

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Tachwedd
2005

November
2005

Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Society Newsletter - Pylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



Baner Swain Glynwyr

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

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VANCOUVER

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

When this reaches you, the Welsh Weekend of Nov 4th -6th may well be over but many other events are planned for November and December. Try to attend the General Meeting on Wednesday November 9th as a prelude to the important AGM on Wednesday December 14th. Please take note of the events listed and check our website for up to date information.

The 76th Anniversary Dinner was celebrated in fine style on October 15th and we were further entertained with a rich medley of songs by Paul accompanied by Lucy Sorensen followed by appropriately chosen masterful readings by Russell Roberts. We are all very grateful to Gaynor Evans for organizing the event, to Jane Byrne, Heather Davies and Mary Lewis for their help and to Russell Roberts for the bar.

The Welsh Gold piece was taken from the BBC website and a National Life Magazine article I received from Ieuan Lampshire-Jones. Thanks to Gaynor Evans for Ellis Griffiths' obituary, to Gwilym Evans for his article on Tryweryn, and to Alan Tucker for the Rugby joke.

Tecwyn Roberts has suggested that members might wish to pass on their travel experiences. We stayed several times at 'My Little Welsh Home' B&B in Victoria after learning about it from Gwyn and Gaynor Evans. So how about it?

David Llewelyn Williams

The flag on the front page is the standard of Owain Glyndwr. It was sent to me by Llysgenhadaeth (Embassy) Glyndwr who had campaigned to no avail to have a Glyndwr stamp produced in 2004 to commemorate the 600th anniversary of Senedd Machynlleth and Prince Owain's Coronation on 21 June 1404.

IVOR ELLIS GRIFFITHS: March 9 1922 – September 27 2005

Ellis was born and raised in Letterston, Pembrokeshire and attended Fishguard County School. He served his country for 41/2 years in France, Belz Hill and Germany. He married Marion in 1944 and they had one daughter, Elizabeth. The family emigrated to Canada in 1963 and settled in Toronto where Ellis was employed by the Metropolitan Trust Company. He held the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and President of the St. David's Society in Toronto. He was also a member of the Canadian Art Council, a founding member of the Annual Metro-Toronto International Caravan (a multicultural event) and a board member of Walmer Road Baptist Church.

After ten years in Toronto, Ellis transferred to Vancouver, where he and Marion set up their home for the next 30 years and where he worked as the Western Canada project and maintenance coordinator for BC Housing. Ellis joined the Cambrian Society and later held the positions of Trustee and Vice-President of the Vancouver Welsh Society. He was also the editor of the Cambrian News for several years and volunteered as the society's historian and archivist. Being interested in and promoting Welsh culture, Ellis joined the Canadian Folk Society, was a founder member of Folk Fest and encouraged the participation of the Welsh Society in multicultural events.

He was board member, treasurer and choir member of Fairview Baptist Church, board and choir member of Fleetwood Baptist Church, treasurer and choir member of Port Kells Church, a life member of Surrey Lawn Bowling and a Trustee and a life member of the WNGGA. He enjoyed carpentry, woodcarving and Deltiology (post card collecting)

Ellis will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by Marion, his wife of 61 years, daughter Elizabeth, grandchildren, Jeffrey (Keeley), Jessica (Jeremy), Amanda and great grandchildren Jaslyn, Sophie, Nathan Ellis and twins Nicholas Ivor and Benjamin.

Celtic Christmas at the Cambrian Hall, Wednesday November 30

The Celtic evening is very much the inspiration of Jennifer Parkinson-Dow of the O'Connor's Irish Dancers who induced the Welsh Society to sponsor the event. Irish and Scottish dancers will exhibit their talents for the first part of the program. Musicians, especially fiddlers, and a choral group will add their contributions to the occasion.

The second half of the evening will be highlighted by a novel presentation of Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales", performed by the talented stage actors, Russell and Colleen Roberts, with musical accompaniment on the piano by Brian Tate.

Christmas carol singing will complete the ambience of the evening. Attendees may wish to bring along a small plate of seasonal goodies to add to the table of Christmas delicacies that will be available. A limited number of tickets are available at \$12. The evening's proceeds will be contributed to the Cambrian Hall Roof Fund.

Please call 604-294-4332 or 604-980-6611

Tryweryn

Tryweryn is a name that will 'live in infamy' in the psyche of the Welsh. For the benefit of the readers from other lands, the name is synonymous in Wales with the heavy-handed autocratic government legislation by Westminster involving the destruction of an area of natural beauty in rural Wales to build a reservoir for Liverpool. This egregious piece of legislation successfully initiated by the city of Liverpool was met with an intense widespread and cohesive opposition from all parts of Wales, and by 35 of the 36 Welsh MP's of all parties. Despite the most strenuous opposition, the Macmillan government of the day sanctioned the Bill before them which resulted in the erection of a dam and the subsequent flooding of 800 acres in the Tryweryn Valley, a pristine countryside near Bala in North Wales.

The Welsh-speaking village of Capel Celyn was effaced from the map. Seventy people were displaced and twelve farms and portions of four other farms were expropriated for the development. It was only a matter of time before the thirst of the Liverpoolians would be slaked at the expense of an unique area of great cultural value to Wales. This gross insult inflicted a grievous wound in the consciousness of the Welsh people and fanned the resurgence of nationalism in the land. Graffiti on boulders and overpasses in Wales are still extant today and are a painful reminder of those tumultuous times in the mid-sixties when the entreaties of a fragile nation were ignored by the stroke of a pen of an unsympathetic and dismissive Westminster government.

On the rare occasions that a very dry summer visits the area and the water level is low in the dam, the remnants of the village stand out grotesquely on the valley floor in mute testimony to a distant government's disdainful rejection of a nation's wishes.

Now, some forty years later, the conscience of the current Liverpool council has been pricked by a touch of guilt over the Tryweryn affair, and it is in the process of penning an apology to the citizens of Wales. The wording has not yet been released. It will be an interesting exercise in diplomacy to see how the Liverpool council of today can honestly and effectively indite and issue a formal apology about something that it was not directly involved in at the material time. It is highly improbable that any so-called apology issued on a piece of paper, however skillfully couched, can possibly atone for the vile deed that was committed in the sixties at the instigation of their Liverpool council predecessors.

Gwilym Evans

Editor's Note: There is little doubt that the Tryweryn affair taught the Welsh that they were just regarded as tenants of their land. This painful realization forced them to stand up for their nation and it may well be that the Welsh Assembly, tokenism or not, would not have come about otherwise. Readers are undoubtedly aware that Liverpool has put in a bid to host the 2007 National Eisteddfod and indeed its large and distinguished Welsh community over the years adds credence to its bid. The former Archdderwydd, Robin Llyn, walked out in protest at the Liverpool bid, so the symbolism is powerful. Hence the need for atonement for the 'sins of the city fathers'.

D.L.I.W.

Welsh Gold: The Mold Cape and more recent history.

A priceless 4,000-year-old gold cape which was discovered inside a Bronze Age burial mound by workmen quarrying stone in a Mold field in 1833 is being exhibited as the centerpiece of an exhibition in Wrexham. Made from very high quality 23 carat gold, it weighs one kilogram and historians believe it was worn as a garment for religious ceremonies by someone in authority. It has been painstakingly restored by the British Museum.



Gold mining in Wales has had a long history. Between 75AD and 170AD the Romans had an important gold mine at Dolaucothi, between Lampeter and Llandeilo. They used a technically advanced complex system of reservoirs and aqueducts to pan for gold. This mine is now owned by the National Trust and is open to the public from mid March to the end of October. During the same period there was another Roman gold mine in North Wales, where three Roman roads meet beneath Cader Idris, near the ancient market town of Dolgellau.

However it was not until Victorian times when more finds were made that the industry became financially viable. Dolgellau became the centre of a Welsh Gold Rush and hundreds of miners were employed in more than 20 mines. It is claimed that almost three-quarters of the total British gold produced at this time came from one mine alone, the Clogau St. David's mine. But the Welsh gold rush did not last long and the mines began to close in the 1920's. The last one closed in 1988, although a geological survey of the Clogau mine has claimed that mining might still be viable.

Queen Elizabeth II has a wedding ring made from a nugget of 22 carat Welsh gold which was presented to her father in 1923 to make a wedding ring for his fiancé, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. Such was the size of the nugget - from the Clogau St. David's mine - that Princess Margaret's ring was also made from it in 1960, Princess Anne's in 1973 and Diana, Princess of Wales' in 1981. The Royal British Legion presented a new bar of Clogau gold in 1981 to Queen Elizabeth; and the tradition continued with Sarah Ferguson's ring and in the rings of Prince Edward and Sophie Rees-Jones. [Clearly Welsh gold rings do not appear to confer any more stability than other gold rings! Ed.]

A Welsh International Rugby player died and approached the Pearly Gates where a Saint asked him if he had anything to confess. The player said he had once, when playing against England, claimed a winning try in the last minute. In fact he had never grounded the ball but told the referee he had done so. This lie had worried him for the rest of his life. The Saint said "That's alright, you can enter Heaven".

The player said "Are you sure St. Peter?"

The reply came back, "St. Peter has the day off, I'm St. David - in you go."

Museum of Welsh Life, St. Fagan's

E-Steddfod 2006

**CYSTADLAETHAU YN Y GYMRAEG
WELSH LANGUAGE COMPETITIONS**

1. Cerdd Y Gadair: Prifddinas
2. Englyn Ysgafn: Y Cor
3. Englyn: i aelod o'r Orsedd
4. Cerdd yn y Mesur Rhydd: Cyngor I Garafanwyr
5. Penill Beddargraff Doniol: Agored
6. Limerig: Mewn pabell yng nghanol y glaw....
7. Haiku: Henaint
8. Tri chwpled, caeth neu rhydd I unrhyw dri chymeriad diddorol yn eich ardal
9. Brawddeg o ddeuddeg gair a phob gair yn dechreu a'r llythyren A, I neu O.
10. Brawddeg o'r llythrennau yn y geiriau CYMANFA GANU
11. Dychangerdd: Unrhyw destun cyfoes
12. Casgliad o straeon am bregethwyr oddi ar dystiolaeth lafar.

**CYSTADLAETHAU YN Y SAESNEG
ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETITIONS**

13. Poem: Capital City
14. Humorous Epitaph
15. Limerick: A lonely young farmer from Rhyl....
16. Six couplets on the theme: Welsh History
17. Haiku: Old Age
18. Short Poem (of no more than 20 lines): Wanted: Minister
19. A Sentence or Sentences with each word beginning with the letter B.
20. Essay/Article: A portrayal of an interesting character in your area.

All entries to be sent by post or e-mail by February 11th, 2005. Winners will be announced on the Web on March 1st, 2006 and prizes will be awarded to the first three in each category.

E-mail address: e-steddfod@aocc.ac.uk Tel.: 029 2057 3427

Postal Address: Meinwen Ruddock, Trefnydd yr E-steddfod, Amgueddfa Werin
Cymru, Sain Ffagan, CAERDYDD, CF5 6XB

E-steddfod 2005 results may be seen at <http://www.ac.uk/www.php/365/>

<p>Note: To encourage members of our society to develop their literary talents, we will acknowledge entries on these topics at our own St. David's Day Evening whether or not they are actually submitted to the E-steddfod. Go to it!</p>
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Catrin Finch opens Welsh Harp Factory



Catrin Finch, 25, is from Llanon, near Aberystwyth. She is a phenomenal musician who has done more than anyone to put the harp on the musical map. For four years she was appointed Royal Harpist to the Prince of Wales. During the past year she has appeared with the Boston Pops, at the Barbican's Mostly Mozart Festival, and at the Welsh Proms with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Her many international engagements in Europe and the USA include, most recently, a concerto debut at New York's Lincoln Centre

Harp maker Allan Shiers, who used to service her harp, has formed Telynau Teifi (Teifi Harps) and his factory in Llandysul, Ceredigion was recently opened by Catrin. He has built harps for 30 years and said he wanted to take harp manufacturing into the 21st Century. He hopes to make 80 Celtic harps in the first year and then start producing folk and pedal harps too. "Catrin Finch is like a breath of fresh air and the harp has become a dynamic instrument to play once more," said Mr. Shiers. "She's doing a lot to inspire young people to take up the harp." Catrin,

replied, "I'm trying to get a lot of people involved and more people playing the harp. Wales is the home of the harp and it's about time we had a large-scale producer. This is very important to Wales."

When Catrin was five years old her parents took her to Lampeter Music Club to watch a recital by harpist Marisa Robles. After that concert she declared she wanted to become a harpist and she was given a Celtic Harp on her sixth birthday. She soon showed her talent and by the age of eight she was introduced to leading Welsh harpist, Elinor Bennett who became her teacher. Catrin was 10 years old when she joined the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. She won the first prize in the junior section of the World Harp Festival in 1991 and three years later, still only 14, she came second in the festival's adult section. Recently she won first prize in one of the most prestigious harp competitions in the world, the Lily Laskin International Harp Competition.

A fluent Welsh speaker, Catrin is married to Hywel Wigley, the son of Elinor Bennett and former Plaid Cymru President, Dafydd Wigley.

Note: Those of us who were fortunate enough to hear the performance by Ysgol Gynradd Ystalyfera two years ago will know how many students, particularly the harpist, were inspired by Catrin.

D.L.I.W.

December Events

Friday December 2

Mulled Wine Evening

Doors open 7.30 pm
Carols, Poems and Mulled Wine.

Saturday December 10

Christmas Dinner

Doors open 6.00 pm
Turkey Dinner served at 7.00 pm.
Seating is limited so please phone
Gaynor Evans at 604-271-3134 to
reserve tickets ASAP.

Sunday December 11

Christmas Church Service 11am

Followed by a Te Bach

Children's Christmas Party 2pm

Please advise either Nerys Haqq or
Gaynor Evans of the names and ages of
the children by mid November.

Wednesday December 14

Annual General Meeting 7.30pm

Please be sure to attend this important
meeting of the society to hear the reports
and to elect the Officers for 2006.

Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir

Friday November 11 Remembrance
Day Concert, St. Nicholas Parish Church
20675 87th Ave. Langley at 2.30 pm.

Saturday November 12 Remembrance
Day Joint Concert with A Touch of
Brass, First Avenue Christian Assembly
46510 First Ave. Chilliwack at 7.30 pm.

Saturday December 3
Gilmore Park United Church,
8060 No.1 Road, Richmond at 7.30 pm.

Saturday December 10
Cliff Avenue United Church,
1600 Cliff Avenue, Burnaby at 7.30 pm.

Cambrian Circle Singers

Thursday November 17

Sunnyside Manor, 15340 17th Avenue,
White Rock at 7.00 pm.

Thursday November 24 Blenheim
Lodge, 3163 Blenheim @ 16th. 6.30 pm.

Friday December 2 Augustine House
3820 Arthur Drive, Ladner at 7.30 pm.

Saturday December 3 Minoru
Residence, Minoru Boulevard (across
from The Bay) at 2.30 pm.

Friday December 9

St. Edward's Church, St. Edward's
Drive/ Bird Road, Richmond at 7.30 pm.
(South of Bridgeport Road)

Friday December 16

Van Duesen Gardens at 7.30 pm.

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

Sunday December 4 Christmas Concert
for Residents of Care Facilities.
Canadian Memorial Church, 1806 West
15th Ave., Vancouver at 2.30 pm.

Christmas Concerts:

Friday December 9 St. Andrew's
Wesley United Church, 1012 Nelson (at
Burrard), Vancouver at 8.00 pm.

Sunday December 11 Abbey Arts Ctr.
2329 Crescent Way, Abbotsford. 2 pm.

Monday December 12 Surrey Arts Ctr.
13750 88th Ave., Surrey at 8.00 pm.

Friday December 16 Queens Avenue
United Church, 529 Queens Ave. New
Westminster at 8.00 pm

Saturday December 17 Shaughnessy
Heights United Church, 1550 West 33rd
Avenue, Vancouver at 8.00 pm