

Ebrill 1997



April 1997

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



GWISGLADAW CYMREIG - MODE OF CARRYING INFANTS.

CIRCA - 1800

Reply Form
Seventh Annual Pacific Northwest Welsh Weekend
 Salem, Oregon April 18-20, 1997

☛ *Local participants: even if you aren't going to register and just want to buy a few tickets, please use this form— it will help keep us organized.*
 ☛ *Participants from farther off: we ask that you make your own HOTEL RESERVATIONS by calling the Ramada Inn, Salem, OR at (800) 2-RAMADA or (503) 363-4123 before March 31 and mentioning the code-name WELSH WEEKEND.*

Participant No. 1 (please print)

Name:
 Address:
 City:
 State/Province:
 Postal Code:
 Telephone: ()

Registration Fee: \$US 5/\$Can 6.50 ... _____
 Noson Lawen: \$8/\$10 _____
 Winery tour: \$25/\$33 _____
 Concert: \$10/\$13 _____
 Te Bach: \$3/\$4 _____
 Gymanfa Ganu: FREE yes/no
 Ysgol Gân: FREE yes/no

Participant No. 2 (please print)

Name:
 Address:
 City:
 State/Province:
 Postal Code:
 Telephone: ()

Registration Fee: \$5/\$6.50 _____
 Noson Lawen: \$8/\$10 _____
 Winery tour: \$25/\$33 _____
 Concert: \$10/\$13 _____
 Te Bach: \$3/\$4 _____
 Gymanfa Ganu: FREE yes/no
 Ysgol Gân: FREE yes/no

Total: *(please circle currency)* \$US/\$Can _____

Total: *(please circle currency)* \$US/\$Can _____

Please make your check payable to PNWGGGA WELSH WEEKEND 7 and return it with this form, as soon as you can, to:

PNWGGGA WELSH WEEKEND 7/ SUZANNE PARVEY, TREAS./ 8222 NE WASCO/ PORTLAND, OR 97220

who will mail you a confirmation.

After April 8, no tickets will be sold by mail; they must be purchased at the door.

Dance Group

Dancers meet every Thursday at 7.30p.m. at the Cambrian Hall.

New members and guests are welcomed.

Welsh Lessons

The Welsh lessons continue every Monday night. Recently the class obtained new tapes which have proved a great boon. Pam is so enthralled that she has ventured into the ethereal realms of Welsh poetry!!

Cambrian Circle Singers

Schedule of Events:-

Mar. 19—rehearsal at 8p.m.

**Mar. 26—at 26 Buchanan
Sunset Lodge, New.West.**

Apr. 4—rehearsal at 8 p.m.

Apr. 11— “ “

Apr 16 — “ “

Apr 23 — “ “

May 2 /9/16 “ “

NAMES

Names are not always what they seem. The common Welsh name Bzjxxlwcp is pronounced Jackson.

From Mark Twain's book—Following the Equator , 1897 , vol 1.

OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM

Our beloved national anthem was written in 1856 by Evan and John James from Pontypridd, but it was not until 1866 at the National Eisteddfod at Chester that it was adopted as such.

Attending that event was the noted English poet, Matthew Arnold who was moved by the passion with which it was sung, that he remarked : 'when I see the enthusiasm these Eisteddfodds [sic] awaken in your whole people.....I am filled with admiration.'

A WELSH FIRST

The first self-propelled locomotive ever to run on rails was built by Richard Trevithick and demonstrated over 9 miles with a 10-ton load and 70 passengers in Penydarren , Glamorgan, Wales, on Feb 21,1804.

NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

The first **National** Eisteddfod was held in **Aberdare** in 1861. However, smaller local eisteddfodau had been in existence since earlier times—called almanac eisteddfodau. Formal eisteddfodau were held after 1789 and were the beginnings of an expression of popular culture unsurpassed anywhere in Europe.

Obituary

We were saddened to learn of the demise of Mrs. Olive David on March 3, 1997. Born in LLanelli, she emigrated to Canada with her family when she was around 10 years old, and settled in Bangor, Saskatchewan in 1920. The family re-located to Vancouver in 1929.

Mrs. David enlisted in the RCAF during World War 2 and served in Canada.

She was an honorary life member of the Welsh Society of Vancouver, and a faithful and generous member of its W.A. section ; and also a frequent attendee at the Welsh Sunday service until she was stricken by chronic ill-health during her latter years.

Olive was present at the opening of our Cambrian Hall.

We mourn her passing and honour her memory.

MAELGWYN MALE VOICE CHOIR

This choir, which is making its North American debut at the Tenth Avenue Alliance Church, Vancouver on March 18 next, was formed in 1970. They have already given over 900 concerts in the U.K., the Netherlands , Germany and Ireland, and they were the first Welsh male voice choir to give a concert tour of Israel and Greece. A number of radio programmes have been recorded for the BBC as well as several televised programmes from the cathedrals of Bangor, Chester and Liverpool. They have also hosted two Canadian choirs—one from Cornwall, Ontario and the other from Quebec.

**Please diarize this date—Sunday March 18th, 1997
In connection with the above event we have been fortunate, through the good offices of Veronica Gilder, in securing the risers of the Richmond Singers of which she is a member. They are kept in the Broadmoor Baptist Church in Richmond and we need some kindly soul to donate his/ her van or pick-up to ferry them back and forth from the concert's venue.**

Any Volunteer?

ST. DAVID'S DAY

March blew in like a lion but that did not deter the intrepid Welsh who came out in full force to honor St. David on his day.

Preparations started the day before, when a working party arrived at the Hall bearing armloads of Forsythia, Boxwood, Laurel and Daffodils and began filling bud vases for the tables. Other vases were loaded to be put on the stage, yellow candles were put in their holders and coasters were put on the downstairs tables in readiness for after the banquet. The punch bowl was set out for the Head Table guests and everything was dusted to within an inch of its life.

Meanwhile the men were working in the Upper Hall setting up the tables and arranging the chairs. The more agile were up ladders hanging the pictures of daffodils, flags and sprays of daffodils tied with yellow ribbons. The tables were then set with white cloths, bud vases of daffodils and forsythia, and yellow candles. Paul Lievesley set up the sound system and everyone sat back to admire their efforts.

Many thanks to the following hard workers: Gaynor and Jeff Owen, Bev and Gord Thomas, Llinos and John Pritchard, Margaret Parry, Margaret Monck, Don Murray, Paul Lievesley and Jerry de Kova. Also thanks to Betty and Milt Morgan, who came to the Hall Sunday to help with the final clean up, and to all those willing souls, too numerous to mention, who helped put away the tables and chairs after the banquet.

THE ST. DAVID'S DAY DINNER

The Annual St. David's Dinner was held March 1st in the Cambrian Hall of the Vancouver Welsh Society. The Guest of Honour was Mr. Fraser Wheeler, Deputy British Consul General, and Mrs. Sarah Wheeler.

The Head Table entered to the tune Men of Harlech led by Ann Roberts, Chairperson for the evening. At the Head Table in addition, were Jeff Owen, President of the Society, Sarah Wheeler, Peter Byrne, Gaynor Owen, Fraser Wheeler, Jane Byrne, Gordon Thomas and Beverly Thomas.

The Blessing was asked by John Pritchard. We then enjoyed a full roast beef dinner, starting with Leek Soup and ending with Strawberry Shortcake.

Ann Roberts called upon Mr. Wheeler to propose the toast to the Queen, followed by God Save The Queen.

The Head Table was introduced followed by greetings from kindred Societies. These came from Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Brunei, Singapore, Regina, Toronto, Seattle, Gwenfyl Jones a Life Member now living in Wales, Ann and Derek Jones, who were traveling in Australia and a phone call from Mary Slaney, our Secretary, who is presently in Wales.

The toast to Canada was proposed by Beverly Thomas, followed by O Canada.

David Tuck then sang in Welsh, accompanied by Enid Lewis, two beautiful songs to put us in the mood for what was to follow--the Toast to Wales, given eloquently by Jane Byrne, after which the rafters rang with Hen Wlad fy Nhadau.

David entertained with more Welsh singing, and there was many a lump in a Welsh throat and a moistness in the eye as the familiar words were sung.

At last it was our turn under the experienced leadership of Nerys Haqq. After a far too short community sing, Jeff Owen gave the closing announcements.

Special thanks were extended to the family of Sally Hight for the beautiful floral centerpiece that graced the Head Table in Sally's memory. Thanks also to the members of the W.A. who donated the daffodils which were on the tables and around the Hall.

The formalities being over, we all descended to the lower Hall for the Leek Eating Ceremony, ably conducted by Rob Barclay, Neville Thomas, Alan Jones and Jeff Owen. More singing followed and the evening eventually wound down. Everyone agreed that St. David's Day had been properly celebrated.

The Welsh Society acknowledges and thanks Mr. Eric Davies, of Queen's Park Meat Market, New Westminster for his gift voucher as a door prize at the last St. David's Dinner. The lucky winner was Mrs. Llinos Pritchard.

ANNUAL GOLF MATCH

The proposed date for the annual match between South Wales and North Wales is Saturday, June 21st next. The South Walians are already using psychological tactics to try and unnerve the North, but to no avail. The fate of the South is sealed and indeed the 21st will be their "longest day". (I am sure that Bob Marsh will have something to say contrary to this in the next newsletter.)

**Welsh Patagonian Charles Lewis Evans to celebrate 105th Birthda
March 30 ,1997**

Born 30th March,1892 in Chubut , Patagonia , Republica Argentina the son of Thomas Lewis Evans of Menai Bridge, North Wales and Catherine Davies. (Thomas left for Chubut as a very young man from South Wales.) Charles was 9 when he left Argentina with his parents and settled in Bangor, Sasketchewan. See "In Search of the Red Dragon" and "The Welsh in Canada" by Carol Bennett, published by Juniper Books Ltd,1985.

Charles and Vi Olsen were married in 1949 in Vancouver and had 3 children. Vi passed away in 1991 and Charles has been retired happily in a seniors' residence with frequent visits from family and many many relatives within driving distances.

In 1992, relatives from Ontario, Manitoba, the Western Provinces and the Lower Mainland had a celebration for his 100th birthday with about 90 people gathering in a New Westminster-Coquitlam community hall, including many who had grown up with Charles in Bangor, Sask.

His daughter, Cathy, reports that he seems to be in reasonably good health and that he was out fishing with friends last summer.

A Welsh Tea (te bach) is planned for March 30th at his residence's reception hall to celebrate his 105th birthday.

Submitted by Gordon Coslett Thomas.

Editor of March Newsletter : Gwilym Evans

A SNIPPET OF WELSH HISTORY

In 1883 Lewis Jones and Love Jones-Parry visited Argentina to explore the feasibility of establishing there a Welsh settlement . In Buenos Aires, Guillermo Rawson, the Minister of the Interior, offered them a tract of land and promised that *Y Wladfa Gymreig* (The Welsh Colony) would be recognized as one of the states of Argentina when its population reached twenty thousand. This promise was not ratified by the Congress of Argentina because of the fears that the British would use the presence of the Welsh as an excuse to seize Patagonia, as they had seized the Malvinas (the Falkland Islands) in 1833.

Excerpt from " A History of Wales " by John Davies.

MEMBERSHIP

I am pleased to report that renewals are coming in steadily and we are now at 122 and climbing. A renewal form is included in this Newsletter. Many thanks to Tony Tonack, who often delivers my mail as he passes the house. I am sure that he is just as glad to see them coming in as I am.

Beverly Thomas,
Membership Secretary.

Annual MEMBERSHIP Renewals

Name : _____
Address : _____
City : _____
Postal Code : _____ Phone No. () _____ - _____

Please:- Cheques or money orders payable to:
"THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER"

Membership:-	Regular	\$35.00	Family (Mbr & Spouse)	\$60.00
(Circle One)	Seniors	\$20.00	Out-of-Town (50 miles or more).	\$20.00

Send renewals to:- Membership Secretary
Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Ave.
Vancouver, B.C. V5V 1A6
ph. (604) 876-2815

W.A. REPORT

The main focus of the W.A. meeting in February was the cleaning of the Trophy Cases. A work party consisting of Gaynor Owen, Gladys Evans, Gwen Tonack, Beverly Thomas, Betty Morgan, Joan Wilkinson and Veronica Gilder dusted, cleaned and polished until the cases shone ready for St. David's Day.

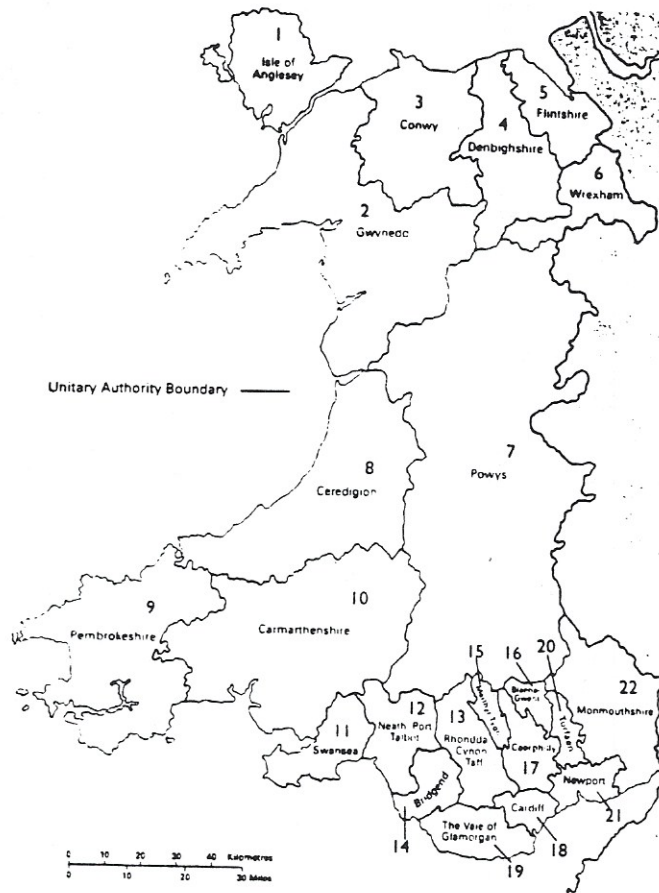
At the meeting following, we voted unanimously to donate the Daffodils for the St. David's Day Dinner. The meeting was chaired by Beverly Thomas in the absence of Ann Jones, who was travelling in Australia.

Hostesses for the March 19th meeting are Gladys Evans and Phyllis Owens. As Always, we invite any interested ladies to join us. The meeting starts with lunch, (bring your own brown bag, we supply tea or coffee) followed by a business meeting.

NEW MAP OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WALES

CLIVE JAMES, Chief Policy Officer, Gwynedd Council, gives his personal view of the recent history of Local Government re-organisation and explains the new unfamiliar map of Wales.

WALES: UNITARY AUTHORITIES
CYMRU: AWDURDODAU UNEDOL



- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Sir Ynys Môn | 12 Castell-nedd, Port Talbot |
| 2 Gwynedd | 13 Rhondda Cynon Taf |
| 3 Conwy | 14 Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr |
| 4 Sir Ddinbych | 15 Merthyr Tudful |
| 5 Sir y Fflint | 16 Blaenau Gwent |
| 6 Wrexham | 17 Caerffili |
| 7 Powys | 18 Caerdydd |
| 8 Sir Ceredigion | 19 Bro Morgannwg |
| 9 Sir Benfro | 20 Tor-faen |
| 10 Sir Gaerfyrddin | 21 Casnewydd |
| 11 Abertawe | 22 Sir Fynwy |

THE FIRST DAY OF April 1996 saw the map of local government in Wales changed again, a mere twenty two years after the reorganisation in 1974.

Local government as we know it today in Wales, where salaried officers serve councils composed of directly elected councillors, dates back only just over a hundred years. In 1888 the thirteen 'historic' counties of Wales, which dated back to the Middle Ages, became directly elected bodies. Eight years later other more local non-elected bodies were replaced by a patchwork of municipal boroughs, urban districts and rural districts, all with their own councillors and officers.

This pattern lasted until 1974 when the now familiar pattern of eight 'county' councils and thirty seven 'district' (or 'borough') councils took over. Those in rural Wales had splendid Welsh names - Clwyd, Gwynedd, Dyfed and Powys; Monmouthshire was legally incorporated into Wales as 'Gwent', while populous Glamorgan was split into 'West', 'Mid' and 'South'. These county councils were responsible for functions such as education, social services, fire services, strategic planning, highways, civil defence and trading standards. The district/borough councils were responsible for more local functions such as local planning matters, environmental health, housing, parks and leisure facilities, refuse collection and disposal.

Based on the principles that the counties were too large and remote, the districts too small and under-resourced and that the public were confused as to whether their local county or district council was responsible for a specific function, all were swept away. They have been replaced by twenty-three 'unitary' or 'all purpose' authorities. While old 'historic counties' such as Anglesey, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion (now called by its even more historic Welsh name - Ceredigion) have been reinstated more or less as they were pre 1974, the so-called new Monmouthshire, Denbighshire and Flintshire are but shadows of their former size. Powys, comprising the former Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire and Breconshire, has the largest surface area, while most of Merionethshire was put with half of Caernarfonshire to form, 'Caernarfonshire and Merionethshire', now mercifully renamed as 'Gwynedd'.

In industrial South Wales gerrymandering has linked the coastal dormitory villages south of Bridgend with Barry under the name 'Vale of Glamorgan'. The new Caerphilly straddles the historic Glamorgan/Gwent (Monmouthshire) border. Rhondda Cynon Taf is an amorphous mixture of once proud mining valleys. Neath Port Talbot stretches from Lower Brynaman in the north to Margam in the south. The former anthracite coalfield communities of west Wales are dispersed among four councils - Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Powys.

If the concept was unitary local government, their titles are all but uniform. The new councils may be entitled a 'county borough council', 'county council', 'city and county council', or just 'council'. Confusing? Yes, but their powers are all the same. As a result of local government reorganisation two important functions were lost to autonomous authorities - the fire service and the three national parks of Wales. The only authorities to come through unscathed were the multitude of community (and town) councils, which prior to 1974 were called parish councils.

The argument against an all-Wales elected body with legislative and, possibly, tax raising powers based on 'overgovernment' is now non-existent. Like Scotland, Wales has now only one principal tier of local government, whereas most of England retains the two-tier system. The only obstacle that now stands between Wales and its first ever directly elected all Wales body is the political will of the government after the forthcoming general election. Wales is not overgoverned, it merely lacks its own government.

April 1997

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			07:30 Exec Mtg	Folk Dancing	Cambrian Circle Singers	08:30 Red Dragon Open
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	07:30 Welsh Lessons		07:30 Gen'l Mtg	Folk Dancing 7:30	Cambrian Circle Singers	08:30 Red Dragon Open
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
11:00 Church Service			12:00 (Noon) W. A. 07:30 Cambrian Circle Singers	Welsh Night Folk Dancing 7:30	PNWGG Salem, OR Welsh Wkend	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	07:30 Welsh Lessons		07:30 Cambrian Circle Singers	Folk Dancing 7:30		08:30 Red Dragon Open
27	28	29	30			
	07:30 Welsh Lessons		07:30 Cambrian Circle Singers			

Cymdeithas Cymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society
 Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Vancouver, B. C.
 V5V 1A6 Telephone:- (604) 876-2815