

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY

Volume 12 Number 2 – April 2017

WELSH SOCIETY EVENTS

Since November, the Malad Valley Welsh Society has held two very successful events.

The New Year's Party was held early in January. Dotty Evanson chaired the event where potluck snacks were served. Dotty organized an activity that taught about the history of Wales. Prizes were given to those who did the best on the "quiz."

The St. David's Day celebration was held on March 1 with 25 people present to eat traditional leek soup made by Helen Ravsten, a not-so-traditional 6' hoagie sandwich from Thomas Market, and delicious Welsh cakes made by Dotty Evanson and Bob Crowther. During dinner, we talked about St. David and why the day is so important in Wales. After singing the Welsh National Anthem, led by Helen Ward, we watched a slide show of Roxanne Albretsen's pictures of Wales from the trip in September.

Holding three special events seemed to work well this year since all three events had good attendance. This plan will be continued for 2017-2018.

MEMBERSHIP IN WELSH SOCIETY

Remember that membership in the Malad Valley Welsh Society goes from Festival to Festival. Return the enclosed renewal form with your \$10 dues to keep your membership current

and make you eligible for recognition at the Welsh Festival this year. Please include your email address and phone number so we can contact you about upcoming events.

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY OFFICERS - 2016-2017

Jean Thomas, President
Susan Wittman, Secretary
Brent Evanson, Treasurer

POETRY TO BE FEATURED AT WELSH FESTIVAL

For the first time, poetry will be part of the Malad Valley Welsh Festival. All Malad Elementary School teachers and English teachers in the Middle and High Schools have been encouraged to have their students write a poem for the contest. Winners will read their poems at the Welsh Festival and receive cash prizes and certificates.

Adults who would like to submit poems for the poetry competition should send 1-5 works to Annette Elcock, Chair of the Poetry Competition, at 59 Bannock Street, Malad, ID 83252. There is no required format, style, or topic this year.

So if you are a poet – published or unpublished – please send in your poems for this first Welsh Festival competition to make it a success. If

you have questions, please contact Annette at 208-766-7104 (adelcock@msn.com) or Jean Thomas at 208-766-5361 (thomjea2@isu.edu)

Malad Valley Welsh Festival Will Chair Its First “Bard” in 2017

Since the 1100s, the *eisteddfod* has been held in Wales. For the first several hundred years, the event was a gathering of poets. Music became part of the competition when the modern *eisteddfod* was organized in the early 1800s.

The most exciting moment at the Welsh *eisteddfod* is the chairing of the bard. Poets submit their works, using pseudonyms, and the poems are judged by a panel of Welsh poets. At the chairing event, the name of the winner is intoned three times before that person rises from his or her seat to be recognized. The winner receives an elaborately carved chair and presides over the rest of the *eisteddfod*. The oldest known Bardic chair created specifically for an *eisteddfod* was built in Carmarthen in 1819.

An antique chair has been donated to the Malad Valley Welsh Festival to be used as the bard’s chair. The name of the winning poet will be carved on a plaque attached to the chair, and it will be on display at all future Festivals.

The Malad Valley Welsh Festival Bard and runners-up in the adult division will receive certificates and

cash prizes. Youth winners will receive certificates and cash prizes.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT WILL FEATURE PHOTOS OF WALES

Have you been to Wales? If so, did you take lots of pictures of sheep, castles, churches, and mountains? Bring your pictures (enlarged to at least 8” x 10” and framed or matted) to exhibit at the Welsh Festival. Local Oneida County and Malad people should bring their pictures to the 2nd Ward Church Building on Thursday, June 29, from 2-7 p.m. Out of-town Festival attendees should bring their pictures to the 2nd Ward Church basement before noon on Friday, June 30. You may exhibit 5-10 pictures because we want to show the beauty of Wales. If you have questions, please contact Lloyd Bush, Chair of Photography Exhibit at 208-766-4466 (lb3600@yahoo.com).

CYMRU AM BYTH – WALES FOREVER!

**13th ANNUAL
MALAD VALLEY
WELSH FESTIVAL
JUNE 30-JULY 2,
2017**

**WATCH FOR WELSH
FESTIVAL INFORMATION AT
WWW.WELSHFESTIVAL.COM**

THE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR THE 13TH ANNUAL MALAD VALLEY WELSH FESTIVAL IS ENCLOSED. Please consult the website before the Festival for changes.

JOHN GOOD TO BE FEATURED PERFORMER AT WELSH FESTIVAL

Many will remember John Good from previous Malad Valley Welsh Festivals when he performed as part of Oceans Apart. He is bringing his traditional Welsh background to this year's Festival where he will perform and present about Welsh music and poetry. John plays a number of traditional instruments, including the Welsh bagpipes (different from Scottish bagpipes), tin whistles, and stringed instruments. Born in Wales, John immigrated to the United States in 1976 and now lives in Arizona where he teaches at several community college campuses. He is passionate about preserving Welsh culture and traditions and even wears a Welsh kilt when he performs. His entertaining music and storytelling style makes him a popular performer. John will make two presentations (one each on Friday and Saturday) and perform on the outdoor amphitheatre on

both days. He will also appear in the finale concert on Saturday evening.

WELSH CASTLES AT THE FESTIVAL

Pictures and stories about Welsh castles will be a large part of the displays in the Church cultural hall during the Festival. The castles that comprised King Edward's "Ring of Iron" when England was trying to subdue the Welsh are Harlech, Beaumaris, Caernarfon, and Conwy, all built at tremendous cost during the late 1200s. Wales is covered with castles of all sizes and in all forms of disrepair but comprise one of the major tourist destinations in Wales. Puzzles in the display area will invite attendees to put a few pieces together to form pictures of Caernarfon and Cardiff Castles.

MORE KIDS' ACTIVITIES AT FESTIVAL

In an attempt to become an event for families, the Welsh Festival will sponsor many more activities for children this year. Besides the traditional pioneer games, kids will be able to play on bouncy castles, have their faces painted, draw and color dragons, blow bubbles, and put together puzzles. For more information about the kids' activities, contact Christy Oja at 208-766-4963 (oja@atcnet.net).

THANKS to everyone who returned the survey form about last year's Festival. We received some good ideas!

WANT TO HELP AT THE FESTIVAL OR IN PLANNING THE FESTIVAL?

Contact Jean Thomas
(thomjea2@isu.edu or 208-766-5361)

Did you know? The word "cenhinen" in Welsh means both leek and daffodil.

PLAN YOUR FAMILY REUNION AT THE WELSH FESTIVAL!

Contact Jean Thomas
(thomjea2@isu.edu or 208-766-5361) if you want to reserve meeting space, have your reunion advertised in Festival publicity, and receive coupons for the Festival food and craft booths for all of your Reunion attendees!

Malad Valley Family History Books, Volumes 1-3, are available at Thomas Market, the Blue Goose, the Oneida Pioneer Museum, and Malad City Hall.

MUSEUM GRAND OPENING

The Oneida Pioneer Museum will open on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend (May 27th) and will again host its popular bake sale. Come to the Museum for delicious treats and stay to tour the exhibits.

Thanks to generous grants from the Idaho Community Foundation, Idaho Heritage Trust, and Union Pacific Foundation, progress is being made on remodelling theme rooms on

the 3rd floor. If you would like to help with this huge project, become a "Friend of the Museum."

Become a "Friend of the Museum" to support the Oneida Pioneer Museum.

Annual: \$20 (2 years - \$35)
Handcart: \$50 (2 years - \$95)
Covered Wagon: \$100 (2 years - \$190)
Stagecoach: \$200 (2 years - \$390)

Send your tax deductible donation to the Museum at P.O. Box 79, Malad, ID 83252.

The Malad Valley Welsh Society Newsletter is published semi-annually. All members of the Malad Valley Welsh Society receive a copy as a benefit of membership. To put stories, ads, or information in the Newsletter, contact Jean Thomas (208-766-5361) or thomjea2@isu.edu.

The Malad Valley Welsh Foundation is the nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that raises funds to support the Festival. All donations to the Festival and Society are tax deductible. To make charitable donations to benefit the Society and Festival, please send your donation to the Malad Valley Welsh Foundation, 59 Bannock Street, Malad, ID 83252.

To subscribe to the North American Welsh Newspaper--

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LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE GIFT? Give a membership to the Malad Valley Welsh Society – just \$10. Contact Jean Thomas (208-766-4417)