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CHWEFOR I MAWRTH
1994



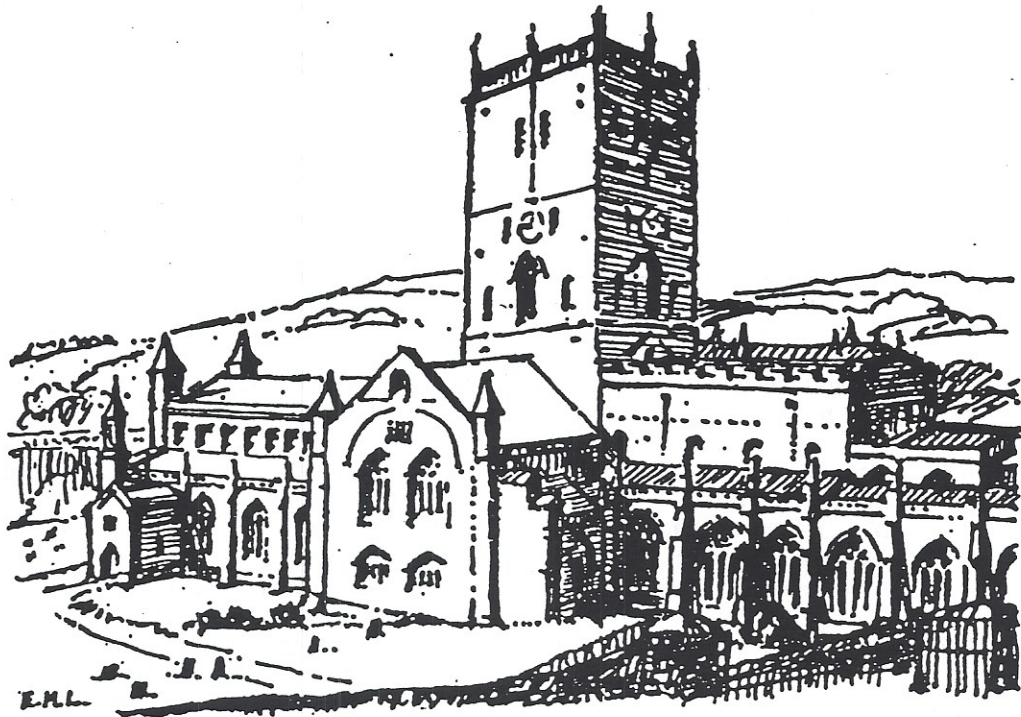
FEBRUARY TO MARCH
1994

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL



The final instalment on "A COUNTRY THAT WORKS" by Dana Wechsler-Linden and Matt Rees of "Forbes" magazine.

Wales' most successful entrepreneur is Alfred Gooding, who bought the failing computerised gaming equipment manufacturer Race Electronics for U.S.\$150,000 in 1983. He got his big break two years later when Japan's Brother Industries built a plant in North Wales and awarded Gooding a contract to supply circuit boards. As other foreign clients followed, Race's work force has expanded from 75 employees to 1,400. Needing capital to expand, Gooding sold 24% of his firm to Citicorp in 1987 for \$3.4 million and another 20% to the big Japanese trading company C. Itoh, (now Itochu Corp.) two years later for \$9.3 million.

What does Gooding, a fervid Welsh patriot who still lives within a few miles of his birthplace, have to say about foreign investors?

"We'd be in a mess without them," he replies.

The foreign investors and the transformation of the Welsh economy are not universally popular, however. In Wales, as in the U.S., one can hear complaints

that those good, high-paying coal and steel jobs are being replaced by low-wage work boxing circuit boards and assembling other countries' high-value-added components.

"The government," says George Rees, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers in South Wales, "should create jobs where there are good wages to be paid, rather than investing in grants to the Japanese, who pay low wages out."

In a sense, the government is heeding Rees' advice. Britain's top research university, Imperial College, London, is planning to set up research laboratories near Cardiff. That won't reopen the mines or re-fire the hearths, but longer term it will help attract the foreign investment Wales needs. Philip Cooke, professor of regional economics at the University of Wales, Cardiff, worries that without such educational investment, the next wave of foreign investment will flow to places like Ireland and India.

In the business of winning foreign investment, the region that sits on its past achievements will soon be passed by. The hard-working Welsh are unlikely to do much sitting down on the job.

M e m b e r s h i p R e n e w a l

Name : _____

Address : _____

City : _____

Postal Code : _____

Phone No.: () _____

Please make your cheques or money orders payable to: "The Welsh Society of Vancouver".
(Fees on new memberships are pro-rated from July onwards)

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.

New Member !

Jane Phillips of Port Alberni, British Columbia. - WELCOME/CROESO .

Concerning St. David...

St. David, that great son of Wales and perhaps Britain's greatest saint, did not confine his labours within Welsh borders, but established no less than twelve monasteries in various parts of the land. One of these was in Bath, and according to legend he gave the waters there, their powers. As the waters of Bath were famous in Roman times this legend has to be discounted.

St. David also founded monastic establishments at Glastonbury and Leominster, according to his 14th century biographer, Bishop Rhygyfarch of St. David's.

Welsh people used to claim for St. David that he was directly descended from the Mother of Christ. This was by no means the blasphemous supposition it might appear to be because there was, and still is a strong school of thought that believed Our Lord to have several brothers and sisters and that the "brethren" mentioned in the Gospel were literally the children of Mary and Joseph.

The Leek For Wales Ceremonies connected with St. David's Day are familiar to everyone. The custom of eating the leek on this day is quite ancient. Shakespeare mentions it, but earlier than that it is recorded that a quarrel over eating leeks caused the Battle of Hatfield Manor to be fought in the year 653, when the Britons under Cadwaladr vanquished Edwin of Northumbria. Since then it was customary to wear the leeks in battle.

Some say the adoption of the leek as a national emblem arose from the tradition that for several years St. David at all times an austere man, lived solely on bread water and leeks. The leek was introduced to Wales by the Romans from the Near East, where it grew extensively, particularly in Egypt. Leeks were known there and enjoyed by the Children of Israel. Some people believe that the native wild daffodil is the true emblem of Wales and that the adoption of the leek came about through a confusion of the words in Welsh.

Article donated by I. Lampshire-Jones.

St. David's Day Banquet

Held on Saturday, March 5th at the Cambrian Hall. Cocktails are at 6 pm, Dinner begins at 7 pm.

Tickets are \$25.00 for members and \$28.00 for guests, and are available from Gwen Tonack at 738-3377.

In Honour of St. David's Day

When good St. David, as old writs record,
Exchanged his sacred Crosier for a sword,
Nor drum nor standard kept his men together,
Each smelt his neighbour's vegetable feather,
In heart and stomach stout they turned not crupper:
The Foe their breakfast was, the Leek their supper.

Anonymous, early 18th Century.

Welsh Society Folk Dancers

Take note all those of you who spent post-Christmas recuperation in a nice, cosy sort of way, the folk-dancers were back at practice and hard at it, I might add! Oh the commitment from this group is truly inspiring.

Well it has to be, from now on it's a downhill run towards the P.N.W.G.G. in Nanaimo next May and we are determined to look our best for this.

However, that doesn't mean that we won't turn away prospective members from joining us. Folk dancing is fun to learn and the group itself is a good one.

If you think you would like to join us sometime, then please phone Jack and Bertha Smith at 683-1335.

Lynne H. Fox.

Open House !

Every March 1st we have Open House at the Red Dragon. There will be plenty of Hwyl that night with the "Eating of the Leeks" ceremony and lots of Cawl Cennin to eat, made, of course, by Rose Murphy.

We will have The Harrow Ladies Golf Team visiting us too as they are stopping in Vancouver for a couple of days, before heading home to the U.K. This cannot be missed! So get your leeks and daffs at the ready and come and remember Dewi Sant.

Red Dragon open at 7.00 p.m.

The Right "Stuff"

Right from the time we are young we are given STUFF.

We learn to like STUFF.

As we grew up, we want even more STUFF.

We continually ask our parents for money so we can buy STUFF.

Then when we are of age, we get a job to buy STUFF.

Needless to say, we must buy a car to haul our STUFF.

Because we soon get too much STUFF, our house becomes too small. So we get a bigger house.

Now we don't have enough STUFF for the big house. So we buy more STUFF.

The situation at the Cambrian Hall is quite different. We cannot find enough space to store all our STUFF.

So the Building Committee, in conjunction with members of the W.A., Cambrian Circle Singers, Drama Group, Social Committee and Executive are busy reorganising all the STUFF that needs to be kept.

That will ensure easy access and easy storage of our STUFF; and the eventual development of the office-cum-archives area to preserve our recordsoops STUFF!!!

Written by Eirlys Anne Thomas.

Darts Tournament

Great news for "arrows" fans, the Social Committee have decided to have the 1994 tournament on Saturday, March 19th at the Red Dragon.

As always, there will be prizes handed out and of course munchies, for the serious-minded players to keep their strength and concentration going - not to mention the cheering section!

The tournament is open to men and women who are Welsh Society Members, so if you haven't yet paid your dues, now is the time to consider it!

Interested participants can sign up at the bar, or contact the following people; Gwen and Tony Tonack at 738-3377; Milt Morgan at 298-6085. Please give the organisers plenty of notice.

Early Bird Bookings

Well you may not believe it, but already the Christmas Dinner Dance has been booked for 1994!

Jordans the caterers have let us know in plenty of time, that their December calendar has filled up, but they left one weekend open for the Vancouver Welsh Society.

The date has been set for Saturday, December 3rd and will be held in the Red Dragon, as last year's was, (the popular vote has decided this is a better venue than upstairs.)

Seating will be limited, so tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

It was noted that of all who attended the last Christmas Dinner Dance, actual members numbered only 42. Quite disappointing when you consider that we have in excess of 140 members in the Society.

Women's Auxiliary

The day for the first W.A. meeting of '94 was sunny, bright and not too cold and we had an excellent turn-out for the meeting. The ladies thoroughly enjoyed catching up on each other's news during the social hour.

During the business part of the meeting, arrangements were made to clean the silver trophies from our display cabinet, so that they will look good on the March 1st open house - later we will meet to make Welsh Cakes to be donated to the Pacific North West Gymanfa Ganu Committee in May.

In 1993 the W.A. donated \$1,450 to the parent body for hall improvements and maintenance - and money is being held for a further donation to buy filing cabinets for the Society records - once the space is available for them.

As always, we wish to keep up our donations to the parent body, so I appeal to everyone to support our MAIN FUND RAISING EVENT, namely our Spring Tea and Sale. This year it will be held on April 16th, from 2 - 4 p.m. Tickets are available from any W.A. member for \$3.50.

Donations to our bake and craft stalls would be much appreciated - so get out your favourite recipes and patterns and get busy please.

We will also have, Book, Jewellery and White Elephant stalls, so now is a good time to clear out all the items you will never use again and are as good as new - or that have never been used as they were unwanted gifts etc. We can sell them all and you will consequently have lots of storage space and helped a good cause.

We'll also have a "bottle stall", any bottled item will gladly be accepted as a prize, from champagne, pop, salad cream to shampoo etc. We should all be proud of our beloved Cambrian Hall and any donation in money or in kind will be put to good use and we can all enjoy an improved well maintained hall. Please be part of the W.A. fund-raiser this year. As baked goods will be sold, to

comply with health regulations, we are sorry we can not accept used clothing of any kind and any other item must be new or good as new - thank you.

Donations can be given to any W.A. member or can be left at the Cambrian Hall

Thank you very much in anticipation,
Diolch 'o Galon.

Anne Jones, President.

Vancouver Orpheus Male Voice Choir

The Choir will be holding their second Pig 'N Whistle Fun Night at Cambrian Hall on Saturday, 19th February at 8.00 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 each and can be obtained from one of the following choir members:

Milt Morgan 298-6085.
Jimmy Murphy 526-2960.
Brian Granville 941-2869.

As well, they are giving concerts on

Practices are on Tuesday nights at John Oliver Secondary School, Room 201.

Cambrian Circle Singers

The Singers will have a singout on Wednesday, February 16th, at New Vista, 7550 Rosewood, Burnaby - 7.00 p.m.

Their rehearsals will continue as follows:

Wednesday, Feb. 23rd - 8.00 p.m.
Fridays, March 4th and March 11th - 8.00 p.m.
Wednesdays, March 16th, 23rd and 30th - 8.00 p.m.
Friday, April 8th - 8.00 p.m.

For further information on the Singers or if anyone is thinking of joining, then please call Nerys Haqq at 278-8978.

Something to Think About...

We thought we'd publish the "Operating Account" of our year-end financial statement to make an important point concerning the source of most of the revenue that goes toward the expense of running the Vancouver Welsh Society. If you compare the income to expenditures, you'll notice that although membership dues cover the cost of small items such as the newsletter, the larger expenses can only be met by those revenues which involve, for the most part, making use of our greatest asset, Cambrian hall.

So although your support is much appreciated by those who put time and effort into keeping the society going, your participation is what really makes the difference.

Main Section -- Operating Account

Statement of Income and Expenditures for the year ending December 31st, 1993.

Income:

Membership dues	.....\$ 3,120.58
Bank and G.I.C. interest	..... 239.67
Donations	..... 2,756.42
Hall Rentals	..... 19,807.00
" " damage deposits	..... 800.00
Sale of Entertainment books	..... 447.20
" " Hymn books	..... 23.75
Bar/Social transfer to Main Section	..... 6,000.00
St. David's Day Banquet	..... 1,914.00
B.C. Gov't building grant	..... 7,050.00
Gymanfa Ganu service collections	..... 219.81
" " tea	..... 74.25
Folk Dancers honorarium	..... 50.00
Anniversary dinner	..... 784.00
Bank transfer from G.I.C.	..... 11,141.87
Miscellaneous and Sundry income	..... 98.74

Expenditures:

Bank charges and costs	.....\$ 50.43
Hall janitorial services	..... 3,170.00
" " supplies	..... 1,001.95
B.C. Hydro	..... 3,054.89
" Tel	..... 1,060.31
City taxes	..... 8,402.09
" water	..... 232.25
Licenses, permits, etc.	..... 724.00
Hall insurance	..... 2,544.00
Newsletter	..... 773.29
General meeting refreshments	..... 34.18
St. David's Day banquet	..... 1,930.55
Anniversary dinner	..... 770.00
Hall repairs, renovations & services	..... 2,487.27
" rear stage carpetting	..... 2,502.85
" exterior signs	..... 627.00
" entrance handrailing	..... 542.49
Car bumper stickers	..... 346.27
Photographic supplies	..... 149.66

Main Section -- Operating Account

Expenditures: (cont'd)

Gymanfa Ganu expenses	.....	58.64
Damage deposit refund	.....	200.00
Celtic Connection	.....	107.00
Subscriptions and advertising	.....	251.75
Canada Savings Bonds	.....	20,000.00
Folk dancers tape player	.....	182.35
Hall piano replacement	.....	2,565.00
" " tuning and servicing	.....	120.00
Printed business cards	.....	116.28
Entertainment books	.....	326.20
Welsh Trade Deputation Reception	.....	88.25
Petty cash	.....	132.92
Miscellaneous and sundry expenses	.....	193.56

"Main Section Annual Financial Report and Summary for the Year 1993" - Jack Smith, Treasurer.

"For your information..."

We have recently received information concerning the entitlement of retirement pensions for those living outside of the British Isles. The details given in correspondence from the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners goes as follows:

"The Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners is a group of unpaid volunteers whose chief aim is to put pressure on the U.K. Government to pay cost-of-living increase to British residents and widows pensions under the United Kingdom Social Security Scheme.

Pensions are payable at the same rates as in the United Kingdom in the EEC countries (Portugal, Germany, France, etc) and under reciprocal agreements to pensioners in, e.g. Austria, Cyprus, Malta, Mauritius, Finland, Sark, Iceland, Switzerland, Israel, Turkey, Jersey, and Guernsey. Pensioners in a further group of countries receive increases payable after the date an agreement entered into force: Bermuda, Jamaica, S. Ireland and the United States of America. We want equal benefits, since we paid national insurance contributions during our working lives in Britain.

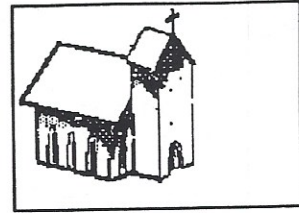
In our fight to get indexing of pensions here, we would like to say we represent all U.K. pensioners (and future pensioners) now resident in Canada."

If anyone would like to receive more information about this issue, you can contact Bernard Jackson at 685-1877. If interest is significant, the Welsh Society would be pleased to allow all interested parties to meet at the Cambrian Hall at a pre-arranged time.

Church Service

Church services are held on the second Sunday of every month.

The service in March will be the St. David's Day service.



WELSH ISLANDS OF PILGRIMAGE

Historic Bardsey Island, two miles from the coast near Aberdaron at the end of the Lleyn Peninsula and long in private ownership, is now owned by the Bardsey Trust, whose chairman is the poet R. S. Thomas. The Trust developed from the Bardsey Bird and Field Observatory which has been in existence for a quarter of a century.

It is estimated that \$200,000 will be required to produce the income needed to conserve and administer the island and to repair some of the property on it. Its character as a Nature Reserve and an historic place of Christian pilgrimage are to be preserved, and access provided for the public.

The trouble with Bardsey is that the comparatively narrow strip of sea between the mainland and the island is one of the most wild and dangerous around the British Isles, and that conditions which are favourable for getting you there are by no means certain to last long enough to allow you to return when you wish. Visitors can be stranded on the island for days on end, just as they can wait for days for the weather to be suitable to make the outward journey. Even non-Welsh visitors will not be surprised to know that the name of the island, Ynys Enlli, means the island of tides.

In the 14th century and onwards, pilgrims waited in a special hostel. On its site now is a 17th century cottage, now a cafe, where twentieth century pilgrims wait for a crossing. There is a legend that Merlin, the Welsh visionary, lies in an enchanted sleep on Bardsey, with the golden throne of Britain and other treasures, waiting for the re-appearance of King Arthur, but we are on firmer ground if we allow that about A. D. 516, a hermit, St. Cadfan, settled on the island and built a tiny abbey dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Another ancient legend says that the bodies of 20,000 saints are buried on the island. The exact details of this may be hard to believe, but the story probably has some historical basis because after the battle of Chester in 613, when Ethelfrith, king of Northumbria, defeated the Britons, over a thousand monks from the monastery of Bangor-Is-Y-Coed fled to Bardsey for refuge.

In medieval times the island was a famous place of pilgrimage for Christians. Three trips to Bardsey counted as one to Rome. But it is not only human 'pilgrims' who have made their way to Bardsey. As a Nature Reserve with nearly 40 species of birds, the island is noted as a migration changing post.

Another holy isle is Puffin Island (which itself is off the Isle of Anglesey). It has religious associations with St. Seiriol, who is said to be buried there on what is now an uninhabited island with a ruined Norman church tower its only remaining building. St. Seiriol spent most of his life just across the water on Anglesey itself where he founded a monastery in the sixth century. The foundations of a hermit's cell and a well where he is said to have baptised his converts, are still to be seen.

Legend tells how he used to journey half-way across the island to meet another saint, St. Cybi, of Holyhead, which is also on an island of its own (Holy Island) at the other side of Anglesey. He came half-way across Anglesey in the other direction. Seiriol, travelling with his back to the sun in the morning, and returning in the evening, was called Seiriol the Pale, while his fellow-saint who faced the

sun in both journeys was called Cybi, the Tanned!

Also in Anglesey is Llanddwyn Island (though in fact it is never quite cut off by the tide). Here, too, are several religious remains - the ruins of a little priory dedicated to St. Dwynwen (who is the Welsh equivalent of St. Valentine) and also some great stone crosses still standing. Because of the connection with St. Dwynwen, it is said that most of the pilgrims here were the love lorn!

Off the coast of Pembrokeshire, near Tenby, is Caldy Island. Here are the remains of an 11th century priory and also a modern Cistercian monastery whose monks still farm the site of the ancient abbey lands and make Caldy Abbey perfume - a popular holiday gift for the visitors to the island and to Tenby to take home with them.

Again, however, it is the 'feathered pilgrims' rather than the human ones for which some of the tiny islands in this district are noted, Grassholme Island, 12 miles from St. David's Head, has one of the largest gannetries in the world, while Ramsey Island, much nearer the mainland, had more than 30 species of birds breeding on a privately owned Nature Reserve. Skomer Island, reached from Martin's Haven by boat, is famous for its 25,000 pairs of Manx shearwaters. The island is owned jointly by the Nature Conservancy and the West Wales Naturalists' Trust.

Skomer also has its own unique Skomer vole - a tame variety found nowhere else. Long may these islands attract the rare species of birds and animals - and even the rarer species of circumspect human visitors, genuine nature lovers, who will do nothing to mar the inherent peace and beauty and often historic quality of these quiet places.



"CEREDIGION — LAND OF THE LOVED ONE"

Originally called Tyno Goch, in 451 AD the land belonged to Ceredig, the loved one, one of seven sons of Cunedda, who freed the South West from seaborne invaders. With natural boundaries all around, the River Dovey to the North, the Teifi to the South, and the Pumlumon mountains to the East, it has been an administrative area for over 1500 years, and at one time was the County of Cardiganshire. The local inhabitants, called Cardis, guard their heritage well, with the National Library of Wales, The University College of Wales, the Welsh College of Agriculture, and many other historical sites all within its boundaries. Today, its natural beauty makes it one of the top tourist areas in Wales.

FEBRUARY 94		CHWEFROR 194				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 EXECUTIVE MEETING	3 DANCE PRACTICES ☾ Last Quarter	4	5
6	7	8	9 GENERAL MEETING	10 ○ New Moon	11	12
13 CHURCH SERVICE	14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY ALL!	15	16 WOMEN'S AUXILIARY MEETING - NOON	17 WELSH NIGHT	18 ☽ First Quarter	19
20	21	22	23 CAMBRIAN CIRCLE SINGERS REHEARSAL - 8PM	24	25	26 ● Full Moon
27	28	Wood burning stoves can be dangerous. If you must use one, make sure it is certified, installed professionally and is cleaned regularly. ○			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	MARCH 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

MARCH 94		MAWRTH 194				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Always keep your garage floors closed and locked, especially if the garage is attached and has an entry door to your house.	1 ST DAVID'S DAY OPEN HOUSE 7PM. DYDD GWYL DEWI!	2 EXECUTIVE MEETING.	3	4 CAMBRIAN CIRCLE SINGERS PRACTICE - 8PM ☾ Last Quarter	5 ST DAVID'S DAY BANQUET CAMBRIAN HALL
6	7	8	9 GENERAL MEETING.	10	11	12 ○ New Moon
13 CHURCH SERVICE	14	15	16 WOMEN'S AUXILIARY MEETING - NOON CAMBRIAN CIRCLE SINGERS PRACTICE 8PM	17 WELSH NIGHT.	18	19 DARTS TOURNAMENT RED DRAGON.
20 ☽ First Quarter	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 ● Full Moon	28	29	30 ○	31	FEBRUARY 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	APRIL 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