

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

**Ebrill i Mai
2006**

**April to May
2006**

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Society Newsletter – Cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



May Liebesley and Phyllis Owens, St. David's Day

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

WELSH SOCIETY
VANCOUVER

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

The front page photo features two of our Honourary Life Members, both in fine form. I am indebted to Lynn Owens-Whalen and Paul Lievesley for the photo and also to Paul for the account of the storm damage. Liz Murray drew my attention to the Rogers Building article in The Vancouver Sun and I am grateful to Chuck Davis for allowing me to abstract from it. Eifion Williams and Uta Williams helped me with the Dinner piece, Tecwyn Roberts told me about the Indian missionaries to Wales – a beautifully ironic role reversal, and Mary Lewis told me about the medicinal uses of daffodils

John Pritchard, last Leader of the Overseas Welsh, has gone out with a bang rather than a whimper and his salvo has reverberated around the Welsh press. But “bugeiliaid newydd sydd” and their flock is apparently confined to home pastures.

We have so far 85 paid up members, which is less than half the newsletter list. Please support the society by sending your annual dues to Heather Davies.

David Llewelyn Williams

DAVID GRAY CONCERT AT THE ORPHEUM SOLD OUT IN ONE DAY
David Gray, who grew up in Solva (Solfach) near St. David's, and his six piece band played to a sold out audience at the Orpheum on St. Patrick's Day. The program featured his latest album *Life in Slow Motion* (which included a new song *Nos Da Cariad*) as well as some of his earlier hits from his multi-platinum success *White Ladder*. Members of my family enjoyed David's tenor voice and his arrangements and thought it was a great evening!

The Point Roberts Storm February 2006



It was the day after the worst storm to hit Point Roberts in 20 yrs, the sea was calm, and the deck was covered in tons of logs! May Lievesley's beach house had a surfeit of fire wood. In the garden behind the house sat the caravan "Betty" up to its windows in sea water. It had once been in the keeping of Ellis and Marion, and had traveled across Canada as their home on wheels.



A week later after the sea has drained away, we discover that the stove and fridge had been under water, and the carpet is covered in silt. Fortunately, the body is fiberglass, but the frame and wheel bearings will need some work.



After several days of constant burning on the beach, Shad has cleared most of the wood from the deck, but the pool still does not look like it has water in it, only logs. On the day of the storm, two coast guard men in survival suits came by to see if everybody was alright. They could not see the pool for logs and fell through the facade of wood into cold sea water. Shad had to rescue them! Two weeks later, most of the logs have been burned, and the pool is clean, filled with 20,000 gallons of fresh water.



Over the next few months, the carpets will dry out and we will replace much of the deck, hopefully in time for summer, and mum's 93 birthday! Now we just have to wonder about Krakatoa across the bay, otherwise known as Mount Baker!

Paul Lievesley

March Events

St. David's Day Evening, March 1st

President Jane Byrne welcomed members assembled in the Red Dragon for our traditional St. David's Day celebration. The evening was started on the 'right note' by the Cambrian Circle Singers in their Welsh costumes who entertained us with a selection of Welsh songs and other favourites. Ieuan Lampshire Jones gave a prayer for St. David and also the Toast to Dewi Sant. This was followed by the singing of *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau* and the eating of the leek. Neville Thomas read Eifion Wyn's poem *Os wyt Gymro* with a translation read by your editor and then we sang, first the rousing *Men of Harlech* and then, that fond memory of our Sunday School youth, *Calon Lan*. The hwyl was infectious!

As promised in the Newsletter, members' submissions to the electronic eisteddfod, the E-Steddfod run by the Museum of Welsh Life in St. Fagan's, were presented. John Pritchard read his entries and David Llewelyn Williams read his and those of Wyn Roberts. The humorous content of many of the submissions especially the limericks and epitaphs were much appreciated and established a light-hearted tone for the evening. This was followed by another selection of songs by the Cambrian Circle Singers.

President Jane Byrne used the occasion to present inscribed commemorative tankards as tokens of the Welsh Society's gratitude to Barrie Hancock for his efforts in raising funds for the society and to Allan Hunter for his contribution in supervising the repairs to the Cambrian Hall roof. I think we are all aware of the critical importance of these contributions to the continued viability of the society.

After singing *We'll keep a welcome*, we adjourned for refreshments: Cawl Cenin, Welsh cakes made by Phyllis Owens from a recipe by Katie Hughes Perrin Christopher, Pikelets made by Agnes Wicks from a recipe by Sally Highet, Bara Brith etc. etc.

We are grateful to the Social Committee, Jane Byrne, Heather Davies, Gaynor Evans, Sybil Jamieson, Mary Lewis, Neville Thomas and Eifion Williams for organizing this event and decorating the Red Dragon. We are also grateful to Liz and Don Murray who ensured we had adequate liquidity.

D.L.I.W.

Postscript: Successes in the E-Steddfod

The results for the 2006 E-Steddfod appeared on the web on March 3rd and the following two of our entries were successful

Beddargraff Doniol (Humorous Epitaph)

Third Place: John Pritchard

Pwy yw hwn sydd tan y graig?
Anffaeliedig ysgolhaig;
Cyntaf wr oedd ef i'm gwraig.

(Who is this beneath the stone?
A scholar of infallible wisdom;
He was my wife's first husband!)

Haiku on Old Age

Second Place: David Llewelyn Williams

Wisdom in Autumn:
A bounteous harvest reaped
From folly in Spring.

Unfortunately none of our limericks or other humorous epitaphs received recognition!

St. David's Day Dinner, March 4th

Members gathered in the Red Dragon before moving upstairs to the Cambrian Hall for the Dinner. Following the singing of *Men of Harlech* to put us in the right mood, Tecwyn Roberts gave the blessing in both languages and we enjoyed a splendid meal prepared by Jordans, who again excelled themselves.



After the meal, the guest of honour, Mr. Andy Newlands, Deputy British Consul-General in Vancouver, gave the toast to Her Majesty the Queen. He also read a message from Mr. Rhodri Morgan, First Minister of the Welsh Assembly. Mr. Morgan took pride in the opening of the Assembly building in Cardiff, describing it as "a beacon of modern architecture around the world."

The traditional greetings sent by kindred Welsh Societies from many parts of the world were read out by our Secretary, Eifion Williams. Each year this number becomes larger. There were also congratulatory messages to the Society from Governor-General Michaëlle Jean, Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo, B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell and Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan. A greeting to all Welsh people on St. David's Day in which he recognized the contributions made by the

Welsh to the governance of the United States (11 Presidents) was received from President George W. Bush.

The Toast to Canada was presented by Dr. Irene Evans, who recounted the successful experiences of friends and acquaintances who had chosen Canada as their home. In his Toast to Wales, David Llewelyn Williams based his theme on the story of Evan and James James of Pontypridd, who composed the Welsh National Anthem 150 years ago. In particular the second and third verses captured the essence of Wales.

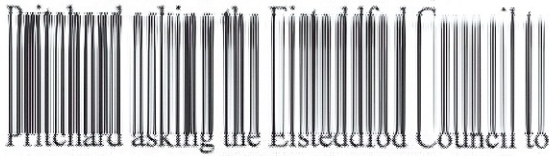


Hen Wlad fy Nhadau

A well-received musical interlude was provided by harpist Helen Siemens and violinist Zelko Krakan, who played both classic Welsh folk pieces and others. This was followed by community singing led by Lynn Owens-Whalen and with accompanist Lucy Sorensen. Many of the celebrants then adjourned to the Red Dragon for further socializing in a convivial atmosphere.

President Jane Byrne thanked the caterer, Jordans, for the excellent dinner and also Heather Davies, Gaynor Evans, Mary Lewis and Eifion Williams for their efforts in organizing and staging the event. It should be recognized that Jane herself has also contributed her time substantially, both on this occasion and on March 1st.
(Photos by Uta Williams)

The following letter was sent by John



Pritchard asking the Eisteddfod Council to reconsider its decision to eliminate the Ceremony of Welcome to the Overseas Welsh. It received considerable publicity in the Welsh newspapers, in the latest issue of *Yr Enfys* and John was recently interviewed by BBC Wales. Nevertheless the Council has stood firm on its decision; perhaps this is an indication that the Welsh are no longer emigrating outside Britain in significant numbers and are thus of less concern.

LLYTHYR AGORED I GYNGOR YR EISTEDDFOD

Annwyl Gyfeillion,

Gyda dirfawr siom a chalon drom y deallais na fydd croeso swyddogol i'r Cymry tramor yn Eisteddfodau'r dyfodol! Ofnaf nad oes gan aelodau'r Cyngor amgyffred pa mor angerddol bwysig yw'r seremoni croeso i ni Gymry oddicartref. Bod ar lwyfan Yr Eisteddfod yn cael ein croesawu gan ein cyd Gymry yw uchafbwynt yr wyl i ni. Am y

MISSIONARIES FROM INDIA REACH OUT TO THE WELSH

(National Post March 6 attributed to The Daily Telegraph)

Indian tribes who were converted to Christianity by missionaries from Wales are now returning to evangelize the Welsh because they believe the country is in a state of religious decline. The Diocese of Mizoram, in North-Eastern India, has already sent one missionary to South Wales.

Bridgend Technical College Reunion

We are the 1950's classes and had a reunion 3 years ago which was a success. We are now looking for more ex-students from the 50's or 60's to attend our upcoming reunion

munudau emosiynol hyn y deisyfwn fwyaf yn



ystod ein hymweladau a'r Eisteddfod.

A oes posib edrych ar y dyfarniad eilwaith?

Yn sicr hefyd, nid y Cymry tramor yn unig sydd yn dioddef loes y diddymu. Mae byddin o wirfoddolwyr yng Nghymru wedi cefnogi a hybu achos Undeb Cymru a'r Byd am bron i drugain mlynedd - ac yn enwedig felly sefydlwyr ac arweinyddion y mudiad. Mae amcanion y mudiad yr un heddiw ac ag oeddynt yn y dechreuad: Cadw unigolion a chymdeithasau Cymreig drwy'r hollfyd mewn cyffyrddiad â'u gilydd ac â'r Famwlad-a chynnal cadwyn sefydlog rhyngddynt. Y seremoni croeso yw un o'r symbolau cryfaf yn y gadwyn hon. Ai dyma'r gair olaf?

Fel Cymry Tramor, ymbiliwn yn daer am fywyd y seremoni croeso!!

Yn ddiffuant,

John O.Pritchard [Vancouver, Canada]
Arweinydd y Cymru Tramor yn
Eisteddfod Eryri a'r Cylch-2005

It is planned to send a second in April, to help the Welsh Presbyterian Church with its shortage of ministers. The Reverend Hmar Sangkhuma, who runs yoga classes for the elderly in Maesteg, near Bridgend, said many people in Wales were suffering from a "spiritual void". Many of the Mizos, who are believed to be ethnically Mongoloid and are hill-tribe people divided into a number of tribes, were converted into Christianity by the Welsh between 1840 and 1960.

at the college on 23 May 2006. If anyone in your society was a student or knows an ex-student please contact me

(Briant3@aol.com) or

springettecrew@aol.com Regards, Brian

DAFFODIL CROP MAY HELP TACKLE DEMENTIA

(James Meikle March 6 Guardian)

Farmers in Wales could soon be growing fields of Daffodils to provide a cheap source of a compound used in drugs to combat dementia. Studies carried out with the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, have been encouraging according to Professor Trevor Walker. "We were testing the theory that if we stressed the plants by growing them at altitude they would produce more of the plant alkaloid galanthamine, which has proven effective in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Tests showed that the compound was generally found in much higher levels in the daffodils grown at 1,400 feet compared with the same varieties planted in Pembrokeshire at sea level. Our elderly population will benefit by having this substance available to them at affordable prices. It will also help the local economy by giving Welsh hill farmers, some of whom are pretty desperate to eke out a living, something else to farm other than uplands oats or sheep."

TV DETECTIVES SOLVE MYSTERY OF LLYWELYN

(Molly Watts, Western Mail, Jan 30 2006)

This is the house claimed to be the royal palace of Llywelyn, the last Prince of Wales. Dating back to the 13th century, the house, Pen y Bryn, has long been established in local legend as the royal home of the Princes of Gwynedd, including Llywelyn ap Gruffudd (Ein Llyw Olaf), the last Welsh Prince of Wales. But a team of investigators has now managed to unearth conclusive proof that the property was once a royal residence. When Kathryn Gibson, 57, bought the house on the north coast of

Gwynedd, 18 years ago, it was advertised as a "manor house and chicken farm in need of renovation", but within a week of moving in, neighbours began to tell her about its royal reputation.

Although Cadw, the agency responsible for protecting historic monuments in Wales, has always cast doubt on such a claim, Mrs Gibson has devoted much of the past 18 years to verifying it. She managed to prove that Pen Y Bryn was the same residence as Garth Celyn, known to be the location from which Llywelyn wrote his last letters before he died. But it was only when she was joined by a team from the BBC series History Mysteries that she was able to find the proof she needed.



The team of three experts, Jonathan Foyle, Nick Barratt and Miranda Krestovnikoff examined the architecture, the surrounding countryside and archival evidence. They discovered that the house had been built on a medieval site, and that parts of the structure dated back to before the 1600s. But it was only when they visited the archives that they were able to find conclusive proof. Specialist archive researcher, Nick Barratt, uncovered documents, including one dating back to 1284, which showed that not only was Pen Y Bryn located on the same site as Llywelyn's palace but that it was the main manor house at the time, and so would have been Llywelyn's home.

Forthcoming Events

General Meeting

Wednesday April 12 at 7.30 pm

Sunday Service followed by Te Bach

May 14 at 11.00 am

Cambrian Circle Singers:

Friday April 21 at 7.00 pm Crescent Gardens 1222 King George Highway, White Rock

Thursday April 27 at 7.00 pm Blenheim Lodge, 3163 Blenheim @ 16th Avenue,

Fridays May 5/12 at 7.30 Rehearsals

Vancouver Orpheus Male Voice Choir

Saturday April 22 at 7.30 pm Joint concert with Nota Bene, West Vancouver United Church, 2062 Esquimalt Avenue, West Vancouver.

Saturday April 29 Nelson and Sunday April 30 Trail. Spring Tour to the Kootenays.

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir:

Thursday May 4 at 7.30 pm Benefit Concert for the South Delta University Women's Club, South Delta Secondary School, 750 53rd Street, Tsawwassen.

Advance Notice: Society Golf Tourney

The Welsh Society Golf Tournament will take place once again at Poppy Estate Golf Course in Aldergrove on Saturday July 15th. Please contact Gwyn Evans 604-271-3134 or Tecwyn Roberts 604-464-2760 to reserve your place. Keep this date in your calendar.

The Rogers Building (Chuck Davis Feb 27 Vancouver Sun)

On February 27, 1912, The Vancouver Sun reported on a big new office structure in town, the Rogers Building, named after its developer, Jonathan Rogers from the Ceiriog Valley (one of the founders of our Cambrian Hall). The handsome building is still there on the northeast corner of Granville & Pender, clad in white terra cotta. The building was the first major structure in Vancouver built of reinforced concrete; no steel was used. Fifteen carloads of enameled terra cotta came from Chicago, ornamental iron from Minneapolis and five elevators "with all the latest improvements" purchased in Toronto. "In England nearly sixty thousand feet of cork flooring and nearly sixty thousand feet of linoleum was bought" Eight thousand barrels of California cement was used and the interior was finished in oak and bronze. "It will be seen," said The Sun, "that it takes a good bank balance to erect a building of this kind." Fifteen years later in 1927 Rogers sold the building for one million dollars, the city's largest real estate sale to date. "I feel I'm parting with an old friend," he said.

