

MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY

Volume 14 Number 2 – May 2019

15th ANNUAL MALAD VALLEY WELSH FESTIVAL

Plans are underway for the 15th annual Malad Valley Welsh Festival with a lot of favorite events scheduled again as well as several new events. See the enclosed schedule for the dates and times of the events you want to attend.

Presentations will be by both returning and new speakers. Ron Dennis and Lucie Washburn are teaming up to talk about the Gorsedd of the Bards, the prestigious group to which Ron Dennis was inducted at last year's *eisteddfod*. He was honored for his work in translating historical books and pamphlets from Welsh into English and preserving that history. He will talk about his experience at the *eisteddfod* as one of the few Americans ever inducted to the Gorsedd while Lucie will provide the context and background of the Gorsedd.

Grant Vaughan, a new presenter, will talk about using modern technology to find ancestral homes in Wales (even if the structures no longer exist).

At the Sunday evening Fireside, Elder Michael J. Hess and his wife Sister Danece Hess will talk about the Welsh pioneer heritage of Malad Valley. Newly called as a member of the Seventy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mike has travelled in Wales for business as the CEO of Hess Pumice Products. Mike and Danece both have Welsh roots that extend to the earliest pioneers to Malad Valley.

Art will be a new feature at the Festival. Malad students have created Welsh-themed art projects that will be displayed during the Festival. The Oxford Peak Arts Council is sponsoring the "Art Walk on Main" during the Festival. The works of some of Malad's talented artists will be on display in the stores along Main Street, including the historic Co-op Building, which is undergoing restoration.

A song-writing contest will also be held during the Festival. Composers and lyricists are invited to perform their original pieces during the Friday afternoon program where the adult poets will recite their poems prior to the 2019 Bard of the Welsh Festival being chaired.

The popular wagon rides will traverse new routes, going down South Main to Tom Jenkins' restored cabin and up North Main to 300 North where the wagons will turn west and go to 100 West and back to the Park. New historic markers placed by the Oneida Pioneer Museum will indicate 15 of the important sites in Malad and can be seen from the wagons but are within walking distance of the City Park.

The displays in the church building will feature new family histories and an expanded "Walk Through Wales." The student artwork will be displayed throughout the building.

More kids' activities and games will be on Friday. Children will be able to throw rings around a dragon's wings, color castles, get their faces painted with

Welsh designs, and play games. On Saturday the Malad Middle School MathCounts Team will assist young people in playing the types of games their ancestors may have played as they travelled from Wales to Malad Valley.

Musical families and the Malad Valley Community Chorus will perform at the Friday night concert. Celtic musicians will perform on the outdoor amphitheatre throughout the Festival, and the youth and piano ensemble concerts will again be in the church.

The Presbyterian Church will host an afternoon tea and sing-along on Saturday afternoon, and the Oneida Quilters will sponsor their beautiful quilt show in the Senior Center.

Samaria will host family-friendly events like the Welsh Children's Farm with baby animals and pony rides, tours of the cabins in Malad Valley Heritage Square, and driving tours of the area.

These are just a few of the events on the Welsh Festival schedule this year. For the complete schedule, see the website: www.welshfestival.com, and plan to attend this year's Welsh Festival. Bring your family and friends!

**15th ANNUAL
MALAD VALLEY
WELSH FESTIVAL
JUNE 28 – 30, 2019
Mark your calendars!
www.welshfestival.com**

WELSH SOCIETY EVENTS

The final two events of 2018-2019 for the Malad Valley Welsh Society celebrated the Welsh version of St. Valentine's Day and St. David's Day.

The Welsh celebrate St. Dwynwen's Day on January 25. Like most Welsh holidays, this day is based on a Celtic legend. According to this tale, in the 5th century, Dwynwen fell in love with a man whom her father forbade her marrying. Distraught, Dwynwen ran into the woods and asked an angel to erase all memory of the man she loved. Dwynwen became a nun, and a church on Anglesey was built in her honor. The Welsh Society learned about Dwynwen and enjoyed Valentine's Day refreshments.

St. David's Day was celebrated with a dinner and program for over 80 people of all ages. Members of the Malad Valley Welsh Festival furnished leek soup and Welsh shortbread cookies, and the Samaria Community Foundation provided breads. Cold water, reminiscent of St. David's favorite beverage, was served. Origami red dragons decorated all the tables.

The Malad Middle School 8th grade social studies students provided the program. Dylan Moss read information about St. David and why the day is celebrated in Wales and communities like Malad with Welsh roots. A group of students sang "My Little Welsh Home," and their teacher, Luke Waldron, read a children's story. Door prizes were awarded to twelve lucky winners. The evening concluded with everyone singing the Welsh National Anthem.

Now is the time to renew your membership in the Welsh Society! Complete the enclosed form and return it to Susan Wittman with your \$10 dues. Half of your dues go to support the Malad Valley Welsh Festival and continue the Welsh heritage in Malad Valley.

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER
THE POETRY CONTEST!**

**GUIDELINES FOR 2019 WELSH
FESTIVAL ADULT POETRY
COMPETITION**

- 1) Theme: "Gratitude"
- 2) Deadline: June 1, 2019
- 3) Adults may submit up to 3 poems.
- 4) Length: no more than 60 lines
- 5) Adults must submit poems using a pseudonym of their choice.
- 6) A cover sheet must accompany each submission. The cover sheet will be torn off before the poems are given to the judges so that the judging will be anonymous.
- 7) Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 5 poets.
- 8) The winning poet will be named the "Bard of the Malad Valley Welsh Festival" and will preside over the next year's Festival.

Mail poems to Mary Alice Telford, Chair of Malad Valley Welsh Festival Adult Poetry Competition, P.O. Box 79, Malad, ID 83252. Contact Mary Alice at 208-431-2683 or maryalicect2014@gmail.com. See www.welshfestival.com for complete list of guidelines and copy of cover page.

***Cymru am Byth!
Wales Forever!***

***Are you a song writer?
Plan to enter the first
Welsh Festival song-
writing competition! See
the website for guidelines.
Deadline in June 1.
Everyone who enters will
perform at the Festival!***

**WELSH FESTIVAL RECEIVES
GRANT FUNDING**

The Malad Valley Welsh Festival could not exist without grants and donations. We cannot charge admission to major venues because of policies of Malad City and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We appreciate every donation from Welsh Society members, businesses, individuals, and families.

The Welsh Festival has been awarded grants from several organizations and foundations for this year's program.

- 1) Rocky Mountain Power Foundation supports the music and poetry events.
- 2) Idaho Humanities Council supports the presentations and poetry judges.
- 3) Idaho Commission on the Arts supports the outdoor music groups.
- 4) Bistlne Family Foundation supports the new art events.

5) Southeast Idaho High Country Travel Council funds some advertising.

Other major donors (over \$500) include Hess Pumice Products and Thomas Market. Our donors and grantors make the Festival possible!

ONEIDA PIONEER MUSEUM TO OPEN MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Beginning with a bake sale from noon to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 25, the Oneida Pioneer Museum summer season will begin. Stop by during the summer and see the Museum's collection of unique pioneer artifacts, crayon portraits, and historical pictures of Malad Valley.

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

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|-----------------------|--------------|
| Annual: | \$20 |
| Handcart: | \$50 |
| Covered Wagon: | \$100 |
| Stagecoach: | \$200 |

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

**FOR THE MOST CURRENT
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR
THE WELSH FESTIVAL, SEE
WWW.WELSHFESTIVAL.COM**

**DO YOU WANT TO HELP AT THE
FESTIVAL OR IN PLANNING THE
FESTIVAL? DO YOU HAVE IDEAS
FOR THE FESTIVAL? Contact Jean
Thomas (thomjea2@isu.edu or 208-766-
5361). We welcome all new ideas!**

**Give a unique gift-- membership
to the Malad Valley Welsh
Society! Only \$10 per year**

**Subscribe to NINNAU (The North
American Welsh Newspaper) – Phone:
908-766-4151 or ninnau@poboxes.com.**

**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, and the Welsh/Pioneer
Cookbook are available at Thomas
Market, the Blue Goose, and the
Oneida Pioneer Museum.**

*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.

