

The Willows Whisper

March issue

1st March St David's Day



Who was St. David?

Saint David (known as Dewi Sant in the Welsh language) was a Celtic monk born towards the end of the fifth century and was Archbishop of Wales. He spread the word of Christianity across Wales, founding 11 churches across Wales and Brittany. His influence is shown by the number of churches dedicated to him in Wales.

It is always observed on March 1st, as the tradition is that he died on that day in 589 AD, though the tradition also says that he lived for over a 100 years, which would have been a mightily impressive age to get to in the 6th century.

St David is the patron saint of Wales and he is celebrated on the 1 March. To mark the day, Welsh people around the world wear one or both of Wales's national emblems - a daffodil and a leek. Lots of towns and villages across Wales host their own parades and concerts.

There is also a famous concert held on the day at St David's Hall in Cardiff, with the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales performing traditional songs.

8th March International Women's Day

About International Women's Day...

The earliest Women's Day observance, called 'National Woman's day', was held on February 28, 1909, in New York City, organized by Socialist Party of America. The following year, on March 19, Woman's day was celebrated in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland.

In 1914, International Women's day celebrated first time on March 8 in Germany, was dedicated to women's right to vote. In London, the day was celebrated to support women's suffrage.

Today, International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.



Mother's Day, March 14th



Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May.

Happy Mother's Day to our wonderful mothers. We thank you for every hug, word of encouragement, and acts of love given to us. Thank you for always being the shining example for us. Thank you for laughing with us in the best of times and sticking with us through worst of times. What would we do without you!

Wonderful Mother

God made a wonderful mother,
A mother who never grows old;
He made her smile of the sunshine,
And He molded her heart of pure gold;
In her eyes He placed bright shining stars,
In her cheeks fair roses you see;
God made a wonderful mother,
And He gave that dear mother to me.
~ Pat O'Reilly

17th March St Patrick's Day

From history book...

The man who would eventually become St. Patrick was born in Britain as Maewyn Succat in the late 4th century.

At age 16, Maewyn was kidnapped from his home on the west coast of Britain by Irish pirates, who proceeded to carry him off to Ireland and force him to work as a shepherd herding sheep. After six years, he escaped his captors, walking nearly 200 miles through the Irish landscape and convincing a ship to carry him with them back to Britain. Maewyn was convinced it was the Lord who protected him and delivered him safely home. He spent the next 15 or so years in a monastery in Britain, preparing for his missionary work. When he became a priest, his name was changed to Patricius (Patrick), and he returned to the land of his captors to begin his teachings.

Patrick traveled from village to village spreading Christianity and was successful enough to eventually found many churches there. The story of Patrick's life became exaggerated over the centuries.

St Patrick's Day observes of the death of St Patrick, now, the patron saint of Ireland. The holiday is a celebration of Irish culture with parades, special foods, music, dancing, drinking and a whole lot of green!



20th March First Day of Spring!

Spring will seem especially significant in 2021 because it will come as, hopefully, it will mark the easing of the lockdown restrictions.

And as we see crocuses and daffodils bursting into bloom in parks and gardens, we hope that society and the economy will also begin opening up again. We're looking forward to meeting up in park, sipping our favorite coffee and having chat with our friends, surrounded by beautiful nature and sunny weather!



*28th March
British
Summertime
begins (clocks go
forward one hour)*

As part of daylight-saving time, the clocks will go forward at the end of March, meaning we lose an hour in bed and wake up feeling a little sleepier than usual. On the plus side, we'll relish in the longer daylight hours.

February's Birthdays

Mary celebrated her 96th



Hazel celebrates her 95th



David celebrated his 77th



Alan celebrated his 67th



Jane celebrated her 91st



Clara celebrated her 94th

