

# THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

*Medi*  
2006

*September*  
2006

*Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver*

*Cambrian News*

*Society Newsletter - Fylchgrawn y Gymdeithas*



*Dave Gilder receiving the Low Net Trophy*

CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17<sup>th</sup> Ave, Vancouver B.C. V5V 1A6

**WELSH SOCIETY**  
**VANCOUVER**

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**Treasurer:**

**Gaynor Evans 271-3134**

**Membership Secretary:**

**Heather Davies 734-5500**

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**John Cann**

**Allan Hunter**

**Selwyn Jones**

**Mary Lewis**

**David Llewelyn Williams**

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**Church Service:**

**Ann Roberts 987-6996**

**Rentals:**

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**Social Events Committee:**

**Mary Lewis 331-1573**

**Welsh Folk Dancing:**

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*The Cambrian News*

From The Editor:

I am grateful to Lynne Fox for sending me the news item on the 'Pirates' and also for the online translation piece. Thanks also to Ieuan Lampshire-Jones for the 1998 Enfys article documenting the contributions from our Society to the 1948 Bridgend National Eisteddfod. Dave Gilder's camera captured the Golf Tournament Photos

We understand that Delyth and John Cann have retired from the Pacific Academy but will continue to teach next year in Fort St. John at the Christian Life School while visiting with their daughter's family. We wish them well and we shall miss their presence, especially at the Church Service.

David Llewelyn Williams

Eifion Williams received the following query: I wonder if you have ever come across the **Castle** family. I understand from a letter from Winifred Castle many years ago that her three sons were musically gifted and took part in Welsh Society activities. She also mentions a grandson who she says was very musical. If you have heard about them, I would be very interested as I am researching our family. Mary-Lyn Jones (from very Welsh Wales) [marylyn.jones@fsmail.net](mailto:marylyn.jones@fsmail.net)

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Wednesday, September 6 @ 7.30 pm**  
**Executive Meeting in the Cambrian Hall.**

**Sunday, September 10 @ 11.00 am**  
**Church Service followed by Te Bach**

**Wednesday, September 13 @ 7.30 pm**  
**General Meeting in the Cambrian Hall**

*Anniversary Dinner*

*Saturday October 14th*

*Celebrating 77 years at the Cambrian Hall  
1929 - 2006*

**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.*

CYMDEITHAS GYMRAEG VANCOUVER  
THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER  
Cambrian Hall, 215-E17th Ave  
Vancouver, BC  
V5V 1A6

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD  
OF WALES

The members of the Welsh Society of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, wish to unanimously express our opposition to the Council's decision to abolish the annual Eisteddfod ceremony of welcome for the Overseas Welsh (Cymru a'r Byd).

We reject the Council's explanation that the ceremony has become redundant because improved transportation and communication have made Welsh exiles' visits to Wales more frequent and that fewer and fewer come specifically to attend the Eisteddfod. This overlooks the fact that the ceremony has little to do with ease of travel or demography but with emotion and symbolism.

No other event in Wales allows Welsh exiles from across the globe to gather together in a spirit of fellowship and pride in their common ancestry, while experiencing that feeling of hiraeth which flourishes unabashedly for one afternoon during Eisteddfod week.

Contrary to the view of the Council, many of our members plan visits to Wales around the exile ceremony and there has rarely been an occasion when representatives from Vancouver were not present. We take pride in the fact that on several occasions in the past a member of the Vancouver Welsh Society has been selected to lead the exiles at the ceremony, including John Pritchard, who performed the task so ably at last year's Snowdonia Eisteddfod.

We urge the Council to reconsider its decision to abolish the ceremony. We will be greatly disappointed if this sentimental connection to the homeland is lost for ever.

On behalf of the Vancouver Welsh Society,

LLYTHYR AGORED I GYNGOR EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU

Dymuna aelodau Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, fynegi eu gwrthwynebiad i benderfyniad y Cyngor i ddiddymu y Seremoni Croeso i Gymry Tramor yn yr Eisteddfod.

Gwrthodwn eglurhad Y Cyngor fod y seremoni erbyn hyn yn ddianghenraid oherwydd fod gwelliannau mewn trafndiaeth a chyfathrebiaeth wedi gwneud ymweliadau gan Gymry tramor yn fwy aml ac fod llai bellach yn dod yn arbennig i fynychu'r Eisteddfod.

Mae hyn yn anwybyddu nad oes gan y seremoni nemawr i wneud a rhwyddineb teithio nac ystadegau cymdeithasol ond yn hytrach a theimladrwydd a symbolaeth.

‘Does dim amgylchiad arall yng Nghymru sy’n gadael i Gymry o bedwar ban y byd gyfarfod mewn ysbryd o gyfeillgarwch a balchder yn eu cyn-hynafiaeth ac ar yr un pryd profi gwefr yr hiraeth a flodeua’n ddigwilydd am un prynhawn yn yr Eisteddfod.

Yn groes i safbwynt y Cyngor, mae llawer o’n haelodau yn trefni eu hymweliadau a Chymru o amgylch Dydd y Croeso. Prin, os o gwbl, y bu blynyddoedd heb gynrychiolwyr yn bresennol o Vancouver. Teimlwn yn falch fod amryw o aelodau ein Cymdeithas wedi eu dewis i arwain y Cymry tramor yn y gorffennol, ac yn eu plith John Pritchard, a wnaeth waith mor gymeradwy yn Eisteddfod Eryri y llynedd.

Pwyswn yn daer ar y Cyngor i ail-ystyried diddymu’r Seremoni Croeso. Byddwn yn siomedig ddifrifol os collir am byth y cysylltiad gordeimladwy hwn a’r famwlad.

Ar ran Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Jane Byrne, Llywydd                      Eifion Williams, Ysgrifennydd.

### **Historical Background** (abstracted from the Summer 1998 issue of Yr Enfys)

Coincident with the formation of the “Undeb Cymru ar Wasgar” organization (Wales-International), the 1948 Bridgend National Eisteddfod was the first to include the Welcome Ceremony to the Overseas Welsh. Through “Yr Enfys” and the organization’s links to Welsh Societies throughout the world, Wales International (now “Undeb Cymru a’r Byd”) was able to influence many expatriates to attend the National Eisteddfod as part of their visit to Wales. “Moreover, (the Welcome Ceremony) had become a regular feature televised from the Eisteddfod (as had the bardic ceremonies) and was thus viewed by a vast and appreciative audience.” “The honour of being the official Leader of the Overseas Welsh at the Ceremony is deemed to be one of the highest distinctions to which a Welsh expatriate can aspire and it is for this reason that Wales International has at all times been at pains to ensure that such an honour is accorded to a person who has made a substantial contribution towards promoting Wales and Welsh culture abroad.” The article includes a photograph of a former pillar of our Society, Angharad Lloyd Roberts, Leader of the Overseas Welsh at the 1955 Pwllheli Eisteddfod flanked by her husband Trevor and her brother Mr. Emyr Williams, then President of the Eisteddfod Court. But readers will be interested in the following information: “The historic honour of being the very first Leader of the Overseas Welsh (at Bridgend) lies with **Mr. Thomas Edwards**, an 86 year old veteran from Vancouver, British Columbia. This was particularly significant in that the chair for the bardic ceremony that year was presented by the Vancouver Welsh community.” Society members will recognize Mr. Edwards’ name on the foundation stone of the Cambrian Hall. Thus our Society can boast the first and the last Leader to participate in the Ceremony, as well as Angharad Lloyd Roberts and Gwenfyl Jones (1982) in between. I am very grateful to Ieuan Lampshire-Jones for sending me a photocopy of this interesting article.

## Vancouver Welsh Society Annual Golf Tournament

This year's tournament took place at Poppy Estate Golf Course on Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> under warm sunny conditions. . This year, the much anticipated needle match between the North Wales team and the South Wales team did not take place owing to some last minute changes so we all felt no pressure at all! A very enjoyable day's golf was followed by the 19<sup>th</sup> hole social and dinner. 26 attended the dinner which given the unavoidable absence of several regulars and the existence of a competing tournament, was quite encouraging. Once again, we are particularly grateful to Tecwyn Roberts who, despite being unable to play, ensured that all ran smoothly and acted as Master of Ceremonies at the dinner. Your editor manipulated the scores using the Callaway system of handicaps.

Four players, Jim Duncan, Gwyn Evans, Bob Marsh and Andrew Thomas, tied for the Fewest Putts, so we had a putt-off on the practice green after dinner. It was won by Jim Duncan, who also won most of the rest of the trophies!



**The Fantastic Four!**

**Men's Low Gross:** Jim Duncan (73)

**Men's Low Net:** Dave Gilder (65)

**Ladies Low Gross:** Deirdre Roberts (94)

**Ladies Low Net:** Margaret Monck (67)

**K.P. 12<sup>th</sup> Hole:** Jim Duncan



**Owen Phillips Trophy (Fewest Putts):**  
Jim Duncan



**Larry Palmatier Trophy for Men's Long Drive:** David Llewelyn Williams



**Ladies' Long Drive:** Deirdre Roberts

**Russell** (from the Daily Post July 24)

A Canadian family connection means the 100th birthday of an historic Welsh railway engine is being celebrated across the Atlantic. Russell - the flagship steam engine of the Welsh Highland Railway (Porthmadog) - was built in 1906. It was named after the man who ran the railway at the time, James Russell, a barrister who was born in London in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. He became extremely wealthy and invested some of that wealth in the slate quarrying industry and the railways which served it.

Railway volunteers tracked down James Russell's family who'll be joining in the locomotive's centenary celebrations from the other side of the Atlantic. James Russell's grand-daughter Evelyn Pangman is 80, and lives in Toronto. She was unaware her grandfather had a steam train named after him. She said: "I was delighted to hear that the Welsh Highland Railway is celebrating the 100th birthday of the locomotive which carries my grandfather's name."

Russell is known by enthusiasts around the world because it managed to escape the scrap several times. It eventually returned to Wales to run on the railway where it originally worked. The Welsh Highland Railway (Porthmadog) will be celebrating the 100th hundredth birthday on Saturday July 29 and Sunday July 30, with a special gala event at the railway, called "100 not out!" Russell is undergoing major repair work. But there'll be a rare chance to see inside the sheds and the restoration in progress. Welsh Highland Railway chairman James Hewett said: "Hopefully, the gala event will be a fitting way to celebrate the centenary of this very special steam engine."

**Pirates of the Irish Sea?** (abstracted from Steve Bagnall, Daily Post Aug. 2)

Joe Adams and his two friends were on holiday in Benllech celebrating the end of their A-level exams. They decided to dress as Pirates of the Caribbean complete with hats and eye make-up and took to the high seas in an inflatable dinghy armed only with a crate of beer and a bottle of rum. But the craft drifted out off the coast of Anglesey and they had to be rescued by the Moelfre inshore lifeboat after a member of the public spotted them and called the coastguard. Dave Massey of Moelfre RNLI said: "If people have to take inflatables out to sea then we advise to have them secured to the beach firmly by a line. It doesn't take a particularly strong wind to blow them out to sea and I have picked up lots of children and adults in my years with the lifeboat and they have been scared stiff." Adams said "The worst part was that the boatmen didn't even realize we were pirates and thought we were dressed as characters from The Rocky Horror Picture Show. We were a bit drunk and it did seem funny at the time but now we all realize it was a bit stupid. Thankfully, somebody else had spotted we were in trouble and probably saved our lives."

**Web Pitfalls** (quoted in The Globe & Mail)

Local officials in Wales are red faced after using an online translation service to render the signpost message "Cyclists dismount" into Welsh. The phrase "Llid y bledren dymchwelyd" which has baffled some riders actually means "bladder inflammation overthrow" reports The Australian. (I believe the medical term is cystitis; I wonder if it's prevalent on the Tour de France? Ed.)