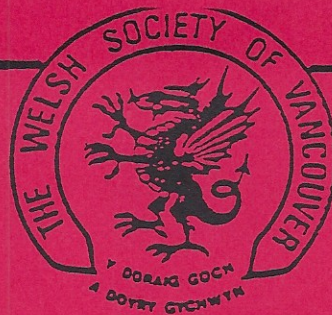


Rhagfyr, 1994

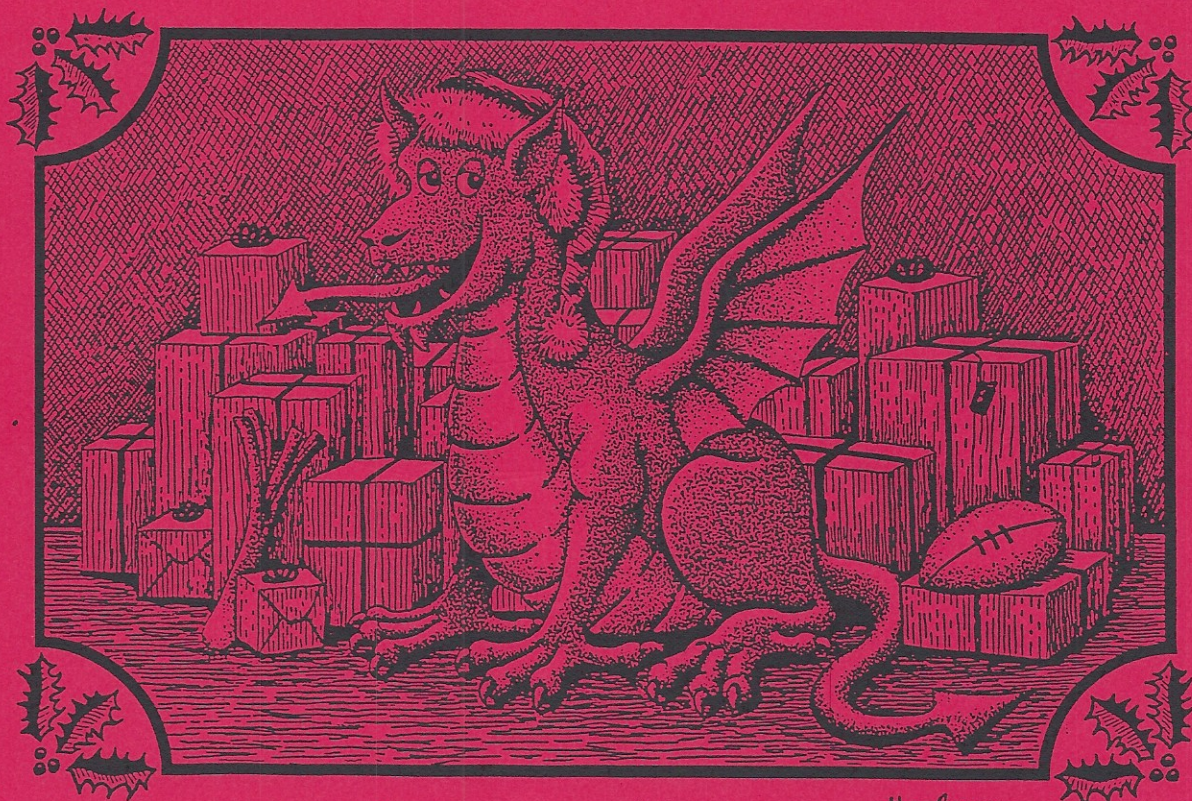
December, 1994



Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

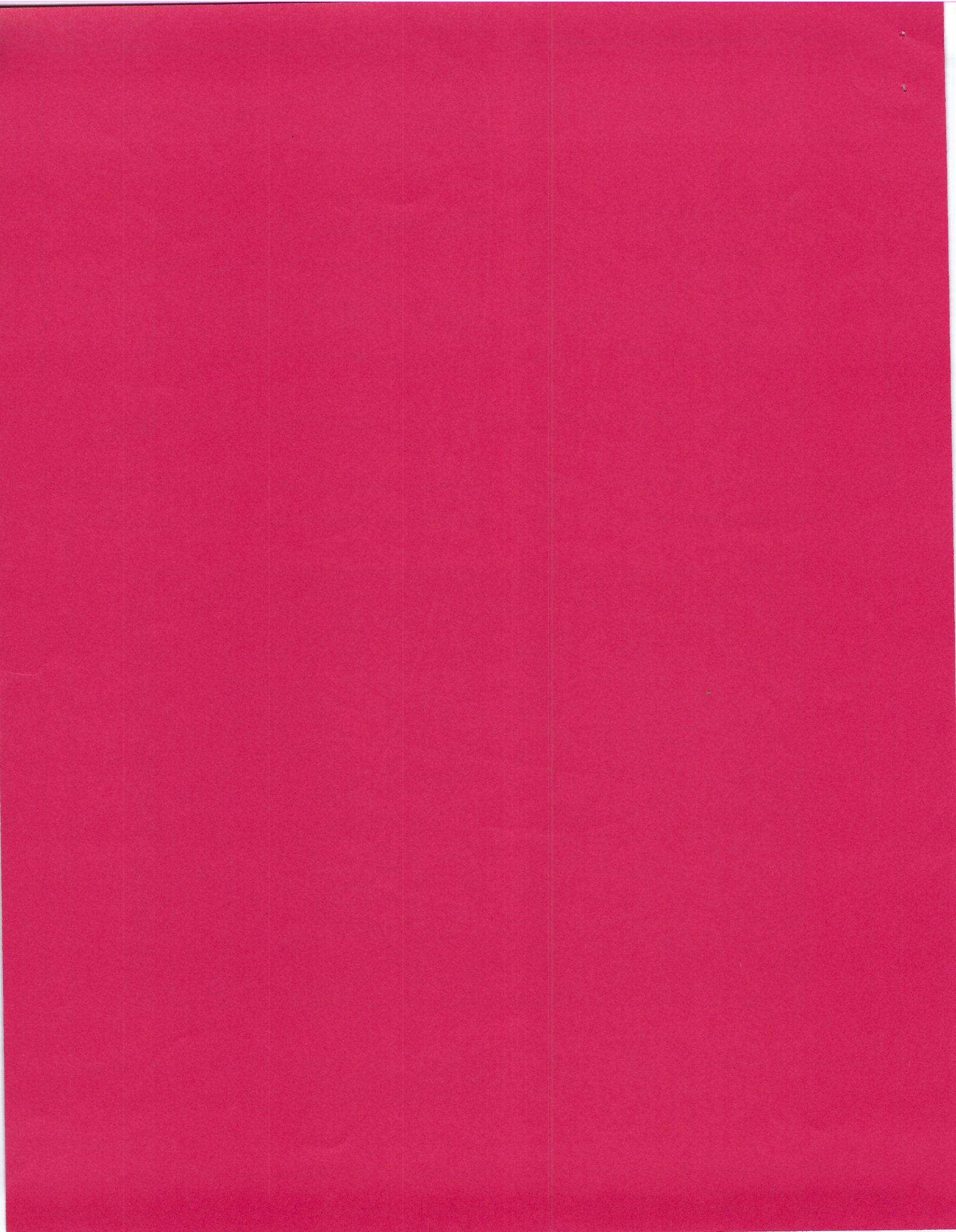
Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



Huw Thomas

MOEGRY CHRISTMAS



Local/International Performances Delight
Audience at Noson Lawen

"My task as MC is easy", says Don Murray, "When faced with an abundance of talented and willing performers, I just keep it rolling!" And roll it did, right down to the final excellent performance by Nigel Tucker.

The audience's response to Veronica Gilder's opening solos said two things. First, that her's is one of the finest soprano voices we have featured at the Society, and second, that we'd like to hear more. Alan Tucker's performance displayed a richness and confidence that thrilled us all. And Alan (The Bard) Jones once again gave us the music of Welsh poetry through his Dylan Thomas readings.

The international contingent was led by an "expecting" Eric Bowen from Bellingham, Washington who delighted us with a selection of Welsh folk songs (in Welsh) - always a pleasure. It would have been a tragedy to fail to involve the wonderful musical talents of Bev and Bill Ratajak who arrived from Corvallis, Oregon. Bev joined our own extremely versatile and talented pianist, Enid Lewis playing duets while Bill and Nigel Tucker retired to the back room returning moments later to present their entertaining collaborative version of Bill's forte, the Woad Song.

Ellis Griffiths, doubling as Gymanfa Chairman and stand-up comedian gave us some good laughs, as did our president, Jeff Owen. A strong ending to the program was provided by the fine performance of our "resident" folk singer Nigel Tucker.

From the Society and the audience, applause to all the performers and a special thank you to Enid Lewis, our accompanist, the Social Committee, and Rose Murphy for 'heeding to the Cawl' - the best ever!

Written by Don Murray.

Pacific Northwest
Gymanfa Ganu Association

1995 Welsh Weekend

** CALLING WELSH MUSICIANS **

Auditions are now being held for the Grand Concert and Noson Lawen for the 1995 Pacific NorthWest Gymanfa Ganu and Welsh Weekend, May 26th - 28th in Bellingham, Washington. Any interested participants please send a demo tape of at least three Welsh musical numbers to:

Attn: Mr. Eric Bowen,
Trefnydd Lleol/Local Organiser,
P.N.W.G.G.A. 1995 Welsh Weekend,
Coed-Y-Wennol,
1473 Crestview Road,
Ferndale, WA, 98248.
Tel: (206) 384-5401.

If you wish sent items to be returned, please include a stamped return mailer. For more information call Eric at (206)384-5401 or (206)733-3600.



Membership Renewal

Name : _____

Address : _____

City : _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone No. : (____) _____

Please make your cheques or money orders payable to: "The Welsh Society of Vancouver".

Send your membership renewals to:

Beverly Thomas
Membership Secretary
Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Ave.
Vancouver B.C., V5V 1A6.

Type of Membership (Circle one)

Regular: \$35.00

Family: \$60.00

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

New Member !

We would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to Sandra Jones-Ireland. Sandra is the the Canadian editor of the North American Welsh Publication Y Drych. She and her husband Bill are staying here in the Vancouver area until July of next year.

Welcome Back !

We would like to welcome back Patricia M. Petersen of Vancouver.



Silence of a Welsh lamb!

■ AFTER five years of celluloid success in Hollywood, Sir Anthony Hopkins is making an emotional return to his beloved Wales in a film and stage adaption of Chekhov's Uncle Vanya.

The action has been switched to turn-of-the-century Wales and names changed to traditional Welsh ones. Strange as this may seem, there are

fears this could leave the Oscar-winning thespian tongue-tied. Chatting with the Prince of Wales in Caernarvon, Sir Anthony admitted he was desperately embarrassed by his inability to converse in the national lingo.

The most high-profile Welshman since Richard Burton can't speak Welsh.

WELSH LESSONS
∞
GWERS GYMRAEG

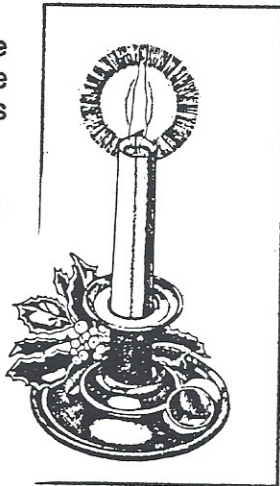
The last session of Welsh lessons for this year were held on December 12th but they will resume again in January. It is understood that the group is doing very well under the kind and patient tutelage of Dr. Gwilym Evans.

If anyone else is interested in learning this fascinating language, contact Beverly Thomas at 738-0680 or Gwen Tonack at 738-3377.

From the Social Committee...

The last night that the Red Dragon Pub will be open Saturday in '94 is December 10th.

It will be reopening January 7th, '95.



Here's Good News !

The executive would like announce that there will be no increase in membership fees for 1995.

Early Christmas Delights

Saturday, November 26th

The Christmas elves were hard at work early this year at the Cambrian hall. Upon entering the Red Dragon one felt like one had stepped into Aladdin's cave - so dazzling and bewitching were the decorations. Fragrant aromas wafted from the kitchen and genial warmth seeped into the air. Somehow it seemed the perfect place to be on such a cold, gloomy November evening.

The camaraderie added to the festive atmosphere, along with the carol singing, mulled wine, mince pies and other delicious treats. Everyone of us fell under the spell of Allan Jones' gentle reading of "A Child's Christmas In Wales". For those of us who know what Christmas was like back home, it took you there

As always we have many people to thank for putting on such magic and helping us get into the Seasonal Spirit. They are:-

Gaynor Owen - who saw to many details before she left for Wales;

Gwen Tonack, Chief Mulled Wine Maker and Person Responsible for Finding Mince Pies at Short Notice, PLUS!! Creator of Delicious Short Bread;

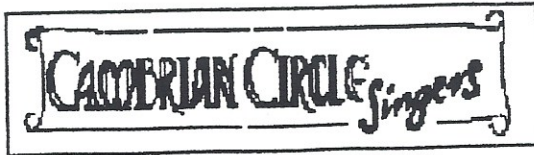
The ladies who helped distribute the wine and food, Anne G. Jones, Betty Morgan, Beverly Thomas and Pam Williams.

Allan Jones, as always he did a wonderful job of reading a Welsh treasure.

Alan Tucker for leading us all in the carol singing and Enid Lewis for her piano accompaniment.

The Hall Decorators, Tony & Gwen Tonack, Milt & Betty Morgan, Eirlys Ann Thomas, Anne G. Jones and Lynne Fox.

Diolch I Bawb a Cyfarchion Y Tymor.



The Singers will be holding rehearsals on the following dates:

December: Friday 16th at 8:00 p.m.

January '95: Friday 6th at 8:00 p.m.

Mrs Nerys Haqq is the Cambrian Circle Singers' Director and she would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in becoming a member.

You can contact her at 278-8978.



Folk Dancing News

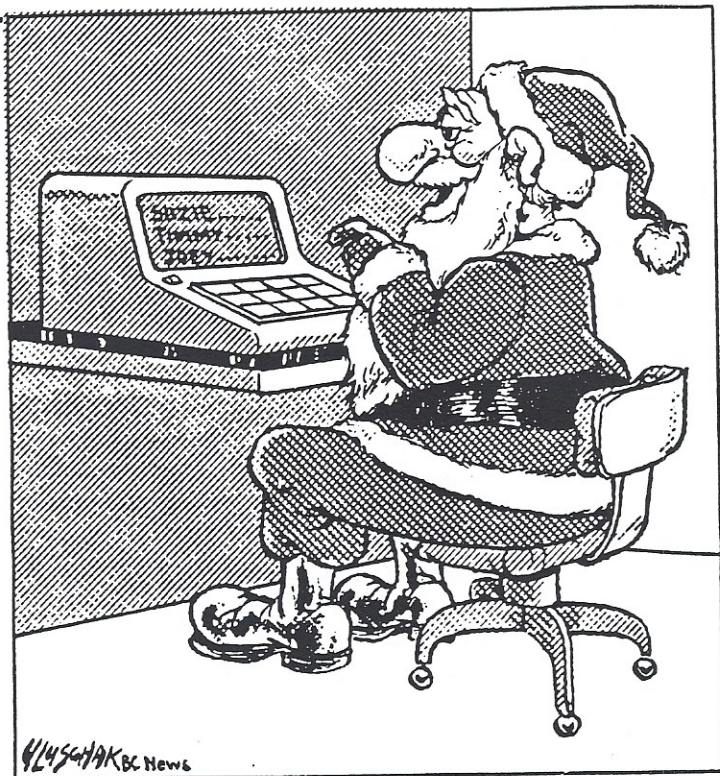
It has become a tradition of sorts with us, to end the first half of our "practice year", with a Pot-Luck Supper. This time it was held on December 1st at the Cambrian Hall; dances were done first - to get everyone's appetite raging, and then the delicious delights brought along by our members were heartily sampled.

New dances are now being introduced into our repertoire, and we will be perfecting them when we return in the New Year.

In case you missed it in a previous bulletin, we have started holding a "Social Evening", every last Thursday in the month. If you require more information on this or any other item concerning the Folk Dancers, please call Jack and Bertha Smith at 683-1335.

Merry Christmas/Nadolig Llawen to everyone in the Welsh Society from the Vancouver Welsh Folk Dancers.

Lynne Hughes Fox.



"Now to find out who's been naughty and who's been nice!"

The following article was sent to us by Mrs. Dorothy E. Fox of Whitby, Ontario.

"The Capitals", The Toronto Sunday Sun, October 3, 1993.

Welsh language back from the brink

In the 1960s, angry Welsh activists were chopping down English-language road signs. Today, those signs are all bilingual and they are held aloft by the Welsh as evidence of the revitalisation of their language and ancestral heritage.

"Thirty years ago I'd have predicted that the Welsh language would be dead by the end of this century," said Karl Davis, chief executive of Plaid Cymru, a Welsh nationalist party. "But if the present trend continues the vast majority of Welsh people will be speaking Welsh by the middle of the next century. The enthusiasm that has developed in recent years for our language is enormous."

Like a species on the brink of extinction, the Welsh language is being nurtured back to life after almost 150 years of consistent decline. As recently as a decade ago, a visitor to Cardiff would come into little contact with the seemingly unpronounceable words that characterise the language. But today Welsh is everywhere. It's on the street signs, store fronts and menus. There is a Welsh-language television station and several small Welsh-language newspapers. You can hear it spoken on the streets and the locals tell you it is returning into the everyday jargon of business, politics and education.

"The generation growing up today sees it as a natural thing," Davis said. "There is far more confidence in the language.

"It used to be seen as old-fashioned and was associated with the church, rural life and old people. Now it is seen as modern and dynamic and it's associated with prestige and good jobs. There has been a complete reversal of attitude."

The turnaround began with the 1960s sign choppers, members of a student group called the Welsh Language Society, (Cymdeithas Yr Iaith). They organised protests across the country and slowly fostered an awareness that, like whales or the buffalo, the Welsh language needed protection and tender cultivation. Their major breakthrough came in 1982 when Wales was granted its own television station. But that only came after a bitter campaign in which several people were jailed and one of Wales' leading political figures announced he would go on a hunger strike unless the Conservative government in London kept an election promise to grant Wales its own TV license.

"TV created a new platform for Welsh to be widely spoken," explained Davis. "It became a shopping window for the language, taking it into thousands of homes."

A second fundamental impetus was the reintroduction of Welsh into the school system. Today, Welsh is the first language in 15% of the country's schools and is a mandatory subject in all the others. Fifty years ago it wasn't being taught at all.

"There was a growing feeling among parents that they had a duty to reclaim their cultural heritage for their children," Davis said.

Welsh a cousin of ancient Gaelic tongues, began its decline during the 19th century industrial revolution due to a combination of factors: Extensive immigration from England and Cornwall, a decline in the influence of the church, an increase of English as the primary language of education and a growing sense that the old Welsh language was out of step with the image of Queen Victoria's dynamic empire.

By 1931, Welsh was being spoken by less than 50% of the population. In 1981, the figure was in the high teens. But today the number is pushing 30% and growing for the first time in more than a century.

"I can foresee a day now when almost everybody in Wales is bilingual," says Davis. "I don't think anybody would have predicted that 10 years ago."

Today the bilingual signs signal nothing but a clear road ahead for a language that has climbed back from the brink of extinction.

By Jim O'Leary in Cardiff.

The first Christmas card

THE IDEA OF a Christmas greeting card sprang from the fertile brain of Sir Henry Cole, the first director of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. In 1843, Cole commissioned John Collcott Horsley, a fashionable artist of the time, to design his first card. Horsley was well known not only for his artwork, but for leadership of a campaign against the use of nude

models by artists - this is why he became known as "Clothes-Horsley".

Cole had a thousand copies of the original card printed and issued by Summerby's Home Treasury Office. Only a dozen are known to still exist today.

Initial reaction to the distribution of Christmas cards was only partly favourable. Some critics claimed

Horsley's card was too worldly and accused him of encouraging intemperance. Some criticised the idea of cards as a foolish extravagance. In fact, certain Protestant sects refused to accept the Christmas card until the turn of the century.

Recent figures, however, show that we send an average of 20 cards for every person in the country.

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on Earth*

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Requesting Information

Many of our members, particularly those who have been with us for a long time, will have stories about the Welsh Society and its people.

With the creation of an office in the uppermost part of the Hall and a place to store archives, we are now asking anyone who has information and an anecdote or two, to tell us about it. This is to help keep the memory of Society events and members alive - please share your memories with us.

Looking Ahead to '95

St. David's Day Banquet is held at the Cambrian Hall once again. The date is Saturday, March 4th.

The Pacific North West Gymanfa Ganu will be held in Bellingham, Washington over the following dates:- May 26th, 27th and 28th.

*A Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to Everyone!*

7



SEASONS Greetings

There is a list of folks I know
all written in a book,
And every year at Christmastime
I go and take a look.
And that is when I realize that
these names are a part,
Not of the book they're written in
but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone
who has touchèd my life sometime,
And in that meeting they've become
the "Rhythm of the Rhyme"
I really feel I am composed
of each remembered name,
And while you may not be aware
of feeling quite the same,
My life is so much better
than it was before you came.

For once that you have known someone,
the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word
or of a friendly face.
So never think my Christmas cards
are just a mere routine
Of names upon a list,
forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas card
that is addressed to you,
It is because you're on that list
of folks I'm indebted to.

And whether I have known you
for many years or few,
In some way you have had a part
in sharing things I do.
So every year when Christmas comes
I just realize anew
The biggest gift that God can give
is knowing folks like you!

DECEMBER 94 RHAGFYR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 4	Lock holiday gifts in the trunk of your car. If you can see your purchases, so can a thief.	NOVEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 Foul Draxted 2 POT LUCK 7:30 -	○ New Moon 9	3
5 WELSH LESSONS 7:30 PM	6	7 EXECUTIVE MEETING 7:30 PM	8	10 Last Red DRAGON PUB NIGHT FOR 1994) First Quarter 9	10 Last Red DRAGON PUB NIGHT FOR 1994
11 CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICE.	12	13	14 W.A. CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON ANNUAL GEN. MEETING 1:30 PM	15	16 CAMBERIAN CIRCLE SINGERS REHEARSAL 8:00 PM	17 RED DRAGON CLOSED ↓
18	19	20	21 1:30 PM	22	23	24
● Full Moon 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS ☾ Last Quarter Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31

Seasons Greetings from All of Us

