

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY

Volume 15 Number 1 – October 2019

WELSH SOCIETY FALL PARTY

The Malad Valley Welsh Society will hold its annual Fall Party on Wednesday, October 23, at the Oneida County Library at 6:00 p.m.

Cory Webster, the Haywire Cowboy and the 2019 Bard of the Welsh Festival, will perform his original cowboy songs and poetry. Cory is from Downey and owns the Haywire Ranch, which is on the road toward Downata. All members and guests are invited to bring a treat to share.

The Welsh Society will also have a Winter Party in January and a St. David's Day celebration near March 1. Because March 1 is on a Sunday in 2020, the St. David's Day celebration may have to be changed to another date.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN THE
MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY!
DUES ARE JUST \$10 PER YEAR.

15th ANNUAL MALAD VALLEY WELSH FESTIVAL WRAP-UP

The 15th annual Malad Valley Welsh Festival was successful with a larger crowd than in past years, especially on Saturday. Every event was well attended, and even the weather cooperated.

With video of the 2018 *Eisteddfod* where he was inducted to the "Gorsedd of the Bards," Ron Dennis talked about the thrill of being one of the few Americans ever to be invited to be part of this elite group. Lucie Thomas Washburn explained the importance of the *Gorsedd*. A lot of people became excited about finding their ancestral homes or farms in Wales after hearing Grant Vaughn explain how modern technology can be used to locate such sites, whether they still exist or not.

New this year was the Family Concert on Friday evening. The Jones/Oja Family and the Teeple/Huckaby/Bingham families demonstrated that Welsh singing talent still exists in Malad Valley.

Celtic musicians performed on the amphitheatre on both days of the Festival. Teton Skye from Idaho Falls and the Katie Jane Band from Portland were featured performers.

The ever-popular piano ensemble concert highlighted new and returning pianists and ended, as always, with Mack Wilburg's rousing rendition of "Stars and Stripes Forever."

For the first time, art was featured in both adult and youth events during the Festival. Twelve local artists set up exhibits along Main Street, which drew more people to the downtown events, including the Oneida Quilters' Quilt Show, tours of the Presbyterian Church, and tours of the Co-op Building. The Oxford Peak Arts Council sponsored the "Taste of Wales" booth outside the

Co-op Building and offered delicious, authentic Welsh food.

Over 400 Welsh-themed art projects by Malad school students were displayed in the 2nd Ward Church or the Oneida Pioneer Museum window.

Another new event was the song-writing competition with three talented composers submitting their original works. No prizes were awarded because the entries were all so different that they were all winners. The compositions were performed during the Adult Poetry Reading.

Cory Webster, the Haywire Cowboy, was named the 2019 Malad Valley Welsh Festival Bard at the finale event. His winning poem appears later in this newsletter. All adult winners received cash prizes. In addition, Cory received an inscribed medal and was invited to sit in the Bard's Chair for the remainder of the program. He will preside over the 2020 Festival.

Several family-friendly events were held in Samaria at the Malad Valley Heritage Square, including baby animals, pony rides, tours of restored cabins, and driving tours of historic sites around Samaria.

Matt Wray, cowboy poet and expert on part of the Martin/Willie Handcart Company route, spoke at the Fireside on Sunday evening. He talked about pioneer heritage and the importance of keeping that legacy alive.

Festival attendees could shop for themselves and others at the many craft booths. Everyone could find good food throughout the Festival.

Plans are underway for the 16th annual Malad Valley Welsh Festival, which will be on the last weekend in

June 2020. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Welsh Festival!



AUTUMN
by Cory Webster
The Haywire Cowboy
2019 BARD of the Welsh Festival

These are the days
When you're out on your horse
Riding through quakies and pine.

These are the days
When time stands still
And the mountains are yours and mine.

We came for a purpose, to ride for the strays
But we both know better, for these are the days,

When we ride for the pleasure
In our saddles together
Up through quakies and pine,

And we ride with the feeling
That time may be stealing
This moment in autumn divine,

For these are the days
When you're out on your horse
And the mountains . . . are yours and mine.



Cymry am Byth!
Wales Forever!

GUIDELINES FOR 2020 WELSH FESTIVAL ADULT POETRY COMPETITION

- 1) Theme: "Heroes"
 - 2) Deadline: June 1, 2020
 - 3) Length: 60 lines maximum
 - 4) Adults may submit 1 or 2 poems.
 - 5) Adults must submit poems using a pseudonym of their choice.
 - 6) A cover sheet must accompany each submission. The cover sheet will be removed before the poems are given to the judges so that the judging will be anonymous.
 - 7) Modest cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 poets.
 - 8) The winning poet will be named the "2020 Bard of the Malad Valley Welsh Festival" and will preside over the next year's Festival.
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Mail poems to Mary Alice Telford,
Chair of Malad Valley Welsh Festival
Adult Poetry Competition, P.O. Box
308, Malad, ID 83252. For more
information, contact Mary Alice at
208-431-2683 or
maryalice2014@gmail.com.

See www.welshfestival.com for
complete list of guidelines and copy
of cover page.

See www.welshfestival.com for complete
lists of competitions and guidelines.

Do you write fiction? Plan to enter the 1st Welsh Festival Fiction Writing Competition!

Guidelines:

- 1) Deadline: June 1, 2020
 - 2) Length: 2000 words maximum
 - 3) All stories must have a Welsh or Western pioneer setting, theme, or character as the central element of the story.
 - 4) No science fiction or horror stories will be accepted.
 - 5) All stories must be unpublished.
 - 6) Author must submit story using a pseudonym of his or her choice.
 - 7) A cover sheet must accompany each submission. The cover sheet will be removed before the story is given to the judges so that the judging will be anonymous.
 - 8) Modest cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 authors.
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Mail stories to Lucie Thomas
Washburn, Chair of Malad Valley
Welsh Festival Fiction Writing
Competition, P.O. Box 308, Malad,
ID 83252. For more information,
contact Lucie at 303-503-3869 or
bob_washburn@hotmail.com.

See www.welshfestival.com for
complete list of guidelines and copy
of cover page.

WINNING ADULT POETS 2019 WELSH FESTIVAL

1st Place (Bard)

Cory Webster, (the Haywire
Cowboy) -- "*Autumn*"

2nd Place

Jon C. Ward (J.J. Jamison) --
"*Standing in the Rain*"

3rd Place

Ralph Hanson (R.K. Taylor) --
"*Thankfulness*"

Honorable Mention

Ned Thomas (Dylan Granger) --
"*Here in This Valley*"



*The first volume of winning poems
from the 2017, 2018, and 2019
Malad Valley Welsh Festival Adult
and Youth Poetry Competitions will
be available at next year's Festival.
Look for it at the Country Store.*



NOS CALAN GAEAF

Halloween is not a holiday in Wales, but they celebrate *Calan Gaeaf* on November 1, the traditional first day of winter and the darkest, coldest night of the year. On that day people avoid churchyards, stiles, and crossroads since spirits are thought to gather in those places.

In olden times, everyone in the village would write their names on rocks and place them in and around a village fire. Children and women would dance around the fire, chanting

to keep the spirits away. When the fire started to die out, they would all run home to avoid being snatched by *Yr Hwch Ddu Gwta* (a bad spirit that took the form of a tailless black sow with a headless woman). Perhaps the traditions and stories of *Yr Hwch Ddu Gwta* were used by parents to get their children home safely and as early as possible on this cold, dark night.

The following morning, all the stones containing villagers' names would be checked. If a stone was missing, the person who wrote their name on the stone would die within one year.

16th Welsh Festival Plans

Some events are already underway for the 2020 Malad Valley Welsh Festival to be held June 26-28, 2020.

Lucie Thomas Washburn's presentation about Welsh heroes will coordinate with this year's poetry competitions that have the theme "Heroes."

A speaker from Wales will talk about and show pictures of historic sites in Wales that would have been important to our Welsh ancestors.

Elaine S. Dalton is tentatively scheduled to be the Sunday evening Fireside speaker. She is the former General President of the Young Women of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Art and poetry competition guidelines are posted on the website. A new competition – fiction writing – will be held this year.

The draft schedule for the 2020 Welsh Festival will be posted on the website soon.