

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Mai
2008

May
2008

Society Newsletter - Pylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



From Vancouver to Bridgend National Eisteddfod 1948

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

This issue features some historical Press Clippings regarding Thomas Edwards, the first Leader of the Overseas Welsh at the National Eisteddfod at Bridgend 1948 and a founder of the Cambrian Hall. I am most grateful to Anne Bosch (nee Hutchinson) for providing me with copies of these historic documents.

The front page photograph was entitled "*Back to Swansea from Canada*" and read "Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Edwards, accompanied by their daughter and granddaughter arriving at High-street Station. They were greeted by relatives from Llangyfelach, Lougher and Gorseinen, who are also in the picture. (Note: Anne is on the left of centre, her mother Sarah Hutchinson is next, then Mrs. Edwards and finally Mr. Edwards on the right centre.)

David Llewelyn Williams

On a sad note, we learnt that Marion Griffiths passed away in New Zealand on March 28th following a stroke. Marion and her husband Ellis were stalwarts of the Society for 30 years. Marion was one of the founding members of the Cambrian Circle Singers and both she and Ellis worked on the costumes for the 1980 North American Gymanfa Ganu held in Vancouver. They enjoyed 61 years of married life together before Ellis died in 2005. Ellis' obituary is in the November 2005 Newsletter. Recently Marion had moved to New Zealand to be with her daughter's family to whom we offer our condolences.

**Historical Press Clippings:
Prominent Business Man Donates
Fully Equipped Ambulance (Fairview
News 1940)**

“I am not so young anymore and my days of possible active service for my country are past. But my love for the Empire in which I was born and have spent my life is undiminished and I am glad to have the opportunity of assisting to some small degree the welfare of those who are fighting under her flag for the principles of justice and democracy for which the British Empire has always stood.”

With these simple words Mr. Thomas Edwards, head of the T. Edwards Co., the well known funeral directors of this district, was one of the first to make a donation on behalf of himself and his wife covering the cost of a Field Ambulance, fully equipped to British specifications, for service at the front.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards were both born in South Wales, near Swansea where a number of nephews and nieces and their children still reside, many of whom are engaged on active service, both at home and in the front. Last year the pair fulfilled a long cherished ambition and made a trip to the Old Country. They returned on the Queen Mary on her last westward trip as the liner reached New York on Sept. 4th (1939), one day after the declaration of war.

**Vancouver man to present Bardic
Chair (South Wales newspaper 1948)**

Details of how the Welsh Community in Vancouver got together to present the bardic chair for the Bridgend National Eisteddfod was told today by Thomas Edwards, aged 86, who has arrived at Llangyfelach from Canada with Mrs. Edwards, aged 84 a Llangyfelach native,

their daughter Mrs. Hutchinson, and their granddaughter Anne aged 17. It was first suggested through correspondence between Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Roberts, of Vancouver, who came from North Wales, and friends in Wales, said Mr. Edwards. The members of the Vancouver Cambrian Society, of which Mr. Edwards is the honorary President, and the St. David's Society formed a committee to discuss the proposition. Welsh people were asked to contribute individually.

Sufficient money was raised to pay for the chair and cover the delivery to England. It arrived in Liverpool two days before Mr. Edwards reached Southampton. The chair, made with Canadian black walnut from the design set by the Eisteddfod Council, has leather upholstery with a design of the Welsh dragon. It bears the symbols and motifs derived from the early West Coast totems and of the B. C. Indians. “It took a long time to make it because we were very particular,” said Mr. Edwards, “We wanted it to be the best ever to come to the Eisteddfod, and I think we have succeeded.”

Mr. Edwards, who will present the chair from the Eisteddfod platform, will hand to the Eisteddfod Council an album containing the names of the Vancouver subscribers, with the age and birthplace of each one. (Ed. Is there a copy with the Society?) Mr. Edwards also presented the Eisteddfod with £21 towards the prize for the chaired bard. The son of the late Isaac Edwards of Gaynor, Llanedy, Mr. Edwards left for Vancouver 58 years ago. With Mrs. Edwards, who emigrated 52 years ago, he was last in the country in 1939. They are now staying with Mrs. Edwards' sister, Mrs. Ann Lewis, aged 82, in Llangyfelach.

Forthcoming Events

Come with ideas (and a packed lunch) to the Cambrian Hall on **Thursday May 1st** to plan the launch of a lunch group, to start in September.
Everyone welcome.
Contact Pat Morris, 604-536-9556.

Wednesday, May 7th at 7.30 pm
Executive Meeting

The Adventures of Pablo and Diego!



On **Friday May 9th** there will be a film show at the Red Dragon. All are welcome!
Two members of "The Society for Visiting Old Ruins in Warm Places", take us to EASTER ISLAND. This is another episode in the adventures of Pablo and Diego, bravely enduring sunburn and larva on this, the most remote of inhabited islands in the world. We also visit the Chilean side of the Patagonian mountains, and for those who saw the film "IL Postino" about Pablo Neruda, the Chilean poet in exile, we visit Pablo's house. After Pinochet's fall from power, Neruda was able to return home. It's now a museum. Show is 1 hr long, start time **8 pm**.
Doors open at 7:30pm.

Sunday, May 11th at 11.00 am
Bilingual Church Service followed by Te Bach

Saturday, May 17th The 23rd Vancouver All British Field Meet will be held on at the van Düsen Gardens. Over 400 classic British cars will be on the Great Lawn from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Specially featured will be the Alvis cars whose history may be of interest to members:

T.G. John Ltd., the company which became Alvis, was founded by Welshman TG John, a naval architect and highly qualified engineer, in 1919. From the start the company was based in the Midlands city of Coventry, already a major motor vehicle manufacturing centre. The first Alvis car appeared early in 1920, based on designs by Geoffrey de Freville. All Alvis cars are now desirable classics, with an enthusiastic following. Alvises were not mass produced, rather they were built in batches aimed at the high end market.

Wednesday, June 4th at 7.30 pm
Executive Meeting

Sunday, June 8th at 11.00 am
Bilingual Church Service followed by Te Bach

Wednesday, June 11th at 7.30 pm
General Meeting

Saturday, June 28, 7:30PM
CÔR CYMRAEG DE CALIFFORNIA
Welsh Choir of Southern California
St. James Anglican Church, 303
Cordova St., Vancouver, BC.
The choir will be hosted for lunch at the Cambrian Hall, starting at about noon. All members of the Society are welcome to meet with them. If possible, bring a platter to help out. (No melons please!)

Review of the Society's finances

Over the past weeks the Executive has become concerned that the Society's capital is being eroded and has therefore initiated a "number crunching" exercise. A summary of these figures was presented by Alwyn Rogers at the General Meeting of April 9th.

At this time the total capital is around \$33,000 a relatively small sum compared to that of a few years ago. It represents approximately 50% of the yearly sum needed to run the building.

The breakdown of figures showed that if we continue on the path that we have been on, we will make large inroads on our capital each year and so some changes have to be made. Alwyn suggested that the price to members for various functions including dinners be increased by 25% as these functions currently run at a loss to the Society. He also suggested that bar prices should be raised as very little profit is made on the bar each year.

It is good to see that Rentals are showing an improvement and Glyn Shepard gave us the excellent news that he is now getting referrals from satisfied clients. As result of discussion with Glyn it was felt that we should expect a considerable increase in proceeds from Hall Rentals. We also need to increase the income from rentals handled by the Executive, which include members' use of the Red Dragon and Car Parking.

Finally there was a discussion about the various methods we could use to raise money for the Society. Later in the evening we made a start by raising the sum of \$44 at a Bring and Buy stall.

Gillian Rogers

Bring and Buy

The "Bring and Buy" stall is part of a Fund Raising venture initiated in response to Alwyn Rogers' excellent but sobering presentation at the General Meeting on April 9, 2008. If it proves to be monetarily successful then it will be set up at most of the club events held at the Red Dragon.

It will give members and guests a chance to donate as well as to buy "just what I needed stuff", allow for a good deal of recycling and, at the same time, hopefully earn some desperately needed monies for the Welsh Society of Vancouver. They do say that every penny counts so, let's all participate.

To the Membership from the Building Committee

You guys don't know what you are missing! It's Fun! Fun! Fun!!!
What am I talking about?

"The Friends of the Cambrian Hall"

who meet every third Thursday of each month from 10 am to about 3 pm.

Our Purpose:

To serve the Cambrian Hall so that it can continue to strive.

To donate our skills, resources and labour for the benefit of The Welsh Society of Vancouver.

To improve the inside and outside décor in order to increase the rental revenue.

Why become a member of F. of C. H.?

You can participate in monthly work parties which could be a lot of fun and some hard work too. You get to feel good about doing a good deed and 'belonging' to the Welsh Society. It's great to just feel a part of someplace 'special'.

Some of these ‘friends’ have been active for quite some time already:

Gillian and Alwyn Rogers, Jane Byrne, Lynn and Wilf Owens-Whalen, Pat and John Morris, Gaynor and Gwyn Evans, Lynne and Glyn Shepard, Heather Davies, Mary Lewis and Art Kelm, John Pritchard, Eirlys Ann Thomas, Gwilym and Irene Evans, Derek Jones and Eifion Williams.

Each one ‘doing their own thing’ and cannot wait for the next session on **May 15th**. Come and join us! If you have any questions please contact Lynn Owens-Whalen, Building Committee Chair.

Eirlys Ann Thomas

Bryn Terfel at the Chan Centre
(April 12th, 2008)



Society members who managed to buy tickets to Bryn’s sold out recital at the Chan Centre were amply rewarded. The concert was a most fitting conclusion to the Vancouver Recital Society’s season. To quote Lloyd Dykk’s review in the Vancouver Sun: “Let’s just say that Bryn Terfel is a rare one. And the man has personality to burn, the kind you can’t fake. Terfel has a gift for communicating what the words are about, grading his tone beautifully until it matches what he is singing about, nuance for nuance.”

Bryn, most ably supported by pianist Malcolm Martineau, who was with him every note of the way, presented a full program, starting with songs on poems by John Masefield, followed by works by Ralph Vaughan Williams and Roger Quilter. After the intermission, he moved to the continent and gave us works by Handel, Mozart, Schubert and Fauré, before concluding with a selection of folk songs from Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Throughout the performance he held the audience in the palm of his hand, telling anecdotes between songs and in the case of the encore – from *Don Giovanni* – leaving the stage and singing directly to female members of the audience!

Altogether a memorable performance!

D.L.I.W.



With Bryn after the performance



With Malcolm Martineau

A Little Spring Affair

'Tis said you can't teach an old dog new tricks but, if you give him a bone, he'll wag his tail.' Leaving the Hall Saturday night this old dog wagged his tail! Some of the Saturday gang was joined by more members of the Society to participate in a unique festivity to welcome Spring and say goodbye to the Canucks.

But there was more! Our President Jane Byrne and a merry band from the Social Committee had worked hard to give us a light supper of homemade beef or chicken pies with salad and some fruit and ice cream desert. But there was yet more! Entertainment not seen in the Welsh Hall or Red Dragon before, none of the usual high jinks but a very educational session of probing trivia quiz questions put on by Eifion Williams.

Over 30 people were divided into groups of 4 or 5 and, shrouded in secrecy, they were given a random list of questions; the silence and whispering was unbecoming of the Red Dragon. After 3 rounds, the tables of Paul L, Alan T and John P were victorious and each group member won a prize. However no team scored enough points to be awarded the first prize, a fishing trip on Lake Bala. Many thanks to Jane and her band of helpers and thanks to everyone for a very entertaining evening. We even learned that Lloyd George who knew my father was actually born in Manchester!

Milton Morgan

Editor's Note: In the case of one of our members, David Llewelyn Davies, Kamloops, his grandfather, Sir Alfred T. Davies, literally knew Lloyd George very well indeed, even acting as his agent in the 1895 election.

OTTAWA—April 17th 2008.

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, announced today the names of 49 recipients of the **Governor General's Caring Canadian Award**. Created in 1996 by the Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, the award is presented to individuals and groups whose unpaid, voluntary contributions provide extraordinary help or care to people in the community. The award consists of a framed certificate and a lapel pin for everyday wear. The award symbol represents Canadians who selflessly give of their time and energy to others. Presentations will be made at a later date by a dignitary designated by the Governor General or, on occasion, by the Governor General when she travels across Canada.

Ann Gwyn **Roberts**, North Vancouver, British Columbia

A woman of many diverse interests, Ann Roberts has devoted more than 25 years to assisting seniors and at-risk youth in the North Shore region of Vancouver. She has addressed community concerns about women and youth in crisis as a member of the regional youth justice committee and is committed to finding solutions to homelessness. She is a strong advocate for affordable housing for low-income families and has represented seniors on matters of housing and safety. Mrs. Roberts has also dedicated 25 years to the Vancouver Welsh Society, serving in various key executive positions and helping to organize Welsh language events and religious services.

I am sure members of the Society take pride in the recognition afforded Ann by this unique and distinguished award. Llongyfarchiadau!!

**Philip Jones Griffiths:
Ffotograffydd y dywedir i'w luniau
eiconig newid cwrs rhyfel Vietnam.**



Mae Philip Jones Griffiths yn cael ei gyfrif yn un o ffotograffwyr mawr yr 20fed ganrif ac yn un a dorrodd ei gwys eiconig ei hun ym maes ffotograffiaeth newyddiadurrol. Fe wnaeth ei luniau o ryfeloedd ar draws y byd gan gynnwys Algeria, Israel, Gogledd Iwerddon, Cambodia, Irac, Bosnia ac, yn arbennig Vietnam, greu corff o waith sy'n cael ei edmygu a'i astudio gan fyfyrwyr ffotograffiaeth a newyddiaduraeth ar draws y byd.

"Not since Goya has anyone portrayed war like Philip Jones Griffiths"
Henri Cartier-Bresson

Wedi gadael Cymru a byw yn yr Unol Daleithiau am flynyddoedd, daeth yn ôl i fyw i Lundain lle bu farw ym mis Mawrth 2008 wedi dioddef o ganser. Ar ddiwedd ei oes mynegodd ei ddymuniad i'w waith gael cartref parhaol yng Nghymru. Er ei statws byd-eang fel ffoto-newyddiadurwr a'i ddylanwad enfawr yn y maes, neu efallai o'i herwydd, roedd Philip Jones Griffiths yn dweud mai ei fagwraeth fel Cymro, ac yn arbennig, fel Cymro o'r Rhuddlan, oedd yn sail i bopeth a wnaeth.

Ganed Philip Jones Griffiths yn 1936 yn Rhuddlan. Roedd yn tynnu lluniau gyda'i gamera Kodak 'Brownie' o oedran cynnar ac mae'n cofio un digwyddiad a daniodd ei ddiddordeb ymhellach. Aeth i wrando ar E. Emrys Jones, athro lleol a ffotograffydd, yn siarad yng nghlwb camera'r Rhyl pan oedd yn ei arddegau. Dangosodd lun gan y ffotograffydd Ffrengig Henri Cartier-Bresson iddyn nhw, wedi ei daflunio ar ei ben i lawr. Ymgais bwriadol oedd hyn i'w dysgu am gyfansoddiad llun, gwers nad anghofiodd Philip Jones Griffiths.

Roedd y Philip ifanc hefyd yn treulio llawer o'i amser yn arbrofi gyda chemegau ac yn creu ffrwydriadau yn yr ardd gefn. Roedd ei dad yn adnabod rheolwr siop Boots yn y Rhyl ac oherwydd chwilfrydedd ei fab mewn arbrofi penderfynwyd y byddai fferylliaeth yn yrfa dda iddo a threfnwyd ei fod yn mynd yn brentis i'r fferyllfa yn y Rhyl. Aeth ymlaen i astudio fferylliaeth ym Mhrifysgol Lerpwl a thynnu lluniau yn ei amser hamdden. Roedd y cyfle i wneud bywoliaeth o fod yn ffotograffydd ar y pryd yn brin. Ond wedi 10 mlynedd ym maes fferylliaeth, cafodd lond bol a gadawodd: "Unwaith rydych chi wedi gorfod cyfri 1,000 o dabledi â llaw, rydych chi'n gwybod ei bod hi'n amser gadael," meddai.

Cafodd swydd gyda phapur newydd yr Observer yn Llundain ac un o'i aseiniadau cyntaf oedd y rhyfel yn Algeria. Yn 1966 aeth i Vietnam a'r lluniau rhyfel a dynnodd yno yw rhai o'i luniau enwocaf. Yn 1971, cyhoeddodd ei lyfr cyntaf, *Vietnam Inc*, yn croniclo presenoldeb milwyr America yn Vietnam ac mae llawer yn dweud i'r lluniau yn y llyfr hwn, newid cwrs y rhyfel. Cyhoeddodd tri llyfr arall wedi hynny: *Agent Orange*, sy'n edrych ar

effaith y cemegyn Agent Orange ar genedlaethau yn Vietnam; mae *Vietnam at Peace* yn croniclo hanes y wlad wedi'r rhyfel a *Dark Odyssey*, ei lyfr olaf, yn gasgliad o'i luniau gorau.

Bu farw yn 72 oed yn ei gartref yn Llundain ym mis Mawrth 2008

Editor's Note: This biography is from the BBC. It contains a wealth of detail which I have chosen not to translate. Instead I decided to include most of the obituary from The Guardian. Missing from that is his wish that his collected work have a permanent home in Wales and his love for the Vale of Clwyd.

Amanda Hopkinson (The Guardian, March 24)

Philip Jones Griffiths, who has died aged 72 of cancer, was the most impassioned and clear-headed of anti-war war photographers. From 1966 to 1968, and again in 1970, he lived the Vietnam war from the inside, sharing the conditions of soldiers and civilians, putting himself at immense personal risk. In 1971 he assembled his reportage into a book, with his own scathing captions, entitled *Vietnam Inc*, which played a key role in changing public perceptions of the conflict, especially in the United States.

The level of impact the book had is indicated by Noam Chomsky's recent comment: "If anybody in Washington had read that book, we wouldn't have had these wars in Iraq or Afghanistan." They needed also to read *Vietnam at Peace*, the follow-up 25 years later, exploring the legacy and how it takes another generation to begin the recovery.

Jones Griffiths had a happy childhood as a native Welsh speaker in rural North

Wales. He was born, one of three boys, in Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, and was educated at St. Asaph Grammar School. His training in pharmacy at Liverpool University stood him in unexpectedly good stead, providing a passport to work in the local chemist, and in obtaining his transfer to Boots in Piccadilly, London. There he found the opportunity to peruse the Photography Annual - and finally to engage in his vocation. He obtained a position with the Observer, where one of his first assignments was to cover the war in Algeria. He began to travel on war assignments - from Northern Ireland to Rhodesia, Algeria to Israel, Zambia to Cambodia. And it was in Phnom Penh that he got a major break, photographing Jackie Kennedy on holiday. It made him enough to fund his Vietnam project.

To Jones Griffiths, Vietnam was another country where "a mechanised monster had despoiled an innocent landscape". He related it to Goya's etchings in The Disasters of War; indeed, his hero Henri Cartier-Bresson - the man whose picture had first inspired the 16-year-old Jones Griffiths at the Rhyl camera club - later wrote: "Not since Goya has anyone portrayed war like Philip Jones Griffiths."

Almost paradoxically, Jones Griffiths chose to live mostly in the US. It was a good professional base and he became Magnum president from 1980-85, the longest term ever served by a single member. At the time of his death he was fully engaged in fresh projects. He had settled in London, but in his mind, he repeatedly returned to Wales, that small country once so brutally colonised by the English that, he claimed, the experience helped him to identify with oppressed countries everywhere.