



# Gair y Ddraig

*The Word of the Dragon*

Ebrill 2023  
April 2023

CALGARY  
WELSH SOCIETY  
FOUNDED: 1906

## THE CWS BOARD

### Officers:

President: Margaret Freedman

Vice-president: Elaine Westlake

Secretary: Tracy Burr

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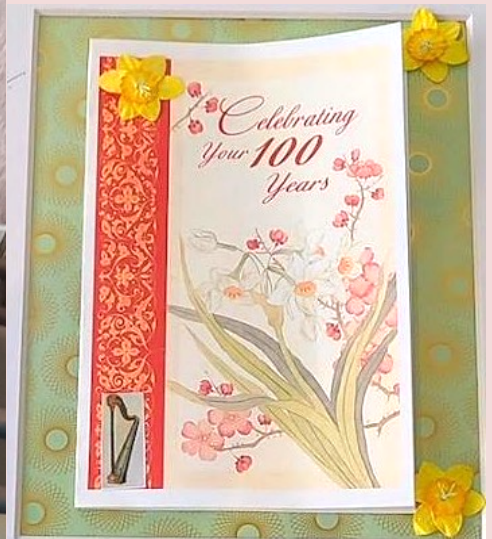
### Directors At Large:

Membership Sec.: Jean Kuhn

Margaret Hunziker

David Matthews

## HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY KIT DUCKETT!!!



## GREETINGS FROM C.W.S. PRESIDENT, MARGARET FREEDMAN

### **Annwyl Frindiau, Dear Friends**

After 3 long years we held our Saint David's Day lunch at the Calgary Winter Club. It was a lovely event and were pleased to be able to honour Kit Duckett, who celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to those who participated and helped with this occasion. On March 1<sup>st</sup>. we had our flag raising at City Hall, where around 12 people gathered.

We are in the process of planning our A.G.M in May and our annual picnic in July. The information will be sent to members once they are finalized. Do hope to see you at these events.

In this Newsletter you will see photos of the good time we had at the Winter Club, application forms and details of NAFOW and Cwrs Cymraeg. Thanks once again to David and to the photographers for their submissions.

On behalf of the Board

*Margaret Freedman*

## ST. DAVID'S DAY – WHAT A CELEBRATION!!

**While a traditional celebration of *Nawddsant Cymru*, St David, our patron Saint, the event was huge for two other reasons. It was an opportune time to celebrate long-time society member, Kit Duckett on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and the best post-covid gathering of the society since 2020.**



**FINE FOOD, FINE COMPANY AND FUN HAD BY ALL!**



# North American Festival of Wales

August 30<sup>th</sup> – September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023  
Lincoln, Nebraska at the Marriott Cornhusker Hotel

## **We invite you as Calgary Welsh Society members to apply for funding to attend!**

The Welsh North American Association ([www.nafow.org](http://www.nafow.org)) proudly presents the annual North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW). This cultural experience includes events designed to stimulate interest in Wales and help maintain its culture and heritage. They include musical performances, seminars, language instruction, tours, informal singing, Noson Lawen evenings, displays and demonstrations as well as an opening concert and a grand concert. Many of the performers and presenters are brought over from Wales. Festival headquarters this year will be at the Marriott Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska. Room cost will be \$143 + taxes US\$ per night. Rooms can be reserved now and registration information is available at [nafow.org](http://nafow.org).

## **Application Information and Process**

To be eligible to apply you need to have been an active member [before Covid] of the Calgary Welsh Society for at least two (2) years. Applicants will NOT be eligible for funding in consecutive years. You may only apply for funding to attend either NAFOW or CWRS CYMRAEG every two years. ALL applicants for NAFOW must be paid up members of CWS as of this year, 2023. One family application will be granted per awards year if eligible. Depending on the number of applications received, the selection committee may select only one person per family. In any circumstances, no more than two people per family will qualify for assistance. All applicants over 18 years of age need to submit a separate application from other family members. Applications will be placed in order of merit by an impartial selection committee. Priority will be given to members who have not previously been approved for funding. The amount of funding for each successful applicant will be determined by AGLC. Reimbursement of costs up to the maximum amounts will be made on presentation of eligible receipts to the CWS treasurer after completion of the events, and upon submission of a detailed, written report of no less than 500 words about your experiences, including seminars attended, concerts, banquets and musical events.

**Please send completed application form** to CWS president: Margaret Freedman, 21 Douglasbank Gardens SE, Calgary, AB T2Z 2C9, email [m.freedman@shaw.ca](mailto:m.freedman@shaw.ca) Applications must be received by Margaret no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>. All applications submitted by email will be acknowledged – if you do not receive confirmation please contact Margaret. If mailing please let Margaret know you have done so. We hope to inform each candidate of the selection committee decision as soon as available. NB All successful candidates will be required to give a written account of their experience to the Calgary Welsh Society after their attendance at NAFOW. ***If you are interested in applying for funding***, please fully complete and submit the application form on the opposite page of this paper .

*The Calgary Welsh Society Executive hopes that members will take advantage of the opportunity to attend the North American Festival of Wales. We will be applying to the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission to allow us to use casino funds to sponsor some members to attend these events as detailed above. Names of successful candidates will have to be included in our application to AGLC for funding, hence the need for the early submission of your applications.*

***Funding from the CWS is dependant on approval by AGLC.***

# **Application for Assistance to Attend NAFOW 2023, the North American Festival of Wales in Lincoln, Nebraska, August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.**

**Please read the NAFOW Application Information in this newsletter  
before completing the following.**

**[PRINT] Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. How Long have you been a member of the Calgary Welsh Society?** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Have you received funding to attend NAFOW in the past?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What years did you receive funding?** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Have you attended a NAFOW without funding?** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Are you a CWS board member or related to one?** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Please indicate below why you wish to attend NAFOW 2023?**

**6. How have you helped the CWS in the past? In what ways will your attendance at the event benefit our society through your involvement in the future?**

**7. Any other comments you would like to make?**

**After the event, the following must be submitted before eligible expenses will be reimbursed:**

- 1. all original eligible receipts (eg accommodation, food, registration, airfare)**
- 2. A detailed written report of no less than 500 words outlining events/workshops attended including a personal evaluation. This report may be shared with members through our newsletter or through an oral report given at a Noson Lawen. Successful applicants will be expected to make their own travel arrangements. However, assistance required to make such arrangements will be available.**

**RAISING THE WELSH FLAG!  
CODI'R DDRAIG COCH!**



# PATAGONIA:

Mona and David Matthews had the pleasure of spending a day in Puerto Madryn in Patagonia. Puerto Madryn is on the site that 160 Welsh people landed in 1865 on the ship the Mimosa. The photographs on this page tell a little bit of the story of the Welsh settlers as well as present day Puerto Madryn.



Puerto Madryn today



Catherine Davies Memorial



David and Mona with y Ddraig Coch. Puerto Madryn in the background.



The Mimosa



Members of the Welsh Society of Puerto Madryn



The Welsh Flag of Patagonia designed in Aberystwyth in 1852 before the Welsh sailed to Patagonia



The remains of 16 sleeping quarters carved into the soft volcanic rock and used for a few days by the Welsh on landing



The local Tehuelche people cooperated and worked with the Welsh. This is Lewis Jones with some of the Tehuelche



Sea Lions bathing in the sun a few miles from Puerto Madryn.

## Some interesting Information about the Early Days of the Welsh in Patagonia

### OUTSTANDING POINTS IN THE HISTORY OF PUNTA CUEVAS.

**1** The establishment of the Welsh Colony in Patagonia fulfilled the interests of both parties involved. On the one hand, the Argentine government needed to strengthen its possession of the area since Chile, from the Straits, and Britain from the Falklands, were a threat to Argentine sovereignty over the whole region, up till then only theoretical. On the other hand, a group of Welsh nationalists dreamed of founding a "New Wales", in which to develop their culture without hindrance. English oppression –in a cultural as well as an economical sense- was very strong and mass emigration was the envisaged solution.

**2** The promoters of the scheme looked for a "void" region to keep the Welshness alive, since it had been soon lost by those who had settled in the USA. Besides, the Civil War in that country (1860-65) had discouraged immigration. Negotiations with the Argentine government began in 1862. The Home Secretary, **Dr. Rawson**, was very much in favour of the project. **Lewis Jones** and **Sir Love Parry**, Madryn, came to explore the area in early 1863. Their reports were optimistic yet embellished when published in Wales.

**3** After a great deal of discussion, both in Argentina and in Wales, and a big propaganda effort, the first batch of about 160 people left from Liverpool in the tea-clipper *Mimosa* on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1865. Two Welshmen, **Edwyn Roberts** and **Lewis Jones**, anticipated their coming to get things ready and arrived here 6 weeks before the party. They chose this spot of the coast because it is a sheltered cove in which building material was available: the soft clayey rock (*tosca*) and planks from a wreck nearby. They brought with them timber and corrugated iron, as well as over 800 sheep, cattle and horses. They had hired a few men in Patagones as labourers. Probably these men suggested to the Welshmen the digging of dwellings as in their own town.

**4** When they installed their camp at this point, they didn't know there was no fresh water around. They only found some water a week later: it was a pond formed by runoff, on the sea shore, 3 miles northwards. They then moved the livestock but went on with the work they had begun at the original point. They built a storehouse with *tosca*-blocks cut out near the shore. The hollows resulting from the extraction of *tosca* are the caves we can see at present. Within these pits **Roberts** placed crude wooden huts, which were finished after the arrival of the colonists.

**5** The *Mimosa* anchored in this cove on the afternoon of 27<sup>th</sup> July 1865. Most of the passengers disembarked the following day, but it took several days unloading their belongings and installing themselves. The whole party was gathered here for only a few days, as groups of men soon began to make for the Chubut river. Most of the women and children followed a month later, by boat. The place was still busy: there was a birth, 4 infants died, and a woman too (most likely a grave discovered next to this place was hers).

**6** As the food was stored here, there was much coming and going between here and TreRawson, just established. The first section of the track between both points was started by **Edwyn Roberts** while he was awaiting the *Mimosa*'s arrival, and it stretched over 13 km by that September.

**7** By the end of 1865 a group of fishermen worked here and sold their catches in TreRawson. There were also some people looking after the storehouse at least until the autumn of 1866. After enduring two years of hardship at the Chubut valley, the colonists decided to abandon Patagonia. Thus all of them came back to Madryn to wait for a ship. The caves were occupied



## Cwrs Cymraeg Summer 2023 – The in-person course is back!

This summer marks the return of the week long course. Cymdeithas Madog will be hosting the Cwrs Dinas y Frenhinas (The Queen City Course) in Burlington, Vermont, from July 16-23, 2023. Again, skilled tutors will offer 6 levels of instruction, from absolute beginner to fluent Welsh speaker. Classroom instruction will be supplemented by workshops, activities and a lake cruise. As a welcome back gift to attendees, they are offering a discount of \$350 USD to every registrant. The fees will be \$1300 USD for instruction, shared room and board!

**Registration is now open at [SpeakWelsh.org](http://SpeakWelsh.org). For further information and updates, please check [SpeakWelsh.org](http://SpeakWelsh.org).**

### Welsh Stock at Calgary Scottish Shop

In February I was feeling especially proud of sharing my Welsh heritage and appreciative of the Welsh stock of items I found in Kensingtons Calgary Scottish Shop. I left the store with a Beautiful Wales 2023 calendar, a Welsh banner, *Y Ddraig Goch* party flag picks, tea in a gorgeous dragon canister and a black and red *Cymru Land of My Fathers* T-shirt. Shop owner Mr. Osborne kindly donated some of those items to Calgary Welsh Society. He told me the T-shirts are a popular selling item with Welsh farmers around Brandon, Manitoba who wear them to their annual winter festival in January. It's good to know our Dragon has a high profile with our Scottish neighbour. Calgary Scottish Shop is on 106A-10<sup>th</sup> Street NW in Calgary. Call (403) 264-6383. Enjoy your shopping!

Submitted by Jane Thomas

