

IOWA WELSH SOCIETY

CYMDEITHAS GYMREIG IOWA

VOLUME 83

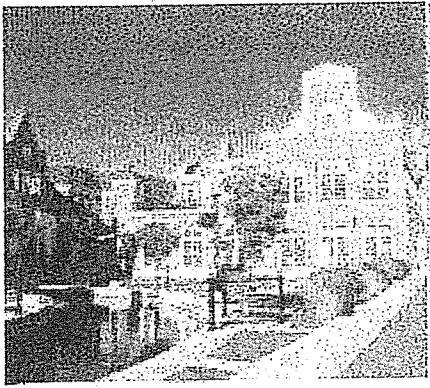
## Celebrate St. David's Day March 2, 2013

We are returning to the first Saturday in March to celebrate St. David's Day. There were many conflicts with later dates in March. This year, we are fortunate to be back at Monarch's Restaurant, Royal Amsterdam Hotel, in Pella. Richard Phillips, a member of the Iowa Welsh Society (IWS) and owner of Monarchs along with his wife Kellie, will be our hosts. The cost for lunch will be \$19.50 per adult and reservations are due by February 26.

At noon, we will have a Welsh lunch prepared by Richard and Kellie's staff. Prior to that, there will be a Board meeting at 10:30 am. and all members are invited, indeed encouraged, to attend the Board meeting. We will begin gathering about 11:15 am. to get re-acquainted and to purchase British foods from Marcus Johnson, a member of IWS and owner of Ames British Foods. If you wish to order something special, call Marcus in advance at (515) 598-5127 or order on-line and ask him to bring your order to Pella for you to pick up there. Even if you do not order in advance, he is sure to have a great selection in Pella. The IWS receives 15% from the sales.

Our own Enfys McMurry will tell us about her new book, Centerville: A Mid-American Saga, published by History Press. The 1920 census documented 8,600 residents from more than 40 nations living there. Many had been recruited to work in the coal mines. Surely, some of them must have been from Wales! She has given us some teasers from the book as she was writing it so we know what a treat is in store for us. Enfys is a gifted and spell-binding speaker. In fact, why not invite one or more guests along for the luncheon and program and make it a special St. David's Day celebration. Enfys, originally from Cowbridge, Wales, taught English, history and literature at Indian Hills Community College in Centerville and, while she has retired from teaching, we are fortunate she has not retired from writing.

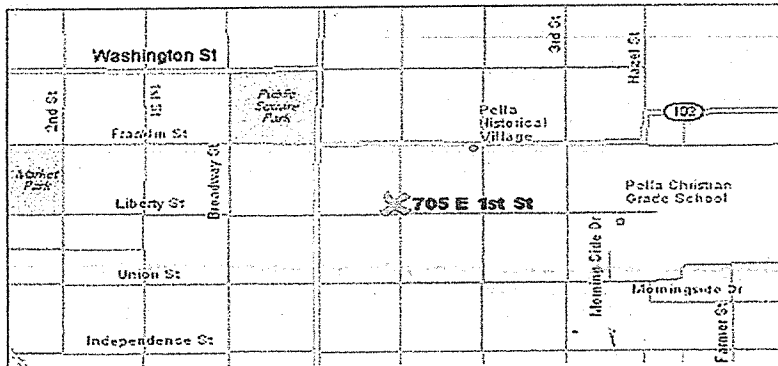
**DEADLINE for reservation for the luncheon is February 26, 2013.**



X Royal Amsterdam Hotel  
and Monarchs Restaurant  
at 705 E 1st Street, Pella, IA

Underground Parking is available on Liberty street (the east/west street) around the corner from the main entrance to the hotel

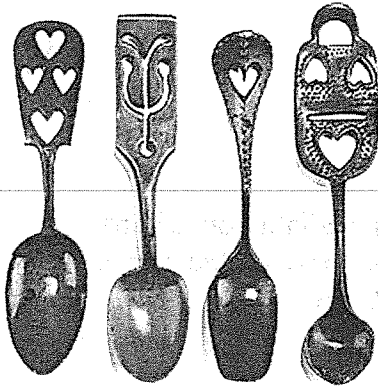
Directions to the Royal Amsterdam Hotel and Monarchs Restaurant: Coming from the north and west take Iowa 163. Take the first exit into Pella. (Business route of Iowa 163) Follow to the center of town and turn south on the east side (Main Street) and go to East 1st street. Those coming from the south take the business route north and East. 1st Street is one block south of the town square.



Thank you to Pat McCaughey  
for her many years of  
producing the newsletter. I  
hope to eventually produce 1  
half as good as her's have  
been.

If you have any ideas or information you  
want in the newsletters please send them  
to: Nancy Evans, 1009 Highland Ave, Red  
Oak, IA 51566 or email them to:

[non@mchsi.com](mailto:non@mchsi.com)



# LOVESPOONS

## TRADITION

At least as far back as the 17th century in Wales, lovespoons have been carved from a single piece of wood, using decorative designs and common symbols to convey a heartfelt message. Folklore suggests that a young Welsh farmer or sailor would carve designs and symbols into a decorative spoon, declaring his intentions toward the girl who stole his heart. The more elaborate the carving, the more care it conveyed. If the girl accepted the token, it indicated that she returned his feelings - and their courtship would begin. It's also said that the girl may carry the spoon with her, tied into her apron strings.

Many other cultures on nearly every continent also had lovespoon traditions, but perhaps the most well-known is that of the Welsh. While lovespoons in Wales were originally a courtship tradition, today they are given for any special occasion. Some common occasions include weddings, anniversaries, the arrival of a new baby, and housewarmings.

## SYMBOLISM

Lovespoon symbols and their interpretations have expanded through the centuries, as have the occasions for which they are commonly given. Still, the tradition remains essentially unchanged: a lovespoon is carved from a single piece of wood, and conveys a heartfelt message.

Here are just a few common symbols and some interpretations:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| hearts - love  | intertwined hearts - eternal love       |
| intertwined vines - togetherness, growth                                     | cross - faith, Christianity, church     |
| bells, knot, bow - wedding, marriage   | horseshoe - good luck                   |
| diamond - prosperity or wealth, good fortune                                 | flowers - gentleness, affection, growth |
| lock, key, keyhole - Your love is safe with me, key to my heart, house, home | stork - new baby                        |
| shield - protection, security  | chain - loyalty, faithfulness           |
| caged ball(s) - love kept safe   |   |

The number of balls in a cage or links in a chain can also represent the number of children

Minutes of December 1, 2012 Board Meeting, Iowa Welsh Society  
Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, IA

The Board of Directors of the Iowa Welsh Society (IWS) met December 1, 2012, at the Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, IA. The meeting was convened at 11:45 am. by President Pat McCaughey.

Those present were Board members Nancy Evans, Ruth Hall, AdaMae Lewis, Pat McCaughey and Donelle Meyer. IWS member Nancy McCurdy attended as well.

The Secretary's report from March 2012 was presented by Pat in Lelia Carlo's absence. No corrections or additions were required and the Minutes were filed.

Donelle, Treasurer, said there was \$3,169.53 in the account. She said there had been little activity in the last year. It was suggested and she agreed to present a written account of income and expenses at the March 2013 meeting.

Members are to be reminded that dues, beginning 2013, will be **\$15** per year. AdaMae will request that Chad Davis update the membership form on the website. Donelle and Pat will get together to discuss the membership list. Pat will share an updated membership list with Donelle and Nancy.

The Board voted to reimburse Donelle \$15 to cover her payment of a member's dues.

Ruth, Historian, reported that all archives have been transported to the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre, Wymore, NE. She does have some photocopied song sheets.

There was no webmaster's report in Chad's absence.

**Old Business:**

Our insurance policy lapsed and the new proposed policy offered was twice what the previous policy had been. It seems that policies for all small non-profits have doubled or tripled.

We will continue to investigate a policy for liability and another for Directors and Officers. AdaMae will contact Jenifer Mercer-Klimowski regarding this.

**New Business:**

The plans for St. David's Day, March 2, 2013 were discussed. The price will be the same as last year. AdaMae will invite Marcus Johnson, Ames British Foods, to provide the marketplace. IWS will provide his meal.

After 16 dedicated years, Pat turned over the responsibility for the newsletter to Nancy Evans. We extend our grateful thanks to Pat for this long and talented service. This is the second time Nancy has been in charge of the newsletter previously and we welcome her back to this important position. Information for the next newsletter should be to Nancy by mid-January.

Nancy moved, Ruth seconded a motion and the Board voted to make a one time donation of \$250 to the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project to assist in the construction of an archive building. The Board recognizes that special facilities are required for Iowa Welsh Society archives and other archives to be safely stored in Wymore, NE, at the Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted     AdaMae Lewis     Interim Secretary

**Deadline for Meal Reservations to be received: By February 26, 2013.**

*No additions or cancellations after this date. Thank you.*

*If you need to talk to Richard Phillips his number is: 641-620-1100*

*His email is phillipsr911@gmail.com*

*Iowa Welsh Society*

*c/o Richard Phillips*

*510 Liberty Street*

*Pella, Ia 50219*

Persons attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$19:50 Total remittance \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian Meal? \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: IOWA WELSH SOCIETY AND SEND TO  
RICHARD AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS**

Dues Payable to Iowa Welsh Society: **\$15** for individual or family. Our membership year is from January 1 to December 31.

Please mail your check to: Donelle Meyer, Treasurer: **4227 Stone Brooke Rd., Ames Iowa, 50010-4113**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

WELSH ORIGINS:

SEE MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM IN THE NEWSLETTER. PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES  
FOR TO DONELLE MEYER.

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**Dues for 2013 now due.**

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