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Chwefror i Mawrth
1995

February to March
1995

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



Llynnon Mill, Llanddeusant, Anglesey

Dunvant Choir To Visit Northwest

As the planning goes on behind the scenes for this visit, we at the Welsh Society are doing our bit to help out and make sure everything goes smoothly.

The gentlemen of the Dunvant Male Voice Choir will be giving a concert here, in September and will need billeting for a few nights.

Any offers of help towards this request are greatly appreciated and please call Jack Smith for more information.

Free for the asking !

Jeff and Gaynor Owen have some items they'd like to give away:

A wind-up microwave turntable

A wall-mount kitchen scale.

Just give them a call at 946-4956 and they're yours !



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:

Type of Membership (Circle one)

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

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



The Welsh Society of Vancouver
St. David's Day Dinner & Dance

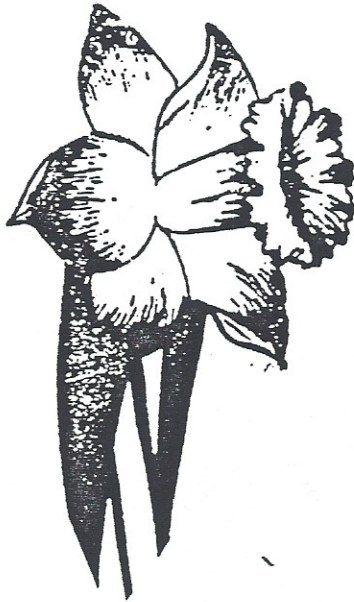
Saturday, March 4th 1995

Cambrian Hall
215 East 17th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

Members: \$25.00
Guests: \$28.00

Cocktails: 6:00 pm
Dinner: 7:00 pm

EXTRA!
EXTRA!
EXTRA!



BANQUET

Chairman	Ellis Griffiths
Soloist	George Roberts
Accompanyist	Enid Lewis
Toast to Canada	Dr. Irene Evans
Toast to Wales	Elizabeth Murray
Community Singing Leader	Nerys Haqq

Tickets are available from Gwen Tonack at 738-3377 and Gaynor Owen at 946-4956.

There is a **LIMITED NUMBER ON SALE** due to maximum capacity seating, so be sure that you have yours early so that you don't miss out.

St. David's Day Open House

Wednesday, March 1st down at the Red Dragon, we will be celebrating Dydd Gwyl Dewi once again.

The Pub opens at 7:00 p.m. and we are hoping all good Welsh men and women will come down and join us.

The Eating of the Leek ceremony will be performed as well as singing, music and plenty of hwyl to share. As we cannot possibly have St. David's Day without Cawl Cennin, Rose Murphy has very kindly agreed to make up a batch of her speciality.

So polish off your leeks and daffodils in readiness for March 1st, and we'll see you then.

GYMANFA GANU

£

NOSON LAWEN

This is a reminder that the Gymanfa Ganu / Noson Lawen weekend is a bi-annual event held the 1st weekends of May and November.

We feel that it's important that all the society's members are kept informed of occasions such as this well in advance to allow them to plan ahead.

After all, we'd like to see YOU there !

Line Dancing

You may have missed the first session, but there's still a chance to get in on the fun as Pam and Keith Williams teach us some steps to this lively and colourful form of country dancing.

We'll be all getting together again on Saturday the 18th of February at the Red Dragon any time after 8:30pm.

Hope to see you there.

Of Interest...

The following article was found on the first page of the Vancouver Sun's Lower Mainland section, Monday, January 16th 1995. Perhaps some of our members have knowledge of the Thomas family and would like to help David Thomas in Wales re-connect with his relatives.

Kin Sought

Thomas Edwards emigrated from Wales to Vancouver a century ago. His construction company looked after the living and his funeral parlour looked after the dead for more than half a century.

When Thomas's son John died in 1968 the funeral parlour business was sold to Simmons and McBride, which later became the present Mount Pleasant Funeral Home.

David Thomas of Lampeter, Wales, is trying to find John's children, if he had any, or those of Thomas's daughter, Sadie Hutchinson, who had a daughter Ann.

David says that Thomas was a patriotic Welshman and on his last visit to Wales in 1948, he presented an annual prize at the Eisteddfod at Brigend. For more information call Column One at 732-2146.

CAMBRIAN CIRCLE Singers

In last month's Newsletter, we regrettably omitted the name of Mrs. Emily Davies and send sincere apologies to the lady.

Here again is a portion of the text as written by Circle Singers directress Nerys Haqq, including ALL names.

"I would like to thank all the members of the group for their loyalty and dedication over the years.

"To Gayle, Emily, Bill, Pat, Chris, May, Elizabeth, Muriel, Joan, Mary, Phoebe on flute and Lucy on piano, diolch yn fawr."

February rehearsals: 3rd, 10th 15th and 22nd

Held at the Cambrian hall at 8pm

Currently scheduled singouts are:

Friday, March 3rd New Vista
7550 Rosewood
Burnaby
Time: 7 pm.

Friday, April 7th UBC Extended Care
2211 Westbrook Mall
Time: 6:30 pm.

Church Services

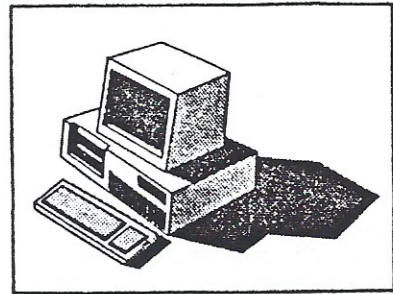
Every second Sunday in each month, church services are held in the Lower Hall.



Services are bi-lingual; everyone is welcome.

Refreshments are served afterward.

From
the
Editors



Special thanks to the ladies of the W.A., who very kindly stuffed newsletters and labelled envelopes at their last meeting, so that the Cambrian News got to all members in good time.

Diolch Yn Fawr!



Saying a Cheery Hello...

Two of our members have recently spent time in hospital and we wish them all a speedy recovery back to health.

Firstly to Bertha Miller, hello and come and see us soon, we miss you down at the Hall!

Peter Taylor, glad to hear that you are doing well and will be able to shift furniture around in the near future.

LADY AUGUSTA OF LLYS LLANOVER

by Patricia John

PART TWO

When Baron Llanover died, his wife set about doing what she had always wanted to do. As a lover of everything Welsh, she had been distressed by the gradual disappearance of rural Welsh crafts which the Industrial Revolution had brought to a standstill. Determined to preserve what she could of Welsh traditions, she turned her estate into an idealised Welsh hamlet. Her tenants were required to wear Welsh costumes, and though she did not speak Welsh fluently herself, she brought Welsh speaking workers to farm her land. A Welsh Calvinist Church was built on her holdings and services were always in Welsh - the minister was obliged to wear the traditional Welsh beard.

She ruled her domain with a firm hand. A fervent abstainer, she closed seven inns her husband had established on the estate, and turned the old Duke Inn into the "Temperance Hotel".

She built a flannel mill, Melin Wlan Gwenffrwd, on her property and used the wool from her sheep to make a fine quality flannel. During the summers, the sheep were pastured on the high rolling hills nearby, and sheared each spring on her farm by her tenants.

Harpists lived and worked at Llanover Park. Only Welsh triple harps were allowed to be used. Pedal harps, Lady Augusta said, were a "cursed English innovation". Chief harper was Thomas Gruffydd and there was a harpist "for the dancing", one of the amusements that met with Lady Augusta's full approval. As chief harper, Thomas Gruffydd composed his "Llanover Reel" for Lady Augusta and many a night, his music could be heard coming from the big house, with the Llanover Reel and "Rhif Wyth" sounding until the lights in the great chandelier died out one by one, signalling that the evening had come to an end.

The tenants at Llanover Park were forbidden to own pianos but the daughter of Lady Llanover's "Harpist for the Dancing" said that her mother kept one in their parlour. Always close by it, lay a plie of washing, ready to throw over it in case Lady Augusta should come calling.

Lady Augusta's bardic name was Gwenynnen Gwent, "The Bee of Gwent". It was an apt appellation, for with remarkable fortitude and persistence, she succeeded alone in reviving many of the Welsh traditions. For many years, Abergavenny was known as the cultural centre of Cymry Gymraeg.

"Big Ben" died thirty years before his remarkable wife. Today they lie, side by side in the Llanover churchyard, in magnificent melancholy mausoleum covered all over with Cymric texts and symbols, and surmounted by the arms the couple had devised for themselves upon Benjamin's elevation to the peerage, supported by a dragon and a horned goat. Here and there around them lie harpists and domestics, all with gravestones inscribed in Welsh.

Lady Augusta died on January 17th, 1896. On her tomb is written, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the earth" - leaving no doubt in anyone's mind that she intended her work be carried on, and that she herself would superintend it, wearing wings and playing a triple harp.

~*~

Reproduced from "Y Delyn", Spring 1991.

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The Unproven Saint

For all leek-waving, daffodil hugging ex-patriate Welshpersons, March 1st is quite a sentimental occasion. Dewi, or David as his Anglicised name is better recognised, is commemorated on this day and all he did for Wales remembered.

Well let's be honest, it's not really like that at all. Most Welsh people, whether in Cymru or abroad, treat March 1st just like any other day. Maybe it provides an excuse for an extra round of drinks in the bar. Maybe it sells a few more trinkets in the souvenir shops. It would certainly be difficult to discover very much that is tangible about this Dark Ages ecclesiastic.

His memory comes to us across the centuries with all the vagueness and imprecision that is typical of post-Roman history. "Probably". "possibly" and "maybe" are words that preface most things that are claimed for this inhabitant of the Celtic twilight.

He was probably born near St. Brides Bay in Pembrokeshire in western Wales. This was possibly in 520 A.D. and maybe he died in 600 A.D. Well of course he died, it's just the date that's in doubt!

Nobody got around to writing down the story of his life until a Welsh scholar tackled the task in 1090. Quite a bit must have been forgotten in the five century gap, as we are left little the wiser.

We learn that Dewi moved the seat of ecclesiastical power from Caerleon to Mynyw and went on to establish over 50 Christian churches in South Wales. His shrine at St. David's became a notable place of pilgrimage. The only other real fact that we have is that he was canonized by Pope Calixtus II in 1120 ... but unfortunately most footnotes in the history books suggest that this canonization is unproven. So there you go - just when you think you've got hold of a firm fact, history pulls the rug from under your feet.

So raise your glasses to the hazy memory of Dewi ... and have a nice St. David's Day!



Folk Dancing News

Our footwork is back on form and we are going great guns with the learning of our new routines.

Happily, two very intrepid people have decided to join in the fun we have each Thursday. They are Elsie and Jack Rogers and we send a cheery welcome out to both of them.

We have been invited by the Puget Sound Welsh Association to give a workshop in Seattle at the end of February. This is to assist their folk dancers in getting started and motivating them to be more prolific in the community. I am sure it will be beneficial to both sides and a nice way for Welsh Canadian to get together with Welsh Americans.

Please don't forget that every fourth Thursday is our Social Night, which means we welcome those who wish to come and see what goes on behind the scenes as it were, and try out some of the routines for themselves. There is also a social tea afterwards.

Contact Jack and Bertha Smith at 683-1335 for more details.

Lynne Hughes Fox.

Invitation

Don't forget to attend the General Meetings, held on the second Wednesday of each month.

Your opinion and input is valued.

Chwefror

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Exec. 1 Meeting 7:30 p.m.	Folk Dancing 2	3	RED DRAGON OPEN 4
5	Welsh LESSONS 6	7	General Meeting 7:30 p.m.	9	10	11
CHURCH SERVICE 12	13	Valentine's Day 14	W.A. MEETING AT NOON 15	WELSH NIGHT 16	17	LIVE DANCING AT RD. 18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	Presidents' Day (U.S.A.) 27	28				

March

Mawrth

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			ST. DAVID'S DAY Ash Wednesday	Folk DANCING 2	CAMBRIAN CIRCLE SINGERS REHEARSALS 3	RED DRAGON 4
5	Welsh LESSONS 6	7	General Meeting 7:30 pm 8	9	10	RED DRAGON OPEN 11
CHURCH SERVICE 12	13	14	W.A. MEETING AT NOON 15	WELSH NIGHT 16	17	18
19	20	21	CAMBRIAN CIRCLE SINGERS REHEARSALS 22	23	St. Patrick's Day 24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	