

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Hydref
2005

October
2005

Symdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Fylchgrawn Gymraeg



'CONWY.' →

Rhod Sykes.

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

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VANCOUVER

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

Several important Society events will be occurring soon. We hope you have been checking the Events page on our website to alert you to these ahead of time. The **Anniversary Dinner** is the first such event and we hope you will let Gaynor Evans know that you wish to attend. The weekend of November 4th-6th will be the occasion of another **Welsh Weekend**. Friday evening will feature an Open House, Saturday morning the **Annual General Meeting of the Dylan Thomas Society** will take place culminating in a Ploughman's Lunch after which members of Mythpoetica will tell Dylan Thomas stories. The highlight of the Weekend will be a benefit concert for the Society given by the **Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir in St. Patrick's Church, 2881 Main Street starting at 7.30 pm**. All members are urged to support this concert. Tickets are \$18 (\$15 for seniors and students). Sunday morning the monthly bilingual **Church Service** will start at 11 am and a **Gymanfa Ganu** will be held in the afternoon followed by a Te Bach. The Gymanfa will be conducted by Jonathan Quick with accompanist Ray Batten and feature soloist Lois Carter.

The front cover features a beautiful painting by Rhodwyn Sykes of Conwy Castle with the railway and road bridges as seen across the estuary. I am also grateful to Gwilym Evans for the article on Penmynydd and to Eirlys Ann Thomas for God's Voice Mail.

David Llewelyn Williams

Free Welsh Lessons

started on October 3rd on **S4C**

Register to participate at:

www.learnons4c.co.uk

or at:

www.dysguars4c.co.uk

Anniversary Dinner

Saturday October 15th

*Celebrating 76 years at the Cambrian Hall
1929 - 2005*

MENU

(Catering by Jordan's)

Assorted Bun Basket with Dairy Butter

Garden Salad
Greek Salad

Hot Mixed Vegetables
Potatoes au Gratin

BBQ Chicken Pieces
Meatballs in Burgundy Mushroom Sauce
Roast Beef

Anniversary Cake
Assorted Tarts
Fresh Fruit Tray

Tea and Coffee

The Red Dragon will be open at 6pm for cocktails.

Dinner at 7pm prompt.

Tickets at \$27.00 each.

Please call Gaynor Evans at 604-271-3134 ASAP to reserve tickets.

Musical Notes

Stephen Sondheim was named a Patron of the International Festival of Musical Theatre in Cardiff on August 23 and organizers say he is planning to pen a musical based on the **Mabinogion**, the world famous group of ancient Welsh tales. The most mythological stories, replete with dreams and legends, are collectively titled The Four Branches of the Mabinogi and should provide a rich source of material for Sondheim. Perhaps it will take Sondheim to remind the Welsh of their heritage.

Bryn Terfel returns to the Metropolitan Opera to play the title role in Falstaff from September 23 to October 22. For those who may wish to take a shorter journey, **Jason Howard** is singing in the title role in Eugene Onegin with the Pacific Opera of Victoria between October 6 and October 15.

According to the Chicago Taffia, **Jem** is a Welsh Rock Star. I've checked her website and listened to some of her songs which are better described as pop songs. But what do I know! In any case she will be performing at Richard's on Richards on Sunday, October 16.

A more obviously Welsh group, the **Super Furry Animals** start their Global Tour in Japan and also perform at Richard's on Richards, on November 24, followed by Seattle on the 25th and Portland on the 26th. Considered the most creative of the contemporary Welsh bands, the various members all played in Welsh-language groups prior to coming together in 1993 in Cardiff. In 1995

they released Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlantysiliogogochynygofod(in space) and Moog Droog (work that one out!), both in Welsh. Despite the fact that English fans could hardly sing along, the band quickly became a cult favourite in Britain and by 1996, when many of their lyrics were in English, their popularity continued to grow. Nevertheless in 2000 they released Mwng (Mane) which was sung entirely in Welsh and it became the biggest selling Welsh language album of all time (until Bryn Terfel's Christmas album later that year). Check the BBC website for more up to date details and bring a Welsh flag to Richard's on Richards in November!

Rwy'n ymchwilio bywyd y Cymro Richard Williams ac am gysylltu a theulu Cymreig yn BC o'r enw Cox. ! Byswn i'n ddiolchgar iawn pe yrrech chi'n neges hon ymlaen at eraill allai helpu (a chysylltu a fi'n uniongyrchol os dych chi'n nabod y teulu.) Ganed Carys Cox (nee Williams) yn 1944 cyn mudo gyda'i gwr i Vancouver yn y saithdegau. Credaf fod ganddynt ddau o blant. Hanai rhieni Carys, Richard ac Eirlys o Gaernarfon a Dolgellau, cyn symud i fyw yn ardal Llandudno. Argraffodd ei thad, Richard arian Cymraeg o gwmpas adeg yr Arwisgo, ac roedd yn arloeswr mewn cyfrifiaduron ac yn gweithio fel ymgynghorwr dros y byd i gyd o'r pumdegau ymlaen. Cafodd Carys ei haddysg yn Ysgol Merched Cymreig Ashford, Swydd Gaint, cyn gweithio gyda'i thad yn ei swyddfa yn Enfield, Gogledd Llundain, yn cyhoeddi llawlyfrau ar gyfer cyfrifiaduron, cyn priodi Sais a mudo i Canada. Mae'n debyg bod mab Carys, Richard, yn gweithio ym myd ffilmau, o bosibl fel animeiddiwr. Credaf fod merch ganddi hefyd. Diolch o galon Dewi Gregory dewigregory@mac.com

God's Voice Mail

Most of us have learnt to live with Voice Mail as a necessary part of our life, so we wondered what it would be like if God decided to install His Own Voice Mail. Imagine praying and hearing the following:

When calling Heaven, for Welsh press 1, for English press 2, for all other languages press 3.

Please select one of the following options: Press 1 for Request, 2 for Thanksgiving, 3 for Complaints, 4 for all other options including Passion.

I'm sorry but all our Angels and Saints are busy right now helping other sinners. However, your prayer is important to us and we will answer it in the order it was received, so please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to God himself, press 1, Jesus, press 2, the Holy Spirit, press 3.

To find a loved one that has been assigned to Heaven, press 5, then enter his/her Social Security Number followed by the # sign. If you receive a negative response, please hang up and dial area code 666.

For reservations to Heaven please enter JOHN followed by the numbers 3 and 16. For answers to nagging questions about Dinosaurs, Life on other planets, please wait until you arrive in Heaven for specific answers.

Our computer shows that you have already been prayed for today, so please hang up and call again tomorrow.

The office is about to close to observe a religious holiday. If you call after hours and need emergency assistance please contact your local Pastor.

Thank you and have a Heavenly day.

Cambrian Circle Singers

Friday October 7 Augustine House
3820 Arthur Drive, Ladner 7.30 pm

Fri. Oct 14 Crescent Gardens 7.00 pm
1222 King George Hwy. White Rock

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

Saturday October 22
Benefit Concert for Ebenezer Home for Seniors in Abbotsford.
Seven Oaks Alliance Church, 2575 Gladwin Road, Abbotsford at 7.30 pm.

Sat. October 29 Annual Fall Concert,
Ryerson United Church, Vancouver at 8.00 pm

Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir

Friday October 21 Fundraiser for the White Rock Hospice Society
White Rock Baptist Church, 1657 – 140 Street, Surrey at 7.30 pm

Saturday November 5
Fundraiser for the Welsh Society
St. Patrick's Church, 2881 Main Street, Vancouver at 7.30 pm

Penmynydd

Penmynydd is a quiet collection of houses in Anglesey along the road from Menai Bridge to Llangefni. However in the past it was the base of one of the most powerful families on the island. It also gave rise to the royal dynasty of the House of Tudor, which included King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I of England.

The family's rise to power began with Ednyfed Fychan, who in the 13th century was lord steward to [Llywelyn the Great](#). As a result of his service he was granted large tracts of land across North Wales, including Penmynydd. The family later became loyal to the English king, Edward I, when he conquered Wales, thus retaining their power and influence. Ednyfed's great-great grandson, Tudur ap Goronwy had five sons. They supported their cousin, Owain Glyndwr, in his rebellion against English rule in the early 1400s. As a result they lost their land in Penmynydd..

However, the son of one brother, Maredudd, did go on to greater things in England. Owain Tudor (an Anglicization of his Welsh name Owain ap Maredudd ap Tudur) joined Henry V's army. He distinguished himself and eventually became involved in the King's court, possibly as Keeper of the Household for Henry's queen, Katherine de Valois. Henry died at the age of 35, leaving his wife a widow and their young son the

new king, Henry VI. Somehow Owain Tudor gained her favour and they were secretly married around 1429 and had three sons. This gave the Tudor dynasty a tenuous claim to the throne of England.

Their grandson, Henry Tudor, exercised this claim. The second half of the 15th century saw much turbulence during the Wars of the Roses between various claimants to the throne of England fought battles. Eventually Henry returned from exile in France, gathering an army along the way from his landing site in Wales. He defeated King Richard III at Bosworth Field, becoming the unchallenged King of England, Henry VII. Thus the Tudor dynasty, which originated in Penmynydd, began their period of rule that was to last over 100 years.

The church at Penmynydd dates from the 14th century. Its chapel contains a stained glass window with the symbols of the Tudor family. The Tudor Rose is present along with the English royal crown and other Regalia. The motto reads *UNDEB FEL RHOSYN YW AR LAN AFONYDD AC FEL TY DUR AR BEN Y MYNYDD*, which translates as "Unity is like a rose on the banks of rivers, and like a House of Steel on a mountain top". The phrase *Ty Dur* (House of Steel) refers to the name Tudur, and *Ben y Mynydd* is Penmynydd.

Glyndwr flag flies over Cardiff Castle

The yellow and red "Four Lions Rampant" flag flew over the battlements of Cardiff Castle for a whole week to celebrate Owain Glyndwr Day. It is believed to be the first time the standard bearing his coat of arms has been hoisted above the castle for more than 600 years. Glyndwr established a Welsh parliament and was proclaimed Prince of Wales on 16 September 1400.

Glyndwr had ambitious plans for Wales including the establishment of two Welsh Universities to serve the North and South. He took Carmarthen and Cardiff in 1403 and Harlech and Aberystwyth in 1404 but the tide turned under the leadership of the future Henry V and by 1409 the revolt was broken and the many towns and castles Glyndwr had taken were lost.