



Y Ddolen



Linking the Puget Sound Welsh Community

Visit www.pugetsoundwelsh.org

Tachwedd / Rhagfyr November / December 2007

Y Ddolen/The Link is a bi-monthly newsletter for the Puget Sound Welsh Association



The Seattle Welsh Women's Club and the Puget Sound Welsh Association present a

St David's Day Concert

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2008 at 2:30 PM

*St. Andrews's Episcopal Church
111 NE 80th St, Seattle 98115*

Join us for a celebration in the traditional Welsh way with music, song and a cup of tea.

Traditionally the first of March is given to celebrating not only St. David, *Dewi Sant* the patron saint of Wales, but also Welsh culture. On this day, Welsh people wear a leek or a yellow daffodil.

Our program this year will include mezzo-soprano Ann Atkinson from North Wales as our special guest soloist, local Welsh Folk group *Dinas o Frain* (*City of Crows*), members of the Seattle Welsh Choir and as our accompanist David Lepse. Tom Gething, director of the Seattle Welsh Choir, will lead us in a few familiar Welsh songs.

Te Bach (Welsh Tea) and Welsh Craft Sale after the program. Admission is free, but donations are greatly appreciated.

MARK YOUR 2008 CALENDARS

First Sunday of each month: Harp Circle & Celtic Music at the Dubliner Pub 2:00pm

February 8th 11:30 Welsh Women, Bellevue Library

February 17th 6:00 *Night of Hwyl*, Lakewood Ram

March 2nd 2:30 St David's Day Concert

March 11th 7:30 PSWA Board Meeting

March 14th 11:30 Welsh Women, Bellevue Library

April 13th 6pm *Night of Hwyl*, Lakewood Ram

Please do consider coming to our bi-monthly PSWA Board Meeting. It's a good feeling to be "involved in the details" and we value all ideas! The next one is scheduled for March 11th 2008 7:30 at the Parry's, call for directions. 206 524-0854

Seattle Welsh Women's News

~Carol Jones

Welsh Women meetings are held at 11:30 am on the second Friday of each month in the Bellevue Library located at 1111 - 110th Ave NE Bellevue, WA 98004 unless other wise noted. Bring your lunch. Contact Carol Jones 425.882.2825

February 8th to finalize St David's Day plans.

March 14th we will be making plans for the coming year.

South Sound News

~Karyn & Malcolm Davies

South Sound Night Out of Hwyl meets monthly at the Ram Restaurant & Brewery 10019 59th Ave SW, Lakewood (253)-584-3191.(unless otherwise listed)

February 17th 6pm, RSVP by Noon 2/17

April 13th 6pm, RSVP by Noon 4/13

RSVP to: or_grown@yahoo.com or 360-893-7256.

PSWA Board Meeting

8 January 2008 at 7:45 pm at the home of Gerri and Brian Parry.

Attending: Theresa Clark, Brian Parry, Gerri Parry, Elaine Hamner Yard, Alan Upshall

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

Old Business: Raye Stevenson passed away on 5th November. PSWA members didn't find out until 30th November, so unfortunately there was no PSWA representation at either funeral or memorial services. - Ann Sharp (nee Atkinson) has been in contact with Gerri, but tickets have not yet been purchased.

Welsh Women's Report & St. David's Day 2008

Update: Ann Atkinson has tentative dates for arriving in Seattle. There was some concern about the lateness of the ticket purchase, both from time and cost perspectives. A suggestion to consider a back up performer, in case airfare costs become prohibitive. Elaine Wyke has e-mailed Ann regarding music and accompaniment. Gerri is finalizing the collating of media stuff and "label sticking" at the January meeting.

Christmas Trivia & Movie Night: In spite of the sparse attendance, a good time was had by all, even more so when the technical difficulties with the DVD player were resolved..

Old business: Discussion on the issue of making additional copies of the Red Dragon Band CD. While PWSA has ownership, still need to get concurrence from Bronn and the Agee's. Gerri reported that Bronn had verbally agreed, provided there were no changes to CD cover.

New business: Alan reported someone in Bellingham is looking to find a Welsh speaker to learn Welsh. No names were immediately forthcoming.

Gerri received a manuscript (in English) of a three-act play that the author is looking for someone to translate into Welsh. Alan thought of someone to approach to see if they are interested in working on the project.

Theresa presented a draft outline of a presentation she is developing regarding the work she has and is

doing with Cymuned. Ideas were exchanged as to how she might proceed.

Maybe due to the inclement weather, a number of people who said they would attend called to cancel. Copies of the PSWA By-laws were distributed to those in attendance, with the task of reviewing and rewriting them to reflect how PSWA has changed over the past ten years, and to better define the roles and responsibilities of the Board. This item will be added to the next meetings agenda.

Next Board Meeting: on 11th March 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Parry, Acting Secretary

Harp Circle and Celtic Music Sessions

~Kevin Gow and Laura Lovell

First Sunday of the month Harp Circle and Welsh music sessions at the Dubliner Pub located at Fremont Avenue North and North 36th Street in Fremont. Harp Circle begins at 12:00 noon. Celtic music is featured at 2:00 p.m. Minors are welcome until 8:00 p.m. Call (206) 633-3577 or email kgandll@earthlink.com

The music sessions scheduled for the third Sundays of every month have been cancelled due to poor attendance.

On Sunday, March 2, Harp Circle led by Andrew Anderson will happen as scheduled, and he will also lead the music session. Kevin and Laura, as *Dinas O Frain*, will be taking part in the St. David's Day celebration at St. Andrew's Church.

Seattle Welsh Choir Say Good-bye to a Dear Friend

~Alan Upshall

Sadly we have to record the passing of Raye Stevenson on November 5, 2007. For several years Raye was the manager of the Seattle Welsh Choir and sang tenor with the choir. Raye was a musician by training and taught music in the Seattle School system until she retired. As manager she kept the choir running and guided us through some of the musical changes that the choir encountered, as well as keeping those non-musical tenors in shape and on key. All members of the choir send their condolences to her husband Wally, who himself accompanied the choir for a short time. Raye was a dear person and a good friend to all of us.

A Letter to Me, but Really to PSWA and What We Are Trying To Do

~ Brian Parry received the following with feedback about the 2007 Gymanfa,

Dear Mr. Parry,

I wish to express my warm thanks to you for the Association's arranging for the Gymanfa Ganu at Saint Andrew's Church here in Seattle last Sunday. I visit this church often but I have never been moved as I was Sunday afternoon with the powerful singing under Mari Morgan's inspired direction. Truly, the church has now been hallowed by Welsh song. I enclose my check for membership in the PSWA and will look forward to your future events, especially your return to Saint Andrew's next year. I am not Welsh, but of Scottish origin, from the Orkneys. But when I was in the sixth grade my uncle visited us with Welsh friends from West Frankfort, Illinois. Mr. Williams sat me down on the second day of their visit, taught me the Welsh alphabet and a few words and phrases. I was captivated by the melodic quality of the language. So, later on as a freshman at Harvard, I saw a course in Mediaeval Welsh offered in the spring term. I took it with great profit and enjoyment, but we read only and I have never learned to speak language, though I have often taken up the reading of the modern languages.

So I thought of Mr. Williams, the Welsh miner from southern Illinois, as I heard the voices of the Welsh people singing the praises of the Lord, as only they can here in Seattle.

"R'yn ni Yma o Hyd, Er gwaetha pawb a phobeth"

Could there be a better expression of this spirit than the Welsh voices we were privileged to hear Sunday? Carry on!!! Sincerely, Charles W. Tait

The Story of Two Welsh Saints

March 1st, St. David Patron Saint of Wales

March 1st is a celebration of Welsh nationality and culture, and special celebrations are held all over Wales to commemorate the country's Patron Saint. Concerts are held to mark the occasion and leeks are worn - and eaten. Many local festivities traditionally feature traditional Welsh dances, Welsh folk songs and Welsh poems. St David's Day

is also one of the most important dates in any School in Wales, when children dress in the traditional Welsh costumes and celebrate the Saint's day with an Eisteddfod, a festival of poetry, song and dance.

St David's Day has been a national festival in Wales since the 18th century, when the London Welsh societies started celebrating their St David's Day dinners. Today, St David's Day is celebrated as a patriotic and cultural festival by the Welsh in Wales and throughout the world. However, contrary to Ireland's St Patrick or Galicia's St James, St David's is not a public holiday in Wales.

St David (Dewi Sant) is the only native-born patron saint of the countries of Britain and Ireland. He was the only Welsh saint to have been formally canonised by the Catholic Church.

David came from an aristocratic family in Wales and was at the heart of the Welsh church in the 6th century. He became the abbot and bishop of St David's and died on 1st March 589 AD. He is buried in St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire. So respected was he that medieval pilgrims believed that two pilgrimages to St David's were equal to one pilgrimage to Rome.

Saint David is also known, in Welsh, as Dewi Ddyfrwr or David the Water Drinker. It is claimed that he ate only one meal a day of bread with vegetables and salt, and he was known for long fasts during which he drank nothing but water for several days.

Many legends recount how the leek came to be the national emblem of Wales. One popular legend states that Saint David advised the Britons on the eve of a battle with the Saxons, to wear leeks in their caps so as to easily distinguish friend from foe. This helped secure a great victory. It is also believed that the same thing happened when Welsh archers fought with Henry V at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. March 1st is now celebrated by Welsh people all over the world by wearing either of the national emblems - a leek or a daffodil.

January 25th, St Dywynwen The Welsh "Valentine's" Day

www.geocities.com/saintdwywnwen/Saint-Dwynwen.html St. Dwywnwen was one of 24 daughters of a 5th century Welsh Saint and king, Brychan Brycheiniog, of Brechon. The beautiful and virtuous St. Dwywnwen fell in love with a Welsh prince, Maelon

Dafodrill, who intended to wed her, but their marriage was not to be. Various reasons have been given for this. Some say that Brychan had already promised her to another prince. Others say that she realized she wished to live a religious life dedicated to God. Maelon's bitterness toward her became increasingly unbearable. Dwywnwen fled to the woods and prayed fervently to God to help her end this misery. She fell asleep and dreamt that she was administered a sweet drink which saved her from Maelon's attentions and released her from her heartache. The same drink, given to Maelon, however, turned him to ice. Again she prayed and was given three wishes: the first that Maelon be unfrozen; the second that she should never wish to marry again; and the third was that God should answer all requests made by her on behalf of lovers, to find happiness in love or to be cured of their passion. One of her sayings was, "Nothing wins hearts like cheerfulness." Her wishes granted she committed her life to Him and founded a convent on what is now Llanddwyn Island, just off the Isle of Anglesey. Her holy well, a fresh-water spring called Ffynnon Dwywnwen, became a place of pilgrimage. Over time she was also invoked to heal sick and distressed animals, a tradition which has survived to the present day.

Welsh Lovers are Incurable Romantics

From <http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk>

Couples seeking to put a little sparkle into their Valentine's Day celebrations could take a few pointers from Welsh lovers as new figures reveal them to be incurable romantics. While one day dedicated to romance is quite enough for most couples Welsh lovers take two in their stride and will tomorrow celebrate Santes Dwywnwen's day, the Celtic version of Valentine's Day. But even that fails to quench their thirst for making romantic gestures and sales figures at supermarket giant, Tesco, show that Welsh shoppers are the most likely to treat their partners to a spontaneous romantic gift. More bouquets and bottles of champagne are bought at Tesco stores in Wales on a Friday afternoon, traditionally the peak time when most romantic gifts are bought, than anywhere else in Britain. Tesco spokeswoman Laura Voyle said: "The Welsh are probably the most misunderstood people in Britain but news that they are the most

loved up and passionate should help present them in a new light. "People often say that the great age of chivalry is long gone but the Welsh seem to prove them wrong." She said that Tesco accidentally stumbled on the information as it was planning to stock its Welsh stores with romantic items in advance of St Dwywnwen's Day. When staff ran through sales data for traditional romantic gift purchases such as flowers and champagne they found that most sales of these items in Welsh stores are made on Friday afternoons. The top Tesco city for bouquet sales on Friday afternoons is Cardiff where an average of 200 bunches of flowers are sold. The next highest Friday afternoon flower sales are in Cambridge (160) followed by Swansea (150), Leeds (145), and Newport (130). Friday afternoon champagne sales are also highest in Cardiff with an average of 120 bottles sold followed by Sandhurst (110), Watford (100), Newcastle (90), and Newport (85). And the store expects another rush on flowers and bubbly as couples celebrate the feast day of Dwywnwen. Ms Voyle added: "What really proves that the Welsh are the most romantic people in Britain is that despite celebrating their own Valentine's Day on January 25 they do it all over again just three weeks later on Feb 14."

Listen to 30 Hours of Welsh Music!

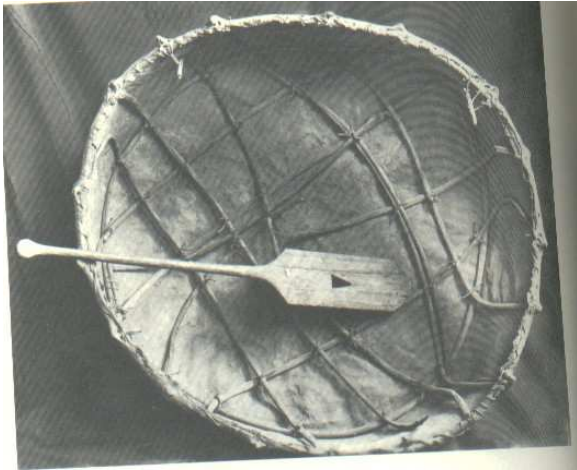
The Sonora, California based Celtic radio station IRFT will be playing Welsh music on March 1st. The response by Welsh artists has been unbelievable, and the show is now being extended to a full 30 hours of Welsh music. All genres of Welsh music will be represented from the traditional harps and choirs to jazz and indie rock. The show will run from 6pm on February 29th to midnight on March 1st (Pacific Time). To hear the show over the Internet please visit: www.radioirft.com and hit the LISTEN LIVE button.

Crossing The Waters

~JoAnne Matsumura

At the Black Diamond Museum visitors searching for information of their Welsh ancestry often ask, In the days before Columbus, how did the Welsh cross the waters to America? The answer was always "by boat". Little did I know of the kind of boat they came in! [Madog Owain was noted to have left Wales twice ca. 1170 in a ship which carried many others to a land across the ocean never to be seen again.]

This photograph of a Bullboat at the Smithsonian Institution is identified as, "A plains [Mandan] Indian "bullboat", made like a bowl, rawhide over a framework, the result being like the Old World coracles, which, having been used in Wales, could be considered evidence of the Migration of Welsh immigrants to America before Columbus; this popular legend is referred to in Lewis and Clark's Journal and considered credible by the two explorers."



Artifact #12.32, Bullboat. From the book *Indian & Eskimo Artifacts of North America*, by Charles Miles.

Cymuned Assists Schools & Local Communities

~Theresa Clark

One of several important issues that Cymuned addresses in preserving Welsh-speaking communities is the critical link between local schools and Welsh culture. For several years, schools throughout Wales have been threatened with closure, which is another way of implementing the consolidation that leads to centralization. Closure of local schools also presents the problem of transportation, so that even if money is "saved" by fewer schools, funding often isn't in place for busses. Parents are then posed with the problem of transporting their children out of the district on a daily basis.

Welsh Assembly Member Janet Ryder, Shadow Minister of Education, has strongly and consistently advocated protecting and maintaining small schools in her primary Welsh-speaking constituency district of North Wales. Although Mrs. Ryder is a member of Plaid Cymru, Cymuned is a multi-party

movement and networks with representatives of all parties to promote beneficial action for the Welsh community.

The following is a direct excerpt from Cymuned's weekly e-mail newsletter. Please refer to the website at www.cymuned.net for a more complete description of Cymuned as an organization.

On December 13, another large protest was held outside the offices of Gwynedd Council as the council discussed the proposed reorganization of schools in the county. Cymuned has stated support for the protestors, who are doing a vital job in creating discussion, but we also believe that there is a need for close and careful work between councilors and protestors in order to improve the current report.

Unfortunately, it appears that everyone accepts the idea that some schools will have to close, even the protestors. By encouraging communities to come up with new and radical ideas, and by calling on the Council to make specific improvements, we hope that it will be possible to reduce the damaging side-effects and perhaps even take advantage of some new possibilities.

Cymuned is working on a website with the aim of bringing different campaign groups together to develop genuinely radical discussion about how to sustain and support our communities and schools in the face of a lack of funding from the Assembly Government. We are hoping to launch the site early in 2008.

It's Time Again for Six Nations Rugby

~Karyn & Malcolm Davies

The Six Nations Championship is the oldest Rugby Union championship in the world dating back to 1882 [when it was Four Nations]. The Six Nations is played over an eight-week period in the spring of each year. The importance of the competition has increased due to the long-standing rivalries between teams, which makes it continue to be a passionate and fiercely contested prize.

http://www.rbs6nations.com/en/match-centre_fixtures-results.php

Saturday, February 2, 8:30 am

Wales V England at Twickenham

Saturday, February 9, 6:00 am

Scotland V Wales at Millennium Stadium

Saturday, February 23, 7:00 am

Italy V Wales at Millennium Stadium

Saturday, March 8, 5:15 am

Wales V Ireland at Croke Park

Saturday, March 15th, 9:00 am

France V Wales at Millennium Stadium

Where to watch live: From the comfort of your own home if you subscribe to Setanta Sports or Fado's (Seattle), 801 1st Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104. 206-264-2700 www.fadoirishpub.com/seattle/

The Castles of Wales Part III

~Benton Williams

William of Normandy defeated King Harold in 1066 and Chepstow was begun one year later. It vies with Harlech for historical significance. It sits high on a cliff above the Wye River and has undergone a series of reconstructions down through the ages. It was the first castle to be constructed of stone. For many years it was the center of power for the marcher lords that were appointed by William of Normandy, one of whom was William Fitz Osbern who did considerable restoration until his death in 1071.

At the end of the 12th century, Chepstow passed by marriage to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, who set about bringing the castle up to date with two round towers including slits for arrows. It was to set the style for future reconstruction. Before 1245 Marshall's sons did extensive improvements including a new keep and twin towers. Between 1270 and 1300 Roger Bigod, a wealthy nobleman, made elaborate improvements in the form of kitchens, latrines and apartments and an extensive wall. The castle was further modified during the Tudor dynasty, but was subject to various sieges during the parliamentary civil wars. Peter Martens became a famous resident, having spent 20 years as a prisoner in the tower that now bears his name.

The Maid of Harlech

~The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery Website

In the summer of 2007, a Lockheed P-38 Lightning fighter aircraft, presumed to be USAAF serial number 41-7677, emerged from the sand of a beach in Wales where it crash landed in 1942. The aircraft, largely intact and remarkably free of

corrosion, is one of the most significant WWII-related archaeological discoveries in recent history. The Welsh airplane is arguably the oldest surviving P-38 and the only intact P-38F in original condition.

Originally known as the "Wales Lightning", built in 1941, reached Britain in early 1942 and flew combat missions along the Dutch-Belgian coast. She is now known as the Maid of Harlech after the magnificent 13th century Welsh castle, but until she can be rescued from the sands of time, her actual location must remain confidential.

Although the aircraft is covered by the Protection of Military Remains Act and disturbing the site in any way carries heavy penalties, the looting of historic wreck sites by unscrupulous souvenir hunters is, nonetheless, a major problem worldwide. Nature has done a good job hiding the wreck and the site is also now under surveillance. Nothing presented here provides site information and we ask that everyone support our efforts to protect the aircraft until it can be recovered. To read more about the maid of Harlech Project go to: www.tighar.org

Keeping Up with the Joneses

~Welsh Assembly Government, New York, NY

Two Welsh individuals are at the forefront of the battle against global warming. Sir John Houghton from Aberdyfi will receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his work with the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Former head of the Met Office, Sir John, chaired the IPCC between 1998 and 2002, and was lead editor of its first three reports on global warming.

Meanwhile, Cardiff-born international designer, Ross Lovegrove, appeared on CNN International, 29 November, to unveil the prototype of *The Solar Tree* - a new urban streetlight and his *Car On a Stick* concept, a self-driving bubble car which transforms into a streetlight at night. Ross Lovegrove's vision of the cities of the future appears as part of the program '*Just Imagine*', on which he is also the host.

The Wales Week USA 2008 website is now live: www.walesweekusa.com. Look there for Wales Week activities on Wall Street, New York, Boston and Los Angeles.

Y Ddolen [*The Link*]

is published bimonthly by the Puget Sound Welsh Association. Views expressed herein do not imply Puget Sound Welsh Association endorsement. Annual subscription is included in the PSWA membership dues. PSWA is dedicated to promoting and preserving the history and heritage of the Welsh in the Puget Sound region and surrounding environs.

**We welcome stories, articles and pictures of interest. Please send them to Gerri Parry:
5760 60th Ave NE Seattle WA 98105
(206) 524-0854 or gerribp@hotmail.com**

PSWA T-Shirts

Shirts are Gildan brand Steel Green and come in sizes from S-XL. For a \$15.00 donation* (plus \$3.00 S&H) to the Puget Sound Welsh Association you will receive a PSWA t-shirt.

Send check or money order to:

PSWA, P.O. Box 19344 Seattle, WA 98109-0344

Include shipping cost, size and your address for USPS delivery or pick up your shirt in Seattle at the Parry's house or in Orting at the Davies' house. Alternatively, they will be made available at all South Sound Nights Out and other PSWA events. To see the shirts in living color, go to: <http://www.pugetsoundwelsh.org/home.html>.

***T-Shirt donation does not apply to membership dues.**

Featured Website: For a preview of Ross Lovegrove's designs *The Solar Tree* and *Car on a Stick*, see the following link to the CNN website <http://edition.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2007/just.imagine/transport/>

We frequently get requests to distribute to our membership Welsh related advertisements and promotions. Although PSWA does not endorse any, many are listed on the PSWA website. For a variety of interests click on LINKS at: www.pugetsoundwelsh.org.

PUGET SOUND WELSH ASSOCIATION (PSWA) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PSWA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization (501c(3)). Contributions may be tax-deductible. Your membership dues include a subscription to PSWA's newsletter, *Y Ddolen*.

Check your mailing label for your membership renewal date. If you move, please let us know your new address as soon as possible - the Post Office charges to forward bulk mail. For memberships outside the U.S. or Canada, please add \$5 for a 1-year membership, \$50 for a life membership. *Diolch yn fawr iawn*/thank you very much!

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT TO PSWA, P.O. Box 19344, SEATTLE, WA 98109.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____

Phone (evening) _____

Email _____

PSWA T-Shirts: \$15.00 donation +\$3.00 P&H per t-shirt (indicate how many & size)

___MED___LG___XLG

MEMBERSHIPS

Amount

1 year single (\$10) _____

1 year family (\$15) _____

Life (\$100) _____

Overseas Postage _____

General Fund _____

Memorial Scholarship _____

T- Shirt Total _____

Fund in memory of _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

**Y Ddolen
Puget Sound Welsh Association
P.O. Box 19344
Seattle, WA 98109**

**NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE WA
PERMIT #1996**

Return Service Requested

PUGET SOUND WELSH ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

President & Secretary (acting): Brian Parry 206.524.0854 **V. President:** [Currently Vacant]
Treasurer Alan Upshall 425.488.7288
Membership Secretary Gerri Parry 206.524.0854
Events & Activities Brian & Gerri Parry 206.524.0854
Newsletter & Website Gerri Parry 206.524.0854 gerribp@hotmail.com
At Large Members: Theresa Clark & Elaine Hamner Yard
Tom Gething 206.523.6234 thomasdgething@hotmail.com **Cor Cymraeg Seattle** / Seattle Welsh Choir activities
Robert Smith 206.546.9242 **Dawnsyr Dewi Sant** / Welsh Folk Dance information
Carolyn Bell 206.363.3589 **Gweithdy Crefftau Gymreig** / Welsh Craft Table
Karyn & Malcolm Davies 360.893.7256 or_grown@yahoo.com **South Sound Activities** monthly “*Night of Hwyl*”
Carol Jones 425.882.2825 & Eileen Wyke 425.746.7771 **Seattle Welsh Women's Club**
Kevin Gow & Laura Lovell 206.633.3577 kgandll@earthlink.com **Welsh Music Sessions**