. Jones and Martha Davies are listed in the credits as well as our own Larry Griffiths and Judith Brougham. To view this video on the web service "YouTube" click the following link...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGZ-TmD7R30>

Saturday, December 8th, St. Lukes Episcopal Church, 5325 Nieman Road in Shawnee, Kansas 66203. Please join us for festive Christmas fellowship. We may even sing one or two Welsh carols. Evan Ash will present a Christmas film followed by our traditional tea and desert table. Our meeting will begin at 2:00pm.

Please plan to attend an order of Society business that will precede the festivities. We will hold a Board Election to nominate a new President and Board Member-at-large.



Y gegin Cornish - The Cornish Kitchen

Tomato Fish Cakes

You will need a fry pan and oil in which to fry them. I used lemon infused rapeseed oil. I fried the seasoned cod steak in a little oil for 2 mins each side, then set aside to cool. Do not add anything when you mash the potato, except a little salt and pepper perhaps.

For ONE large fishcake, you will need:

- 1 medium ripe vine tomato, skinned and de seeded, then chopped finely
- 3 oz cooked, cold mashed potato, like King Edward
- 3-4 oz cooked flaked cod [don't over cook]
- zest of half small lemon
- 1 heaped dessertspoonful chopped fresh parsley
- seasonings of your choice
- a little beaten egg
- oil of your choice - I love lemon infused
- fresh breadcrumbs, preferably stale
- a small amount of chopped chilli if you wish

Fry the finely chopped tomato flesh in a little oil until soft and allow to cool in the pan. [you will need the oil in a mo for frying] In a bowl, mix the cold potato, parsley, zest and tomato flesh and roughly stir to bind with about a dessertspoonful of beaten egg, then stir in the cod. Try not to break the lovely big flakes up too much, and check your seasoning. Plenty of sea salt and fresh ground pepper. Chill.

Heat the same fry pan as you fried your tomato, with the lovely tomatoey oil. Shape the mix into a large fish cake, then dip it into some beaten egg and finally coat in the stale breadcrumbs.

Fry for about 5 mins each side. Serve with salad, chips, or stir fry veg? Whatever! Just great as a main for lunch, or a starter. It is even good enough for a dinner dish.

Note: Chilli oil would be great too. The quantity will make two smaller fish cakes of course and you could use smoked cod for that different flavour.

From [http://
recipesfromacornishkitchen.blogspot.com](http://recipesfromacornishkitchen.blogspot.com)

The Bawdy Comedy of the English (and Welsh) by Doug Wyatt

Thank you to all those who attended the September 8th SDWS film presentation of "Caught In The Act" that was held at St. Lukes Episcopal Church (5325 Nieman Road, Shawnee KS). Thank you Brad Furnish for hosting this film. I first saw "Caught In The Act" when it came to the Glenwood Theatre in the Metcalf Mall (now sadly gone).

“**Caught In The Act**” is a hilarious comedy about deceit, integrity, and the folly that some people get themselves into. Set in the beautiful Welsh valleys, it tells the story of a corrupt parish council embezzling EU money to pay for their decadent lifestyles instead of funding the cultural development of their town. They soon find themselves having to perform the unimaginable task of producing one of the great Shakespearean plays for the most important festival in the EU cultural calendar.

I thought “Caught In The Act” was an excellent example of English/Welsh comedy. The English have always been able to use “under-statement”, “worsening situations”, “dryness”, “play-on words”, “sexual innuendos (bawdy suggestions)” and fine-tune it to a tour-de-farce that American comedians have never been able to match.

One example of Welsh comedians using “play-on words” is from a 1960s BBC radio show in which Percy, an effeminate Welsh coal miner is working with a pneumatic drill deep down in a coal mine. Percy turns to his partner and asks “Are my seams straight?”

The English/Welsh have been producing bawdy/risqué theatre before William Shakespeare wrote “The Merry Wives of Windsor” with the character Falstaff donning a pair of deer antlers and trying to seduce both Mistress Ford and Mistress Page in the forest.



The “Jig Theatre” originated in the 1600s in Elizabethan London. This form of theatre was usually offered at the end of that night’s main production. Jig performances were short comedies that; poked fun of politicians of the day, the singing of secular songs, dancing, cross-dressing, stage fighting, and a lot of sexual innuendos.

Jig theatre was aimed at the “common” class of society. While the average Englishman could not dare to say such farcical words at his place of business or around his neighbors and family, he/she could go to the theatre and experience such ideas.

Richard Talton was London’s first innovator of Jig

Theatre. Mr. Talton was a celebrated actor, clown and author. He died on September 1588. His epitath reads “he of clowns to learn still sought/But now they learn of him they taught”. Richard Talton was known for policing his hecklers by delivering a devastating rhyme when necessary. Talton quickly drew audience members into the performance and he frequently matched wits with them. It is reported that he was Queen Elizabeth’s favorite clown.



Richard Talton / Harley 3885 manuscript



William Kempe performing a Morris Dance.

During the time of William Shakespeare, the lead performer of Jig Theatre was William Kempe. He was known as one of William Shakespeare’s best dramatic actors. By 1598,

William Kempe was one of five actor-shareholders in a group called “Lord Chamberlain’s Men”. This acting troupe had the patronage of William Shakespeare’s writing. The “Lord Chamberlain’s Men” was a very serious acting company however. Shakespeare was

writing Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, and Mcbeth for them. The company held the exclusive rights to perform these Shakespeare plays. While the historically famous actor Richard Burbage took the lead in many of Shakespeare’s dramas, William Kempe managed to succeed in some of Shakespeare’s

comedies. It is thought that he may have even been the inspiration for the character of Falstaff. In an event titled “Nine Days Wonder”, William Kempe performed a Morris Dance from London to Norwich (a distance over 100 miles). He was greeted by cheering throngs of villagers as he danced his way along the English countryside. This event occurred in February and March of 1600.

Jig Theatre eventually became a concern to those who held political power. In 1612, the Westminster Magistrates decided that the lewd and adverse-political suggestiveness of Jig Theatre upon the common Englishman might not be the best for his moral character. An order entitled “*Order for supprsing of Jigges att the ende of Playes*” was issued which discontinued such entertainment for a short while. Bawdy comedies continued to exist within English/Welsh theatre even after such regulations.

I first “tasted” English/Welsh comedy during the summer of 1974. A televised comedy variety program called “The Dean Martin Comedy World” introduced the British comedy troupe “Monty Python’s Flying Circus” to the United States. One of the troupe’s sketches, “The Dull Life of a City Stockbroker” was too bawdy for American censors. The scene with the topless news agent had to be cut. Comedian Dean Martin’s producer, Greg Garrison, paid for the conversion of the BBC series from PAL to NTSC format so that it could be sold to the Public Broadcast Service (PBS) later that year.



The Nude Organist of Monty Python’s Flying Circus

The non-stop silliness of Monty Python’s Flying Circus’ risqué sketches immediately caught my attention. I had never seen any nudity on television until then. Many episodes of Monty Python would open with a group of artisans (art lovers) huddled together extolling the virtues of the nude human form. They would then immediately scatter leaving the television audience three seconds to view “The Nude Organist”. I always thought this prank was hilarious.

I immediately became bitten by the British “comedy bug”, as . did many other Americans. As editor, I would like to

conclude this article by listing my top five favorite English/Welsh televised comedies from the 1960s upwards. They are ranked in order of silliness. If you do not see your favorite listed, please notify me at TheWyattsInKC@gmail.com. I am sure that I will miss a few.

Televised Bawdy English Comedy Shows

1. Monty Python’s Flying
2. The Goodies.
3. The Benny Hill Show.
4. The Two Ronnies.
5. Fawlty Towers.

Honorable Mentions...

- Ripping Yarns
- Blackadder
- At Last The 1948 Show
- Do Not Adjust Your Set
- The Goon Show (radio)
- Absolutely Fabulous
- The Young Ones
- The Vicar of Dibley
- Dad’s Army

A Note From The Editor

If you would like to contribute an article to Bywyd Cymreig whether it be a recipe, notice of a Welsh cultural event, or anything else having to do with the Welsh, please type it into a Microsoft Word document or plain text document (Notepad) and submit it to TheWyattsInKC@gmail.com. I will most likely publish it and be very grateful for your contribution.