

Rhagfyr 1995

December 1995



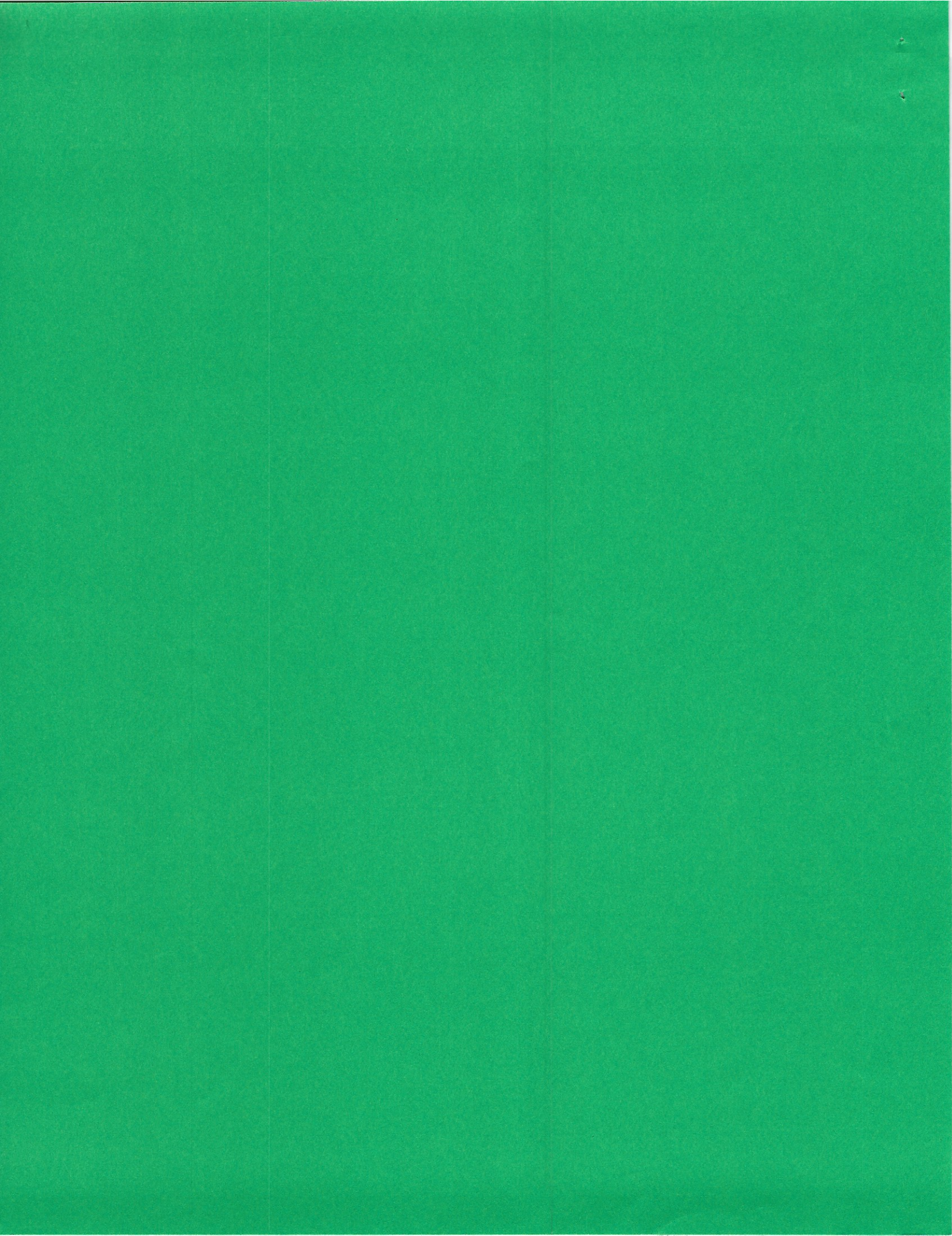
Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



Merry Christmas



Nadolig Llawen - Merry Christmas



We hope that all of members of the Welsh Society have a memorable Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Lynne & Rob

We remind our members once again, that Saturday, December 16th is the last time the Red Dragon is open in 1995. The pub reopens again on Saturday, January 6th in 1996.

Look for the results of this year's Annual General Meeting Election of the Executive reported in this newsletter.

Our St. David's Day Banquet will be held at the Cambrian Hall on Saturday, March 2nd. Watch for more information regarding this and the Open House in future issues of the Cambrian News.

In Addition:

In the last newsletter, an article was published concerning the filming that has taken place at Cambrian Hall. One name had been accidentally omitted and should be included.

Mer Montador also gave of her time to let the film crews in the Hall in recent weeks.

A thank you goes out to her as well.

Holiday Greetings to Everyone from the Irelands;

We think of everyone in the Vancouver Welsh Society with great fondness, and recall the friendship and kindness extended to us while we lived in your fair province. We truly understand and feel the joy that goes with being a part of the Welsh community in Vancouver, and always look forward to the Newsletter.

The Prince Edward Island Welsh Society asked me to speak about our year in Vancouver and were interested about the Hall and the Vancouver Welsh Society. I

shared my collection of newsletters which were read with great interest by PEI Welsh Society members. The bumper sticker certainly caught everyone's eye.

A warm welcome to members of the Vancouver Welsh Society from us, and from the PEI Welsh Society, is extended should you all happen to be coming this way.

We send our best greetings for a joyful Holiday Season and New Year,

Sandra Jones Ireland and Bill Ireland.

To the Editor:

I read with regret your account of the death of "Someone Else" I always enjoyed the efforts of "Someone". You neglected to mention, however, the close friends and relatives of "Someone", the "Others" and "Elses".

"No One Else" A great avoider of work.

"Everyone Else" Often too busy, too tired, too whatever to be much help, but very enthusiastic just the same.

"A Few Others" Always there to lend a hand.

"Many Others" Really wants to help but may be a little shy.

Hopefully all the "Others" and "Elses" will now come forward to accomplish the work so "Someone" may Rest In Peace.

Ano Nymous.



VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Box 2978, Main Post Office, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3X4

"Sing Noel" concerts will be given by the Choir on the following dates:

December 12th, 8:00 p.m. - Surrey Arts Centre, Surrey.

December 16th, 8:00 p.m. - Abby Arts Centre, Abbotsford.

For tickets call Sheena McDonald - 467-7012.



Announcing The Executive For 1996

President.....Mr. Jeffrey Owen
Vice President.....Mrs. Anne G. Jones
Secretary.....Mrs. Mary Slaney
Treasurer.....Mr. John Morris
Membership Secretary...Mrs. Beverly B. Thomas

Trustees

Mrs. Elizabeth J. Murray
Mrs. Margaret Monck
Ms. Mer Montador
Dr. Gwilym Evans
Mr. Robin Barclay

Immediate Past President: Mrs. Ann Roberts.

Congratulations to all the elected officers.

Thanks to the nominating committee of Mrs. Gwen Tonack and Mr. Gwyn Evans for all their hard work.

Sixth Annual Pacific North West Gymanfa Ganu

The P.N.W.G.G. will be hosted by the Victoria Welsh Society from May 4 - 6 1996.

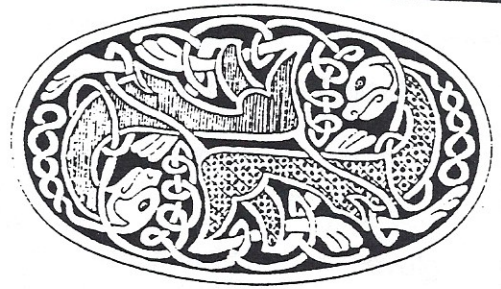
Friday, Noson Lawen - a wide range of amateur talent is expected, so polish up your acts!

Interested participants please call Mr. David Lintern at (604) 655-4556.

Saturday, Grand Concert with Vancouver Orpheus Choir and trumpet soloist, Mr. Alan Jacob.

Sunday, Gymanfa Ganu from 2 - 4 p.m. followed by a Te Bach.

Further details will be given in future newsletters.



CELTIC ART

Dragons

Sovereignty - Guardian Spirit

Dragons combine the symbolic elements of the forces of the depths (Serpent) with celestial forces (The Wings of a bird) together with the horns that symbolise growth and regeneration.

Dragons inhabit and control the underworld, the oceans and the mountain peaks and are called the Light of Life or Celestial Stags.

Many forces come together in the Dragon and because of its great range of power, it is guardian of secret knowledge and the gate keeper at the entrance to the Otherworlds.



A Good Job Well Done !

On Sunday, November 12th, an intrepid group of Mr. and Mrs. Mopp's arrived at Cambrian Hall - complete with rubber gloves and enthusiasm - to tackle the tough and rigorous cleaning job needed in certain areas. These included the downstairs kitchen, bar, stockroom, upstairs kitchen and attic.

Everything, in the above mentioned places, was pulled out, down, cleansed, scrubbed, scoured, re-organised and/or put away. It was a job well done to say the least.

When we were ready to leave, we looked back at our handiwork and felt mightily pleased at all our efforts. Everything was gleaming. Thanks go to the following people for helping:

Gwen & Tony Tonack; Beverly Thomas; Gladys Evans; Milt & Betty Morgan; Mer Montador; Laurie Hodges; Jeff & Gaynor Owen; Steve Chandler; Rob & Lynne Fox.

Congratulations to the following members of the Society, recent graduates from university.

Mer Montador - graduate of Simon Fraser University
Bernadette Howells - graduate of University of British Columbia
Laurie Hodges - graduate of University of British Columbia

Well done to you all and good luck with future endeavours.

Folk Dancing News

Gaynor Evans deserves an honourable mention here as she is doing a sterling job as our instructor. We are all proud of her.

The Christmas Pot Luck Supper will be held on Thursday, December 14th and will be our final get together before the Holiday break.

Welsh Country Dancing is always fun to learn and the group does have a positive outlook. Anyone who wishes to check us out on a Thursday evening from 7:30 p.m. onwards, is welcome.

With half of our season already drawing to a close, 'tis time to wish everyone in the Welsh Society Nadolig Llawen a Flwyddyn Newydd Dda - from the Folk Dancers.

Lynne Hughes Fox.



A Christmas singout to end the Fall season will be given at Buchanan Sunset Lodge in New Westminster on Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Rehearsals will resume on Friday, January 5th, 1996.

Nerys Haqq - 278-8978.

Welsh Lessons

Welsh lessons are going apace with many a hilarious moment and an occasional breakthrough. We will have a short rest after the 11th and then become very serious again in January.

"Thank you's" are due to:

Eirlys Ann Thomas for organising and cataloguing a wealth of supplementary reading in the form of books donated by Ros Thomas and Clifford Jones.

Pam Williams for undertaking the responsibility of doing the Librarian's task.

Everyone for cookie donations to keep up our energy.

Anne Jones for being ready to step in and help when needed.

Captain Lampshire Jones for guiding the advance learners.

And particularly to Dr. Gwilym Evans, who spends hours at the photostating machines. Who gives freely of his time as a volunteer "Athro", and whose only reward is the look on our faces when we suddenly see the light.

Diolch yn fawr i chwi.

Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

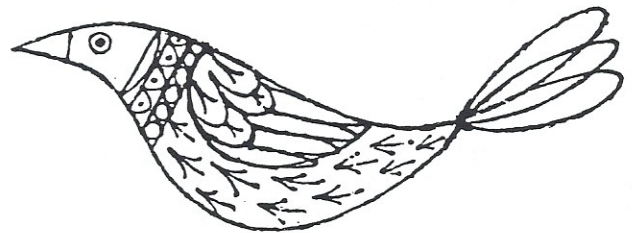
Beverly Thomas.



The Preservation of Man

The horse and mule live 30 years
And nothing know of wines and beers.
The goat and sheep at 20 die
Without the taste of Scotch or Rye.
The cow drinks water by the ton
And at 18 is largely done.
At 16 most dogs cash in
Without the aid of rum of gin.
The cat in milk and water soaks -
And then at 12 short years, it croaks.
The modest, sober, bone-dry hen
Lays eggs for Nogs and dies at 10.
The animals are strictly dry -
They sinless live and swiftly die.
But sinful, ginfull, rum-soaked men
Survive for three score years and ten
And some of us, the mighty few -
Stay pickled 'til we're 92.

Submitted by Capt. I. Lampshire Jones.



MEDICINE CHEST

For the blues, read Psalm 27.

For an empty purse, read Psalm 37.

If discouraged about work, Psalm 128.

If people seem unkind to you, John 15.

If you are losing confidence in people,

I Corinthians 13.

If you cannot have your own way, James 3.

If you are all out of sorts, Hebrews 12.

For a traveling companion, Psalm 121.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY.

At the W.A. Christmas Luncheon, held on Tuesday, December 5th, most of our members were present and the delicious meal was much enjoyed by all. It was catered by Mesdames Veronica Gilder, Anne Jones, Betty Morgan and Joan Wilkinson - it was quite an undertaking in a small kitchen. Well over thirty people sat down for the meal.

The entertainment that followed was voted one of the best ever, as could be expected, as the talented Mr. Alan Tucker accompanied by Mrs. Enid Lewis kindly gave of their time and talents to lead us in Carol Singing and to feast our ears on their own performances.

As always I have to thank the husbands who also gave of their time to come and set up tables and clear and wash up after the meal - they were also very efficient table waiters. In alphabetical order, they are: Derek Jones, Milt Morgan, Don Murray, Ken Owens, Gordon Thomas and Tony Tonack.

We were pleased to be able to show our appreciation to the ladies who came and helped us make our Spring fund raising event a success - it was good to have them with us at this Christmas time.

A big Thank You to the Social Section who provided the wine to compliment the food and to Tony Tonack our own special "Wine Waiter".

This year, we were also pleased that our Society President, Mr. Jeff Owen was able to join us - it was a pleasure to see him and his wife Gaynor sitting down for once and enjoying the event with us.

The first W.A. meeting for '96 will be held at noon on Wednesday, January 17th. We invite all the ladies in the Society to join us. "Drop in" whenever you can, even if you cannot attend regularly, you will be most

welcome and I think you will enjoy being with us.

On behalf of us all in the W.A., I wish a quick recovery to all who were not able to join us because of ill health and everyone God's blessing and a Happy New Year,

Anne G. Jones, W.A. President.

WELSH KITCHEN

Pwdin Eryri ~ Snowdonia Pudding

4 oz. suet
3 eggs
1 oz. corn flour or ground rice
3 oz demerara sugar
4 oz. breadcrumbs
2 oz. raisins
3 oz. lemon marmalade
grated rind of a lemon
pinch of salt

Mix the suet, breadcrumbs, cornflour and salt together. Add the grated lemon rind and sugar.

Grease the inside of a basin and press about half the raisins on to the greased surface. Beat the eggs and add with the remaining raisins to the mixture. Pour into the basin.

Cover and boil for 1 1/2 hours.

Serve with a sauce such as Madeira.

Submitted by Elaine Thoma

Living in Meliden

From "Hel Achau", Cylchgrawn
Cymdeithas Hanes Teuluodd Clwyd
(Contributed by Robert Bennett Williams
of Lantzville, Vancouver Island)

"My name is Thomas Griffith Davies, the year is 1881 and I am eleven years old and a scholar at the local school. I don't know how long I shall stay there as the times are very hard and we are quite poor. At the moment it costs 1d (shilling) a week for my education, but writing and arithmetic costs 6d a week extra. The school was built here in Meliden with the largest part of the money being supplied by the local Talargoch Mining Company, opening up for the first classes in June 1843. The building of the school was done in their spare time, by the miners, the thought behind it, maybe, that by educating us children other ways would open up for us to be employed elsewhere, rather than having to endure the hardships down the mine.

"The Lead Mine is now owned by Messrs Hughes and Lancaster, the Talargoch Mining Company having gone into liquidation in 1873. My father and four brothers work at the mine but brother William Henry is only fifteen so can't go underground because of his age. He is employed as a lead ore washer, for nine days a month, his wage being between 6d and 1s a day.

"My father and brothers work about 1040 feet below ground getting down to their place of work by ladder, from level to level. No wonder there are accidents down there, holding on with one hand and holding their only means of light, rush candles, in the other. Once at their place of work, their conditions are far from comfortable, with water dripping on them constantly, standing in water throughout their shift. There are no

means of bathing at the pit, so a tin bath at home in front of the fire is used.

"Today the village has 155 houses, but quite a few of them are empty - about twenty. There are 527 people living in our village, 261 of them are women and girls.

"Besides the mine, the life of my village centres mainly around the two chapels with two services on a Sunday, as well as a Sunday School. The other highlight of our village happens once a month when the miners collect their pay. It is just like Christmas, except some of the money has to be paid out to local shops and tradesmen who, Dad says are good enough to give us food, etc. "on the slate". Welsh is still the main language but here are a few men about who talk with funny accents. William says they come from a place called Cornwall. I haven't learnt in school where that is. My Dad has worked a sawyer in Dyserth before the family moved here to Meliden and got a job at the Lead Mine. Mam has died and Jane, my second oldest sister looks after the family. She is good to us, but it's not the same without Mam. Dad received a letter the other day, I had to read it as Dad hasn't learnt the words. The letter came from a place called Dwygyfylchi and spoke of a better job for Dad, more money and better conditions. Will have to wait and see if we go."

Sources

1851 - 1881 Census for Meliden
Lead Mining in North Wales
History of Talargoch Mine
School Records

