

From the Editor: The December Newsletter was sent out in haste in order to meet the statutory requirement of 14 days notice for our Annual General Meeting. These two pages form an addendum to that Newsletter to properly recognize the important and highly successful events marking the 75th Anniversary of the Hall. Eifion Williams' article on the Dinner is taken from the *Celtic Connection* and I am grateful for his input on several points with regard to the Welsh Weekend. I have tried to recognize the major participants and I apologize if I have inadvertently omitted anyone. D. Ll. W.

Reminder: The Dylan Thomas Circle presents Russell Roberts reading "A Child's Christmas in Wales" accompanied by pianist Brian Tate. Doors open at 7 for 7.30 on Friday, December 17th at the Hall. Carol Singing follows. All are welcome.

75th Anniversary Celebrations of the Cambrian Hall

The Hall was officially opened on September 1, 1929 by Marion Malkin, wife of then Vancouver Mayor William Harold Malkin. The donors were prominent Vancouver citizens whose names are recorded on the Foundation Stone. Today, the maintenance of the Hall is a constant challenge and the repair of the 'leaky' roof has been the focus of recent fundraising. The Vancouver Welsh Society celebrated the 75th Anniversary at an Anniversary Dinner on October 16th and with a Welsh Weekend November 5th to 7th.

The Anniversary Dinner

A delicious buffet was followed by the cutting of a large birthday cake by three of the Society's long-time members, Nita Adams, May Lievesley and Phyllis Owens. The Master of Ceremonies was Vice President Barrie Hancock.

Nita and Phyllis, along with Milt Morgan and Eirlys Ann Thomas, recounted some of their memories of the Cambrian Hall and their personal recollections of various renovations and additions to the building and its furnishings. In his own inimitable fashion, Gareth Prytherch contributed a humorous anecdote from the past.

David Llewelyn Williams entertained the audience with a reading he had translated from *O Law i Law*, (From Hand to Hand), a story by famous Welsh novelist T. Rowland Hughes set in a

slate quarrying village in North Wales. David's grandfather was himself a slate quarryman and his appreciation of the humour and characters of the period depicted in the novel was evident in his reading.

The highlight of the evening was a musical performance by Bowen Island entertainer Ruta Yawnei. Ruta played on the Ukrainian and Celtic Harp and presented songs from many parts of the world, ending with the popular Welsh folk song *Suo Gan*.

After the banquet the members enjoyed socializing in the Red Dragon. The evening's success was largely due to the efforts of Society Treasurer Gaynor Evans, who planned and organized the event.

Eifion Williams

The Welsh Weekend

The Weekend began on Friday evening with a Noson Lawen before a capacity audience in a club-like setting. Master of Ceremonies David Lintern's deadpan underplayed delivery kept us in good spirits between the acts with a steady stream of jokes, both ancient and modern. Vocal contributions from the Cambrian Circle Singers, Alan Tucker, Derek Mowatt, Nigel Tucker, and the Vancouver Orpheus Choir, were interspersed with poetry recitations by Gwyn Evans, David Llewelyn Williams, and Garath Hill. The skit performed by the 'Party of Eight' at the close put everyone in good humour as the company moved to the Red Dragon for sustenance, socializing and singing.

Open House at the Hall on Saturday featured a Ploughman's Lunch as people took in the displays. The main attraction was the O'Connor Irish Dancers under the direction of Jennifer Parkinson-Dow. David Holmes from Duncan gave a spirited reading of one of Dylan Thomas' humorous short stories, "A Visit to Grandpa's".

Saturday's highlight was a Grand Concert by the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir staged in the impressive newly built St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Music Director Jonathan Quick, soloist George Roberts and accompanist David Buchan combined to produce a most enjoyable program much appreciated by the audience. Welsh classics such as *Men of Harlech*, *Gwahoddiad*, *Myfanwy* and my favourite solo *Dafydd y Garreg Wen* were included together with other pieces as diverse as *Sky Boat Song* and *Down by the Riverside*. After the concert, the choir and many of the audience moved to the Red Dragon for Welsh Cakes and liquid refreshments.

Sunday morning opened with our traditional monthly bilingual Sunday Service followed by a Te Bach. John D. Williams presided and Ann Roberts gave the address.

The Gymanfa Ganu in the afternoon was well attended and conductor Richard Williams managed to deftly inspire the singers with the able assistance of accompanist Ray Batten. Our soloist, Lois Carter, having won the 2003 North American Festival of Wales competition, represented North America at the National Eisteddfod of Wales in Newport. She included two of the Welsh songs from that competition in her performance. This was generally acknowledged to be the best Gymanfa we have experienced for some time.

Jane Byrne thanked all the participants and particularly recognized those who had traveled from outside the Lower Mainland to support our events. Our Anniversary Celebrations closed with a further opportunity to socialize with refreshments in the Lower Hall

President Jane Byrne and her Planning Committee members, Heather Davies, Gaynor Evans, Barrie Hancock, Mary Lewis, Lynn Owens-Whalen, Neville and Kathy Thomas and Eifion Williams deserve our thanks for all their hard work in arranging a memorable event. The Committee ladies, ably assisted by Sybil Jamieson and Eirlys Ann Thomas, performed heroically in preparing the food for all the social occasions. Literally mountains of Welsh Cakes fed the multitudes! To all those who donated the raffle prizes (which raised \$500 for the roof) or who contributed in their various ways to making the Weekend a success, we offer our thanks. We look forward to the 100th Anniversary!

D. Llewelyn Williams

