

The Chicago Tafia

Summer Edition 2007

Cerys Matthews performs privately for the Tafia

Let's hope you're not one of the unfortunate souls who didn't make it out to celebrate St. David's day with us this spring. If so, sorry to rub salt in the wounds, but yes, that is **THE Cerys Matthews** of Catatonia fame that you missed out on, as pictured.

Matthews, who currently resides in Nashville, Tennessee with her American record-producing husband and their two small children and who rarely performs in the states, excitedly agreed to travel to Chicago with two accompanying musicians for a very special St. David's Day private performance.

On Saturday, February 24, Cerys and crew were escorted from O'Hare in a limousine driven by Tafia member **Brian Geen** (formerly of Caerphilly), adorned with Welsh flags on either side "presidential style" (much to the band's delight) to Fado's Irish pub in the city, which was already packed to capacity with members of the Tafia watching Wales (unfortunately loose) to France during the Six Nations Rugby. **Lisa Wyn Jones Novak** (formerly of Conwy), and her husband **Dave Novak**, helped manage the guest list and the eager crowds as everyone settled in for the performance.



As the Tafia enjoyed the house special "Red Dragon" cocktails, Cerys Matthews delighted the group with an amazing private acoustic performance, singing hits from her solo album, "Cockahoop", traditional Welsh folk songs, and even a few variations on songs from her days in Catatonia. After her performance, during which she joked about adjusting to living in the states, she stayed to graciously sign autographs, take pictures, and enjoy drinks and conversation with our group.

Cerys returned to Nashville the next day and blogged to her fans on her MySpace.com website about her experience. *"The Chicago Tafia gave us an amazing welcome,"* she wrote. *"If you're a Welsh ex pat in the Chicago area its well worth looking them up for rugby matches, bonfire night, St. David's day, that kind of thing. Not if you're into clog dancing or candle lit knitting sessions with Glengettie tea. They haven't got to that stage yet. Thank you to Dave, Brooke and Brian for looking after us. We'll definitely be back, and maybe next time with a map to find a fat Chicago pizza."*

Cerys plans on joining the Tafia and visiting for future celebrations and events, and hopes that fellow Welsh artists will follow suit by entertaining the group in the future. More photos inside this issue.

ST. DAVID'S DAY TO BE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED IN ILLINOIS HEREFORTH!



Throughout the United States during the week of St. David's day Welsh Societies gather to celebrate a holiday which, unlike the Irish St. Patrick's Day, most Americans know little to nothing about. And so, in addition to celebrating this past spring, the Tafia set out to get St. David's day on the American map - this year, more so than ever.

Inspired by legislation recently passed in Wisconsin to officially recognize St. David's day, the Tafia founder, **David Parry**, wrote a letter to State Representative Robert W. Pritchard, citing the countless contributions Welshmen have made to the city of Chicago and to the state of Illinois as a whole, asking that a similar bill to Wisconsin's be voted on in Illinois. State Representative Pritchard (a Welsh surname, but of course!) promptly replied in agreement, notifying Parry that he was immediately drafting a resolution to recognize St. David's day officially in the state of Illinois. Bill number HR0149 was successfully passed on April 19, putting St. David's Day officially on the Illinois calendar from hereforth. Wa-hey!

Join the Tafia on MySpace, Facebook and You Tube!

Missed out on a Tafia event? It's not quite the same but you can catch pictures and videos of some of our events on our Chicago Tafia MySpace, Facebook and You Tube websites.

Our You Tube site offers highlights from recent performances by Cerys Matthews, Jon Langford, The Bangor and Penrhyn Male Voice Choirs and our St. David's Day appearance on ABC 7 news! Our MySpace and Facebook sites feature pictures from our recent events, celebrity interviews and other Tafia exclusives. Both are also an excellent way to inform members of inpromptu gatherings or events. Visit the Tafia's MySpace page at www.myspace.com/ChicagoTafia. In Facebook, search "The Chicago Tafia" under "groups". Search You Tube videos at www.youtube.com/ChicagoTafia.



Cerys Matthews shares a pint with Geoff Harding following her performance.

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Siarad Cymraeg ?



Do you want to learn Welsh? Would you like to brush up on your Welsh or just have an opportunity to speak Welsh and keep it fresh in your mind? We are considering restarting our weekly Welsh lessons in Chicago this Autumn. If you would be interested in taking part in a 10 or 12 week Welsh evening class, please email us at WelshChicago@aol.com with *Welsh lessons* as the title.



Cerys signs the Tafia's Welsh flag to be auctioned for the Wales Childrens Hospital.

North American
Festival
of Wales



Gwyl
Gymreig
Gogledd America

The North American Festival of Wales is coming to Chicago in 2008! If you would like to volunteer in helping planning and organizing this event please email Dr. John Ellis at: wngga@comcast.net

Support Welsh-owned businesses . . . and get your drink on!

If you are looking to add a Welsh touch to a summer party or barbecue look no further. Raise some eyebrows with your unusual beverages, or just take delight in cooling off after a hot day with a taste of home. Tomos Watkins Cwrw Haf (Summer Ale) is available for the first time in Chicago at Binny's, Sam's Liquors and other prime retailers.

Not much of a beer drinker? Gales Cider is something of an interesting find and will do just the trick. This Welsh-style cider which features a large red dragon on the label is brewed at the Thomas Family Winery down in Southern Indiana. It is without a doubt the most surprisingly delicious cider we have found stateside, and at \$5.99 a liter the price isn't bad either! Gales is available on mail order. See the Thomas Family Winery advertisement on the previous page for more information.



Highlights from last year's Halloween/ Bonfire Night Party

see the Calander of Events on the last pages for info on this year's party!



Tafia members at the November bonfire night and Halloween party dressed up and endured some pretty cold weather for the night, but it didn't put a damper on the fun!



After enjoying the bonfire night party into the wee hours, this Tafia member who shall remain sort of anonymous went to bed at the kitchen table.



Local Boy in



Brooke Parry and Simon Topliss at the Tafia St. David's Day party



Brian Geen and Irish gatecrashers waiting for Cerys to begin her performance!

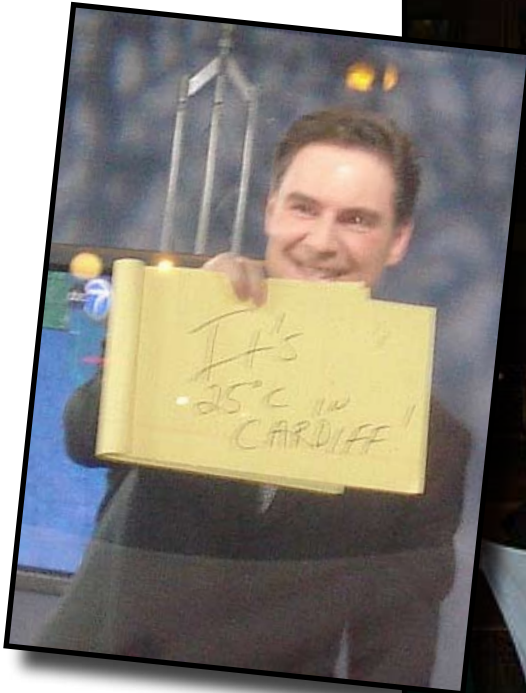


Tafia members outside Channel 7 studios in Chicago wait to be caught on camera and broadcast that it's St. David's day to everyone watching!



It just wouldn't be St. David's day if Timothy Lloyd didn't show up wearing a giant leek.

a Photograph



Weatherman Mike Caplan catches onto who we are and says... "It's 25f in Cardiff!"



Happy St. David's Day, Chicago!



The Julia Jones Brit Bus Tour pulls up for a couple days stay and a performance in Chicago



Welsh songstress Julia Jones with Tafia member Eve Keepings

Welsh Events in Chicago

Summer/Autumn 2007

New to the group? Haven't been out to one our many events yet? Now is the time to do so!! The upcoming months are packed with some quality events suitable to all tastes and ages, with gatherings to hear Welsh talent, pub nights, and Celtic festivals. You have no more excuses!

August

WEDNESDAY 22 AUGUST - 10:00pm

Banzai Kitty
The Original Mother's
26 West Division Street, Chicago

The up-and-coming Springfield-based Welsh alternative/punk band continues their tour of Chicago! Visit www.myspace.com/banzaikitty007 for further tour dates and information.

SUNDAY AUGUST 25th - 10:00 a.m.

Wee Hairy Beasties
At the 'WTTW Kids Fun & Run' in Lincoln Park

Newport's own John Langford is a busy man! Aside from the Waco Bros and numerous other projects he is also involved along with other respected Chicago artists with a great kids band called 'Wee Hairy Beasties'. Their CD Animal Crackers is a great example of how childrens music can and should be. For more information, please visit their MySpace page at: www.myspace.com/weehairybeasties.

September

Friday September 14th, 11:00am

Here Be Dragons
Televised on ABC 7 Chicago

Welsh band Here Be Dragons perform live on American TV for the first time! Check your tv listings and set your VCR's!

Friday September 14th, 10:30pm

Here Be Dragons
The Hideout
1354 W Wabansia Ave, Chicago

Here be Dragons perform live at one of Chicago's live music institutions - The Hideout. For further details visit: www.hideoutchicago.com

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 15 & 16 SEPTEMBER
 11:00am to 9:00pm

The 11th Annual Chicago Celtic Festival

Grant Park Chicago

Chicago's 11th annual pan-Celtic festival, featuring food, music and dance from Brittany, Cornwall, Ireland, the Isle of Man, Scotland & Wales. Top Welsh talent 'Here Be Dragons' and 'Jon Langford & the Burlington Male Voice Choir' have been confirmed so far. For further information please visit: www.celticfestchicago.com

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16 12:00 p.m.

Jon Langford & the Burlington Male Voice Choir
Martyrs

3855 N. Lincoln Ave, Chicago

Join Jon Langford & The Burlington Male Voice Choir for a lunchtime session of singing and drinking at Martyr's. They love a good crowd, so grab a flag and drop in for a singsong!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 22 - time TBA

The Waco Bros
OaktoberFest
Downtown Oak Park

The Welsh-fronted band play at this free classic downtown Oak Park festival.

SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER
 11:00am to 9:00pm

The Midlothian Scottish & Celtic Fair
Village Green at 147th & Springfield Avenue,
Midlothian, Illinois

Midlothian's 10th annual Scottish & Celtic fair. Great live Celtic music, dance, sheep herding demonstrations, face-painting and many Scottish, Irish & Welsh vendors, societies and stalls.

October

Events TBA

November

SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER

The Chicago Tafia
5th annual Bonfire Night & Halloween Party
Location TBA

Remember remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason and plot. I see no reason why gunpowder treason should even be forgot....

All the usual festivities: mulled wine, spiced cider, fancy dress (Halloween costumes), a bonfire and fireworks.

Jem - TBA

Jem will be on tyour in the US to promote her new CD. Dates and venues to follow.

NOVEMBER 9 - 23rd

La Boheme

The Lyric Opera

20 N. Wacker Drive, Chicago

Featuring star tenor and Llanbedgroch's proudest son, Gwyn Hughes Jones



The Yorkshire Rose

352 Bluff Street
 Dubuque, Iowa

A fine British Import store featuring

- * Rhiannon jewelry
- * Silver Scenes of Welshpool
- * Welsh tea, flags, car stickers & many other quality Welsh products.

Just across the Mississippi from Galena, Illinois!

**“What does ‘Tafia’
 mean, anyways?”**

A “Taff” is a somewhat derogatory name for a Welshman. We’ve just decided to own it and wear it proud, so instead of the Chicago Mafia, we’re the Tafia!



Rugby World Cup Schedule

SEPTEMBER 9th, 8:00am - Wales v Canada

SEPTEMBER 15th, 9:00am - Wales v Australia

SEPTEMBER 20th, 3:00pm - Wales v Japan

SEPTEMBER 29th, 11:00am - Wales v Fiji

Euro 2008 Qualifiers (not all games will be available in the US, though the Germany and Ireland games are likely to be shown.)

SEPTEMBER 8th - 1:30pm -
 Wales v Germany

SEPTEMBER 12th - 1:30pm -
 Slovakia v Wales

OCTOBER 13th - Time TBA -
 Cyprus v Wales

OCTOBER 17th - Time TBA -
 San Marino v Wales

NOVEMBER 17th - Time TBA -
 Wales v Republic of Ireland

NOVEMBER 21st - Time TBA -
 Germany v Wales

Games will most likely be shown at the following venues, keep your eye on your email for updates:

The Abbey Pub - 3420 West Grace, Chicago
 Fado's Pub - 100 West Grand Avenue, Chicago
 Ginger's Ale House - 3801 N. Ashland Ave, Chicago
 The Globe - 1934 West Irving Park Road, Chicago

ABOUT THE CHICAGO TAFIA



The Chicago Tafia was formed in 2000 to meet the needs of recent Welsh and other British immigrants to the Chicago area, but has evolved to what it is today; a group which celebrates its heritage, promotes Wales, and has great fun meeting for social events. Since it's meager beginnings, it's rapidly grown every year and now boasts over 200 members.

The Chicago Tafia meet at least once a month. These past 12 months, their events included:

- Gatherings to watch Wales in the 6 Nations rugby tournament*
- Social pub nights at various British pubs around Chicagoland*
- St. David's day dinner and party*
- Bonfire Night/Halloween Party*
- Christmas Gathering*
- Summer barbeques/pool party*
- Charity drives*
- Gatherings to see Welsh musicians on tour in the area*

The Chicago Tafia welcomes everyone, whether you are from Wales, of Welsh descent, or just interested. Our members range in age from 10 months to 75! We are diverse and inviting and would love for you to join us at our next event. We also welcome and encourage your ideas and suggestions to help us continue to grow and appeal to everyone.

We offer a website, group message board, and a quarterly newsletter to keep our members up to date with the latest happenings. Please visit us at www.geocities/TheChicagoTafia. You can also email us at WelshChicago@aol.com for more information.

Thank you for being involved!

Cymru am Byth!

The Chicago Tafia



The Chicago Tafia
Welsh Society
18511 Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430

