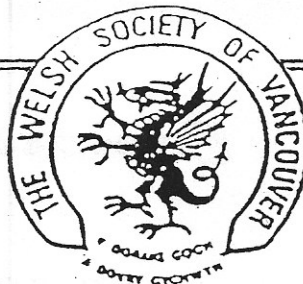


Rhagfyr i Ionawr
2001



December to January
2002

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



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Cambrian News

From The Editor:

This, the final newsletter of this year, reminds all members that membership renewals are due as of January 1st. Make it one of your New Year's resolutions to renew as soon as possible using the form provided.

A report on the restoration work done on the Cambrian Hall is presented by our President; it is a sobering thought to realize how close the Society came to financial ruin.

Reports are also provided on the successful 'Goon but not Forgotten' evening and on the festive Mulled Wine evening. A report on the Christmas Dinner Dance will appear in the next issue when I recover! Great food, good company, and great exercise!!

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Annual General Meeting, with its election of next year's executive, will have passed. This final issue for this year is produced prior to that occasion, which I am unable to attend.

The front cover scene is reproduced by kind permission of the Medici Society Ltd. Gordon Thomas received the card from a long time friend in Wrexham and it reminded him of a cousin's sheep farm in North Wales.

Medici is one of the U.K.'s leading publishers of greeting cards and fine art reproductions. Established in 1908, the company was originally famous for its prints of Old Masters, but is now well-known for its range of high quality cards and stationery.

A final note on editorial policy: the editor reserves the right to edit submissions, but has promised not to edit recipes!

David Llewelyn Williams

Cambrian Hall Restoration and Improvements

The discovery of cracks and splits in the roof beams and trusses in February came as a powerful shock. Not only was the Hall 'condemned' for occupancy by the professional engineers engaged to review the damage, so that we faced being shut out of our 'home', but there loomed the larger questions of 'Can it be fixed- how much will it cost- how will we pay?' The members of the Executive most directly involved prepared a claim to be made to our insurers, considered the avenues of fundraising open to us, had some research done on the availability of government or other outside assistance, and discussed the situation with professionally qualified individuals within our Society.

The Cambrian Hall, although not designated a Heritage Building, was built in the late '20's and obviously does not conform to today's rigorous building standards. It was not designed to withstand an earthquake! Would City Hall decide that any repairs would have to bring it up to today's code, effectively making any sort of repairs prohibitively expensive? How long would it take to obtain the requisite permit? The minimum time frame was generally considered to be five weeks. These were some of the vexing questions we faced. Unfortunately and perhaps understandably, there were those whose principal focus was on the inconvenience to their own activities, and again, perhaps understandably, we on this side of the fence had little patience with them.

However, some items of good news followed in relatively quick succession, making us feel greatly relieved. The upper hall roof was braced by Barclay Restorations Ltd., under the direction of RKTG Engineers, causing the latter to pronounce the lower hall safe for occupancy, and the insurers approved our claim of loss. RKTG determined what restoration work was needed, called for tenders, recommended Barclay's bid to us, and obtained the City Hall permit within a week. We signed the work contract the morning of the downtown reception for the Trade Mission from Wales (May 17th) and soon thereafter restoration work began. We also had some 'while you're at it' jobs done, and all was finally completed July 31st. Many of you have commented favourably on the 'spruced-up' look, and we should now all enjoy it.

The insurers paid the actual cost of the work done but not the G.S.T., which we must claim as an Input Tax Credit on our quarterly GST Return. Here are some numbers for those who are interested in such mundane things:

Total Cost of Work done		\$125,505.26
Paid by The Co-Operators to RKTG Engineers	\$22,403.62	
Paid by The Co-Operators to Barclay Restorations Ltd.	93,863.93	
Paid by The Welsh Society	9,237.71	
G.S.T. paid by The Welsh Society (recoverable)	8,785.35	8,785.35
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$134,290.61	\$134,290.61

My sincere thanks to my many colleagues in the Society who provided all assistance and support throughout the exercise, and, on behalf of our Society, to Larry Roberts (The Co-Operators Insurance Co.), Dick Klassen (RKTG Engineers), and John Sullivan (Barclay Restorations), all of whom did a first class job for us.

T. Roberts, President

Goon Certainly Not Forgotten

The 'Goon But Not Forgotten' Evening went off spectacularly well, with spontaneous laughter resounding throughout the evening from a standing-room only audience, jammed into the Red Dragon, on Friday, November 23rd. It was wonderful entertainment within itself to just observe the rollicking joy experienced by so many who had come to recapture the delight of that insane 'Goon' world, that held us captive so many years ago.

'Goon But Not Forgotten' was a sequel to the 'Remember Harry Evening' for Harry Secombe in September. Both were an enormous success. I must recognize the huge contribution of Paul Lievesley, that made the planning process of each such a pleasure. Paul oversaw and installed the array of technical sound and video equipment, that were essential to each evening. Video editing, and audio clips, were also invariably completed by him. Also assisting us in the recent event were Neil Gray and Garath Hill.

So many Goon fans appeared, that we can only be glad that the event was deliberately not well publicized, for fear of too large a crowd. Their enthusiasm provoked some superb skit performances of 'segments of nostalgia', that brought the house down. From all of the 'lunacy' came the demand for further such evenings. How can one resist? Harry would be pleased.

Until the next time - Neville Thomas

VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Our two gala concerts in Magee High School Auditorium on November 3 as part of the recent Welsh Weekend were very well received. The performances by baritone soloist Jason Howard and soprano Fiona Blackburn were very much appreciated by the enthusiastic audiences at both performances, and many of them are already looking forward to Jason's return engagement with us in the Chan Centre at UBC on June 29, 2002. Guest conductor Haydn James is always a great favourite with audiences, and he certainly did not disappoint as he concluded both concerts by leading us in several pieces from the program for the Millennium 1,000-voice Concert in the Royal Albert Hall a year ago. More than fifty VWMC members turned out for the Welsh Society's *Gymanfa Ganu*, which he conducted the following afternoon, and we were both pleased and honoured by Dr. James' invitation to our choir to join the London Welsh MVC again in their 1,000-voice concert in 2006.

Our current efforts are focussed on our series of five Christmas concerts, which we are once again performing in several locations throughout the Lower Mainland. At the time of writing we have already sung two of these, with the Magee High School Chamber Choir as our guests, in St. Andrew's Wesley United Church downtown. Still to come are performances in the Surrey Arts Centre and Queen's Avenue United Church in New Westminster with the Gladstone High School Chamber Choir as our guests, and a final performance on December 15 in the 1600-seat Pentecostal Assembly Church in Abbotsford with the 60-voice Abbotsford Male Chorus (which also includes several of our own members) joining us.

In conclusion we would like to thank the Welsh Society for the opportunity to participate in the recent Welsh Weekend, and to wish all members of the Society and their families the compliments of the festive season and a bright and prosperous New Year!

CAROL SINGING EVENING

Friday, November 30th was the Club's traditional carol-singing evening. As always, the singing was enhanced by the provision of mulled wine [secret recipe!!] for the songsters. With the help of Lucy Sorenson at the piano, choristers from The Cambrian Circle Singers and The Orpheus Choir led us in rousing renditions of the old favourite carols. Another traditional item was the masterful reading of Dylan Thomas's "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Alan Jones, assisted by the voices of Paul Lievesley. Everyone participated in a warm and friendly atmosphere throughout the proceedings. "Hat's Off" to Gaynor and Jeff Owen, with their squad of helpers and contributors, for organizing the evening and arranging the "goodies" and libations. We also appreciated a great deal the participation and assistance of members of the two choirs. A good time was had by all.

Your mulled reporter-John Pritchard

Poetry Corner

Readers will remember the poem heading Artro Evans' article, "The Black Chair of Birkenhead" in the last issue. It is the last verse of eight composed by the incomparable Robert Williams Parry entitled "Hedd Wyn", in memory of the bard slain in the First World War. One cannot adequately transmit the union of alliteration, rhythm, and meaning that is characteristic of this poet; nevertheless, this is my attempt at a translation.

*Gadair unig ei drig draw! Ei dwyfraich,
Fel pe'n difrif wrandaw,
Heddiw estyn yn ddistaw
Mewn hedd hir am un ni ddaw.*

The solitary chair, his appointed place! Its two arms,
As if intently listening,
Silently reach out today
In enduring peace for one that will never come.

One of our members, Isla Jane Keil, has had a poem published in the Swansea Dylan Thomas Magazine! She was stimulated to write this, she told the magazine "because I don't get my Welsh lessons any moreand Mumbles is always on my mind."

Pacific English

Pacific English is not for me,
I don't speak that calm and placid sea.
Give me that rough rolling Atlantic Ocean,
Lovely linguistic locomotion.

Our heartfelt congratulations to a poet who has been recognized by her home country. Let's hear more of the talents of Society members!

David Llewelyn Williams

In Memoriam

Both Trevor and Lena Ingleby derived a great deal of pleasure from attending our Welsh services at the Cambrian Hall. Some of you will remember Trevor, who passed away in 1989, and who delighted in the sermons of the late Reverend Berwyn Roberts. Many of you knew Lena, who was a faithful attendee until overcome by deteriorating health. As we recorded in the June - July issue of the Newsletter, she passed away peacefully on June 15th. In her will, she bequeathed the sum of \$2,000 to The Cambrian Hall Welsh Chapel. These funds have been turned over to Ieuan Lampshire-Jones, and will be utilized for the purposes envisaged by the Inglebys - to benefit and sustain the ongoing viability of our service as organized by Ann Roberts and Ieuan.

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Mrs. Ethel Williams, mother of our Treasurer, Gaynor Evans, passed away on November 14th, at the age of 81, in South Wales. As the only child, Gaynor had made some five trips over the past two years to visit her ailing mother, whose condition unfortunately deteriorated steadily. During these trips, as Gaynor recounts, they had been able to enjoy some quality time together, before her mother had to undergo surgery from which she did not recover. Happily, she was with her at the end. We extend our sympathies to Gaynor and her family.

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T. Roberts, President

Welsh Colony Centennial Celebration

A Welsh Colony Centennial Celebration will be held in the Bangor, Saskatchewan area on July 19th and 20th, 2002, to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the arrival of nearly 200 Welsh from Chubut, Argentina in June, 1902. The registration fee is \$40.00 for Adults, \$15.00 for Children 6-12 years, and free for Children under 6 years of age. Anyone who is interested in gaining more information about this Reunion can contact:

Welsh Colony Centennial, P.O. Box 55, Bangor, Sask., S0A 0E0

Fax: Lorne & Beatrice Morris at 306-728-5530.

E-mail: Elinor Morris {re.morris@imagewireless.ca}

The community of Bangor also is working on a Bangor Book, which they hope to have organized as soon as possible. If anyone in the Vancouver area Welsh Community, who came from the Bangor area, would like to include family history in this book, please contact Elinor Morris at the "snail-mail" or e-mail addresses above, as soon as possible.

Rhoda Hughes

Editor's Note: An article will appear in a subsequent issue by Gordon Thomas providing details pertaining to his own family and others. Interested Society members are urged to send their information to Gordon too.

December 2001

mis Rhagfyr 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 11 am Church Gŵle bach 2:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Party	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Ffynon Llwyn	26 Ffynon Par	27	28	29 Red Dragon Closed
30	31	January 2002 mis Ionawr 2002				
Gyndeithas Gymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Ave, Vancouver, B. C. V5V 1A6 Canada Telephone:- 604 876-2815						
6 Welsh Men's Choir Rehearsals Tuesdays at John Oliver High School Orpheus Choir Tuesday Evenings at Room 201, at 7:30 p.m. 530 East 41st Ave.	1 Ffynon Par		2 Ffynon Par	3	4	5 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
13 11:00 a.m. Church Service and te bach	14	15	16 W.A. (noon) Cambrian Circle Singers Rehearsal	17	18	19 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
9 7:30 pm Exec Mig	10 Welsh Folk Dancers	11 Cambrian Circle Singers	12 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm			