

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Phwefror
2006

February
2006

Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Society Newsletter - Fylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



The Millennium Stadium Cardiff

CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17th Ave, Vancouver B.C. V5V 1A6

WELSH SOCIETY
VANCOUVER

Officers

President:

Jane Byrne (604) 732-5448

Vice-President:

Lynn Owens-Whalen 266-2545

Secretary:

Eifion Williams 469-4904

Treasurer:

Gaynor Evans 271-3134

Membership Secretary:

Heather Davies 734-5500

Immediate Past President:

Tecwyn Roberts 464-2760

Directors:

John Cann

Allan Hunter

Selwyn Jones

Mary Lewis

David Llewelyn Williams

Contacts

Building Committee:

Allan Hunter 594-0935

Cambrian Circle Singers:

Nerys Haqq 278-8978

Church Service:

Ann Roberts 987-6996

Rentals:

Abe Latif 434-3150

Social Events Committee:

Mary Lewis 331-1573

Welsh Folk Dancing:

Gaynor Evans 271-3134

Welsh-Speaking Evening:

Ann Roberts 987-6996

Webmaster:

Alcwyn Rogers 742-1378

(www.welshsociety.com)

Newsletter Editor:

David Llewelyn Williams 737-0305

(williams@phas.ubc.ca)

The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

The Millennium Stadium pictured on the front page is from a pen and watercolour painting by Mary Traynor sent as a card to Eirlys Ann Thomas. Eirlys' friends obtained Mary Traynor's kind permission for us to reproduce it. (note the Canadian Flag) In the near future it will be the site of three of Wales' Six Nations games (Scotland on February 12th, Italy on March 11th and France on March 18th). The others (England Feb 4th and Ireland Feb 26th) are away matches. Soccer will see Wigan meet Manchester United in the Carling Cup Final on February 26th and Wales meet Paraguay on March 1st.

I managed again to miss celebrating St. Dwynwen's Day on Jan 25th. Llangollen Council commissioned a three-foot long candle to burn brightly on display at the town's museum. The candle bore Celtic designs and an image of St. Dwynwen – Wales' patron saint of lovers.

Disney in Paris will be celebrating St. David's Day this year (thanks to Gwyn Evans for bringing it to my notice). But will they honour Wil Cwac Cwac ?! Cardiff is holding its second St. David's Day Parade to draw attention to Wales' National Day and to establish a tradition. Our congratulations to Calgary Welsh Society as it celebrates its centenary at its St. David's Day Dinner February 25th

Remember the deadline for submitting entries to the E-steddfod is February 11th Even if you miss it, bring your entries to our St. David's Day Evening to share your talents with the Society!

David Llewelyn Williams

Recent Events

The AGM on December 14th was well attended. President Jane Byrne reviewed the year's progress and thanked the many members of the Society who in their different ways had made it memorable. Gaynor Evans, our Treasurer presented the Financial Report which showed our affairs in good order.

This time saw two changes in our Executive. Eric Davies stepped down after five years of service, especially on the Building Committee. He was thanked heartily for his long service commitment to the Society. Our Vice President, Barrie Hancock also stepped down but will continue to be actively involved in our requests for Gaming Funds which have proved crucial to our financial health. We owe Barrie a great debt of thanks for his initiative in obtaining these funds both for our cultural events and for our building program.

Restoration of the Roof has been in the capable hands of Allan Hunter and is now complete. (A work party started on the Hall interior on Jan. 21st) We are very fortunate to have Allan's expertise on these major undertakings. Jane Byrne, our President, has agreed to serve yet one more year with Lynn Owens-Whalen assuming the role of Vice President. The other officers remain unchanged. John Cann and Selwyn Jones were elected to fill the two vacancies on the Executive.

The Christmas Dinner on Dec. 10th was, by all accounts, a very successful event. Unfortunately I was

not present but according to several attendees the dinner itself was one of the best yet as was the fellowship. We are especially grateful to Gaynor Evans for all her hard work in organizing the occasion.

The Children's Christmas Party on the afternoon of December 11th was organized by Nerys Haqq and Gaynor Evans. It was attended by 30 young children and three older ones who helped out with the festivities. We are most grateful to Nerys and Gaynor for re-establishing this family Christmas event

Nerys writes: "Gaynor Evans and I would like to give thanks to all who helped to make the Children's Christmas Party a success. Donations were given by the Welsh Church Service who gave us donations in both 2004 and 2005, the Welsh W. A. and a member of the C. C. S. who made a donation and also bought a number of raffle tickets. Our thanks to all those who bought raffle tickets. Llinos Pritchard won the raffle; her name was drawn by Father Christmas himself!

Thanks to Dawn Williams who did most of the wrapping and who organized the games so well with help from Lucy Sorensen on the piano. To Andrea and Paula, Gaynor's two daughters, who looked after the hotdogs. To my granddaughter Brittany who helped with the crafts. To Sybil Jamieson and Heather Davies who helped where needed on the day. And last, but certainly not least, to Brian Granville who was the most welcome of all!"

Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway

This year we start our expansion programme to extend the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway a further 1 3/4 miles to the south from our current operating area of the main station at 'Furnace Sidings'. The northern terminus, Whistle Halt, stands at 1300 feet and is the **highest (probably the most windswept!) station in England and Wales**. The railway is operated exclusively by volunteers and this letter is by way of an appeal to our expat Welsh people, societies, groups and clubs to take an interest and to have a financial input in its restoration. To get a 'feel' of the railway and the work of our volunteers please visit our website at: <http://www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk>

We are lucky enough to have the rails needed for the 3 mile restoration but we are looking for financial support to purchase 2,000+ sleepers (ties) at £25 each, fencing at £10,000 per mile and ballast at £11 per tonne delivered to the site. We estimate the whole restoration programme will cost about £100,000 and take over 2 years. We are also trying to get sponsorship for some of our projects. I would like each Welsh club or organisation to give this project a write-up in their Newsletter, so as to spread the word about the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway restoration. The site of the Railway is within a World Heritage site which also includes the Big Pit and the Blaenavon Ironworks which are the best preserved 18th century ironworks in Western Europe.

So I ask you to send us your unwanted British bank notes and your UK cheques and International Money orders etc. Please contact me to arrange payment. I look forward to your response to this most worthy cause.

Kind regards

Stan Googe Member – The Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway Society info@fletel.co.uk

One of the Seven Wonders of Wales is given a new sound (Daily Post, Jan 11 2006)

WALES' most important ring of church bells is to lighten up, to attract young ringers. The bells at All Saints Church in Gresford are one of the Seven Wonders of Wales. But the ring of eight bells is also very heavy - the heaviest tenor bell weighs in at 1.2 tonnes. Which is why the Gresford church has just taken delivery of four new lighter bells which will be added to the famous tower.

All Saints has nine experienced bellringers but as Vaughan Roberts, a bellringer and in charge of the £40,000 project, explained, they need youngsters to train. "Part of the repute of Gresford is that it is the heaviest ring of eight bells in north Wales. You have to have physical strength or skilled and experienced people to ring them. If you try and get youngsters they would need to be about 12 or 13 to have the strength and by that age they have other interests they are committed to. Other towers in the area can

recruit young people because they have lighter bells," said Mr Roberts, 60, a bellringer at for 45 years.

"Some churches might have been tempted to melt down the original seven and re-cast 10 but we cannot alter the original Seven Wonders of Wales bells." The four new lighter bells, being installed by a London firm, will take their place below the original bells in the clock chamber. They will have to be tuned to the old bells. The total weight of the old bells is approximately 4.7 tonnes and the oak bell frame in which the bells are hung was installed in 1884. The new bells will be fitted on a metal frame. Youngsters training will be able to use the four new bells and the four lightest of the old bells. But for special occasions experienced bellringers will use the original bells. "I used to deliver meat for the local butcher when I was a lad and he said 'It's time you trained as a bellringer.' I thought it might be a condition of the job so I went along!" said Mr Roberts.

The Gresford bells are listed as one of the Seven Wonders of Wales, along with the waterfall at Pistyll Rhaeadr, the steeple at Wrexham Parish Church, Snowdon, the centuries-old yew trees at Overton church; the well of pilgrimage at St Winefride's church in Holywell and Llangollen Bridge. The rhyme goes: Pistyll Rhaeadr and Wrexham steeple, Snowdon's mountain without its people, Overton Yew-trees, St Winefride well, Llangollen Bridge and Gresford bells.

Disney does Dewi (from Eryl Crump in the Daily Post)

Mickey Mouse is planning to say bore da to Welsh visitors as Disney bosses plan a St. David's Day spectacular. The company's Paris theme park will be decked out in the red, green and white of the Welsh flag for the five-day festival. Disney spokeswoman Nicole Walsh said the event, called the St David's Welsh Festival, will take place from March 1-5. It will include a medley of Welsh song and dance with Welsh choirs and bands playing in Disney Village during the festival.

A concert staged in the dome at Disney Village on March 4 will be a chance to experience the sound of a massed Welsh male voice choir normally only heard in London's Royal Albert Hall.

In the Disney Village there will be a Welsh arts and crafts market with more than 20 Welsh market stalls. "Welsh food and drink will be on sale in many Disney Village bars and restaurants. In addition former Welsh rugby international Robert Jones is organising a tournament for youngsters while a Welsh pro-am golf tournament and a Welsh themed sportsmen's dinner are also planned.

Silver Star Coaches of Caernarfon is planning to take 20 coaches to Paris during the event. Spokesman Llion Williams said: "It is an exciting event. People will be able to take pride in their Welshness while enjoying the ambience of a foreign country at the same time."

February Events

Wednesday February 8th at 7.30 pm

General Meeting

Sunday February 12th at 11.00 am

Church Service and Te Bach

Friday February 17th at 8.00 pm in

the Lower Hall, Prof. Chris Waltham

will give us a talk about his recent interest in the **harp**. Chris, after a career in elementary particle physics, has built his own harp and studied its acoustics. After a historical introduction he will discuss the principles, show his results and tell you how to build your own harp! He will play his own as a demonstration but says that any real harpist would do much better! **Please join us** for what we hope will be the start of a series of interesting talks.

Saturday February 25th at 8.00 pm in

Fleetwood Christian Reformed Church, 9165 - 160th St., Surrey the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir will perform *A Celtic Celebration* with a talented musical group Winter Harp.

Wednesday March 1st, St. David's

Day will be celebrated at 7.30 pm in traditional fashion in the Lower Hall. Cawl Cenin will be served. Phyllis Owen will provide Welsh Cakes in memory of Katie Hughes Perrin Christopher and Agnes Wicks will bring Pikelets to remember Sally Hight. Bring your entries to any of the Eisteddfod competitions to show your literary skills!

Cambrian Circle Singers

Rehearsals Fridays Feb 3/10 at 7.30

Friday February 17th at 7.30 pm

Willingdon Park Hospital

4435 Grange, Burnaby.

Rehearsals Wed Feb 22; Fri March 3

Sunday March 5th at 10.00 am

St. David's Church, Tsawwassen

St. David's Day Dinner

The Annual St. David's Day Dinner of the Welsh Society will take place at the Cambrian Hall on Saturday March 4th. Doors will open at 6 pm and Dinner, catered by Jordans, will be served at 7 pm. Consul General Martin Cronin will be the Guest of Honour and will propose the toast to the Queen. The toast to Canada will be proposed by John Cann and the toast to Wales by David Llewelyn Williams. The company will be entertained by both a harpist and a violinist. Community singing will follow conducted by Lynn Owens-Whalen with accompanist Dr. Ray Batten. Please reserve early by contacting Gaynor Evans at 604-271-3134. Ticket prices are unchanged from last year at \$35 each.

Saturday February 18th 10.00 to 3.30

The Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir invites you to their second annual

Sale of Ladies Wear

40% Off Retail or better!

New garments designed in B.C.

Saturday February 18th at 7.30 the

Orpheus will hold an evening of comedy and music (Pig 'n' Whistle)

Tickets are \$10 on a first come basis

Both events at the Cambrian Hall

**The Seattle Welsh Women and
The Puget Sound Welsh
Association present a**

St. David's Day Concert

**Sunday, March 5, 2006 at 2.30 pm
St. Andrews Episcopal Church
111 NE 80th Street, Seattle**

Our program this year will include world renowned Welsh tenor Trebor Edwards who is coming to us from Corwen, North Wales to sing for us, the musical duo *Dinas o Frain (City of Crows)* Laura Lovell and Kevin Gow and members of our own Seattle Welsh Choir and organist Richard Lind. 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. Everyone is
Welcome and we look forward to
sharing our Welsh music!**

**Further information: Gerri Parry
(206) 524-0854 day or evening
gbakerparry@aol.com**



**Jennifer Roberts, Tecwyn and
Dierdre's daughter at the peak of
Mount Kilimanjaro Dec. 19, 2005**

The 'Leeky' Roof Raffle

The draw for the raffle took place at the Annual General Meeting held on December 14th. As reported earlier the first prize of an all-inclusive 2-day stay at Yellow Point Lodge was won by Mary Lewis. Richard and Sandi Hill, who operate the Lodge and who donated this prize wrote a nice letter of congratulations to the lucky winner. The package includes three meals a day per person, three extra 'tea times' with homemade goodies and full use of all their recreational facilities. These include bicycles, tennis equipment, and their 'practically untippable kayaks'. It sounds a great place to visit! Their address is R.R.3, Ladysmith, B.C., V0R 2E0 . Phone (604) 245-7422
The raffle raised over \$1000 for the Roof Fund and we are most grateful both to Yellow Point Lodge and to Eirlys Ann Thomas for her initiative in making all this happen.

Adam was feeling very lonely in the Garden of Eden and complained to God that he had no-one to talk to. God said he would make Adam a woman for company. "She will gather food for you and she will cook it; when you discover clothing she'll wash it. She will always agree with your decisions and will not nag you. She will never have a headache and will freely give you love and passion whenever you need it." Adam asked God, "What will such a woman cost?" God replied, "An arm and a leg." "So, what can I get for a rib?" The rest is history.