

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Ebrill
2010

April
2010

Society Newsletter - Fylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



*President John Morris acknowledging the eleven years of service as
Former President by Jeff Owen.*

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

VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

Officers:

President:

John Morris

Vice-President:

Lynn Owens-Whalen

Secretary:

Elizabeth Williams Wallace

Treasurer:

Gaynor Evans

Membership Secretary:

Mark Jones

Immediate Past President:

Jane Byrne

Directors:

Heather Davies

Mary Lewis

Gethin Owen

Alcwyn Rogers

Eifion Williams

Contacts

Building Committee:

Lynn Owens-Whalen

Cambrian Circle Singers:

Nerys Haqq

Church Service:

John Cann

Welsh Speaking Group:

Gwilym Evans

Rentals:

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Social Events Committee:

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Webmaster:

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(front page photo by Uta Williams)

The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

Sadly we learnt that Graham Rees, the motive force for many years together with his wife Gaynor, of the Mid-Island Welsh Society in Nanaimo, passed away. Our society, through our President, sent a message of condolence.

This issue contains a report on our St. David's Dinner and related items and also the very commendable initiative to include the Welsh in the Valley. I lack a report on our own March 1st celebration but I understand it was well attended and if previous years' events are any guide, Neville Thomas' organization would have guaranteed a jovial evening.

We have a feast of Eisteddfodau on the horizon. Especially interesting is the new Ninnau one by mail. In the past members have performed well in competitions – so now's your chance again! The poem entitled "The native never returns" is close to the theme of Eifion Williams' Toast to Wales! There are also some interesting essay topics and I look forward to seeing our members in the winners circle! There is a traditional Eisteddfod at the North American Festival of Wales (www.nafow.org). The Festival is full of interesting events and offers a very attractive way to spend September 2-5.

For those despairing of Rugby, Swansea City visits Cardiff City on Sat. April 3rd.

Thanks to Alice Roberts for the poem by R.S. Thomas

David Llewelyn Williams

Remember the General Meeting and also the Spring Sale!

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday April 7th. at 7:30 pm
Executive Meeting

Sunday April 11th at 10:00 am
Dysgu Cymraeg – Learn Welsh
An introduction to the Welsh language following the BBC Wales study guides. Call Elizabeth at 778-837-6458 for information.

Sunday April 11th at 11:00 am
Bilingual Church Service
followed by a **Tê Bach**.

Monday April 19th at 10:30am
Welsh Speaking Group

Monday April 12th at 7.30 pm
GENERAL MEETING

Monday April 26th from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm. **Work Party Day** Volunteers welcome; lunch will be provided

Wednesday May 5th at 7.30 pm
Executive Meeting

Saturday May 8th at 7:30 pm
Social evening at the Red Dragon.
Please phone or check the website later for details.

Sunday May 9th at 10:00 am
Dysgu Cymraeg – Learn Welsh

Sunday May 9th at 11:00 am
Bilingual Church Service
followed by a **Tê Bach**.

Monday May 17th. at 10:30am
Welsh Speaking Group

Monday May 24th from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm. **Work Party Day** Volunteers welcome; lunch will be provided.

Grand Spring Sale
Saturday April 24th.
(Please note change of date.)

The stalls will include,
- Home made Welsh baking and preserves
- Collectibles
- China
- Pre-owned Books
- CDs and Videos
- Linens and Jewelry
- Children's Wear and Toys
- A "White Elephant" stall
- A "Things Welsh" stall

Please consider how you would like to contribute to the sale. Volunteers are needed before the sale and on the day. Please let us know if you have a sale item worth \$25 or more as we plan to hold a silent auction. Members of the Social Committee will be at the Hall to receive sale items at the following times:
- Sunday April 11th at the Bilingual Service.
- Monday April 12th at 6:30 pm before the General Meeting
- Tuesday April 20th from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm.
- Friday April 23rd. from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm.

Pick-up can be arranged if necessary. Contact Gillian (604 742-1378) or Pat (604 536-9556) for more details. See poster on last page for details.

Photos from the St. David's Dinner on February 27th.

We held a most convivial gathering at the Cambrian Hall to celebrate our patron saint. After a welcome from our President, John Morris and a blessing on our meal in Welsh and English by Gwilym and Irene Evans respectively, we enjoyed our tasty dinner, catered again with customary skill by Jordans.



Our Secretary, Elizabeth Williams Wallace brought us greetings from other Welsh societies and organizations around the world. Notably absent was a message from the First Minister for Wales, since Rhodri Morgan had retired. We were then entertained by Jonathan Quick, admirably singing two Welsh classics, *Myfanwy* and *Unwaith eto Nghymru Annwyl*.



Gethin Owen gave the Toast to Canada speaking in both English and Welsh. We followed by singing *O Canada*.



Eifion Williams gave the Toast to Wales and humorously reflected on the Wales of his childhood which was no longer there. "But you can take it with you!" We then sang *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau*.



The Toast to St. David was presented by Lynn Owens-Whalen who told us many historical facts and fables about his life.



After another song by Jonathan Quick, David Llewelyn Williams introduced the song *Cenwch y Clychau i Dewi* created by Gwenno Dafydd for the Annual St. David's Day Procession in Cardiff and now adopted as the Official Song (see September 2009 Newsletter for details).



Elizabeth Williams Wallace bravely volunteered to teach us the song to allow us to feel at one with those in Wales on this occasion. She had prepared a hand-out documenting the history of the song and of the Pembrokeshire Banner carried in the Procession. So Elizabeth sang the verses about Dewi and we learnt to sing the chorus!



To conclude the program, Lynn Owens-Whalen led us in Community Singing with Ray Batten providing the piano accompaniment.



Before his closing remarks, President John Morris specifically recognized Jeff Owen who had served the society as its President for 11 years.



He then thanked all who had participated in making the evening a success and asked all able bodied members to assist with removing the furniture to make the Hall ready for its next occupant.



Thanks to Gwyn Evans for the first and last photographs. The others were taken by Uta Williams.

D.L.I.W.

Thank You

To the members of the Welsh Society I would like to say Thank You for the acknowledgement I received for my time served as president. I was caught a bit off guard at the Saint David's Day banquet and was remiss in saying thank you at that time. I would like to say a special Thank You to the one person who made it all possible, my wife Gaynor.

Although I was surrounded by hard working people, it was Gaynor that made it possible for me to carry on. She was my administrator, my social secretary, my telephone communication committee, my catering expert, my event coordinator and my connection to the membership, especially the seniors.

Gaynor, I could not have managed without you.

Jeff

Prayer to the Hockey Gods

Our Father, who art in GM Place, hockey be thy name. Thy will be done, GOLD to be WON on ICE as well as IN THE STANDS. Give us this day, our hockey sticks, and forgive us our penalties, as we forgive those who crosscheck against us. Lead us not into elimination, but deliver us to victory, in the name of the fans, CANADA, and the HOLY PUCK. AMEN!

This was read by Tim Savage at our St. David's Dinner. Clearly the prayer was answered!

News from the Welsh in the Valley

On March 6th 2010, our fledgling group of Welsh in the Fraser Valley enjoyed a truly memorable meal to celebrate St. David's Day, at the Rain Bar and Grill in Abbotsford. Chef Robert and Bethany, our server, produced succulent roast lamb, cooked to perfection, preceded by delicious leek soup and followed by apple pie.

Our private dining area was decorated with Welsh flags and daffodils. Strains of *Men of Harlech* and *Cwm Rhondda* completed the ambience! Thank you to Chris the owner and to Ron Baker the manager for an evening to remember. If you would like to join our group on future occasions, or if you are home-bound and would appreciate a friendly visit, please contact Mary Slaney 604-888-6563 or Pat Morris, 604-536-9556, or email: patriciamorris2186@hotmail.com.

THE SMALL WINDOW

In Wales there are jewels
To gather, but with the eye
Only. A hill lights up
Suddenly; a field trembles
With colour and goes out
In its turn. In one day
You can witness the extent
Of the spectrum and grow rich
With looking. Have care;
The wealth is for the few
And chosen. Those who crowd
A small window dirty it
With their breathing, though sublime
And inexhaustible the view.

R S Thomas

Gareth Prytherch ar Radio Cymru

In late January, I was contacted by BBC Cymru, who wished to contact Gareth with a view to interviewing him about his experiences as a Prisoner of War during the Second World War. After talking to Gareth, I passed on his contact information and in due course he went to the studio downtown to be interviewed. On the morning of Sunday, March 14th, I was suffering from the 'flu so I didn't attend our Church Service. Instead I was able to listen to Dei Tomos' 5.30 pm Sunday program on Radio Cymru which played at 10.30 am our time. Soon I could hear Gareth being interviewed about his very interesting experiences. You too can hear the interview since Alwyn has put it on the website. But for those of you linguistically challenged, you can find an account in English by Gareth on the war archive site http://www.pegasusarchive.org/pow/gareth_prytherch.htm This site also includes a photograph of a reunion between Gareth and two of his closest comrades, one from England and one from Brittany, and a painting of Gareth as a prisoner by a Dutch POW artist which now belongs to the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. Dei Tomos did not include all that Gareth told him and some of us remember the Sgwrs by Gareth at the Sunday Service in November 2005 where he exhorted us not to categorize people. He told of the kindness of the German mother who prepared a meal for him when he was first captured and brought it to his cell at considerable personal risk. He contrasted that to the Welsh Nationalist who worked as an enemy agent with the Red Cross since he believed it offered the best chance of freedom for Wales. Gareth's memories offer a rare glimpse at a detailed

personal human level into the war and can be read time and time again.

D.L.I.W.

After being interviewed by the school administration, the prospective teacher said:

'Let me see if I've got this right.

'You want me to go into that room with all those kids, correct their disruptive behavior, observe them for signs of abuse, monitor their dress habits, censor their T-shirt messages, and instill in them a love for learning.

'You want me to check their backpacks for weapons, wage war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, and raise their sense of self esteem and personal pride.

'You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship, sportsmanship and fair play, and how to register to vote, balance a checkbook, and apply for a job.

'You want me to check their heads for lice, recognize signs of antisocial behavior, and make sure that they all pass the final exams.

'You also want me to provide them with an equal education regardless of their handicaps, and communicate regularly with their parents in English, Spanish or any other language, by letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card.

'You want me to do all this with a piece of chalk, a blackboard, a bulletin board, a few books, a big smile, and a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps.

'You want me to do all this and then you tell me. . . I CAN'T PRAY?

(Thanks to John Cann for sending this!)

**First Annual Ninnau & Y Drych
Eisteddfod by Mail**

(Deadline June 1, 2010)

History Competition

Y DRYCH PRIZE

Write an essay entitled "The relationship between the Welsh in North America and the Welsh in Patagonia between 1850 and the beginning of World War I." (10,000 words maximum)

Music Competitions

GREAT PLAINS WELSH

HERITAGE CENTRE PRIZE Write an arrangement of a Welsh folk tune(s) of your choosing for mixed voice choir.

TORONTO ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY PRIZE Write an arrangement of a Welsh folk tune(s) of your choosing for instrument(s) with or without accompaniment by another instrument.

THE WELSH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

PRIZE Write a piano composition based on a Welsh legend or Welsh folk tale.

Literature Competitions

UNDEB CYMRU A'R BYD PRIZES

1. Write two verses in Welsh to the hymn-tune 'Blodwen'.
2. Write two verses in English to the hymn-tune 'Blodwen'.

(These new words will be sung at a Gymanfa session in Portland.)

NINNAU PRIZE Write an essay in Welsh about a person who has influenced your appreciation of your Welsh heritage. (1500 words max.)

DAFYDD WIGLEY PRIZE

Write an essay in Welsh or English entitled "Wales as an Independent Nation." (1500 words maximum)

RHIANNON & LARRY ACREE PRIZE Write a poem in English or Welsh entitled "The native never returns."

**Winners will be announced at the NAFOW in Portland, Sept. 2-5, 2010
Contact Mary Morris Mergenthal,
mary.mergenthal@comcast.net for
details of conditions & registration.**

Dear David,

I have just begun a project I believe will be of interest to your membership. I am working in partnership with Ohio based lovespoon carver Laura (Jenkins) Gorun to design and craft this year's Left Coast Eisteddfod spoon. The second running of this annual event, this year's Left Coast Eisteddfod will be held in Portland, Oregon on October 3-10. And if that isn't enough Welsh-related excitement, you could win this love-spoon!! All donors to the Left Coast Eisteddfod will be eligible to win the spoon when a draw is held for it during Eisteddfod events. Laura and I will be blogging our progress as we design and carve the spoon and we are hoping that it will be of interest to Welsh society members across North America. If you've ever wanted to learn more about the love-spoon and watch one being created, here's your opportunity! Please go to www.davidwestern.blogspot.com to follow the creation of the Left Coast Lovespoon Mark 2.

To learn more about the Left Coast Eisteddfod, to enter its many exciting competitions or donate to it, please visit: <http://americymru.ning.com/page/the-left-coast-eisteddfod-2010>

On behalf of Laura and the Left Coast Eisteddfod, I thank you for your consideration,
With best wishes,
Dave Western
www.davidwesternlovespoons.com
<http://www.blakespa.com>



The Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Avenue

Grand Spring Sale

April 24th from 11am till 3pm

- Collectibles
 - China
 - "Things Welsh"
 - Books, CD's and Videos
 - Silent Auction
 - Welsh baking
 - Linens and Jewellery
 - Kitchenware
 - "White Elephant"
 - Children's wear and toys
 - Prizes
 - Preserves
-

Refreshments will be served in our Tea Room.

www.WelshSociety.com

Phone: 604 876-2815