Ebrill i Mai 1995

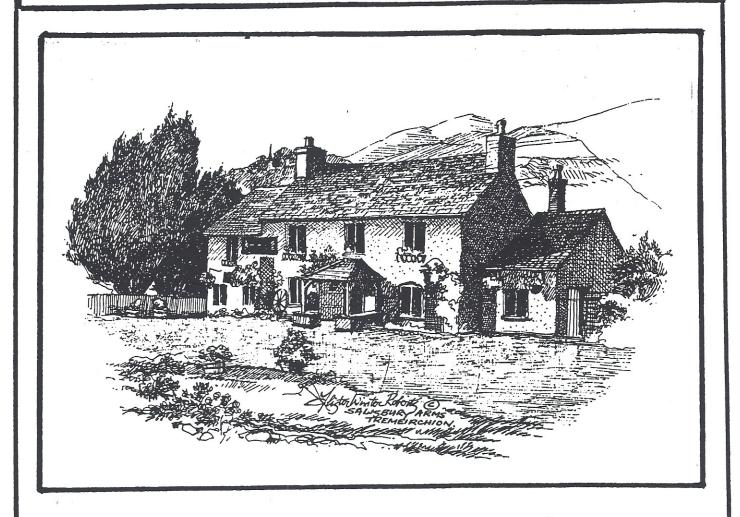


April to May

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver.



Welsh Society Rewsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



Membership Report

I am pleased to report that as of the end of March, we have 138 paid-up members - 24 more than last year at this time.

However, the down-side is that I have yet to hear from 36 of last year's members. I will soon be sending notices to remind those of you who may have forgotten and I look forward to lots of quick replies. There are interesting events coming up in the next several months. You will be wanting to have your bulletins and we appreciate your support.

The Society extends a welcome to new members:-

Ken Jones, White Rock.
Aldine & Edward Madsen, Vancouver.
Ann & Ron Watkins, California.
Wesley Bevan, Vancouver.
Mary and Eric Davies, Delta.
Laura Powell, Surrey.

Beverly Thomas, Membership Secretary.

40th Anniversary Celebration

We were honoured to have two people from California visit with us for a spell.

They are Anne and Ron Watkins - originally from Wales - and whilst they were here, they decided to become members.

Also, they celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary and kindly brought a beautiful cake to the Red Dragon one Saturday night, so that their new friends in the Welsh Society could share in the celebration.

We say congratulations Anne & Ron - who are now back in California -and may you have many more happy years together, from all of us here at the Vancouver Welsh Society.

Membership Renewal

Name	•		
Address	:		
City	:	Postal	Code:
Phone No.	:(
Please make	e your cheques or money orders payabl	e to: "The Welsh Soci	ety of Vancouver".
	nembership renewals to: erly Thomas	Type of Membership	(Circle one)
Men	nbership Secretary	Regular: \$35.00	Family: \$60.00
	brian Hall, 215 East 17th Ave. couver B.C., V5V 1A6.	Seniors: \$20.00	*Out-of-Town: \$20.00

*Living a minimum of 80 kilometres/50 miles outside the city of Vancouver.

Fees on new memberships are pro-rated from July onwards



2

Women's Auxiliary

Our March meeting was well attended and we were pleased to welcome back Ms. Bertha Miller for the first time since her hospitalisation.

Further plans for our fund raiser, which we hold once annually, were discussed. This year, Savoury Sandwiches, Welsh Cakes and fancy cakes will be served for tea.

A variety of goodies have been promised by our hard working members - both for the Bake Stall and Tea; the Handicraft Stall will also carry well-made useful and decorative items, but further contributions would be most welcome.

We are also needing bottled items of any sort for our Bottle Stall – get rid of that perfume you don't like, which was a Christmas gift – shampoo, etc that you may be allergic to – food items like sauces etc. are also fine and will be gratefully received.

Many of you may wish to contribute to our funds but cannot attend the Tea and are too busy to bake - cash donations can be sent by mail to the Cambrian Hall or given to any member of the W.A.

Some may wonder how the funds raised are spent - they are spent to the benefit of all members of the Society through donations to the Building Committee for materials to improve and maintain the Cambrian Hall, which all sections of the Society use - and by donations to the Piano Fund, the Children's Christmas Party and by buying replacement and new equipment for use in the kitchen.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Lower Cambrian Hall, 2-4 p.m., Saturday, April 22nd.

Mrs. Enid Lewis will be playing suitable music throughout the afternoon so you will get a feast for your ears as well as a delicious tea and the chance to buy homemade items. Please mark your calendars.

Anne G. Jones, W. A. President.

Church Service



A non-denominational service, for both English and Welsh speakers, is held on the second Sunday of each month.

A light lunch is served afterward.

Footnote: Thanks go to the ladies and gentlemen who work hard to provide this event and the refreshments also.

A Darling Deal!

If there are any doll collectors in the Welsh Society, they may be interested in some "Welsh Dolls" that are for sale.

There are four dolls altogether, in perfect condition with hand-knitted costumes. They were made in Wales about 25 years ago. Cost for each doll is \$20.

Anyone who would like to buy one or all of these dolls should call the following number 943-5955.

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Design Showroom & Craftsmen's Workshop 1 – 11180 River Road (at Shell Road) Richmond, B.C. V6X 1Z5 Telephone: (604) 278-8247 Fax: (604) 278-4040



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St. David's Day Banquet

The more formal celebration of Gwyl Dewi Sant took place in the Cambrian Hall on Saturday, March 4th. This is the third consecutive year that the banquet has been held in the Hall reviving a tradition from the 1930's. The decorations looked spectacular with y Ddraig Goch and the Maple Leaf hanging beside the banners made by Phyllis and Ken Owens, which many of you may have seen at the National Gymanfa Ganu in Bellevue, Washington. A shield which reads "Gwyl Dewi Sant" had been unearthed from our collection of artifacts by Eirlys Ann Thomas who also took photographs to capture the 1995 banquet for posterity. There were daffodils on each table and a lovely arrangement of daffodils and leeks at the head table.

The guests of honour were Mr. Brian Austin, British Consul General and Mrs. Austin. The chairman for the evening was Mr. Ellis Griffiths who kept us entertained with his inimitable amusing stories. Grace was said by Mrs. Anne G. Jones, Vice President of the Society. A delicious dinner was served by Jordan's Caterers who deserve a medal for managing in our "heritage" kitchen and up and down the circa 1929 back staircase!

After dinner, the Toast to Her Majesty the Queen was given by the British Consul General followed by the singing of God Save the Queen. Mrs. Gaynor Evans, Secretary, read greetings from kindred societies from all corners of the globe. The Toast to Canada was given by Dr. Irene Evans who spoke of a multicultural nation much enriched immigrants from Wales, along with so many others and I was deeply honoured to give the Toast to Wales. Mrs. Enid Lewis played the piano for the singing of the National Anthems and was also the accompanist for our soloist Mr. George Roberts. Although George is not Welsh he sang Myfanwy and Dafydd Y Garreg Wen in Welsh and received a standing ovation in appreciation. The formal part of the evening was brought to a close with community singing under the baton of Mrs. Nerys Hagq, director and conductor of the Cambrian Circle Singers. Many members and guests then retired to the lower hall to continue the singing.

No account of this occasion would be complete without a huge vote of thanks to our President Mr. Jeffrey Owen and Mrs. Gaynor Owen, Chair of the Social Committee, for the incredible amount of behind the scenes work and organisation they put in to ensure the smooth running and success of the evening.

Elizabeth J. Murray

*** Flowers in the Hall for the Banquet are from the estate of Mr. Jack Davies in memory of his wife, the late Katie Davies. ***

Archive Report

There is a newly formed Archives Committee. "Committee" is a rather elegant term for what has been a series of busy work parties. We hope that this will be the beginning of the end of a long process.

Ellis Griffiths has been assembling material at home for years. (Rumour has it that Marion was threatening that if the archives didn't move out, she would!)

The Building Committee worked all last year on the upper, upper Hall so the archives finally have a home which can be locked.

Eirlys Ann Thomas has also been instrumental in collecting and collating a photographic record of the recent past. These people have now been joined by Phyllis Owens, Bertha Smith and myself.

The Society has become a member of the B.C. Archives Society and we are looking forward to learning more of how to store these priceless records that have been donated. We do thank all those members past and present who have given their memorabilia.

We would ask that anybody who has any more material they would be willing to part with to give it to any member of the committee. We are not yet ready for artifacts which need to be displayed individually, but programmes, newsletters, membership lists, newspaper articles etc. etc. would be welcome - also volunteers to join us!

Submitted by Elizabeth J. Murray, Co-ordinator, Archives Project.

Noson Lawen

SATURDAY MAY 6TH, at the Red Dragon we invite all our fun-loving members to come out and share some "Hwyl" with us. Don Murray is co-ordinator for the evening.

Cawl Cennin/Leek soup will be served and music, laughter and general good company will be abundant.

Gymanfa Ganu

SUNDAY, MAY 7TH, 2:00 p.m.

Beverly Ratajak is coming all the way from Corvallis, Oregon to conduct the service. As always there will be a guest soloist, piano accompaniment courtesy of Enid Lewis

A light tea will be served afterwards.

We hope that there will be a large attendance of members and friends as there's nothing to compare to the sound of a roomful of Welsh in song.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTE that on Saturday, April 22nd, the Red Dragon WILL BE CLOSED owing to the fact that:-

- A) The Vancouver Orpheus Male Voice Choir are giving a concert in Richmond.
- B) There will have been a hive of activity at the W. A. Spring Tea earlier in the day and many of the workers will need some R & R.
- C) The Folk Dancers are participating in British Night at the Scottish Cultural Centre in Vancouver.

It seems hardly worthwhile opening with so many of our regulars away for this one Saturday, so bearing this in mind, we are alerting all members.

The Social Committee.

Billet Needed ...

... for Harpist Moira Lewis visiting Vancouver from May 22nd to June 12th.

She will be playing at the P.N.W.G.G.'s Noson Lawen in Bellingham.

Ms. Lewis has also agreed to perform for the Society on Saturday, June 10th and is hoping to give concerts in Puget Sound and Victoria.

Please contact Mrs. Gaynor Evans at 271-3134 if you can accommodate Moira for any part of her visit to Vancouver.

Line Dancing

Pam and Keith Williams will be giving us some more instruction on Line Dancing on Saturday, April 29th.

It's a lot of fun and we are having a great time and lots of giggles in the process of learning.

Come on down one Saturday at the Red Dragon and see for yourself.

A Phone Call-ed Taffi!

It just had to happen!

We had one brand new phone stolen from the upstairs Hall and were feeling a little disgruntled with humanity, when all of a sudden, Ivor Davies unwittingly put things right!

A pretty green phone that goes by the name of "Taffi", now sits on the bar at the Red Dragon - courtesy of Ivor - so we simply have to say "Diolch".



DUNVANT MALE VOICE CHOIR VISITING PACIFIC NORTH WEST

As we have mentioned in previous Newsletters, the gentlemen of this choir - and quite possibly a few of their wives too - will be needing some billets while they are here in Vancouver.

The Dunvant Male Voice Choir are giving a joint concert at St. Andrew's Wesley Church, (Burrard at Nelson) with the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir in mid-September.

If you are able to help in any way or require more information, then please call Jack Smith at 683-1335.



We invite all members of the Welsh Society who are interested in participating in the next

"GOLF TOURNAMENT AND BARBECUE '95"

to contact either Bob Marsh at 946-3612, OR Rob Barclay at 940-9112 for more information and to sign up.

Tournament is at the Delta Golf Course on Saturday, June 15th and tee-ing off starts at approximately 12:00 noon.

In the evening, there will be a barbecue for both golfers and non-golfers at the Red Dragon. Cost is an all-inclusive \$40 for the golfing fraternity and a \$5 cover charge for those wishing to attend the barbecue ONLY.

Like last year, we ask that you bring your own meat, salmon or whatever you wish, for barbecuing, but salads, condiments and desserts are provided.

The Social Committee would appreciate some help in the setting up and clearing away.



Folk Dancers Report

We are still working hard on the new routines and after that, we will start polishing them toward perfection.

The last Thursday night in each month, we have reserved for visitors to come and join us - if not to participate, then to watch. It is often quite hilarious what goes on; despite this, we do manage to learn the dances and eventually perform them publicly. It is not hard if you have the heart to try.

Our next public engagement is on April 22nd at the Scottish Cultural Centre. After that, we will be preparing for our trip to Bellingham, Washington and our performance at the Noson Lawen there.

Anyone thinking of participating with us may call Jack and Bertha Smith at 683-1335 for information etc.

Lynne Hughes Fox.



The Circle Singers have just had a successful Singout at UBC Extended Care on April 7th.

Their rehearsals for this month and next are as follows:

Wednesday, April 19th and 26th Friday, May 5th and 12th Wednesday, May 17th and 24th.

The rehearsals are held at the Cambrian Hall starting at 8PM.

All newcomers are welcome.

A SEXY SINGING BEAR (Condensed from "NEWSWEEK", November 28th 1994.) by Katrine Ames.

There are usually two things that turn even the greatest classical musicians into big-time news: death or scandal. Once in a while it's something else, an entertaining mishap, like the evening Beverly Sills' dress came unzipped in the middle of her White House recital. But last month, after Bryn Terfel made his debut in Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" at the Metropolitan Opera, there he was, big as life – at 6 feet 3" on page one of The New York Times. "That guy must have one hell of a press agent," said one editor (not at the Times). Well surprise, surprise, the Welsh bass-baritone doesn't have a press agent at all.

What the talented 29 year old does have is a gorgeous unforced choice that can produce anything from a feral growl to a shimmering baby's breath pianissimo, and an infectious stage presence. He moves with an athlete's grace and energy. Trade his Manchester United soccer-team cap for a Dallas football helmet and he'd look right at home on the Cowboy's front line.

Audiences respond to his naturalness and his sexiness. His version of Figaro, is wild and sweet. "I play him as a bear," says Terfel. "Figaro and Susanna don't have much time to show affection. So in those few moments I really do it. I wrap my legs around her like a bear".

Before appearing in "The Marriage of Figaro", Terfel was supposed to have played the role of Leporello in the Met's "Don Giovanni". However, after hurting his back in rehearsal he had to cancel his opening night. Before the injury, he gave a sold-out recital at Lincoln Centre. His pianist, James Levine is artistic director of the Met. Mezzo Cecilia Bartoli, who did "Don Giovanni" with Terfel in Salzburg, sums him up: "Fanstastico!"

You can't buy the kind of word-of-mouth Terfel has generated in the opera underground since 1989 when, not long out of conservatory, he entered the Singer of the Year competition in Cardiff - and lost to Siberian born baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky. "When he did Handel's 'Ombra mai fu', i melted in my chair. And he followed it with an incredible Macbeth," says Terfel, who came in second but caught the ear of some major conductors. Faster than you can say Dmitri Hvostorovsky, he was getting job offers. He also turned them down, preferring to concentrate on smaller roles and getting to know the operas, thereby better preparing himself for everything.

Terfel still says no, not just because he's booked until 1998. He's not yet comfortable for instance with some of the heavy Verdi operas. He turned down "Il Trovatore" as "other people were doing it better." Instead he had his wisdom teeth out! He laughs easily at himself, which is useful in the cutthroat business he's entered. "I think my head is screwed properly onto my shoulders. Unless I'm singing John the Baptist". He laughs again and has the hallmarks of an overgrown kid in perpetual motion, even while he is sitting. Then he gets serious. "The way I see it is this. You've got to have what it takes. This pressure could hurt a young singer. You must

be able to ride it." Terfel arrived at that philosophy when he was still on the audition circuit. " I said to myself, I can't be nervous. It will only make my performance worse. I'm going to sing the hell out of this song. I'm going to enjoy it and the audience is too." Listen to his new "Figaro" recording or his sublime new Schubert disc, "An Die Musik." (Deutsche Gramophon) and you'll know exactly what he means.

That blend of confidence and humility was probably bred in the bone. Terfel was raised on a cattle and sheep farm in Pantglas, a tiny town in North Wales. ("You couldn't ask for a better upbringing," he says) Like roughly 2.7 million of the 2.8 million inhabitants of Wales, he grew up singing. It's a country where hymn singing is almost as likely to go on at a soccer game as in church. "I wasn't very good," he insists. "I wasn't a boy soprano, I was a scream." When he was 11 his voice broke, and soon after, he was winning Eisteddfodau. His prize money he spent on athletic equipment. After high school he went to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama - his first trip to London. He found Rudolf Piernay, the voice teacher with whom he still studies. "I don't go to him to brush up," he says in horror, "I go back for lessons."

At home, in his native land, he is an established hero with his own music programme. His wife and son travel with him when he goes out of the country. He loves to be at home in Pantglas though and can't be there often enough, so sometimes it comes to him. Last October, 74 people from Wales travelled to New York to hear their native son. He had trouble finding the right restaurant to take them all to dinner. One place offered them "caviar, pork in cheese with lemon sauce. It's not their style, especially the 50% that are farmers." They wound up, very happily at a burger and chicken place, "like a Cheers bar."

Though he finds New York "a bit overwhelming," he looks completely at ease, ambling up Broadway after a rehearsal, dressed in jeans and a leather jacket and chomping on Cheezits. "All this publicity," he says, "I didn't go searching of it. maybe when I come back here again, it will be over. But it's been nice." There's about as much chance of the publicity ending as there is of Terfel becoming the tenor he wishes he were. "I went to 'Tosca' for the first time here with Pavarotti. He was brilliant. And what lovely arias," he says dreamily. "Perhaps I'll come back as tenor." That's enough to make any opera fan believe in reincarnation.



Pacific North West Gymanfa Ganu

With other activities taking place in Bellingham the same weekend as the P.N.W.G.G., it is advised that early bookings be made for overnight accommodations.

** REGISTRATION FORM - CANADIAN PRICES **

1995 Welsh Weekend, May 26-28, Bellingham, Washington

Preregistration deadline: May 19. Thereafter, register upon arrival at the Best Western Lakeway Inn, 714 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham. Preregistrants will receive confirmation and an information package.

REGISTRANT #1			REGISTRANT #2				
Nam	е		Name				
Addr	ess		Address				
City_			City				
St. /	ProvPost code_		St. / ProvPost code				
Tel.	()		Tel. ()				
**	MAIN EVENTS **		** MAIN EVENTS **				
Day	Description Fee		Day Description Fee				
	Registration fee \$6.0	\$ 6.00	Registration fee \$6.00 \$ 6.00	-			
Fri.	Noson Lawen \$ 9.0	00 \$	Fri. Noson Lawen \$ 9.00 \$	_			
Sat.	Mount Baker /		Sat. Mount Baker /				
	Nooksack Valley Tour \$30.0	00 \$	Nooksack Valley Tour \$30.00 \$	_			
Sat.	Grand Concert \$13.0	00 \$	Sat. Grand Concert \$13.00 \$	_			
Sun.	Gymanfa Ganu free		Sun. Gymanfa Ganu free				
Sun.	Te Bach (Tea) \$ 3.0	00 \$	Sun. Te Bach (Tea) \$ 3.00 \$	_			
	SEMINARS (9AM Sat	choose one)	SEMINARS (9AM Sat choose one)				
Sat.	Intro. to Welsh language \$	4.00 \$	Sat. Intro. to Welsh language \$4.00 \$				
Sat.	Gymanfa part singing rehea	arsals -free-	Sat. Gymanfa part singing rehearsals -free-				
Tota	l Registrant #1	\$	Total Registrant #2 \$	-			

TOTAL ENCLOSED (Registrant 1 + Registrant 2)

\$

Please make checks payable to **Kulshan Cambrian Circle** and mail with registration to: Coed-y-Wennol, 1473 Crestview Road, Ferndale, WA 98248

PACIFIC NORTHWEST GYMANFA GANU ASSOCIATION

1995 WELSH WEEKEND

Hosted by the Kulshan Cambrian Circle Coed-y-Wennol, 1473 Crestview Road, Ferndale, WA 98248 USA • (360) 384-5401

Gaeaf / Winter 1995

Annwyl Gyfeillion / Dear Friends,

□ Victoria

Vancouver

BELLINGHAM

With the coming of spring, the thoughts of us Pacific Northwest Welsh turn to our annual celebration of our heritage, the Welsh Weekend. Here is a quick sketch of this year's weekend in Bellingham, Washington, on Friday through Sunday, May 26-28:

Noson Lawen / Merry Evening featuring a variety of talent, and an opportunity for all of us to try our hand (or voices, or feet) at entertaining our fellow festival-goers with song, instruments, dance, skits and storytelling. (Friday, May 26, 7:30 - 10:00 PM).

Marchnad Gymreig / Welsh Marketplace: You won't need to go all the way to Wales to pick up fine Welsh crafts, tapes, CDs, books, woolens; they'll be as close as your hotel lobby.

Dysgu Cymraeg ac Emynau / Learn Welsh and Welsh Hymns: Get acquainted with the mysteries of Welsh; or brush-up on Welsh part-singing in preparation for the Gymanfa. (Saturday, May 27, 9:00-10:30 AM).

Taith / Tour: See the scenic Nooksack River Valley, the breathtaking Mount Baker - Shuksan area where Washington's highest state highway winds through alpine meadows, and cap it off with a tour of Mount Baker Vinyards and winery. (Saturday, May 27, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

Cyngerdd Mawr / **Grand Concert:** Some of the best of regional Welsh talent, including tenor David Tuck, harpist Tony Mader, and members of the Seattle Welsh Choir, will combine their talents to provide a memorable and entertaining cultural experience. (Saturday, May 27, 7:30 - 10:00PM).

Y Gymanfa Ganu / Hymn Sing: For many, the heart of the weekend, as we gather for two hours of worship through the medium of traditional Welsh hymns in four-part harmony, with sweet melodies and thundering crescendos rattling the windows and shaking the walls in praise of the Lord. (Sunday, May 28, 2:00 - 4:00 PM).

Te Bach / Small Tea: A chance to slake our thirst and take the edge off hunger after the Gymanfa, in company of our friends and compatriots. (Sunday, May 28, 4:00 PM).

Of course, these are only the organized events. There are plenty of opportunities for spontaneous adventure with friends, exploring the mountains, seacoast, lakes, and streams of Whatcom County's splendid natural environment, or browsing in the picturesque shops in the historic Fairhaven district - or watching the parades, fairs, music and racing events in the Ski-to-Sea festival which runs concurrent with the Welsh Weekend.

Come join us in Bellingham on May 26-28. Renew old friendships from previous Welsh Weekends - or make new friends, if you are joining us for the first time.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir / Yours sincerely,

Eric Bowen

Trefnydd Lleol / Local organizer

Eric Bowen

Penwythnos Cymreig 1995 Welsh Weekend

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April / Ebrill

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21	22 Victoria Day (CAN.)	23	BENEVE !	25	26	NIGHT?
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