



## Message from the WNAA President



*WNAA President  
Jeanne Jones  
Jindra*

To All WNAA Members and Friends,

I wish everyone Blwyddyn Newydd Dda as we begin 2023. We have so much to be thankful for as we put last year behind us and start anew.

In retrospect, the WNAA certainly emerged from NAFOW 2022 in Philadelphia triumphantly. The festival in this beautiful, historic city was outstanding and we will cherish the memories.

But it is time to look ahead to the next North American Festival of Wales, and this issue of HWYL will give you an overview of what we have planned. We are headed to Lincoln, Nebraska, and I share the excitement of the entire Board of Trustees of the WNAA for this opportunity to hold the festival in the Midwest, in an area rich with Welsh history and culture. Lincoln is a lively city, as I found out on a trip there in mid-October for the pre-planning meeting. The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, our venue hotel, accommodates our needs very well, including a complementary airport shuttle service. Events outside the hotel are located within walking distance in this city with wide streets and expansive scenery.

We have planned an outstanding lineup of entertainers, concerts, seminar presenters, Cinema Wales, and other events that will make this weekend jam-packed with all things Welsh. We will again host a group of those talented young singers from the Urdd to perform and interact throughout the weekend. Musical composer Robat Arwyn will conduct the 91st Gymanfa in the sanctuary of the Saint Paul Methodist Church.

A highlight will definitely be the tour to Wymore, home of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project and the Archive for Welsh America. The GPWHP is being honored with the NAWF's Heritage Medallion this year for the dedicated work they have done to collect, display and preserve Welsh artifacts. Included will be a stop at the Homestead National Historical Park, where you will learn about the lives and legends of the hardy Welsh pioneers who migrated to the prairies to build new lives.

The Monday overnight tour is a visit to Arvon, Kansas, spending time in this area where the imprint left by the Welsh settlers is still alive on the landscape today. After an overnight in Emporia, Kansas, the bus will return to the hotel on Tuesday.

Have I convinced you that you need to make plans now to join us in Lincoln this Labor Day weekend? Come a day or two early as we keep adding events to make sure we offer something for everyone. Remember "NAFOW 2023 Lincoln-There's a First Time for Everything!" Let's make this festival one we will be talking about for years to come!

Diolch yn fawr iawn! Thank you very much!  
Jeanne Jones Jindra

## 2023 North American Festival of Wales

Registration is now open for the 2023 North American Festival of Wales in Lincoln, Nebraska, August 30 through September 3, 2023.

Register through: [www.nafow.org](http://www.nafow.org)

The festival hotel is the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, located at 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Festival rates:

Rooms: \$114-\$134+ tax per night

Parking: \$11.25 per day

Call now to book your room: 1-888-236-2427  
Group name: North American Festival of Wales.

The festival hotel is located ten minutes from the Lincoln Airport; there is a hotel shuttle to the Lincoln Airport. Taxi transportation from the Lincoln Airport to the hotel is typically \$15.00-\$19.00.



*Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska*

The festival hotel is only forty minutes from Omaha. The Lincoln Amtrak station (also known as Haymarket Station) is a short cab ride away.

## HWYL Distribution

Please note that if you receive HWYL via snail mail (US mail) ONLY, this is the only issue of HWYL you will receive this year. If you would like to receive further issues of HWYL, which will be sent via email, or other email updates throughout the year, please send us your name and email address. Diolch!



**FYI from IHQ**



*WNAA Executive Secretary Megan Williams*

Of all the places I thought I would visit in my life, I wasn't sure Nebraska would be on the list. I have now been there twice and I am so excited to bring so many from our Welsh community there for the festival. What a beautiful state and what a lineup we have put together!

Make sure to arrive early as we kick off events on Wednesday evening with an informal concert, food and beverage. We are delighted to introduce TRIANO, sisters Emily, Charlotte and Jessica, who join us from Ceredigion. The Urdd returns with four new faces to entertain crowds. Dylan Morris makes his first trip to the US and is part of our opening concert. Award-winning conductor and composer Robat Arwyn is the artistic director for the Grand Concert, featuring Rhys Meirion, Gwawr Edwards and Steffan Lloyd Owen. He will also conduct the 91st National Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday, September 3.

Our seminar schedule is full and we are excited to bring contemporary faces from Wales, including former National Poet Ifor ap Glyn and Assembly member Peredur Owen Griffiths. Theatre returns with festival favorite Owen Thomas who brings his latest piece, Carwyn. Full festival line-up can be found in the newsletter.

We are excited to start the weekend early to give everyone the opportunity to visit Wymore and the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre. The day tour includes a visit to the Homestead National Historical Park, a one room schoolhouse and Bethel Cemetery. Do not miss the opportunity to visit the Archives of Welsh America.

Registration opens early March but hotel reservations can be made now. Research flights into Lincoln and Omaha, consider taking the train, or driving; all roads lead to Lincoln! As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

I hope to see you in Nebraska. You will not regret making the trip!

Hwyl am y tro, Megan Williams, Executive Secretary

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Website: [festivalofwales.org](http://festivalofwales.org)

**WNAA MISSION**

The Welsh North American Association strives to preserve, develop and promote our Welsh cultural heritage and traditions, including the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, and to do all things necessary and appropriate to accomplish these goals.

**Sponsors Wanted**

To continue to bring top-tier talent from Wales and present a quality Welsh festival, we need your help! We are looking for sponsors for the 2023 North American Festival of Wales.

We have an extensive and exciting program lined up for Lincoln and are looking for sponsors ranging from \$250-\$2,500. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor and would like to know what opportunities are available, please contact Megan Williams: [wnaahq@gmail.com](mailto:wnaahq@gmail.com).

WNAA, PO Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886



**Annual General Meeting**

The next AGM will be held Saturday 8:30 a.m, September 2, 2023 in Lincoln NE in conjunction with the 2023 North American Festival of Wales.

HWYL is published in the fall, winter and spring by the Welsh North American Association.

Editor: Jan Jones Batty

Direct comments or inquiries to:  
[editor@theWNAA.org](mailto:editor@theWNAA.org)

## New WNAA Board Members

The WNAA welcomes four new board members.



**Rev. Joseph G. Corbin** retired after 41 years serving in church-related work and, as of 2020, 28 years as an ordained pastor. He now serves as a stated supply pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Weyauwega WI. Joe received his formal training at The University of Wisconsin, School of Music, where he studied vocal performance. He earned a B.A. in Music and a M. Div. degree from The University of Dubuque, Iowa. Joe is well-known for directing Cymanfaoedd Canu and St. David's Day festivities throughout Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. He has also helped lead many of the late-night informal sings at NAFOW gatherings.



**Betty Cullingworth** of Toronto, Ontario, claims Welsh parentage on both sides. She was christened at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church in Toronto and remained a life-long member until its closing. She is a member of the Board of the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association; conductor of Merched Dewi, the Welsh women's choir long associated with Dewi Sant; and sought-after conductor of cymanfaoedd in Canada and the USA. Betty has previous served on the WNAA Board.



**Jack Williams** is currently the President of the Welsh Society of Philadelphia and the past President of the Welsh Guild of Philadelphia. He also serves as the Music Director of the WSOP. He graduated as a conducting major from Temple University in Philadelphia. He was the Organist in 1976 for the US Bicentennial Gymanfa Ganu in Philadelphia. He previously served on the Board of the NAWF. He served as a senior executive in the US General Services Administration directing operations of an 800-person team providing business, acquisition, and logistical support to US civilian agencies and military bases worldwide, a \$4 billion annual business. Concurrently he did advance work for three Presidents. He is the proud father of another Megan Williams born on March 13, 1981, and the proud grandfather of two beautiful granddaughters, Penelope and Jocelyn.



**Stephen B. Glynn** The first thing you need to know about me is that I'm a Cubs fan. There's something about faith and perseverance in that. I was born in Chicago about a mile from Wrigley Field which is my excuse. I grew up in the near-north suburbs of Chicago and was heavily involved in the instrumental and choral music programs in school. But I left the Midwest to go to sea. I am a 1980 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, graduating with honors in History and English, and where I received my B.S. and commission as a Coast Guard officer. I served on an icebreaker (USCGC Westwind) in the Great Lakes and the Arctic Ocean, had a four year tour as the Coast Guard Liaison Officer to the Government of Liberia, participated in a number of missions around the world, and then was stationed in St. Louis as the Military Support and Disaster Response Planner for the Midwest until I left the service. For the past 28 years I've been the Director of Administration and Human Resources for Stephen Ministries St. Louis, a religious training and publishing organization serving thousands of churches around the world. My job includes a variety of responsibilities including teaching, writing (edited several books), managing the organization and negotiating hotel contracts for live events—which I understand was of special interest to the WNAA.

I currently live in southern Illinois, about five miles from the Mississippi River, on a creek that flows into the Mississippi with my two dogs Bronwyn and Angharad, although my work and most of my waking hours are spent across the river in Missouri. I keep busy in my spare time with my church (worship leader, praise team), my local American Legion post, and since my Academy days have been a member of both the Society for Nautical Research (Greenwich, U.K.), and the U. S. Naval Institute. I am the current President of the St. David's Society of Greater St. Louis, as well as a bass-baritone in Côr Cymry Gogledd America, and a promoter of Welsh music every chance I get. I've been to Wales on two occasions, and am excited to be returning this year with Côr Cymry, in preparation for which I've taken some Welsh language instruction from Lisa Hopkins, Hefina Phillips, and Dan Rowbotham. Whereas I have met many people with ties to Wales through the WNAA, I feel I am unique as I have no sure knowledge of my connection, although my last name and DNA point to my having some Welsh heritage. It seems my forebearers came to America in the 18th century, but why and from what area of Wales, I do not know at this time. But there must be something there as I feel the hiraeth whenever I sing some of those wonderful Welsh hymns.

## NAFOW 2023 Promotional Materials

A NAFOW 2023 full-color poster and press release is now available. Please use it to promote the festival to your local organization in your newsletter.

You can also put the poster up in a location where it will draw interest.

Go to our website, point to ABOUT THE FESTIVAL and choose Press Kit.



## NAFOW 2022 Wrapup

Everyone had an exceptionally wonderful time at NAFOW 2022 in Philadelphia last Labor Day Weekend.

As always, there are still some things to share from that great weekend before we turn our attention to NAFOW 2023.

### Video of 2022 NAFOW

You may have noticed a video crew at NAFOW 2022 in Philadelphia. You can view their video on our website. Look for "Memories from Philadelphia PA 2022" on our home page; the video is below.



### Recording of NAFOW 2022 Gymanfa Ganu

The recording of the 2022 Gymanfa Ganu is currently being edited and should be ready for purchase in spring 2023.

## Welsh Dragon Cocktail

You, too, can make your very own Welsh Dragon Cocktail using this handy recipe. The bartenders in the hotel lounge in Philadelphia could barely keep up with the demand!

Recipe:

1/2 measure gin (if possible, Brecon gin)  
 1/2 measure vodka (if possible, Brecon vodka)  
 1/2 measure Triple Sec or Cointreau  
 2 measures cranberry juice  
 1 measure orange juice  
 2 dashes Grenadine  
 Squeeze of fresh lime

Shake all the ingredients with ice. Pour into a medium glass. Decorate with slice of lime and a red cherry on a Welsh Dragon flag cocktail stick. To finish, squeeze some fresh lime juice over the drink.



## 2022 Eisteddfod Results

### Winning Limerick

Sponsors: Alan and Greta Upshall

One of the highlights of the Eisteddfod is the Limerick competition. Two lead-in lines were provided to entrants at the start of the festival, so competitors did not have a great deal of time to compose their entries.

Entries were collected at Registration and adjudicators Alan Upshall and Ellis Jones narrowed the contenders down to the "finalist" entries.

The audience at the Noson Lawen listened to Alan recite them and their response was measured by an "applaud-o-meter" phone app which determined the prize winners. Thank you to Karen Wojahn, Alan Upshall and Ellis Jones who organized the competition. The Marketplace prizes were sponsored by Alan and Greta Upshall.

The 2022 award went to Myfanwy Davies of Ottawa, Canada. Here is her clever entry:

Ten Welshmen travelling to Spain,  
 To escape incessant Welsh rain,  
 They ate lots of food,  
 Sunbathed in the nude,  
 Then cried "Duw! Duw! I'm in pain!"

Second place winner was Laura Jones Gleamza of Geneva, Illinois, and third place winner was David Matthews of Alberta, Canada.

## Visual Arts Competition

Sponsor: Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin



The third-ever Visual Arts competition, which started in Milwaukee in 2019, once again attracted some wonderful creations. This time, the

requested theme was "Love/Cariad" in a nod to the famous Philly landmark sculpture just blocks away.

Ballots from the public were counted, and winning a first prize for the second time was Emily Small (Alexandria, VA) with "Gwydr Hyfryd," stained glass lovespoons made via the "copper foil" method; quite a nice variation on the tradition of using wood! Second prize went to local artist Keith Trievel (Royersford, PA) and "A Gentle Touch" (drawing/painting of a woman and wild pony in Tenby, Pembrokeshire) while third prize went to Joan Owen (Owego, NY) with a hand-knitted child's sweater and hat.



**2022 Eisteddfod Stage Competitions**

Welsh Language and English Language Recitation competitions returned with robust participation on both sides.

**Welsh Language Recitation**

Sponsor: WNAA Eisteddfod Committee



*Welsh Language participants Buddug Jones, Jessica Davies, Gillian Hodkinson, Menna Holcombe, Nancy Wright, Eryl Davies*

On the Welsh side, with “Nid Ffin” by Mike Jenkins as the set piece, Menna Holcombe (Hockessin, DE) took first place while a tie for second was declared between Jessica Davies (Pittsburgh, PA) and Gillian Hodkinson (Marco Island, FL).

**English Language Recitation**

Sponsor: St. David’s Society of Minnesota



*English Language participants David Jones, Geraldine Parry and Nancy Wright*

On the English side, the set piece was “On Clevedon Pier, June 2020” by Robert Walton. For reciting this impassioned but longer piece evoking the literal sight of Wales from the English side of the wide Severn

estuary during the pandemic, Geraldine Parry (Bangor, PA) was awarded first prize, followed by Nancy Wright (New York, NY) in second and David Jones (Williamsburg, VA) in third.

**Hymn Singing**

Sponsor: Huw Christopher (Rachel Christopher Memorial Award)



*Hymn singing participants Trevor Livezey, Stephen Glynn, John Owen, and Nancy Wright*

In Hymn Singing, new WNAA Trustee Stephen Glynn (Columbia, IL) took first followed by John Owen (Nottingham, MD) in second and Nancy Wright in third. All performed in Welsh, and Stephen aptly performed a great version of “Aberystwyth” found in the “Caneuon Fydd” hymnal, repeating it the next day at the Sunday Worship Service. A special mention also goes out to young Trevor Livezey (Newtown Square, PA); he was a first-time performer in this competition and has also attained well-deserved recognition for conducting several hymns at our late-night singing... yes, just as he did in Rochester in 2017!

Many thanks to accompanist David Enlow.

**Solo Voice/Semi-Professional**

Sponsor: Ian K. Samways (Welsh North America Prize)



*Solo Voice/Semi-Professional participants Deiniol McGovern, Amelia Gil-Figueroa, Nancy Wright*

Our signature competition, Solo Voice/Semi-Professional for the Welsh North America Prize (a \$3500 scholarship to travel to compete at next year’s National Eisteddfod of Wales) once again did not disappoint! NAFOW newcomer Deiniol McGovern (Long Valley, NJ) won the prize with excellent

renditions of “Ar Hyd y Nos” and “When I was One-and-Twenty” (Moore/Houseman). Second prize went to another amazing newcomer, Amelia Gil-Figueroa (Vienna, VA) with “Yr Alarch” (E. Jones/Crwys) and “Lágrimas Mias” (Marqués/Zapata).

**2022 Eisteddfod Adjudicators and Helpers**

Many thanks to the Eisteddfod helpers and adjudicators.

Helpers: Gerri Baker Parry, Ellis Jones, David Matthews, Evans Paschal, Danny Proud, Alan Upshall, Greta Upshall, Megan Williams, Karen Wojahn

Recitation Adjudicators: Robert Dayton, Christine James, Dan Rowbotham

Singing Adjudicators: Katherine Crusi, Dafydd Jones, Edward Morus Jones, Karen Wojahn

Poetry Composition Adjudicators: Robert Dayton, Pat Edwards, Menna Elfyn, Eurig Salisbury



### A Warm Welcome to Lincoln NE



As President of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project and Archive for Welsh America, and on behalf of the Arvonnia Historic Preservation Society, I welcome you to gather with us over Labor Day weekend in Lincoln, Nebraska for the 2023 North American Festival of Wales.

This is the first time in NAFOW's history that this annual celebration of Welsh culture takes place in Lincoln. The event headquarters is the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel located in downtown Lincoln. Many local restaurants and shops are within walking distance.

Our Gymanfa Ganu will be held in Saint Paul United Methodist Church, directly across the street from the Cornhusker. Our leader for the hymn sing is renowned Welsh conductor and composer Robat Arwyn.

Also joining us is Ifor ap Glyn, National Poet of Wales 2016-2022. In addition, we are very excited that Welsh Nebraskan and broadcasting legend Dick Cavett will host a seminar via Zoom to share his insights and recount his interviews with famous celebrities—some Welsh!

Also on the agenda is a day trip to Wymore, Nebraska on Thursday, August 31, to visit the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project and Archive for Welsh America. We will also tour Wymore's historic one-room school attended by many Welsh

immigrant children, and Bethel Cemetery in the settlement where the Welsh purchased land in the late 1800's. We will serve a traditional miner's lunch complete with pasties and Welsh cakes.

On Monday, September 4, an overnight excursion heads to historic Arvonnia, Kansas, where Susan Evans Atchison has lovingly restored the remaining buildings of the Welsh settlement.

Lincoln is easily accessible by air, road and Amtrak, and is centrally located within a day's travel of most of the US and Canada. In addition to the events above, we are planning many unique experiences including Native American dancers, a Celtic band and of course, an exhibit complete with Welsh Corgis.



*Bronwen Colgrove hopes that everyone will come to Lincoln, Nebraska this year. It will be "ruff" without you!*

See you in Nebraska, home of "the Good Life."  
Gwenith Closs-Colgrove, President  
Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project

### NAFOW 2023 Wednesday Open Air Event

Plan to arrive in Lincoln, Nebraska on Wednesday and take in a special event.

We have permission to close the street in front of the hotel and hold an open-air Welsh fair. A stage will be set up and the hotel will provide food for sale.

Plans are still under way, but we will offer local entertainment in addition to a taste of what's to come from our Welsh musicians; Welsh food and other fare; and possibly vendors from our Welsh marketplace.

Check the website later in the year as plans unfold.

*Many Moccasins is one of the featured local groups.*



### 2022 Thursday Events in Lincoln



Those who take the Thursday tour to Wymore will be back in time for the Lincoln events later in the day.

#### Thursday Afternoon

Representatives from the Nebraska state government are very happy to welcome NAFOW to Lincoln. On Thursday afternoon at 4:00 p.m., there will be a short program in the rotunda in the state capitol building a few blocks from the hotel.

After the ceremony, the Welsh flag will be raised outside.

#### Thursday Evening Opening Concert

Officially, NAFOW festivities kick off with the Opening Concert. Dylan Morris and members of the Urdd group are scheduled to perform. Dylan's biography is on page 11 of this issue of HWYL.

## 2023 Nebraska Welsh Heritage Tour



Our Thursday tour takes visitors south of Lincoln. We will visit the Homestead National Historical Park in Beatrice, a museum which commemorates the passage of the 1862 Homestead Act.

One hour south of Lincoln is Wymore, home of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre. Known today as the “Welsh Capital of the Great Plains,” Wymore was home to a significant Welsh community. We will have lunch at the Welsh Heritage Centre, which contains a museum of Welsh immigrant life and the Archive for Welsh America.



The tornado-proof archive is the only repository in North America for the Welsh-language newspaper, Y Drych, which dates back to 1851.



Following the museum visit, we will tour the restored one-room Pleasant View Schoolhouse, once attended by many Welsh-American children.

Finally, at Bethel Cemetery, we will be greeted by relatives of those buried there. It is the final resting place of many of the original Welsh settlers and site of the former Calvinistic Methodist Church, the community’s largest Welsh church.



## 2023 Kansas Welsh Heritage Tour



Join us for an overnight round trip tour to learn how the Welsh helped settle Kansas. Our coach bus will leave Lincoln, Nebraska on Monday morning and travel southwest through Manhattan, KS to enjoy the scenic Flint Hills before arriving in Arvonia KS overlooking Melvern Lake.

Enjoy lunch at the Township hall and learn about the Welsh who settled Arvonia. Our group will tour the restored Arvonia School and Calvinist Methodist Church, where we will sing a hymn or two to honor those Welsh pioneers. Those with limited mobility will have the use of a golf cart.



After leaving Arvonia, we will travel to Emporia KS and check into our hotel. We will enjoy a catered dinner at the Lyon County History Center, and have time to peruse their display of Welsh artifacts.



After a restful overnight stay, we’ll enjoy a visit to Howe House and Welsh Farmstead for a breakfast of Welsh teacakes, scones and more, and a tour of the house.

Time permitting, we will stop at the Osage County Museum.

We will have lunch on our way back to Lincoln NE and arrive at the Marriott Cornhusker hotel late on Tuesday afternoon.

## New WNAA Registration Software

We have recently acquired new integrated software to assist with WNAA membership maintenance, mailing and email lists, donations, NAFOW registration and much more. Data from existing sources has been imported into the system. This software will be linked to the website and ready for NAFOW 2023 signup in March.

This software will make data maintenance, on-site NAFOW registration, payments, and reporting easier.



## 2023 Friday Evening NAWF Banquet



The 17th Annual NAWF Heritage Medallion Award dinner will be held in the Ballroom in the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel.

Welsh soprano Lisa Dafydd is the evening's entertainment. Ms. Dafydd is the 2022 recipient of the Osborne Roberts Blue Riband Memorial Award at the National Eisteddfod in Wales. At the Eisteddfod, she was also awarded the Violet Mary Lewis Scholarship for the most promising soprano.

Her current performances include the lead role of Siwan in the world premiere of *Gelert*, an opera by Paul Mealer. Recent performances include an evening of opera scenes with the Royal Academy Opera as Dalinda in *Ariodante* by George Frideric Handel, and Second Niece in *Peter Grimes* by Benjamin Britten.

Upcoming projects include the role of Norina in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* for an evening of opera scenes at the Royal Academy, and as soloist with the London Sinfonietta performing *Fields of Sorrow* by Harrison Birtwistle at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Ms. Dafydd was born in Ruthin, north Wales, and moved to Manchester to earn her undergraduate degree in Vocal Studies at the Royal Northern College of Music. Currently she is earning her master's degree at the Royal Academy of Music.

## North America Wales Foundation



Established in 1980, the North America Wales Foundation was the initiative of several individuals, inspired by the late Jack K. Evans, a native of Wales. The Foundation has a commitment to preserve, share and promote the common culture and traditions of Wales and North America.

The NAWF has distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in awards over the years and runs an annual scholarship and grant program.

Its highest honor, the Heritage Medallion, is awarded to individuals or organizations distinguished by their contributions to North American Welsh life.

## Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project Receives 2023 Medallion



The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project (GPWHP) is the 2023 recipient of the NAWF Heritage Medallion. In the past, three GPWHP leaders have also been recognized by the NAWF: Berwyn Jones and Martha Davies in 2010, and AdaMae Lewis in 2015.

The GPWHP was started in Wymore, Nebraska in 2000 by Julie Everson, Elaine Mick and Lori McAlister. With the support of Wymore's mayor and the local community, it became a place to celebrate Welsh heritage.

Currently, the GPWHP is overseen by a board and an advisory group, both of which meet regularly. This project oversees the Welsh Heritage Centre and oversees the Archive for Welsh America. Recent production of the film, *Pobl y*

*Paith*, *People of the Prairie: the Welsh in Nebraska*, celebrates 150 years of Nebraska's statehood by telling the story of its Welsh immigrants.

Experience the project for yourself! Plans for NAFOW 2023 include a tour to Wymore to the museum and other local sites.

## "Carwyn" One-Man Show Featured at NAFOW 2023

'Carwyn' is a brand-new one-man show starring Simon Nehan that attempts to unravel the enigma of a multi-layered man. A man ahead of his time. A man who was alone in a crowd. A man uncomfortable in his own skin. A man of whom it is said very few truly knew him, knew what made his heart beat and his mind tick. In his 53 years Carwyn James made an incredible, indelible impact on the country of his birth. A man who adored sport, culture and politics, a man who adored Wales. A man of contradictions, with a career that took in teaching, broadcasting, coaching, and espionage.

Throughout his life the beauty of the words of the ancient poets and playwrights were as important to him as the ebb and flow of the rugby ball. A man whose crowning achievement was delivering, to this day, the only Series victory against New Zealand for the British and Irish Lions in 1971.

Carwyn James died alone in an Amsterdam hotel room in January 1983. This play returns to this room and allows this unique man to have one final opportunity to look back over his short but eventful life. Carwyn James deserves to have his story told on stage. Writer Owen Thomas and Director Gareth John Bale, the writer and star of 'Grav', will remind Wales of one of her lost sons who contributed enormously to our sporting, cultural, political and intellectual life.

Biographies of the artists are on the following page.



## “Carwyn” Featured Artists



**Actor Simon Nehan** trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. He is an Associate Artist of Theatr Clwyd where his credits include: Curtain Up, Under Milk Wood, Rape of the Fair Country, Bruised, and Memory (which toured to New York in Spring 2007).

Other theatre credits include: Carwyn (Torch Theatre), We’re Still Here (National Theatre Wales), This Incredible Life (Ffwrnes Llanelli), Routes (Wales Millennium Centre), Blasted (The Other Room, Cardiff), The Merchant of Venice (PAC theatres), Robin Hood (Riverfront Arts Centre), Cardboard Dad, A Christmas Carol, Deluge (Sherman Theatre), Pinocchio (Pukka Theatre Company), The Seagull, Kebab Shags (Bristol Old Vic), A Child’s Christmas in Wales (Theatr na nŌg), The Canterbury Tales, As You Like It (Mappa Mundi), Acqua Nero (Sgript Cymru), Cinderella, Aladdin & Dick Whittington (Regent Theatre, Stoke), and Sleeping Beauty (New Victoria, Woking).

Television credits include: Hapless S2, The Crown (Netflix); The Pembrokeshire Murders (ITV); The Snow Spider (BBC); The Windsors, Ordinary Lies 2, Cuffs, Atlantis, Casualty, Merlin, Stopping Distance, The Bench, Score, Kardomha Boys, Holby City, Doctors and The Aberpandy Files (BBC1); The Comedy Show, Nuts and Bolts (HTV Wales); Bay College (BBC2); Tracy Beaker: the Movie of Me (BBC/CBBC); Birdsong (Working Title/BBC) and Talking to the Dead (Sky).

Film work includes: Prizefighter (Camelot Films), Loki’s Game (Trickster Films Ltd), The Cleansing (Tornado Films), The Rebels (Tornado Films), Svengali (Working Title), The Killer Elite (Ambience & Mascot Pictures), Made In Dagenham (Number 9 Films), The Shouting Men (Away Days) and Me and Orson Welles (CinemaNX).



**Director Gareth Bale** is an experienced actor and director. He trained at the Welsh College of Music and Drama. As a director Gareth has directed Carwyn for The Torch Theatre. He has worked as director for Bale and Thomas on West, The Night Porter, Benny, Richard Parker and Robert Golding.

He has directed Miss Julie, Dau (an adaption of Jim Cartwright’s Two) and two Welsh language pantomimes for RCT Theatres.

He was Artistic Director of Cwmni Theatr 3-D directing Epa yn y Parlwr Cefn, Abigail’s Party, Richard Parker, and Don’t Dress for Dinner among others.

Gareth has been an assistant director on numerous productions for BlackRat Productions and RCT Theatres. He has also lectured and directed at several colleges in South Wales.

*Right: Promotion from the Torch Theatre Company, Pembrokeshire for the spring 2022 production of Carwyn, a one person play that explores the life of the former British and Irish Lions coach, Carwyn James.*



**Writer Owen Thomas** is an award-winning Playwright whose previous plays include ‘The Wood’ and ‘Grav’ for the Torch Theatre, Milford Haven, where he is also proud to be an Associate Artist. ‘Grav’, has toured widely, enjoying successful runs in London, Washington, New York, Edinburgh, and a special showing for the Welsh National Rugby team prior to their Six Nations game against England in February 2019.

His breakthrough play ‘Richard Parker’ was critically acclaimed at the Edinburgh Festival, going on to win ‘Best International Show’ at the Hollywood Fringe Festival, Los Angeles in 2012. In 2019, ‘West’, his first American commission, premiered in Milwaukee, to a standing ovation. ‘West’ toured Wales in Spring 2020 including performances in London and New York. ‘An Orange in the Subway’, a play about homelessness, was performed at the Vaults Festival in London in 2020 and was nominated Best Show.

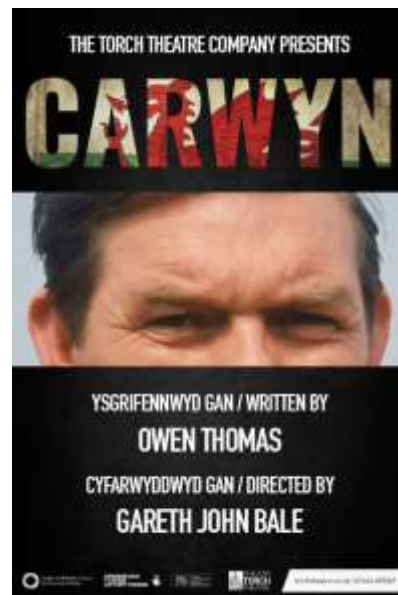
Other recent stage plays include ‘The Night Porter’ (RCT Theatres) and ‘Benny’, (Chapter Arts Centre).

During lockdown he wrote a series of radio plays for RCT Theatres and ‘Isolationship’, an online play as part of ‘Bale and Thomas’. He also wrote ‘Who Runs Towards a Fire’ and ‘Peerless’ for the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff, and was commissioned to write a film, ‘When the Night Fell’, for Theatr Brycheiniog.

His first screenplay was for the film version of ‘Grav’ for S4C. Directed by Marc Evans (Director: The Pembrokeshire Murders – ITV1) the film was screened nationally on September 12th, 2021, to critical acclaim. The film was nominated for Best Film in the 2022 Celtic Media Awards. Owen was nominated as Best Writer at the BAFTA Cymru Awards where ‘Grav’ won the BAFTA Cymru Award for Best Film.

Owen’s most recent play, ‘Carwyn’, about the life of Carwyn James, was produced by the Torch Theatre in Spring 2022 before touring extensively all across Wales. It will be touring again some time in 2023.

Owen has recently been named the inaugural English language Writer in Residence for the Brecon Beacons National Park and his new play written in response will premiere at the Hay Festival in 2023.



## Saint Paul United Methodist Church

The 91st Gymanfa Ganu sessions will be conveniently held across the street from the hotel at Saint Paul United Methodist Church. This sanctuary was made for a gymanfa ganu! According to their website:

“Saint Paul United Methodist Church has served the Lincoln community from the heart of the city for over 140 years. The present sanctuary building was built in 1901. It was designed by architects Burton, Brown, and Davis of Cincinnati, Ohio and built by Olson Construction Company. The plan was modeled on a common design for the period called the “Akron Plan” with the sanctuary oriented around 45-degree axis. The current Saint Paul United Methodist Church building was dedicated on November 17, 1901.



Our beautiful stained glass windows were installed shortly after the dedication in February 1902. They are based on paintings by Bernhard Plockhorst and are referred to as the “Christmas” and “Easter” windows. The 29’ x 43’ windows have survived years of high winds, hail storms, frigid winters, blistering summers and even the implosion of a neighboring hotel.”

Further: “The McKinley bells have been ringing over Downtown Lincoln for a century. While the church was being built, President McKinley was assassinated on September 14, 1901. The citizens of Lincoln, led by Mayor J.H. Winnet, raised sufficient funds to buy the set of ten bronze bells, now located in Saint Paul’s belfry. The chime originally belonged to the McKinley Memorial Association and was loaned to Saint Paul for safe-keeping. The ten

bells weigh almost four tons. The chime was dedicated on June 1, 1902. The inscription on the big bell reads “Presented by the citizens of Lincoln and vicinity in memory of our beloved President.”” Read more about the church and its ministry at: [saintpaulumc.org](http://saintpaulumc.org)

## 91st National Gymanfa Ganu

### Director Robat Arwyn



Composer, choral director, radio presenter and eisteddfod adjudicator **Robat Arwyn**’s choral works and songs are much performed across Wales and beyond by renowned artists such as Sir Bryn Terfel, Rhys Meirion, The Priests, Shan Cothi and Aled Jones.

Born in the village of Talysarn, in Gwynedd, North Wales, he attended the local primary school and Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle before graduating in Music from Cardiff University in 1980, subsequently moving on to Aberystwyth University where he received his Diploma in Librarianship in 1981.

He joined Côr Rhuthun in 1981, became their accompanist in 1987, married one of the altos (Mari) in the same year, and became their Musical Director in 2008.

He has published eleven volumes of songs, as well as numerous individual choral pieces, and amongst his six commissions for the National Eisteddfod are *Atgof o’r Sêr* (2001), *Er Hwyllo’r Haul* (2005) and *Hwn yw fy Mrawd* (2018), all three written specifically for Sir Bryn Terfel and supporting cast.

Over 150 of his songs have been commercially recorded, and three collections of his songs have been released on CD by Sain Records. *Anfonaf Angel* (Guardian Angel), was commissioned by Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle in 2008, and is forever linked with the Wales Air Ambulance campaign since

its first release as a charity single by its patron, Sir Bryn Terfel, in 2011.

One of Robat Arwyn’s most internationally performed songs is *Benedictus*, initially released by Rhys Meirion and Bryn Terfel in 2005, and subsequently recorded by The Priests for their 2008 classical album which reached No.1 in Ireland and Norway, as well as the Top 10 in numerous countries across Europe and beyond.

Recent commissions have come from the Welsh North American Association; the Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto, (Canada); Ensemble Sottovoce (Paris); the Barry Male Voice Choir (Wales); and the St. Helen’s U3A Mixed Choir (England).

### Organist Steve Jensen



Our organist, **Steve Jensen**, began playing the piano and organ at the age of nine. He had his first regular church job at the age of thirteen. During grades 9-12 he studied at Lawrence Conservatory of Music in Appleton, WI. He continued his organ study during college at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI.

His first Gymanfa Ganu was in 1977 in Fort Atkinson, WI. The conductor was Lyn Harry of Canada. Mr. Harry requested that Mr. Jensen play the following year at the National Gymanfa Ganu in Minneapolis in 1978. Since then Steve has played for many local, state and national Gymanfaoedd.

Mr. Jensen is currently employed as a consultant for Robert Half International, and serves as Organist at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee, WI.

## Talented Musicians for NAFOW 2023



**Dylan Morris** was born and raised in Pwllheli on the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales where he now lives with his wife Sera and their children – Tomos (16), Aron (12) and Cari (9). Having studied Information Technology, Dylan has worked for a Chartered Accountant firm for the last 25 years as an IT Manager, in marketing and as an Admin Manager.

Dylan has always had a love for music, with his parents and grandparents sharing music with him throughout his childhood, drawing inspiration from many including Elvis and a variety of Welsh artists from Dafydd Iwan to Bryn Fon.

Apart from the odd karaoke performance on a night out, it was performing at a regular monthly open mic night in 2019 that really highlighted his love for performing in a more formal setting. The Pandemic quickly ended the opportunity to perform in person and the Cŵr-ona facebook page gave Dylan a new platform to continue singing and share his music with thousands of people online. He quickly became a singing sensation. This support led to opportunities to pursue his dream of performing, recording, and to work alongside musicians he had admired for so long, including Arfon Wyn, who has been extremely supportive of Dylan's new musical career.

In October 2020 Dylan released his first EP, 'Haul Ar Fryn', with the recording company Sain. Featuring five Welsh songs, four of which are brand new, the title track, Haul Ar Fryn, is being played regularly by radio stations including Radio Cymru. In October 2021 Dylan followed this by releasing his first album, 'Da Ni Ar Yr Un Lôn', featuring nine Welsh songs and two English songs. The album was a trigger for Dylan to write lyrics for the first time and also features duets with both his daughter, Cari, and his sister, Sian. He now performs regularly in pubs and clubs around the North Wales area and has appeared three times on the S4C show Noson Lawen.

Dylan will perform at the Opening Concert at the 2023 festival in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is looking forward to traveling to the States and to learning more about Welsh North American history.



**Steffan Lloyd Owen** is a Welsh Baritone from Pentre Berw on the Isle of Anglesey in North Wales. Having received initial training from Sian Wyn Gibson, he is currently studying at the Royal Northern College in Manchester, where he is taught by Nicholas Powell. During his first year, Steffan won the Elsie Thurston competition and was later selected to represent the RNCM at the Kathleen Ferrier Awards in Blackburn where, after fierce competition from 15 other soloists from various universities and conservatoires in the UK, he was awarded first place – the second student from the RNCM to ever win the competition.

Steffan has been awarded with major vocal prizes in Wales, namely the W. Towyn Roberts Scholarship Prize, the Blue Riband Osborne Roberts Memorial Prize at the National Eisteddfod of Wales and the most promising young singer scholarship at the Urdd National Eisteddfod. As part of the Osborne Roberts Scholarship prize, Steffan performed as a soloist at the North America Festival of Wales in New York in August 2017. Steffan visited Patagonia in 2014 where he won the first prize in the Open Solo Competition at the National Eisteddfod of Patagonia (Argentina).

Recent concert highlights include soloist in Beethoven's Mass in C and Choral Fantasy as part of a concert with the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales; and Orchestra of Welsh National Opera, reconstructing the historic Benefit Concert given by Beethoven in Vienna in 1808.

In summer 2019, Steffan performed the title role in the children's opera, Brundibar by Czech composer Hans Krása with Welsh National Youth Opera. Other recent roles include Lord Hate-Good in Vaughan Williams's Pilgrim's Progress and the lawyer, Ser Amantio Di Nicolao in Gianni Schicci at the RNCM. In 2017, he performed the roles of Sciarrone and Jailer in a semi-staged production of Tosca alongside Sir Bryn Terfel and Kristine Opolais with the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. Other roles include Zaretsky in Eugene Onegin and El Dancairo in Carmen, both abbreviated Welsh language adaptations for Opra Cymru; and George Jones in Street Scene at the RNCM.

In the summer of 2022, Steffan released his debut album "Adra'n Ol" with Sain Records.



Welsh tenor **Rhys Meirion** has enjoyed international success in opera and recording and national success in broadcasting. After two years on the Opera Course at The Guild Hall of Music and Drama in London, he joined the English National Opera Jerwood Young Singers Programme and was subsequently a Company Principal before becoming a freelance performer.

His roles include Rodolfo in La Boheme, Pinkerton in Madam Butterfly, Alfredo in La Traviata, Nemorino in L'Elisir d'Amore, Nadir in The Pearl Fishers, Marcello in Leoncavallo's La Boheme, Duke in Rigoletto, Tebaldo in Capuletti e Montecchi, Tamino in The Magic Flute, Ernani, Sailor in Tristan und Isolde, Faust, Don Ottavio in Don Giovanni, Rinuccio in Gianni Schicchi, Italian Singer in Der Rosenkavalier, Froh in Das Rheingold, Zinovy in Lady Macbeth of Mtzensk, Fenton in Falstaff and more.

Concert highlights include The Karl Jenkins 70th Birthday Celebrations Concert at The Carnegie Hall New York, a gala concert at the Royal Albert Hall with Bryn Terfel, his BBC Prom debut at the opening night of the BBC Proms (televised on BBC 2),

Desert Island Discs Anniversary Concert at London’s Royal Festival Hall, a live BBC recording of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony conducted by Richard Hickox, and Verdi’s Requiem at the Royal Albert Hall.

Rhys Meirion has an extensive catalogue of recording work, including a duet album with Bryn Terfel ('Benedictus on the SAIN label') which was nominated for a Classical Brit Award. He has also released two albums for the Australian label Stanza AV ('Bluebird of Happiness and Awesome Wonder'), and five solo CD recordings for the SAIN label, the most recent being In Verita. He has also released two albums with The Three Welsh Tenors.

He is a regular presenter on TV and radio in Wales. TV series on S4C include Deuawdau Rhys Meirion, Corau Rhys Meirion and Canu Gyda Fy Arwr. Rhys also presents the iconic series Ar Eich Cais on BBC Radio Cymru. His Charity work includes three 200 mile walks to support the Wales Air Ambulance for whom he is an Ambassador and a Lap of Wales Challenge for Organ Donation Awareness and Elen's Fund [www.facebook.com/cronfaelen'sfund](http://www.facebook.com/cronfaelen'sfund). His autobiography for Welsh Publishers Y Lolfa was published in November 2014 and became the No 1 Best selling book in Wales.



**Gwawr Edwards** is a well-known singer throughout the UK and further afield. At 17 she was offered a scholarship to study singing at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff, before gaining a first class Masters degree from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London.

She has performed at the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Cadogan Hall, Birmingham Symphony Hall, Manchester Bridgewater Hall, and the Millennium Centre, Cardiff to name a few, accompanied by the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the BBC Concert Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and the National Orchestra of Wales.

In Opera, she has sung the roles of Paquette in Bernstein's Candide, Rossina in Rossini's Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Melpomene in Gluck's Il Parnaso confuso, Euridice in Charpentier's La descente d'Orphée aux Enfers, Zerlina in Mozart's Don Giovanni, Virtù in L'incoronazione di Poppea, Monteverdi, and Donna in Handel's Rinaldo, for companies such as Glyndebourne Festival and Tour, Opera de Lorraine, Bampton, and Opera Cymru.

Gwawr has traveled the world entertaining audiences in Asia, Europe, North and South America, and also occasionally presents for S4C and BBC Radio Cymru. Gwawr has two albums out called 'Gwawr Edwards' and 'Alleluia' and one children's book and CD called 'Mali'.

## Triano and Menna Rhys



**Menna Rhys** was born in Bethania, near Tregaron in mid Wales, where she still lives on one of the family farms. She is an experienced and accomplished accompanist and has been a regular accompanist since her early teens. She studied the harp and piano performance and accompaniment in the Royal Welsh College of

Music and Drama in Cardiff. She is regularly in demand as an accompanist for soloists and choirs in concerts across the UK and abroad. Menna also works for the Ceredigion Music Service, where she gives piano and vocal tuition.

**Triano**, formed during the pandemic in 2020, is made up of triplet sisters Charlotte, Jessica and Emily who play the piano and love to perform.

Triano has performed with singers such as Bryn Fon, Dafydd Iwan, Rhys Meirion, Gwawr Edwards and Robyn Lyn. They have also had the opportunity to accompany Gwawr and Robyn on the piano, and play a duet with Rhys Taylor, whilst he played the clarinet. Triano's debut performance for Haka Entertainment was at The Courtyard, in Aberystwyth with Gwawr Edwards and other local talent.

In 2022 they had the opportunity to perform live on stage at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Denbigh.

They have supported Ceredigion Music Services through performing at a Ukraine Fundraising event at Aberystwyth Arts Centre

In summer of 2023 Triano will perform at the National Eisteddfod in Tregaron, in two stage shows with Theatr Felifach, a choir performing in the Daniel Owen Award Ceremony



*Right: Triano*

*Below right: Menna Rhys and Triano.*



## NAFOW Silent Auction

Part of the fun of attending the NAFOW Welsh Marketplace is perusing the offering of Silent Auction items. These are donated gently-used books, dolls, collectibles, artwork and other Welsh-related items that you may be looking for! Proceeds from the auction benefit the WNAA and go toward funding scholarships and festival activities.

If you have items to donate to this year's Silent Auction, be sure to fill out a donation form to accompany your donation.



## Seminars for NAFOW 2023



**Jonathan Fairchild** is the Historian at Homestead National Historical Park. His responsibilities as Historian for the National Park Service include providing research and reference assistance, preserving and protecting park cultural resources, and interpreting the

significance of the Homestead Act on United States history.

**The Roots Beneath Your Feet - Immigration and the Homestead Act of 1862** This program teaches how to research using land records tied to the Homestead Act. The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed individuals to claim 160 acres of American public domain land for free. From 1863 through 1986, millions of individuals from across the world staked their claim to “the American Dream” under this law.



With over a million books sold to date, **Sarah Woodbury** is the author of more than forty novels, all set in medieval Wales. While her ancestry is Welsh, she only visited Wales for the first time at university. She has been in love with the country, language, and people ever since.

She even convinced her husband to give all four of their children Welsh names.

**That Isn't How It's Supposed to End: Rewriting the History of Medieval Wales** This talk begins with how it was and then imagines how it could have been. It places the ambush and murder of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd within the context of Welsh history, traces its origins and consequences, and then asks What If? What would the world have been like had Llywelyn lived?



**Robert Humphries** is a native of Wales and a second-language Welsh speaker. He holds an MA in Celtic Studies from the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, and is a board member of the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project in Wymore, Nebraska. He is an independent scholar with an interest in the Welsh experience in North America.

**The Welsh Experience on The Great Plains and Beyond** While relatively small in number, the Welsh created thriving ethnic communities and left their mark on the history of the Great Plains region. Digging into the primary sources, this seminar reveals the lives of these Welsh settlers, including their reasons for going west, the challenges they faced, and their encounters with other ethnic groups and Native Americans.

**From Wales to the Heart of America: The Journey of John Evans** In 1792, Welshman John Evans set off on a remarkable journey to the very center of North America, in search of legendary “Welsh Indians,” joining forces with a Scotsman named James Mackay to explore the upper reaches of the Missouri River. While the Mackay-Evans expedition is largely forgotten today, it ultimately helped shape the West in the following century.



**Gillian Hodgkinson** was born in Burnley Lancashire and grew up in Anglesey. She spent 38 years working in clinical research for Abbott/Abbvie in Kent, England and Chicago, Illinois. Retired, she now researches the history of the area she grew up in and its people and their families and writes books to document and preserve the memories for future generations.

**Some VERY Interesting "Lords of Llaneluad" Anglesey** Ever wonder what a turncoat, “golden peacock” of Penrhyn, Beaumaris Bulkeley empire founder, ghost on horseback, Barbados sugar plantation owner, “Mad” Tom Hervey, Copper Kings of Parys Mountain, and Williams of Bodelwyddan have in common? All owners of thousands of acres in North Wales, their stories never fail to amuse and to educate.



**Peredur Owen-Griffiths**, or “Pred” to his friends, is Member of Senedd for Plaid Cymru (The Party of Wales). Peredur’s work across numerous Senedd committees, including Chair of the Senedd Finance Committee, and his earlier career in the charity sector and corporate finance, gives him a unique perspective on Welsh democracy.

**Welsh Democracy in 2023 - An Insider's View** An insider’s guide to one of Europe’s youngest parliaments, this session will explore what’s next for Welsh democracy from a current Member of Senedd (Welsh Parliament). During the session, you’ll find out about the relationship between UK and Welsh parliaments, and learn how Wales has the power to do things differently. It’s an exciting time for Welsh democracy – and this session will show you why!



**Michael Hieber** is a retired emeriti faculty from Miami University (Ohio). He is a regular participant at various local Gymanfa Ganu, across the U.S since 2001. Also, he is a WNAA member and attendee of every NAFOW since Cincinnati 2006 (except for 2010), attending the Welsh National Eisteddfod in Ebbw Valle

instead. Beginning with the March/April 2022 issue of Ninnau, he has been writing a regular article called Notes on a Hymn Page.

**Rachie and Composer Caradog Roberts** Based on the article in the May/June 2022 Ninnau Notes on a Hymn Page about Rachie, we will learn about the interesting stories behind this famous hymn and its composer, Caradog Roberts.

### Seminars for NAFOW 2023 (continued)



**Ifor ap Glyn** was raised in a Welsh -speaking family in London and studied the language at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

He has published ten books, including a history of the Welsh language in 50 short chapters. He has produced and presented a documentary for the BBC on the life and work of Hedd Wyn; he edited a collection of poems commemorating his life; and he was also responsible for producing the interpretative films for the permanent exhibition at Yr Ysgwrn when it was refurbished in 2017.

**A history of the Welsh language in ten words** Based on a popular radio series that ran for three years on Welsh national radio, poet and presenter Ifor ap Glyn will offer a fascinating analysis of how Welsh works, what languages have we borrowed from, and why do we mutate?! No prior knowledge of the language necessary.

**Hedd Wyn (1887-1917) and the Black Chair** Despite having little formal education, this talented young poet achieved his lifelong ambition in 1917 of winning the chair at the National Eisteddfod - but tragically he never knew, as he'd been killed in battle in Belgium a few weeks before. In Wales, he became a symbol for all the lost talent of that generation, and his home at Yr Ysgwrn is a place of pilgrimage to this day. It's a great story (Hedd Wyn's biopic was the first Welsh language film to be nominated for an Oscar) and poet and broadcaster Ifor ap Glyn will bring it to life once more at NAFOW.



### Famous Nebraskan Dick Cavett Joins NAFOW 2023 via Zoom

Dick Cavett was born in Gibbon, Nebraska and moved to Lincoln where he graduated from Lincoln High School. One of Dick's proudest moments was when he won the state pommel horse championship when he was a senior.

After graduation, Dick attended Yale University and moved to New York City to work on the staff of The Tonight Show, where he worked for Jack Paar and Johnny Carson. Throughout his career, Mr. Cavett performed in movies, in Broadway and off-Broadway plays and musicals, and has been spotted in countless television specials and documentaries . He is best known for The Dick Cavett Show that ran on several networks from 1968 to 1996, usually in a format of interviewing famous guests. Dick was nominated for thirteen Emmys and won three.

Mr. Cavett's maternal grandfather, Rev. R. R. Richards was from Carmarthen, Wales.

### Welsh Folk Dancing Seminar

Welsh folk dancing, led by a caller and supported by musicians, returns to NAFOW. Laurel Bradshaw, a certified Welsh folk dance instructor, will lead dancers through the steps, and Danny Proud will lead the band.



This session will leave you with a smile on your face and endorphin-charged liveliness to your day.



Laurel Bradshaw, a certified Welsh folk dance instructor, has been teaching and leading dance groups since 1988. She founded and directed Traed y Ddraig, a performance group in Minnesota (1990 to 2015), and has led folk dance sessions at NAFOW, Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project, Welsh Heritage Week, and at the Cornish Gathering in Mineral Point, Wisconsin. Laurel has taught Welsh language classes in Minneapolis since 1994 and is active in the Saint David's Society of Minnesota.



Danny Proud, Madison, Wisconsin, is a former long-time member of the Traed y Ddraig dance group in Minnesota, and has been dancing and accompanying dancing at Welsh Heritage Week for two decades. Danny leads Welsh folk dancing for the general public at various festivals, retreats, and courses as opportunities arise.

### 2023 Festival Book Advertisements

Promote your Welsh organization or business by placing an advertisement in the program booklet.

What a great way to get the word out! Full, half and quarter page ad sizes are available, and a limited number can also be printed in full color.

On the festivalofwales.org website, click on ABOUT THE FESTIVAL and choose ADVERTISE AT NAFOW. Fill out your ad information online, or mail in the advertising form. The deadline for placing a festival book advertisement is August 1, 2023.

## Affiliated Welsh Organizations

### Welsh Society of the Southern Tier

*Submitted by Diane Jeffer* The Welsh Society of the Southern Tier was founded in 1977 by Jack Watkins and Joan Phelps and many members of the St. David's Society of Binghamton (New York) which had ceased to function several years earlier. In the 1980s, members of the Society participated in annual ceremonies raising the Welsh flag at City Hall in Binghamton on St. David's Day. A Gymanfa Ganu attended by as many as 600 people was held for many years and in 1984 the 75-member male choir from Rhosllanerchrugog, Wales was home-hosted by the Society when they included Binghamton on their first North American tour. A choir from Dolgellau was also home-hosted twenty years later.



In recent years, the Society has held quarterly meetings with a variety of programs for its 30+ paid members. A St. David's Day celebration dinner is planned for March 5, 2023 at The Cellar restaurant in Owego, with a musical program featuring local harpist Melissa Collins. In June, members will again participate in the annual Strawberry Festival in Owego, New York. We will set up a booth and sell Welsh cakes and scones.

Officers are David Allen, President; Amalia Hill, Vice President; Diane Jeffer, Treasurer; Mary Johnson, Secretary. If you would like to join us, our contact email is [WelshSociety@gmail.com](mailto:WelshSociety@gmail.com). We are also on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WelshSocietyoftheSouthernTier>.

#### Notes to Affiliated Welsh Organizations:

- If you would like us to profile your Welsh organization in an upcoming issue of HWYL, contact: [editor@theWNAA.org](mailto:editor@theWNAA.org).
- If you wish to promote NAFOW 2023 to your group, you can copy a poster and download a press release PDF from our website. Point to ABOUT THE FESTIVAL and choose Press Kit.

### In-Person Cwrs Cymraeg is Back!



Cymdeithas Madog is excited to announce that their first in-person summer Welsh course since 2018 is scheduled!

They hope to see everyone at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont on July 16-22, 2023. Online registration will open sometime in February on Cymdeithas Madog's website: [madog.org](http://madog.org).

The monthly "Siop Siarad" conversation groups on Zoom will continue. Siop Siarad is

held on the third Saturday of each month (unless otherwise indicated). There are three sessions: two at the beginning/intermediate level and one at the advanced level, each facilitated by an experienced Welsh speaker. Read more about the details on their calendar page: <https://speakwelsh.org/courses/calendar/>.

Please visit [SpeakWelsh.org](http://SpeakWelsh.org) for information about future online and in-person learning opportunities.



## Welsh Heritage Week 2023

WHW is a week of learning about the Welsh language, music and heritage. We have language classes, singing classes, Welsh folk dance class, session band (any instruments welcome), the opportunity to learn Welsh folk music and harp classes (total beginner to experienced) and plenty of Welsh fellowship!



Check back to our website, [welshheritageweek.org](http://welshheritageweek.org), this spring for the particulars on another fun, in-person Welsh Heritage Week. If you have any questions, you can contact Beth Landmesser, 570-815-7689 or [hwyl@ptd.net](mailto:hwyl@ptd.net). You can also follow Welsh Heritage Week on Facebook.

*"Bard" Eilir Griffiths during the chairing ceremony*





WELSH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
PO Box 1054, Trumansburg, NY 14886

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



### **Contact List Cleanup**

Postage and printing costs continue to rise! If you or someone you know had a change of address, or you know someone who should be removed from our list, let us know.



We would also like your email address. HWYL's first issue of the year is printed for those wishing mail delivery, and subsequent issues are sent via email. Also, we send occasional email updates.

Please let us know if you would prefer to receive your newsletter exclusively by email.

Please direct corrections to our mailing address (above) or to: [editor@theWNAA.org](mailto:editor@theWNAA.org)

### **New WNAA Board Members**

#### **New WNAA Board Members**

As with most boards, members rotate off and new members are added. Many thanks to Huw Christopher, Gwen Dodson, Will Fanning and Kay Thomas for their service. New board members are profiled in this issue.

