MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY
Volume 17 Number 1 – January 2022

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR 16TH ANNUAL MALAD VALLEY WELSH FESTIVAL – FINALLY!!

If all goes well and there are no disasters or catastrophes or pandemics, the 16th annual Malad Valley Welsh Festival will be held the last weekend of June 2022. The main Festival days will be Friday and Saturday, June 24-25, with a Sunday Fireside on the evening of June 26. Mark your calendars and plan to come to ensure that the Festival can continue into the future!

At this point, the planning committee is working to bring in presenters, performers, vendors, and activities similar to those from past Festivals. We are contacting the presenters and performers who had planned to come in 2020, hoping that they are still willing to come, even if two years later. Vendors are already contacting us, anxious to bring treats and gifts of all kinds to the Festival.

Cory Webster, the Festival Bard of 2019, will finally relinquish the Bard's Chair at the 2022 Festival. Poetry and art competitions are in the planning stages. The theme for the Adult and Youth Poetry Competitions will be "TRAILS AND TRIALS."

The Youth Art Competition guidelines state that any art medium is acceptable as long as the work of art includes something symbolic of Wales (dragons, daffodils, castles, knights, etc.).

Guidelines for the Adult and Youth Poetry Competitions and the Youth Art Competition are posted on the Welsh Festival website: www.welshfestival.com.

Music programs, wagon rides to historic places in downtown Malad, displays of pioneer families, a photographic "Walk Through Wales," kids' activities, pioneer games, and other traditional activities are in the planning stages.

The Oneida Quilters, the Oxford Peak Arts Council, the Malad Middle School MathCounts Team, Friends of the Library, the Malad Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization, and the Presbyterian Church are being contacted to see if they are willing to participate again in the Festival. Hopefully, some events again will be held at the Malad Valley Heritage Square in Samaria.

A draft of the schedule is attached, but keep in mind it is only a DRAFT. The schedule posted on the website will be kept current as the program changes.

16th ANNUAL MALAD VALLEY WELSH FESTIVAL
June 24-26, 2022

PANDEMIC STILL AFFECTING WELSH SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

Due to the pandemic, the Malad Valley Welsh Society is still not holding regular meetings or events. Hopefully, some type of event will be held to celebrate St. David's Day, which is March 1. Information will be sent out to Welsh Society members via email or telephone if an event is planned.

Remember that your membership in the Welsh Society continues until the Festival in June 2022. A list of current members is included in this newsletter.

OFFICERS
MALAD VALLEY WELSH SOCIETY
President – Jean Thomas
Secretary – Roxanne Albretsen
Treasurer – Brent Evanson

Do you have an idea for a meeting or event of the Malad Valley Welsh Society? Please let one of the officers know!

ST. DWYNWEN'S DAY (*DydD Santes Dwynwen* in Welsh) – The Welsh Valentine's Day

In the 4th century, Dwynwen was the prettiest of King Brychan Brycheiniog's 24 daughters and lived in what is now the Brecon Beacons National Park. Dwynwen's name means "she who leads a blessed life." She fell in love with a local boy called Maelon Dafodrill, but King Brychan had already arranged for her to marry another prince. Maelon took the news badly, so the distraught Dwynwen fled to the woods to weep and begged God to help her. She was visited by an angel who gave her a sweet potion to help her forget Maelon, which turned him into a block of ice.

God then granted Dwynwen three wishes. Her first wish was that Maelon be thawed; her second wish was for God to help all true lovers; her third wish was that she would never marry. In gratitude for the granting of her wishes, Dwynwen became a nun and set up a convent on Llanddwyn Island, a beautiful little island off the southwest coast of Angelsey. The remains of the church can still be seen on Ynys Llanddwyn. There's also Dwynwen's Well, which, according to legends, can predict whether a romantic relationship will be a success or failure. This prediction is based on the behavior of eels that live in the well (not very romantic . . . .)

Dydd Santes Dwynwen is celebrated on January 25 each year and is becoming more popular in Wales after many years of being ignored. Lovers exchange cards and gifts, take time out for special meals with loved ones, carve lovespoons, and *cwtch* (a Welsh word for cuddling and hugging) in front of a roaring log fire.

RUGBY--THE NATIONAL SPORT OF WALES

A big match between Wales and Ireland will be held on February 5 at Aviva

Stadium in Dublin. In the last three meetings of these two teams, Wales has won once and Ireland twice so the competition will be fierce this year.

ARE YOU A POET?

Please submit your poem to the Welsh Festival Adult Poetry Competition!

Theme: "Trails and Trials"
Deadline: June 1, 2022
Language: English
Length: 60 line maximum
Contact: Mary Alice Telford (208-431-2683 or maryalicect2014@gmail.com)

See guidelines on website: www.welshfestival.com

DO YOU WRITE STORIES?

Please enter the Welsh Festival Fiction Writing Competition!

Theme: Welsh or Western pioneer setting, theme, or main character
Deadline: June 1, 2022
Language: English
Length: 2000 word maximum
Contact: Lucie Thomas Washburn (303-503-3869 or bob_washburn@hotmail.com)

No Horror or Science Fiction please!

See guidelines on website: www.welshfestival.com

A long-time member of the Malad Valley Welsh Society, **Robert Meline**, passed away on June 29, 2021, at the Pocatello Veterans' Home. He served for 32 years in the U.S. Army and was elected to the Idaho State House of Representatives. He also served on the Pocatello City Council. His wife Carolyn is a member of the Welsh Society and still lives in Pocatello.

THE GREAT PLAINS WELSH HERITAGE PROJECT

The Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project is based in Wymore, Nebraska, and is working to preserve the history of the Welsh settling in Nebraska and other states on the Great Plains. You can take a virtual tour of their museum and archives as well as an historic schoolhouse (built in 1906) and a railroad museum. Take the virtual tour and see more at www.welshheritageproject.org.

DID YOU KNOW?
Number of Welsh Americans: 1.98 million (0.6% of total U.S. population)

Number of people who speak Welsh in the U.S.: 2,235 people aged 5 years and over speak Welsh at home

Number of cities in the U.S. named

“Wales”: 2 (Utah and Massachusetts)