

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Tachwedd
2006

November
2006

Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Society Newsletter - Fylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



Iolo Morganwg

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VANCOUVER

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

The picture of Iolo Morganwg continues our series of items related to the Eisteddfod.

Our Anniversary Dinner celebrating 77 years in the Cambrian Hall was enjoyed in fine style. Our President, Jane Byrne, thanked Jordan's the caterers for once again continuing their high standard. During the evening we were regaled by the harp music of Clare Morgan which gave the whole event an appropriate Celtic ambience. The raffle was won by Gaynor Evans; a most deserving winner. She was once again the main organizing force behind the dinner. Thank you indeed, Gaynor.

We learned at short notice that the famous Welsh folk group Crasdant featuring Robin Huw Bowen on triple harp and champion clog dancer Huw Williams among others were visiting Vancouver on their North American tour on the same evening. Let us hope we receive more warning in future to allow us to support and welcome them.

Jeff Owen's article on the WA appropriately reminds us of the vital contributions they have made to the Society over the years. My most recent memory was the rapid efficient way they responded practically overnight to the visit of Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.

The Froncysyllte Choir has Hollywood dreams – maybe our choirs will be noticed by Hollywood North (Orpheus in the Waterworld?).

A link has been added to our website to David Western's Welsh Lovespoons.

David Llewelyn Williams

November Events

**Wednesday November 1st at 7.30 pm
Executive Meeting**

**Friday November 3rd at 7.30 pm
Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir**
Fall Concert with UBC Opera Ensemble
Kay Meek Centre, 1700 Mathers Ave.,
West Vancouver

**Saturday November 4th at 8.00 pm
An Open House will be held at the Hall
rather than a formal Noson Lawen.
Impromptu contributions are welcomed!**

**Sunday November 5th at 11.00 am
Bilingual Service followed by Te Bach
and the Gymanfa Ganu at 2.00 pm.**

**Wednesday November 8th at 7.30 pm
General Meeting**

**Friday, November 10th at 7.30 pm
Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir**
Remembrance Concert. St. Paul's Anglican
Church, 1130 Jervis St, Vancouver, BC.

Saturday, November 11th at 7.30 pm
Remembrance Day Concert. St. Nicholas
Parish Church, 20675 87 Ave, Walnut
Grove, Langley, BC.

The BC Regiment Irish Pipes and Drums in collaboration with St. David's of Wales Anglican Church, Vancouver, is holding a fundraising concert for a local community group, The Aboriginal Mother's Centre, to help them through the Christmas period. The centre provides food, shelter and clothing for single aboriginal mothers and abused women. The "**Night of the Celts**" will take place on **November 18, 2006 at 7 pm** and we are looking forward to an evening featuring the **Aboriginal Performing Group, the B.C. Regiment**

Irish Pipes & Drums, Ballyhooley, The Cambrian Singers, Eire Bora Irish dancers and Shawn Hlookoff. Tickets are \$25. St. David's is located at 2475 Franklin Street in Vancouver, one block North and one block East of Hastings and Nanaimo.

Nerys Haqq

My name is Anne Mullens and I am executive director of the Victoria Philharmonic Choir. Some of your members may be interested to know that **Welsh composer Karl Jenkins** - named by the BBC the UK's most popular contemporary composer - will be in **Victoria Nov 6** for a special debut concert of his new Requiem. The 70-voice choir, under the baton of Simon Capet, will be joined by members of the Victoria Symphony and up-and coming soloists to perform the incredible Requiem - a fusion of classical style, jazz and even hip hop styles. It is a powerful piece of great beauty and driving rhythms. The Times of London noted all the elements "are interwoven with great finesse" in the work that has been the top seller in London on the classical and cross over chart since its premiere in London last year.

Jenkins, 62, is best known as the composer of the music for DeBeer's "Shadow" diamond ad - called Palladio. Jenkins himself will be conducting all three movements of that popular work. Simon Capet will conduct the Requiem and the choral work Adiemus. Jenkins arrives in Victoria with his wife, Carol Barratt - also a composer of note and leading musical educator - and will be taking part in rehearsals leading up to the Monday Nov 6 performance at **UVIC's Farquhar Centre.**

Perhaps some of your members might like to make a special trip to Victoria to take in this unique event. Tickets are available through the UVIC box office, 250-721-8480

Advanced Notice of December Events

Saturday December 2nd at 8.00 pm
Carols and Mulled Wine Evening

Wednesday December 6th at 7.30 pm
Executive Meeting

Sunday December 10th at 11.00 am
Bilingual Church Service (following the traditional lessons and carols format) followed by Te Bach.

Children's Christmas Party at 2 pm
All ages welcome, but only children under 12 years of age will receive a Santa Gift. Please call Gaynor Evans at 604 271-3134 or Nerys Haqq at 604 278-8978, preferably before November 15 with names and ages of children/grandchildren (of paid-up members only) Anyone wishing to help with games, crafts etc., please call one of the above.

Wednesday December 13th at 7.30 pm
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Annual Reports and Election of Officers
Please plan to attend.

Friday December 15th at 7.00 pm
Annual Christmas Dinner
Ham, Turkey with all the trimmings and seasonal desserts, tea and coffee.
Catered by Jordan's

Cambrian Circle Singers

On Friday, December 1st. we will be performing at St. Edward's Anglican Church in Richmond at 7:00 p.m., tickets \$ 5.00.

At the moment, we finish our Christmas season on December 8th with the opening of Van Duesen Garden's Christmas Light Show at 7:30 p.m.

Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir

Friday, Dec 8th at 7.30 pm
Evening of Song, Dance, & Inspiration.
Benefit for SOS Children's Village. Bell Performing Arts Centre, 6250 144 St, Surrey, BC.

Saturday, Dec 9th at 7.30 pm
Joint Christmas Concert with South Delta Secondary School Youth Choir.
Equinox Theatre, South Delta Secondary School, 750 53 St, Tsawwassen, BC

Thursday, Dec 21st
Christmas carol singing at Van Dusen Festival of Lights.
Van Dusen Gardens, 5251 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC. Event begins at 5pm and goes until 9:30pm. Choir sings from 6pm.

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

Friday December 1st at 7.30 pm.
MCC World Aids Fund Benefit Concert with Mennonite Educational Institute Choir. Abby Arts Centre, 2329 Crescent Way, Abbotsford.

Christmas Concert Series:

Tuesday December 5th with *Winter Harp*
Fleetwood Christian Reformed Church, 9165 – 160th Street, Surrey.

Saturday December 6th
St. Andrew's Wesley United Church, 1012 Nelson Street, Vancouver.

Friday December 15th
Queens Avenue United Church
529 Queens Avenue, New Westminster.

Saturday December 16th
Shaughnessy Heights United Church
1550 West 33rd Avenue, Vancouver.

The Welsh Society Women's Auxiliary Submitted by Jeff Owen

A very sad almost tragic event occurred within the Welsh Society this summer. At the general meeting in June the president of the WA Mary Lewis announced that the members of the WA had decided that they could no longer function as a division and were winding up the WA. This was an understandable decision by the WA members since, over the last few years several members had died and others had succumbed to age and were not physically able to play an active role in the WA. At the last meeting of the WA the decision to wind up was taken with reluctance and would have been avoided if at all possible, but with only eight members remaining and an average age of 75 (with only one member under the age of 60) it was no use delaying the inevitable. I am sure that had there been more members the WA would not have ended.

It should be noted that the Women's Auxiliary was the backbone of the Society for decades. They were very active and efficient fund raisers and came to the rescue whenever the Society needed something. Whether it was something as simple as a fridge for the hall or as in earlier years the money to pay the municipal taxes so the hall could stay open. These ladies even had a hand in altering the appearance of the hall itself when they paid to have the lower portion of the outside of the hall resurfaced and the basement windows bricked up. They finished it off with the purchase of the awnings over all of the outside doors. All of the money was raised one dollar at a time through bake sales, rummage sales and any other method they could think of.

The WA was front and centre when it came to the creation of the period costumes for the 1980 National Gamanfa Ganu which the Welsh Society hosted. The fashion show which featured the costumes helped make the event a tremendous success. Although the WA did not pay for the costume material, they along with a few other volunteers were the workers that actually made the garments. They did all the cutting, the sewing, the cleaning and everything else that was involved in making these costumes. For over two years they worked hard at it and as the time drew nearer they worked five days a week to ensure the completion of the costumes. They became so involved with the project that half of the costume models were WA members and these same members went on to become founding members of the Cambrian Circle Singers. Thus the reason that the Circle Singers perform in period costumes today. So you see these "little old ladies" from the WA played an important and vital part in the shaping of the society as we see it today.

In the later years the WA activities slowed down somewhat but never stopped, these ladies had more fun and laughter in them than a bus full of choir men. Maybe it was from their combined wisdom and experience they knew nothing useful came from worrying and that laughter was the best medicine. I would quite often turn up at the end of a WA meeting and as I entered the back door of the hall I would hear the laughter ring out. It was as if the ladies had decided to enjoy every minute together and nothing gave me greater pleasure than to add to the laughter by telling jokes or making witty remarks.

I think that the ladies of the W.A. should be publicly acknowledged and not just left to fade into the past. As a member of the Society who knows how valuable the WA has been, I would like to say "Thank You" to all of those women past and present who did their part to keep the Society alive and functioning for the members today. It should also be noted that the fundraising went on until the very end and one of the last things the WA did was to donate \$1,000.00 to the roof fund.

Questions are asked

The following letter to the Editor written by Brent Jette from Abbotsford and entitled “A Proud Canadian Moment” appeared in the Vancouver Sun on October 21st:

Last Saturday we were at the Harrison Resort at Harrison Hot Springs for the wedding of our son, a member of the RCMP. There was an honour guard of six RCMP members dressed in red serge, boots and breeches. The wedding took place in the garden area of the hotel. After the ceremony, the guests returned to the hotel, walking through a covered walkway directly beside the hotel pools. There was a men's choral group in the pool and, upon seeing the RCMP honour guard, they stood and began singing O Canada. The honour guard entered the hotel, conferred briefly and returned to the pool area where they stopped, faced the singers and saluted them.

This is the clue,



So the questions are,

1. Who was the choral group?
2. Who was the good looking tenor who sang “We’ll keep a welcome” and took this picture?
3. Who were the enthusiastic ladies in the pool and
4. Will they be at the group’s next concert?

By the way, the Orpheus is giving two Remembrance Day concerts, one in Vancouver and the other in Langley.

Thanks to Milton, Eric and Alcwyn for this article.

Red Lady to make a return to Wales
(Western Mail October 11)

One of the world's most important archaeological finds, the Red Lady of Paviland, could be on its way back to Wales for the first time since its discovery in the 1800s. The skeletal remains of a chieftain, which date back an amazing 26,000 years, were found in Gower's Paviland Cave. The "Red Lady" was discovered in 1823 by clergyman archaeologist the Rev William Buckland who mistook the skeleton for that of a woman because it was dyed red and covered in ornate jewelry. The remains are on show at Oxford University's natural history museum but Swansea councillor Ioan Richard has been campaigning for many years to have them returned to Wales. Yesterday the museum's director Professor Jim Kennedy said a decision had now been made regarding a request to show the Red Lady in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff for 12 months in 2007, the year which marks the centenary of the Welsh museum.

Hollywood beckons for male choir (BBC News)

A North Wales choir has been signed to one of the world's biggest record labels, Universal Music Group, amid hopes their story could become a Hollywood movie. The potential of Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir, near Llangollen, was spotted at a wedding by Daniel Glatman, manager of boy band Blue. He joked that he was now working with the world's oldest boy band – with a combined age of 3,974! Dennis Williams, the oldest member at 75, was a founder member at age 16 in 1947 and the current youngest member, Matthew Hayward, 18, is the great-grandson of a founder member.

The choir, which was formed by coalminers in 1947, is well known on the Eisteddfod circuit. But now they look set for international stardom after signing with Universal Classics and Jazz, the label which also has Jamie Cullum and Katherine Jenkins on its books. Their story has also been followed by film producer Zygi Kamasa, who worked on *Bend It Like Beckham*. He has optioned the rights to their story.

The choir's debut album, *Voices in the Valley*, is due for release on Nov. 20.



The Choir and Froncysyllte Aqueduct

Iolo Morganwg (BBC News)

Iolo Morganwg, born Edward Williams, held a ceremony at Primrose Hill in London on the summer solstice in 1792. In so doing he re-created the supposedly ancient druidic order of the Gorsedd of the bards, which he saw as the ancient guardian of the language and culture of Wales. Although much of his scholarship was later found to be forged, the ceremony endured and in 1819 the Gorsedd was formally linked to the Eisteddfod to form the National Eisteddfod as we know it.

Plans are in hand to erect a monument on Primrose Hill to commemorate this first ceremony. It will be designed by sculptor John Meirion Morris, formed out of Welsh slate with an embossed face of Morganwg.