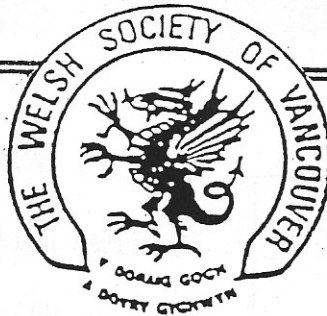


Chwefror i Mawrth
2004

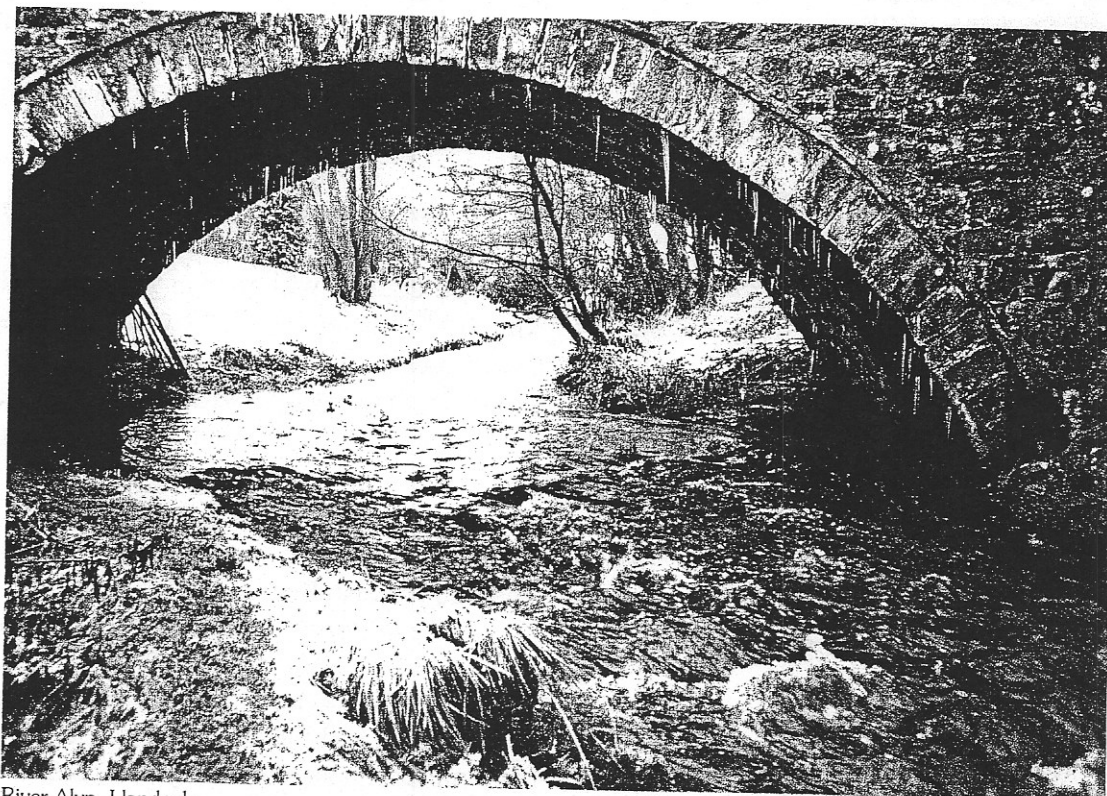


February to March
2004

Cymdeithas Gymkaeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



River Alyn, Llandegla

Photograph by Miss J. Handley, Llandegla W.I.

VANCOUVER
WELSH SOCIETY

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

This edition owes a great deal to Catholine Butler and the *Celtic Connection*. Two years ago she brought greetings from Cardiff, last year from Swansea and this year following a suggestion by Neville Thomas, she moved north to Caernarfon. Both John's and Eifion's contributions are also in the *Celtic Connection* and my piece on Gareth Wyn Williams is largely from *Yr Enfys*.

David Llewelyn Williams

Forthcoming Events

St. David's Day Dinner

The Annual St. David's Day Dinner will take place in the Cambrian Hall on Saturday, February 28th 2004. The Lower Hall will open at 6.00 pm and the Dinner will be served in the Upper Hall at 7.00 pm. The company will be entertained by Harpist Gwyneth Evans and Pianist Dr. Ray Batten. Please contact Gaynor Evans at 604-271-3134 to reserve your tickets (\$35 each).

St. David's Day Celebration

The Red Dragon will open at 7.00 pm on Monday March 1st to celebrate St. David's Day. Cawl Cenin (Leek Soup) and Welsh Cakes will be served to accompany traditional 'hwyl'. All donations will be credited to the "Roof Fund".

2004 Golf Tournament

The 2004 Welsh Society Golf Tournament will take place at Poppy Estates Golf Course in Aldergrove on Saturday July 3rd. Tee off times will start at 12.00 noon. Dinner has been arranged at the course and the total cost is \$60 per person. Please contact Tecwyn Roberts at 604-464-2760 to reserve your place, since numbers are limited unless early notice is given.

Caernarfon: 'The Capital of Welsh Wales'

*Cyfarchion ar Ddydd Gwyl Dewi
cynnes iawn i gyfeillion Canada.
oddi wrth Maer a thrigolion tref
Caernarfon yng Ngogledd Cymru.
ac fel y gweloch mae'r iaith
Gymraeg yn parhau yn fyw ac yn
gryf yma yng Nghaernarfon. ac mi
rydym yn hynod o falch o hynny.
Bydd croeso cynnes i chwi unrhyw
amser i ymweld a'n tref hynafol. ac
i fwynhau croeso ei thrigolion.*

Greetings on St. David's Day to all our friends in Canada from the Mayor and the people of the town of Caernarfon in North Wales, and as you see from the above greeting, the Welsh language is alive and strong here in Caernarfon, and we are very proud of that fact. There will be a very warm welcome awaiting any time you wish to visit our historic town and sample the warmth of its people.

- Helen Gwyn
Maer Caernarfon/
Mayor of Caernarfon

By CATHOLINE BUTLER

Helen Gwyn, Mayor of the Royal Town of Caernarfon in Wales, recently spoke to *The Celtic Connection* about the town she knows and loves so well. For the past 15 years she has served on the town council as a councillor and is now in her second term as the mayor.

Caernarfon was made a royal town by Queen Elizabeth II prior to the investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales in Cardiff. The area is known for its strong affiliation with the Welsh language beginning with education in local schools. "Even if Cardiff is the capital of Wales we always say that Caernarfon is the capital of Welsh Wales and that is something that we are very proud of," said the Mayor.

"Caernarfon is 80 percent Welsh speaking and I can go through a whole week without speaking in English. All our council meetings are in Welsh with an instantaneous translation system which works for the benefit of those people who don't understand the Welsh language."



HELEN GWYN

The town also has a very active twinning committee and for the past 10 years has been twinned with Landerneau in Brittany. Gwyn said, "It was natural for us to twin with Brittany because our languages are similar."

As mayor of the town Gwyn is also the Deputy Constable of Caernarfon Castle which "is quite an interesting job," she explains. "I go to the castle and welcome people from all over the world visiting from places such as France, Germany, Japan, Denmark and America."

Caernarfon Castle was built in 1282 and has been preserved as a heritage area. When Edward the First conquered Wales he built a string of castles and walls to keep the Welsh people out and Caernarfon was one of them. The Welsh were only allowed inside the walls on market day but once the town gates were closed they were relegated outside the town gates.

Gwyn said, "now instead of keeping people out, we invite them into this tremendous castle and we sometimes have outdoor concerts on the beautiful grounds. The wall and the castle were built together so Caernarfon is known as a walled town."

Speaking about local industry, Mayor Gwyn said, "Caernarfon was historically connected with slate quarrying which was shipped all over the world. In fact one quay is still called Slate Quay because it was from there all the slates from the area were stacked ready for export."

With the demise in the slate industry the area has undergone some very difficult times with high unemployment. The main employer is now the Gwynedd County Council which has its headquarters in Caernarfon where people work as administrative staff, school teachers, road workers, refuse collectors, and in social services.

Gwyn said, "we also have woollen mills where beautiful blankets and throws are made with Welsh designs and Celtic knotwork. There is also an industrial estate with several factories but they are very small compared to what used to be here."

The area also boasts a television station called Barcud which produces Welsh language programs for the Welsh television channel along with programs for the BBC and ITV. Mayor Gwyn said, "There are also other independent television companies in Caernarfon which employ quite a few people, so that industry is a very important part of our town."

The harbour at Caernarfon was once a very busy port on the Menai Straits with huge ships at anchor. This has been replaced by a marina with luxury yachts and boats along with a number of vessels used to fish the North Sea. In the summertime, it is the scene of numerous pleasure craft.

St. David's Day is not a public holiday in Wales and the Mayor spoke about some of the activities which will take place on this day. She said, "people celebrate in various ways be it concerts, dinners or eisteddfod, but all will be wearing a daffodil or leek in honour of our national day. Various schools will hold their annual St. David's Day eisteddfod or concerts on this day, with some dressed in Welsh costume. Many clubs and organizations will also host St. David's Day dinners."

The Cambrian Hall

The following is an abstract from Eifion Williams' article in the Celtic Connection on the 75th Anniversary of the Hall. It will be well-known to some but perhaps not to all.

The historical significance of the building was recognized by the City of Vancouver in the 1980's when it was listed as a Heritage "B" building. The Hall was officially opened on September 1, 1929 by Marion Malkin, wife of Vancouver Mayor William Harold Malkin, and was followed by an afternoon and evening concert at which capacity audiences enjoyed traditional music of the Welsh homeland.

The cornerstone at the front of the Cambrian Hall pays tribute to the members of the Cambrian Society (as the Welsh Society was then known) who were donors to the building fund and also to those who assisted in erecting the building. Among the donors were prominent Vancouver citizens, such as Chris T.A. Spencer, a member of the Spencer's Department Store family, Thomas Edwards, a leading Vancouver businessman, and Jonathan Rogers of the Rogers Sugar Company. The land on which the Hall is situated was sold to the Society for one dollar by Joseph Jones (from Prestatyn!) of Glen Drive, the owner of a Vancouver dairy and a long-term school trustee.

Since 1929 the Cambrian Hall has seen its fortunes rise and fall. It remained a welcome home to the Vancouver Welsh community through the lean years of the Depression and the Second World War largely as a result of the determination and devotion of members of the Society. Throughout the years, the Hall has been home to typical Welsh cultural events and has been a focal point for the Welsh community's contributions to the cultural life of Vancouver.

In the 1970's the Lower Hall was completely renovated, almost entirely by volunteer labour. A club bar licence was obtained and the Red Dragon lounge provided members with a new social centre.

St. David's Last Sermon

Pregethodd Dewi Sant i'w braidd y dydd Sul cyn iddo farw yn y flwyddyn 589 O.C. Fe'i hanogodd: "Frodyr a chwiorydd, byddwch lawen, a chedwch eich ffydd a'ch cred. Gwnewch y pethau bychain a glywsoch ac a welsoch gennyf fi. Fe gerddaf y llwyr a gerddodd ein cyndadau." Gadewch i ni yn y flwyddyn 2004 ymateb I'w ymbiliad, a bydded bendith Dewi Sant, Nawdd Sant Cymru, arnoch oll.

Saint David preached to his flock on the Sunday before his death in 589 A.D. He urged them: "Brothers and sisters, keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things that you have seen me do and have heard about. I will walk the path that our forefathers have trod before us". Let us in 2004 respond to his entreaties and may the blessings of Saint David, Patron Saint of Wales, be with you all.

John Pritchard

Gareth Wyn Williams, Lord Williams of Mostyn

Gareth, the son of the headmaster of Mostyn Primary School, was born near Prestatyn, North Wales (my home) and was educated at Rhyl Grammar School (my school). I still have copies of Rhyl Grammar School Prize Day programs which include his name; he was four years below me! After studying at Queen's College, Cambridge, he became one of Wales' foremost barristers. A superb and entertaining speaker with a fine sense of humour, Gareth was a Welsh speaker with a specialist knowledge of language issues within the racial discrimination legislation. As an M.P. he was Attorney General between 1999 and 2001. He was made a life peer in 1992 and he became leader of the House of Lords in 2001. He died suddenly last September, aged 62, "at the height of his powers as a politician" to quote Tony Blair.

D.L.I.W

FUND RAISING APPEAL

The financial status of the Society at this time is so serious that we, as an executive, must bring it to the attention of the entire membership. If we are to remain as a society maintaining the Cambrian Hall as our meeting place, we must think of various means of fund-raising to relieve the present situation.

We have experienced several recent financial setbacks which have depleted our contingency fund below an acceptable level. The most serious of these, of course, was the repair to the roof structure. While Insurance took care of the structural repair itself, there were additional related costs that had to be undertaken. Your executive is working very hard pursuing various avenues to generate funds including a funding application to the Gaming Commission and an application for charitable status to make donations tax deductible. However as yet there is no certainty that these will materialize.

A new problem has arisen which has prompted the urgency of this article. A serious leakage problem has developed in the roof and no amount of patchwork seems to alleviate it. Thus it will need to be totally replaced in the Spring or early Summer when the weather improves. A rough cost estimate for the replacement is \$20,000; a more accurate figure will be available when three estimates are obtained.

Without taking into account the above repair, a three year budget projection, based on current revenues and expenses, was presented at the February General Meeting. In each of the past few years, budget deficits have occurred and current projections suggest the society will have no assets other than the Hall itself by 2006.

As the only Welsh Society in North America that boasts its own meeting place, it would be a tragedy if the Cambrian Hall had to be sold. We owe it to our predecessors who by their own hands built the Cambrian Hall in 1929. We also owe it to all those who have maintained the Hall throughout the years, particularly those who devoted so much time in developing the lower level and the Red Dragon as it is today.

We appeal to you all to bring your ideas for fund raising and to think of your society as your charity during the next few years as we all contribute to the roof repair fund. A separate account will be set up as a "Roof Fund" and periodic reports will be given in the Newsletter as to its progress.

On behalf of your Executive,

Jane Byrne, President.

Reflections of a Member

This is the time of year to look ahead and make new resolutions! It is also a time for reflections - to remember and recall the 'Good Old Days' at the Cambrian Hall, especially since this is our 75th Anniversary Year.

What instantly comes to my mind is some of our oldtimers who contributed so much to make the Vancouver Welsh Society what it is today. They include Sally Hight, Ross Thomas and his sister Olive David; all of whom died in such a short span of time between October 1996 and early 1997.

In the mid 90's Sally and Ross were the Matriarch and Patriarch of the Society. Do look at the photograph of them located on the mantelpiece at the Lower hall, when you next visit. Today (Jan 7th 2004) would have been our Sally's one hundred and first birthday, so I decided to phone her daughter Sandra just to tell her that we remember her Mum with much affection. She was pleased and spoke fondly of the times she had spent at the Cambrian Hall with her mother.

Eirlys Ann Thomas

D Beibl Cymraeg

A talk given by Ann Roberts at the February Sunday Church Service at the Cambrian Hall.

On March 24, 1603 Elizabeth I died at the age of 70. Outside waiting for the news were horsemen prepared to leave for Scotland to inform James V that he was Elizabeth's heir and therefore King James I of England. As the late Professor Bindoff of London University wrote in his book on Tudor England, with those riders went the "knell of Tudor England". One of James' first actions was to request that the English Bible be translated into English from the Latin so that all people could understand it. It is the 400th anniversary of that decision by James I that is currently being celebrated.

Yet Wales had its own Bible in its own language since 1588 and we know that some parts of the Bible had been translated into Welsh much earlier than that date. The earliest translation can be found in religious tracts from the Middle Ages, translated from the Latin. Translations of 28 psalms, a few verses from the New Testament and the Apocrypha appeared in a book called *Gwasaneth Mair* in 1400. In the *Book of the Anchorite of Llanddewi Brefi*, we find the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, the Ten Commandments and some 150 verses from the Old Testament. The last chapters of Matthew appeared in a book called *Y Grogolith*.

With the coming of the Renaissance the original text of the Bible was recovered, printed and republished. A series of new translations were published and the entire bible was translated into several European languages. We were lucky in Wales to have such a competent scholar as William Salesbury. It was he who translated the Epistles and Gospels into Welsh together with the Book of Common Prayer. These were published under the title of "*Kynniver Llith a Ban*".

With the limitations on the use of the Welsh language imposed by the Act of Union of 1536 *Kynniver Llith a Ban* fell into disuse and it was another 27 years before Parliament was to authorize a Welsh translation of the whole Bible. The work that was started by William Salesbury and Bishop Richard Davies was completed by Bishop William Morgan. William Morgan was a

skilled and scholarly man of letters. In his translation he was able to use the cleanliness, strength and grandeur of the Welsh classical poets. He produced a masterpiece. This was very important since, both the literature and language of Wales were on a downward trend.

The Welsh Bible of 1620 (*Y Beibl Cysegr Glan*) was a revised edition inspired by the James I Bible of 1611. By this time William Morgan's Bible was very scarce and some revision was needed. It was Bishop Richard Parry of St. Asaph who worked on this new edition but it was his brother-in-law Dr. John Davies of Mallwyd who standardized the language and did most of the translation. John Davies was one of the most gifted and scholarly men of his generation. Bishop Parry was rather arrogant, even going so far as to say "he had retained some of Morgan's translation but changed so much that it was difficult to decide whose translation it was." Nevertheless the translation provided for the whole of Wales a standard language of a high order and raised Welsh to the status of a learned tongue.

In the early sixties the Council of Welsh Churches invited the churches to form a Committee with a view to preparing a new translation of the whole Bible. From the onset the aim of the Committee was to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the work of William Morgan. So in 1988 the Bible Society published the new translation. It was never intended to replace the Morgan Bible but to stand side by side with it. As the Rev. J.R. Jones of Minny Street Cardiff said of the new translation "I bob ei ddeall o".

1. *Hanes Llenyddiaeth Cymraeg* Dr. Thomos Parry
2. *Companion to Welsh Literature* Ed. Meic Stephens, Univ. of Wales Press
Various articles on William Morgan.
3. *Wales and the Renaissance* by R. Geraint Gruffydd in Vol 2 of *Wales through the Ages* Ed. A.D.Roderick
4. *Modern Wales* By Prof. David Williams

**RESIDENTIAL WELSH LANGUAGE COURSE
CARDIFF, WALES
19 July – 13 August 2004**

Have you ever considered learning one of Europe's oldest living languages in Europe's youngest and fastest growing Capital City? If you have then here's your chance to enrol on Cardiff University's 4 week intensive Welsh summer course.

Cardiff University is consistently rated as one of the top ten UK universities and the Welsh Language Teaching Centre was recently awarded a Grade 1 in all aspects of its provision by Government Inspectors – the only provider in Wales to receive such an award.

The course will be held between 19 July and 13 August 2004 and will use the Wlpan system of teaching, pioneered at the University and now the most commonly used method of teaching intensive Welsh courses. Although no previous knowledge is required, Welsh will be the main medium of instruction and activities from the outset. Classes will be held between 9.00am – 5.30pm. A full programme of social activities, lectures and trips to places of interest including the National Eisteddfod will be arranged. This will enable learners to appreciate the use of Welsh in its modern context.

The aim will be for people to communicate orally and also of course to enjoy their experience of learning Welsh in Cardiff. Learners can attend on a residential or non-residential basis. For those wishing to reside at the University, all rooms will be en-suite.

Cardiff is easily accessible with excellent road and rail links (2 hours from London by rail and has an international airport 15 miles/24 kilometres from the University). So, if you've always dreamt of learning the language of your forebears, why not contact us at the Ganolfan Dysgu Cymraeg at Cardiff University and enjoy a Welsh summer in 2004?

Contact Details:

Tel: +44(0)29 2087 4710

Fax: +44(0)29 2087 4708

Email: WattC@cf.ac.uk

3 Hour VHS / DVD "The Welsh Miner" available from Artsmagic Ltd:

<http://www.artsmagic.co.uk/store/x14044.html>

The WorldWideWales Team would like to notify you about a brand- new experience out now on video and DVD entitled The Welsh Miner. The film is 3 hours in length and contains loads of information on the history of Wales along with interviews and stories with the men who dug the coal.

As well as promoting Wales and its past, the video of The Welsh Miner, if successful will help us to fund the website www.worldwidewales.tv If unsuccessful we regret to inform you that this website which was created only to expose the unique history of our country to the world will unfortunately have to be taken offline. Obviously we are doing everything in our power to stop that happening as the site is also used by many children throughout Britain for their day to day school work as well as for fun and tourist activities. Every penny we make will be put into www.worldwidewales.tv to sustain the site as a valuable tool to continue to tell the story of the rich culture of Wales through the ages.

The miners played a prominent role in the shaping of modern Wales and it is vitally important that their hard work and lives are never forgotten. This all-new feature length film is a revealing and touching biography of the men who went underground and helped create the Wales we live in and love today. Owning this timeless tale will allow you to also play a part in the nation's history.

February 2004

Miss Chwefror 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Welsh Speaking Evening		W.A. Mfg (Noon) Cambrian Circle Singers Rehearsal	Thursdays Welsh Folk Dancing		Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Cambrian Circle Singers			by ticket only in advance St. David's DOS BANQUET

March 2004

Miss Mawrth 2004

29	1		2	3	4	5	6
	St. David's Day Celebration open at 7:00 pm			7:30 p.m. Exec. Mfg	Thursdays Welsh Folk Dancing	Dylan Thomas Circle Event	VWMA Choir Pt Coquit Terry Fox Aud. 8:pm Info Tix 604-878-1190
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
					Cambrian Circle Singers	Orpheus Concert Tour Nanaimo Info tix 250 756-9 909	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
14	15	16	17				
11 a.m. Church and "Tea" Orpheus Spring Tour Gabriola Island			W.A. Mfg (Noon)				

20th PIG & WHISTLE

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