

Chwefror i Mawrth
1998

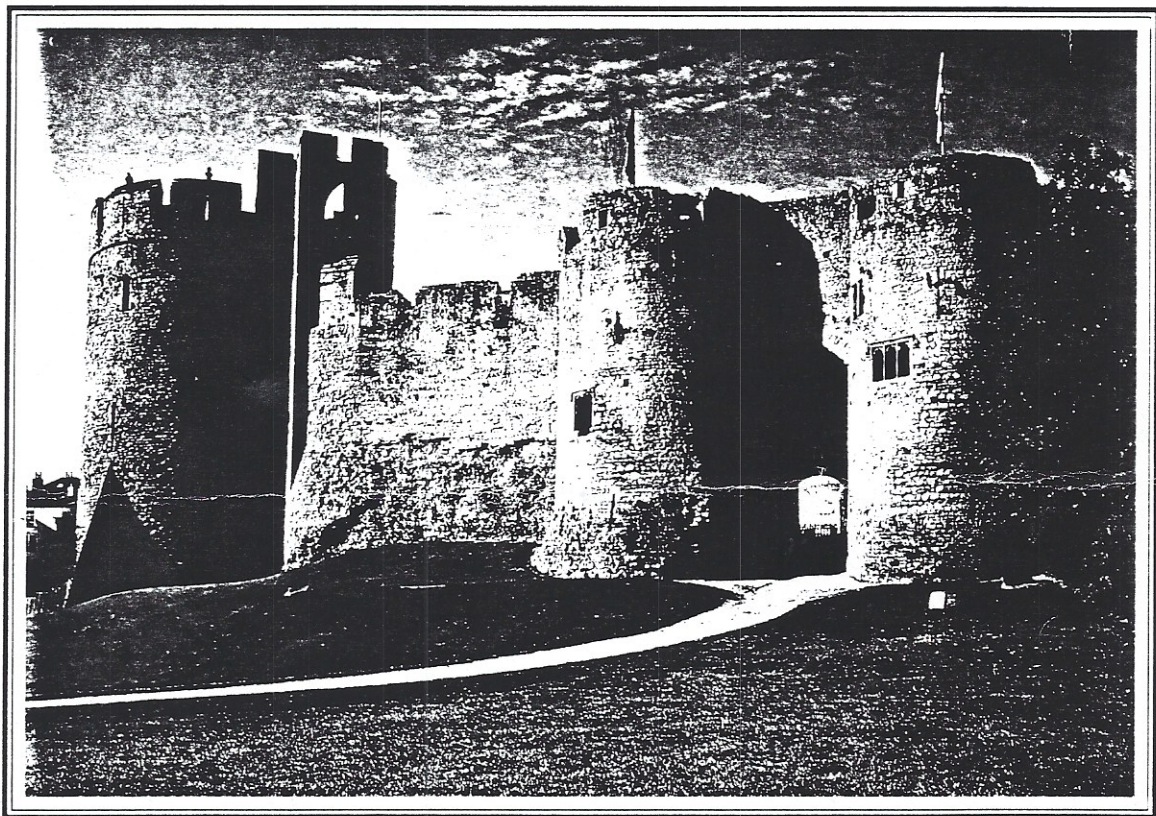


February to March
1998

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cychgrawon Cymraeg



Chepstow Castle, Gwent

Saint David

Patron Saint of Wales

The father of the patron saint of Wales was a Welsh prince named Cunedda, who ruled in southwest Wales over an area which included the old counties of Pembroke and Cardigan. David's mother - Non - was a descendant of Vortigern, the British prince who ruled a portion of southeast England, centred on the county of Kent.

St. David was born at Nenevia in Pembrokeshire in the 5th Century A.D. His place of birth has since been named Ty Ddewi, the House of David. The legend states that he was born while a terrible rainstorm was raging, but around the house where he first saw the light, all was calm and dry.

Another legend, is attached to his baptism. A spring of water gushed out of the dry ground at a place afterwards known as Ffynnon Dewi or "David's Well". This was the water of baptism, and a blind man who was present at the ceremony had his sight restored when he used the water to bathe his eyes.

The future saint, when a boy, attended the monastic seminary at Llantwit Major, which was at that time, famous throughout Christendom. It was presided over by Illtyd, who became the patron saint of horticulturists, an art in which he excelled. After his primary education at Llantwit Major, David returned to Pembrokeshire and for ten years, studied under Paulinus, a scholar who had probably come to Britain with St. Augustine. On completing his studies and before he left to build a monastery, David is said to have miraculously restored sight to the blind Paulinus.

At Llanddewibrefi, where the new

monastery was built, David gathered round him a band of monks whom he taught and then sent out to preach the Gospel throughout South Wales. Some years later, David attended a large assembly of churchmen, which included over a hundred bishops. When called upon to preach before the illustrious company, a snow white dove was seen to descend on the shy retiring scholar, who had hitherto shown no gift for preaching. After hearing his inspired sermon, the convocation decided to appoint David, Archbishop of Caerleon, where the Roman fortress had stood.

He did not retain that exalted position for long, but chose to return to the monastery in West Wales. In company with Teilo and Padarn, two Welsh Churchmen who were later canonised, he made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and returned from Jerusalem with a bell that was hung in the monastery at Llanddewibrefi to call the monks to prayer. There David died after a long life of service devoted to the spreading of the Gospel.

The Plantagenet kings, William I, Henry II and Edward I, are said to have gone on a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. David. After the defeat of Llewelyn ap Gruffydd by Edward I, the English king, offered his infant son as the new prince of Wales. It was probably at this time that David was declared the patron saint of Wales.

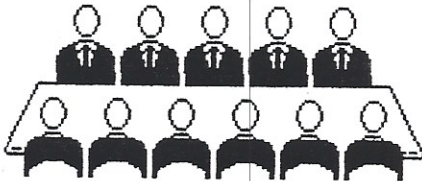
A new building was started at the site of St. David's monastery in 1123 and construction was continued throughout the centuries until St. David's Cathedral took its present form, about the year 1500. Although the saint's life is surrounded with legend, there is no doubt that he was a tremendous influence for good in his own day and his work, like the cathedral named after him, still endures.

Mumbles on My Mind

I never longed to move away,
I just wished that I could stay,
Wandering down that silvery strand
Walking in the sea and on the sand.
The wave-washed crags were there
With dancing little pools,
That hid the sea arachnids lair.
I pine for that distant shore,
With all its hidden mystic lore.
My land is my muse
Something I shall never lose.

Ynys Sian(Isla-Jane Kail)

St. David 's Day Banquet



**Place : Cambrian Hall,
Date : Saturday, Feb. 28th.
Caterers : Jordans
Ticket prices are :**

**\$26 members
\$29 guests**

**For ticket reservations please
call :**

**Gaynor Owen at 946 - 4956
Or**

**Gwen Tonack at 738 - 3377
SPACE LIMITED**

The only problem with buying a book on
amnesia is that you are likely to forget
where you put it !

If you think everything nowadays is coin-
operated , ask your teenager to shovel
snow for a quarter.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

*The January meeting of the W.A. was held on
the 3rd Wednesday of the month, as usual, with ten
members present.*

*We were pleased to welcome Maureen Grecht
and hope she will become a regular member.*

*After lunch, the group planned future meetings.
At our February meeting the display cases will be
cleaned and the silver trophies polished in readiness
for St. David's Day. Most members will come early
armed with rubber gloves, rags and elbow grease.*

*We also planned our annual Welsh Cake Bee,
which will be held April 22nd. This is very im-
portant this year as we prepare to host "Panooga",
(P.N.W.G.G.A.) in Vancouver. We will be
mixing, rolling, grilling and packaging hundreds
of the tasty morsels for the enjoyment of the many
visitors at this North West event. If you would
like to join us to help in this venture please
phone:- Mrs. Betty Morgan 298-6085. We
can certainly use a few extra hands, and it IS fun.*

*The next meeting will be held February 18th
at 12:00 noon. You would be most welcome to
attend. Just bring a brown-bag lunch: we provide
tea or coffee.*

Beverly Thomas, Sec.

Vancouver Welsh Society

Officers and Directors For 1998

President : Jeff Owen (604) 946 - 4956
V. Pres. : Ann Roberts (604) 925 - 4662
Secretary : Margaret Barclay (604) 940 - 9112
Treasurer : Tecwyn Roberts (604) 464 - 2760
Mem. Sec. : Margaret Monck (604) 733 - 9787
News. Ed. : Gwilym Evans (604) 274 - 3794

Directors : Rob Barclay
Jane Byrne
Victor Griffiths
Ieuan Lampshire-Jones
John Pritchard

The Welsh in Victoria, Australia

It was the discovery of gold in 1851 that first brought the Welsh to Australia in significant numbers. The Welsh-born population of Victoria consisted of only 377 people in 1851; in 1854 it stood at 2326, and by 1861 it had reached 6055. Over the next decade it rose slowly to a peak of 6614 in 1871. Thereafter, the number of the Welsh-born declined in Victoria but increased in the other colonies, totalling 12,000 throughout Australia by the turn of the century.

The sharp increase in the Welsh-born population was due largely to emigration directly from Wales. Motives for emigration were of course varied-some came looking for adventure, while others were enticed by utopian descriptions of colonial life that were periodically placed in the Welsh press by the emigrant agencies. Overriding all other factors, however, was the need to escape the hardships of upland farming or the degradations of industrial life. The promise of the goldfields was, of course, doubly attractive, since sudden wealth could also mean the prospect of a quick return home. By the late 1850s there were clusters of Welsh settlers throughout the gold-mining districts of western Victoria, with the heaviest concentration in the Ballarat-Sebastopol area. Invariably, the main cohesive influence was the Nonconformist chapel. Permanent stone or brick structures (exact replicas of the innumerable 'Zions' and 'Bethels' of Wales) were built. Their foundation dates are useful markers of the Welsh arrival in various areas. By 1865 at least 21 Welsh chapels were active in Victoria. From their ranks came many of the political leaders, business managers and shopkeepers of Ballarat in the second half of the century. As elsewhere in Australia, many of the Welsh churches on the goldfields were, in the first instance, interdenominational. In later years each of the three main denominations - Calvinistic Methodist, Independent and Baptist-strove to found its own place of worship. The separatist tendencies in Welsh Nonconformity were frequently as evident in the Australian bush as in the hamlets of Wales. By 1863 both the Independents and the Methodists had established their own Gymanfa (Synodical Assembly) in Victoria.

Melbourne, being the port of entry to the goldfields, attracted many of the Welsh migrants to Victoria, some of whom were quick to set up businesses or enter the professions. David John Thomas (1813-71) of Carmarthen arrived in the city in 1839, became Melbourne's most eminent surgeon in the 1840s, and later founded the Melbourne Hospital. The first service, conducted by Rev. Zorobabel Davies, was announced in the Melbourne Argus of 11 December 1852 and held at the Baptist Chapel, Collins Street East. Five years later, on the first Sunday in February of 1857, the Welsh of Melbourne were able to worship in their own chapel built on an allotment of land granted earlier by Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe. The present Welsh Church in La Trobe Street was erected on the same site in 1871.

Extracted from the Internet and modified.

If you really look like your passport photo, chances are that you're not well enough to travel. _____

Chepstow Castle, Gwent

This month features Chepstow Castle on the front page. It is a Norman castle perched high above the river Wye. Construction began in 1067, less than one year after William the Conqueror was crowned King of England. The architect was a loyal Norman lord, William FitzOsbern. The castle became the key launching point for expeditions into South Wales. Chepstow's Great Hall, begun in 1067, is the oldest surviving stone fortification in Britain. It was the heart of the castle, and originally stood alone. Because Chepstow was enlarged in stages over the years along the river Wye, its construction was in a terraced fashion as opposed to the usual concentric pattern. This unique construction is one of the features that makes it so memorable.

Watermill

The Life Story of a Welsh Cornmill

Members will recall that one of our members from Kamloops, David Llewelyn Davies, had the above book published in Wales a few months ago. With the author's permission, I publish the following extract from the book, since it mentions our Welsh Society in it.

The Welsh Society of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada was formed in 1907. Its permanent home came with the opening of the Cambrian Hall in 1929, which is a substantial two-storey brick (where wood is the norm in B.C.) building.

There are several Welsh churches in North America, but the Welsh Hall is a rarity if not unique. Amongst the prominent donors listed on the building's dedication stone is 'Jonathan Rogers'.

Currently, the Society has about 200 members, an active social and cultural life, and issues ten newsletters a year.

Ed. : Mr. Davies has given permission to include a paragraph from his book on Jonathan Rogers in a future newsletter.

The cheapest and quickest way to trace your family tree is to run for public office.

Just Relax, Sir.....

Late for a return flight from Dublin, an American tourist in Ireland jumped into a cab. "Quick," he said, "get me to the airport as fast as you can!" The cabbie nodded and floored the pedal. Soon they were barrelling along at more than 100 kilometres an hour.

Just ahead a stoplight was bright red. The cab shot through the intersection without slowing down in the slightest. "Are you blind?" shouted the tourist. "That was a red light!"

The cabbie was unfazed. "I don't believe in red lights, sir, nor do any of my five cab-driving brothers." After two more hair-raising hurtling through red lights, the tourist was relieved to see a green light. But right before the intersection, the cabbie slammed on the brakes. "Are you insane?" yelled the passenger. "That was a green light!"

"True sir," replied the cabbie. "But you never know when one of my brothers may be coming through."

Weddings ? For the bride a wedding means a shower ; for the groom, it's curtains!

When your daughter marries , don't think of it as losing a daughter ; think of it as gaining a bathroom!

VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

After a relatively relaxed January we have three performances scheduled within the next month. The first is a benefit concert at 7 p.m. on Sunday February 22 in Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 2350 148th Street in White Rock. The second is on St. David's Day, Sunday March 1, when we will be participating in the morning service at 10.30 a.m. in Christchurch Cathedral at Burrard and Georgia in Vancouver. The third is only a few days later, when we will be performing an Early Spring Concert in the Surrey Arts Centre Theatre, 13750 88th Avenue in Surrey. Incidentally, with ticket sales by members traditionally playing a major role with most amateur performance groups in filling audience seats, Peter Vink, one of our second tenors who commutes from Sardis for rehearsal every Tuesday, deserves a special mention. For our Christmas concert last December 20 in Abbotsford, Peter and his wife Hendrika, sold a total of more than 280 tickets by themselves!

Annual MEMBERSHIP Renewals

Name : _____
Address : _____
City : _____
Postal Code : _____ Phone No. () _____ - _____

Please:- Cheques or money orders payable to:
"THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER".

199 Membership:- Regular: \$35.00 Family: \$60.00
(Circle one) Seniors: \$20.00 Out-of-Town: \$20.00
50 miles or more

Send renewals to:- Beverly Thomas, Membership Secretary
Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Ave.
Vancouver, B.C. V5V 1A6

CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 EAST 17TH AVENUE, VANCOUVER, B.C. V5V 1A6 TELEPHONE (604) 876-2815

A Snippet of Welsh History

Scotch Cattle was the name given to a group of men, centred in Monmouthshire, who sought to use terror and vandalism to create an effective union. Its peak activity was in 1832-34. It destroyed employer property and held massed open air meetings condemning their employers for low wages, conditions of employment and unfair labour practices. The workers had very legitimate grievances for the employer often paid them with tokens which were redeemable at shops owned by the employers, a practice known as trucking. This iniquitous method of payment continued despite the passing of the Anti-Truck Act of 1831. The birth of the movement was undoubtedly spawned by the bitter reaction of the populace to unfettered power wielded by the mine owners, who were not only employers, but also owned the shops and homes in the area, as well as wielding influences in magistrates' courts and local parish councils. The feelings of utter despair and helplessness engendered by these conditions, as well as uncertainty of employment, inflamed the passions of the workers. But the mine owners liked their workers to be tractable in their hands, and recalcitrant miners who were wont to make demands were soon dismissed—to be replaced by a ready supply of new recruits from the surrounding countryside. In 1834, one protester called Edward Morgan, was hanged in Monmouth Gaol, the climax of the successful campaign by the authorities to suppress the Scotch Cattle.

Thirty Five Countries And When They Extended The Vote To Women

1.	New Zealand	1893	19.	South Africa	1930
2.	Australia	1902	20.	Spain	1931
3.	Finland	1906	21.	Brazil	1932
4.	Norway	1913	22.	Thailand	1932
5.	Denmark	1915	23.	Turkey	1933
6.	U. S. S. R.	1917	24.	Phillipines	1937
7.	Austria	1918	25.	France	1944
8.	Canada	1918	26.	Italy	1945
9.	Germany	1918	27.	Japan	1945
10.	Poland	1918	28.	Yugoslavia	1945
11.	Belgium	1919	29.	Bulgaria	1947
12.	Great Britain	1919	30.	China	1947
13.	Netherlands	1919	31.	Israel	1948
14.	Ireland	1919	32.	Indonesia	1955
15.	Sweden	1919	33.	Iran	1963
16.	U. S. A.	1920	34.	Switzerland	1971
17.	India*	1926	35.	Jordan	1973
18.	Pakistan*	1926			

*Allowed to vote only in provincial elections.

WHAT IS A SENIOR CITIZEN ?

A Senior Citizen is one who was here before the pill, television, frozen foods, contact lenses, credit cards.. and before man walked on the moon.

For us, "Time Sharing" meant togetherness, not holiday homes, and a "chip" meant a piece of wood, "Hardware" meant nuts and bolts, and "software" wan't even a word.

We got married first, then lived together, and thought cleavage was something that butchers did.

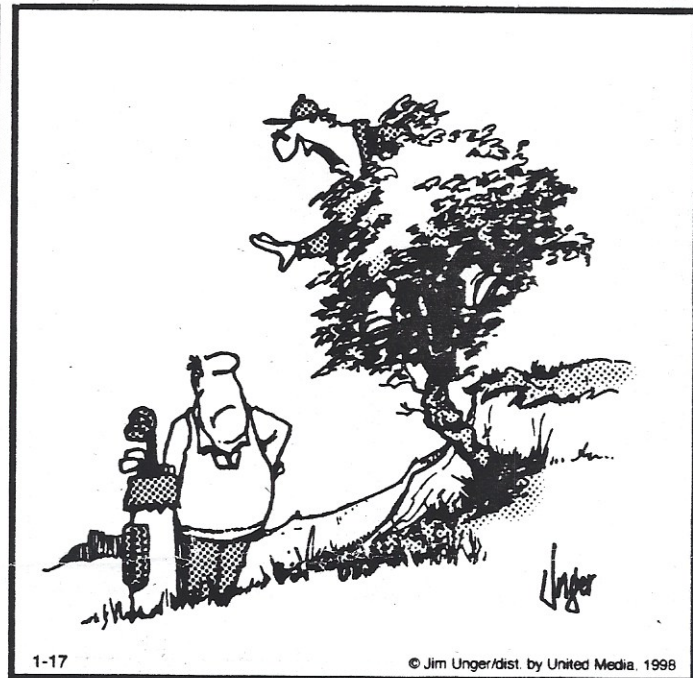
A "stud" was something fastened to a collar on a shirt, and "going all the way" meant staying on a double decker to the bus depot.

We thought that "fast food" was what you ate in lent; a "Big Mac" was an oversized raincoat and "crumpet" we had for tea. In our day "grass" was mown, "pot" was something you cooked in, "coke" was kept in the coal house and a "joint" was cooked on Sunday!

We are today's SENIOR CITIZENS, A hardy bunch when you think how the World has changed!

I.Lampshire-Jones.

Column



1-17

© Jim Unger/dist. by United Media. 1998

by
Jim
Unger

**"Quit arguing and give
me my seven iron."**

This month's newsletter is smaller because of the inclusion of material appertaining to the forthcoming Pacific North-West Gymanfa Ganu to be held in May, 1998.

February 1998

mis Chwefror 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	7:30 p.m. Welsh Lessons	7:30 pm West 27 Ave Van. Orpheus Choir Special Rehearsal St. Philips Church	W.A. (Noon) Meeting Cambrian Circle Singers rehearsal	Welsh Speaking Night Welsh Folk Dancing		21 7:30pm 3737 W27 Ave Van. Orpheus Choir Van. Benefa Concert St. Philips Church Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Van. Welsh Men's Choir Mt.Olive Lutheran 2350 - 148 St Surrey	7:30 p.m. Welsh Lessons		Cambrian Circle Singers	Welsh Folk Dancing		St. David's Day RANQUET

Welsh Men's Choir Rehearsals Tuesdays at Cambrian Hall.
Orpheus Choir Tuesday Evenings at John Oliver High School
530 East 41st Ave, Room 201, at 7:30 p.m.

Cymdeithas Cymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society
Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Vancouver, B.C.
V5V 1A6 Telephone:- (604) 876-2815

March 1998

mis Mawrth 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
St. David's Day 11:00 Van. Welsh a.m. Men's Choir Morning Service Christ Ch. Cathedral	7:30 p.m. Welsh Lessons		8 pm VWM Choir Surrey Arts Centre 7:30 p.m. Exec. Mtg	Welsh Folk Dancing	Cambrian Circle Singers rehearsal	Van Orpheus Choir Benefa Concert pm Maple Ridge Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11:00 a.m. Church Service and te bach.	7:30 p.m. Welsh Lessons		7:30 p.m. General Mtg	Welsh Folk Dancing	Cambrian Circle Singers	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.