

**THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER**

*Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver*

*Cambrian News*

*Phwefror/Mawrth*  
*2009*

*February/March*  
*2009*

*Society Newsletter - Pylchgrawn y Gymdeithas*



*The Welsh Table at the Celtic Connection Fundraiser*

Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver B.C. V5V 1A6

## VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

### Officers:

#### **President:**

**John Morris (604) 536-9556**

#### **Vice-President:**

**Lynn Owens-Whalen 266-2545**

#### **Secretary:**

**Gaynor Evans 271-3134**

#### **Treasurer:**

**Alwyn Rogers 742-1378**

#### **Membership Secretary:**

**Heather Davies 734-5500**

#### **Immediate Past President:**

**Jane Byrne 732-5448**

#### **Directors:**

**John Cann**

**Mary Lewis**

**Gethin Owen**

**Geraint (Nant) Roberts**

**Eifion Williams**

### Contacts

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**Note: Calgary Welsh Society website is**  
**<http://www.calgarywelshsociety.com>**

## *The Cambrian News*

From The Editor:

At the continuation of the A.G.M. in January, two changes in the By-Laws were approved. These limited the terms of the President and Vice-President to 3 consecutive years and established new membership dues. **Please return the membership form at your earliest convenience to Heather Davies.**

Sadly, I must report that two of our members passed away in January: Terry Palm, a member of the Orpheus Choir died on January 26<sup>th</sup> and Joan Roberts, the widow of the Rev. Berwyn Roberts died on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Cards of condolence have been sent to their families.

David Llewelyn Williams

### **Grand Spring Sale April 25<sup>th</sup>**

Come and join the fun from 11 am till 3 pm at the Cambrian Hall.

**Second Time Around Sale** for,

- Some antiques
- Old China
- Kitchenware
- Books and
- Some clothes and jewelry

In addition we will be offering,

- Preserves and
- House and Garden Plants

There will be homemade welsh baking, a cake walk and, of course, raffles and door prizes. Refreshments will be served in the Lower Hall.

Your donations with any of the above will help make this a great success and all volunteers will be most welcome. This should be a very enjoyable day and we hope to see you there.

Phone Gillian (604 742-1378) or Pat (604 536-9556) for information and collection possibilities

### The Mulled Wine Evening (December 8<sup>th</sup>)



### Society Christmas Dinner

74 members braved the elements to attend the Society Christmas dinner on Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup>. Tim Jordan and his staff served a delicious meal as usual; Turkey, Ham and all the trimmings, and members Jane Byrne, Mary Lewis, Pat Morris, Heather Davies, and Gaynor Evans kindly supplied the seasonal desserts of trifles

and squares. Our thanks also go to Mareth Hunter and Heather Davies for donating the raffle prizes.

Jane Byrne, chairperson for the evening, introduced John Cann who read a selection from "A Child's Christmas in Wales". Lynn Owens-Whalen led the carol singing accompanied by Lucy Sorensen on the piano and Sharon McIntee-Birrell entertained us with a few songs before word circulated that the snow had started to fall quite heavily. This led to a mass exodus as people scrambled to get their coats to head home safely!

Everyone had a lovely evening thanks to the cooperation of Mother Nature for allowing us to enjoy our meal and festivities before the snowfall.

Gaynor Evans

### Social and Movie Night, January 30<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 33 people gathered together for a Social Evening in the Red Dragon. The evening started with an informative presentation by David Llewelyn Williams on the legend of Santes Dwynwen, the Welsh Patron Saint of Lovers, followed by a humorous 'schoolboy' version in Welsh (with translation), a poem to St. Dwynwen by Dafydd ap Gwilym and a Prayer to St. Dwynwen. A toast was proposed to St. Dwynwen to close the presentation.

Next we were treated to a historical film prepared for BCTV in 1986 by Paul Lievesley documenting Vancouver at its incorporation in 1886. Amazing archival material! Thanks to Neville Thomas for arranging the free loan of the projector from the Vancouver Whitecaps and for setting the projection up with Paul. We then paused for sustenance in the form of a home-cooked chili supper

offered also as a vegetarian option, followed by a delectable dessert of apple pie and ice cream. We are most grateful to Jane Byrne, Heather Davies, Gaynor Evans, Mary Lewis, Pat Morris and Gillian Rogers for preparing this repast.

Suitably replenished, we viewed the film **Pablo and Diego in Cambodia**, which showed the travels of Paul Lievesley and his friend David in 2003 as they visited the temples of Angkor Wat and other famous sites including one temple where the trees which had overgrown it before its discovery were left intact. We viewed the ceremonial Siem Riep dancers and many ornate buildings. These cultural historic sites were remarkable enough in themselves, but their trip also provided a view of the countryside and the local people as they traveled outside the standard tourist routes, even spending several days living on a fishing boat on Tonle Sap, a very large freshwater lake whose flood plain is annually flooded by the Mekong River providing a bounty of fish. An unique and most enlightening film.

President John Morris thanked all who had helped to arrange the evening, the ladies who provided the food, Art Kelm and Dave Gilder who ran the bar, David Llewelyn for presenting St. Dwynwen and especially Paul Lievesley for his films. A most convivial evening left everyone in good spirits.

### **2008 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Jane Byrne**

The first part of the year began on a positive note. The Society was at the point where we finally had our heads above water with a steadily increasing balance in the bank.

The main activity at the beginning of the year was the Celebration of St. David's Day. We had a sold-out evening, once again ably catered by Jordan's. The Hall itself never looked better, having been recently painted and spruced up by our very capable Building Committee, assisted on occasion by other members. The Hall decorations were exceptional, with a profusion of daffodils everywhere. The Red Dragon Lounge was similarly decorated, thanks to our Social Committee and other volunteers. The entertainment following the St. David's Day dinner consisted of classical renditions of our favourite Welsh folk songs by guitarist James Thomas.

In the Spring, the Society was the recipient of a player piano, a welcome addition to our musical instruments. Alcwyn Rogers has taken a keen interest in discovering how it works. In April we had an entertaining Trivia night. All those who attended enjoyed the task of trying to recall seemingly useless and trivial knowledge we had picked up over the years. We hope to enjoy more of this type of activity in the future.

Work party days were a great success and in addition to all the work carried out it also proved to be a wonderful way of socializing over the lunches provided by Social Committee members. A great deal was accomplished on these days, particularly jobs that had been neglected over the years but which turned out to be manageable and fun when tackled by a congenial group of members. Anyone who has not volunteered to participate in a work day on the third Thursday of every month is urged to participate and enjoy more camaraderie than exists in many other Society activities. There is still a great deal to do and bit by bit it

will all contribute to the much needed improvement of the Cambrian Hall. In the latter part of 2007 we were presented with a new kitchen stove by two members who wish to remain anonymous. It was a wonderful gift that has made Society events much easier to cater. The addition of two new refrigerators for the upstairs and downstairs have also contributed greatly to our entertainment events.

The highlight of 2008 was the visit in September of the Llanelli Male Voice Choir. The Noson Lawen prior to the Concert was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The choir's visit to Gren Thomas' pub The Red Lion in Dundarave, West Vancouver, was also a great success, especially given the enthusiastic reception by the pub patrons to the visitors' impromptu singing. The Concert itself, although held quite a distance from Vancouver, was fairly well attended. The Orpheus Choir, which shared the Concert with Llanelli, put on a great performance. All in all, it was a very hectic but successful four days celebrating our Welsh culture. Lynn Owens-Whalen, the main force behind the weekend celebrations as the Society's contact with the Llanelli and Orpheus Choirs, deserves recognition.

In October pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg visited us in what proved to be an enjoyable evening at the Cambrian Hall. They ranged in age from 16 to 18 years old and were here to play rugby and field hockey against schools in the Vancouver area and on Vancouver Island. The Welsh Society entertained them to dinner prior to a concert in the Upper Hall.

The Anniversary Dinner, this year postponed to November because of the

Llanelli Choir's visit, was not as well attended as it could have been but it nevertheless proved to be a most enjoyable evening, again catered by Jordan's and ably coordinated by Gaynor Evans.

The Annual Gymanfa Ganu was held on the day following the Anniversary Dinner. Again attendance left a great deal to be desired but all enjoyed the singing. Lynn Owens-Whalen, our multi-talented member, conducted the singing with Ray Batten as accompanist. The soloist was member Sharon McIntee Birrell. A congenial *te bach* followed in the Red Dragon.

Returning to the Cambrian Hall itself, a great shock awaited us in the summer when we discovered that the floors, cabinets and counters in the kitchen were gradually subsiding. Immediate action became necessary to deal with this serious structural problem. Our more than capable Building Committee members spent the entire summer dealing with expert professionals to decide on the best course of action. The problem turned out to be a major one, necessitating the removal of all the kitchen cabinets and appliances and the cancellation of most activities in the Red Dragon while repairs were in progress. Our thanks on behalf of the Society must go to Lynn and Wilf Owens-Whalen, John Morris and Alwyn Rogers for spending so much of their time supervising this mammoth job.

The cost of this structural repair was considerable and once more we are forced to consider new fund-raising activities to improve our financial status. Fortunately, rental income from the upper hall has increased due to the capable efforts of Glyn Shepard, who has improved all aspects of the rental

situation. This has contributed greatly to improving our financial situation. Glyn deserves the gratitude of the Society. Thank you Glyn.

The Upper Hall has seen a number of improvements this year. Much touch-up painting in various areas was completed, new slate flooring was placed in the Hall and the area behind the stage. The kitchen area was upgraded and new doors placed in the entrance to the hall, together with a beautiful new light fixture donated by Wilf and Lynn Owens-Whalen. The mezzanine area has also been greatly improved. The downstairs ladies' washroom has also been improved with the installation of a new sink, thanks to John Morris. Also, a new counter and sink unit has been placed in the janitor's room, again thanks to Lynn and Wilf Owens-Whalen. Due to these individual efforts, the work of the Building Committee, together with the help of our one day a month volunteer members, the Cambrian Hall has undergone a great deal of improvement this year. The hall has never looked better.

Our membership is still low, although improved from last year. We now have 146 members. One of our goals in 2009 is to increase our membership and each one of us needs to work on this.

The monthly Sunday morning chapel services continue to be well attended and we thank John Cann for assuming the task of organizing the services each month. Our members Margaret Airey and Nerys Haqq are an integral part of the monthly service and have been for many years. We thank them for their contribution.

Our Social Committee, under Gillian Rogers' direction, has brought us many

enjoyable events this year. Coordinating these special events usually entails a great deal of preparation and hard work. Thank you to Gillian and all members of the Social Committee. A thank you also to Pat Morris for organizing the Wednesday afternoon activity meetings for members of the Society. The first meeting was a floral arrangement demonstration, a valuable help for our Christmas table floral arrangements. At the instigation of members Rob and Lynne Fox, the Society produced its first Christmas Calendar. Rob and Lynne produced the calendar, which raised approximately \$800 for the Society. I would also like to thank David Llewelyn Williams for his contribution in publishing our monthly newsletter and Alwyn Rogers for managing our web site. Both provide an invaluable service in keeping our members informed.

December was a very busy month at the Cambrian Hall. It began with the traditional Mulled Wine and Carol Singing Night. The Children's Christmas Party was well attended this year, with twenty young participants. I would like to thank Gaynor Evans for once more organizing these events, and also Brian Granville for his impressive Santa Claus.

Our Christmas Dinner was a great success and very well attended. The excellent dinner was followed by communal carol singing, a reading of excerpts from "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by John Cann, and a solo by Sharon McIntee Birrell, accompanied by her friend Bea. The accompanist for the evening was the ever-faithful Lucy Sorenson. Just as the evening was coming to an end the celebrants vacated the Hall very quickly as one of the Christmas season's snowstorms began.

In conclusion, 2008 was in many ways a good year and a bad year for the Society. We have a lot of work ahead of us if our financial situation is to improve. I would like to thank the past year's Executive members. They have worked hard to try and improve the physical and financial state of the Cambrian Hall. I believe the Society has never run so smoothly. However, everything cannot be left to the Executive and I urge every member to contribute in his or her way in order to ensure the continuity of the Vancouver Welsh Society and the Cambrian Hall.

### **Cwrs Goleuni'r Gogledd The Northern Lights Course**

Cymdeithas Madog's annual Welsh language course will be held from July 19 – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Camrose, Alberta at the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus. Camrose is 56 miles south east of Edmonton and even closer to the International Airport.

The week will be filled with language course work, workshops and cultural evening activities. The St. David's Welsh Society of Edmonton will be sponsoring *Cwrs Goleuni'r Gogledd* and providing the local organizers. Plans are being finalized for a mid week field trip and doing everything possible to ensure that the 2009 Cwrs Gymraeg will be a memorable and worthwhile experience. Stay tuned for more updates at:

<http://www.madog.org/cyrsiau/eleni/index.shtml> If you would like to hold a place on Cwrs Cymraeg 2009, please mail a check or money order for \$100, in US funds, to: **Shirley McKee, Registrar, Cwrs Cymraeg 2009**  
**3033 Willowbrook Way**  
**Beavercreek OH 45431-7702**  
**registrar@madog.org**

### *Forthcoming Events*

Wed. Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>. 11:30 am – 1.30 pm  
**Lunch at the Cambrian** this month will focus on planning our fundraising projects of a Welsh Society Cookbook and a Calendar for next year. Please bring your ideas, recipes and photos.

Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup>  
**St. David's Day Dinner**  
Doors open at 6 pm and dinner will be served at 7 pm. catered by Jordans.  
Tickets from Gaynor Evans  
(604-271-3134) at \$37.00 each..

Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 8.00 pm  
**VWMC St. David's Day Concert**  
St. David's United Church, 1525 Taylor Way, West Vancouver.

Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm  
**Executive Meeting**

Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 11.00 am  
**Church Service followed by Tê Bach**

Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 am  
**Welsh Speaking Group.**

Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm  
**Movie Night**  
A light supper will be served.

Wed. March 25<sup>th</sup> 11.30 am – 1.30 pm  
**Lunch at the Cambrian**, we may learn Texas Hold'em Poker techniques!! and coordinate plans for the Grand Spring Sale and Tea on April 25<sup>th</sup> too.

Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> 7.30 pm  
**Executive Meeting**

Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm  
**General Meeting**

**Are you interested in learning to carve a Welsh lovespoon ?**

Are you interested in the Welsh lovespoon ? The January 2009 catalogue for Lee Valley Tools features two love spoons. This inspired us to wonder if other members of the Society would like to join us in learning how to care a love spoon. Lee Valley sells a book by **David Western** called '*Fine Art of Carving Lovespoons*'. It provides a short history of the lovespoon but also includes techniques for carving the spoons, fixing mistakes and options for finishing. It includes step-by-step instructions for three spoons at different levels of difficulty and a chapter on creating your own design. Please note the seminar by David Western arranged by Lee Valley Tools. To include members who are still working as well as retired folk, we thought of meeting on a Saturday morning or a weekday evening .... perhaps twice a month. When we have our first meeting, we can agree to the most suitable day, time and frequency. Who knows, once we have achieved some proficiency, maybe we could sell lovespoons as a money raising venture for the Cambrian Hall. That would make sense as the lovespoon can symbolize our love for the hall. If you are interested, please email or call us: Wilf and Lynn Owens-Whalen 604-266-2545 [lowens-whalen@telus.net](mailto:lowens-whalen@telus.net)

**SEMINAR #1**

**Carve a Welsh Lovespoon 8 hours**  
Saturday, May 2, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

David Western, who was recently displayed on our January 2009 woodworking catalog cover and the author of *Fine Art of Carving*

Lovespoons, will lead you in creating your own spoon to treasure. Traditionally, a spoon would be carved by a young man and given to the girl he loved. This custom originated in Wales hundreds of years ago. Spoons vary in size and contain symbols such as birds, chains, crosses, diamonds and hearts. All tools and materials supplied.  
Fee: \$100.00

Dave Western was born in Cardiff and is a cabinetmaker by trade. For over 20 years, he has been carving lovespoons, many of which can be found in collections all over the world. His spoons are carved entirely by hand from domestic North American woods such as alder and maple. Carving lovespoons is his passion. He constantly strives to expand the boundaries of design, while creating unique and innovative carving in the tradition of the Welsh lovespoon.

All seminar proceeds are donated to United Way.  
Seating is Limited so Please register early to avoid disappointment.  
To purchase tickets call: (604) 261-2262  
Seminar tickets are not available online.  
Beverages are provided at our seminars and a light sandwich lunch is provided at all-day events. Please discuss any special dietary needs with the staff at time of registration. In an effort to reduce waste, we encourage you to bring in your own coffee mug and/or refillable water bottle. We require that you wear closed shoes (e.g. running shoes) to all seminars. Prices are subject to GST.  
48 hours notice required for cancellation refunds. We reserve the right to reschedule seminars.  
Lee Valley Tools Ltd.  
1180 S.E. Marine Drive  
Vancouver, BC (By Knight St. Bridge)



**Annual Prize to Remember  
'The Shield of Wales'**

An annual prize is to be offered for the first time next month to celebrate the life of a medieval prince of Wales.

Eisteddfod y Dysgwyr Gogledd Dwyrain Cymru (North-East Wales Learners' Eisteddfod), to be held at Theatr John Ambrose in Rhuthun on February 27<sup>th</sup>, will feature a competition in honour of **Dafydd ap Llywelyn**.

Dafydd was the son of Llywelyn the Great and his princess Siwan (Joan, the natural daughter of King John), and he ruled as prince from 1240 to 1246. He is known to have established diplomatic links with the king of France, secured recognition of Wales' independence from the Pope, and also revised native Welsh law. On his death, the poet Dafydd Benfras praised him as 'Tarian Cymru', the shield of Wales.

The prize has been established by the Dafydd ap Llywelyn Committee, a voluntary organisation formed after the 2007 Flintshire Eisteddfod Genedlaethol with the aim of erecting a monument to Dafydd near his birthplace of **Castell Hen Blas**, Bagillt, in Flintshire.

The **Medal Dafydd ap Llywelyn** will be offered for the best history essay written by a Welsh learner. The winner will also receive a glass jug with Dafydd's coat of arms engraved by Elfyn Pierce-Jones.

*Pelt Fest 09*, the biggest ever Rugby party, will be held in Cardiff on March 21<sup>st</sup> to coincide with the final Six Nations Rugby match between Wales and Ireland in the Millennium Stadium. The match will be shown on big screens and the entertainment before and after the game will be provided by the cream

of Welsh singers, Bryn Terfel, Cerys Matthews, Rhys Meirion, Dafydd Iwan and his Band, folk groups Ar Log and Calan and the Irish group, the Wolfe Tones. Both the Llanelli Male Choir and the Dublin Welsh Men's Choir, together with pipers and dancers, will also perform in what promises to be a memorable occasion!

**Welsh singing star Duffy has a flower named after her - the Duffydil.**

A variety of daffodil has been named after the Welsh soul singer by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). A daffodil named after mezzo soprano Katherine Jenkins has been on sale at past Cardiff RHS shows. Duffy, from Nefyn in Gwynedd, said: "The Duffydil, brilliant! Maybe now I can forgive myself for stealing them from people's gardens." The daffodil was chosen by the singer from a selection grown by the Really Welsh Trading Company. Over the years several have been honoured by the RHS, including the Lady Diana and Maria Callas roses.

RHS shows director, Stephen Bennett, said: "The Duffydil is a very special variety that the lovely singer has chosen to bear her name. We hope that she will be able to be with us at the Cardiff RHS show, April 17-19, to launch it to the public." Fans of Duffy will be able to order Duffydil bulbs at the show to plant in their gardens or flower boxes.

Duffy recently won best pop vocal album at the Grammy awards in Los Angeles for her debut release *Rockferry*. In London on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> she dominated the 2009 Brit Awards, winning the British Female Solo Artist, British Breakthrough Act and British Album categories. In a nice Welsh touch, Tom Jones gave her the Album award! Celebrations are planned in Nefyn!

Annual Membership Renewals

Name:.....

Address:.....

City:.....Postal Code: .....

Phone No.....

e-mail.....

It would be very helpful if you would indicate whether you wish to receive a copy of the Newsletter by mail or if you are content to view the Newsletter on the website. You will then be notified by e-mail when the latest edition appears on the site.

I wish to continue to receive the Newsletter by mail (YES or NO).....

Membership Dues for 2009: Regular: \$45  
Family (Member, Spouse & Children to 18): \$70  
Seniors/Students: \$30  
Out of Town (50 miles or more): \$20

Additional sums as donations, especially to the kitchen renovation fund, are welcomed!

Cheques or Money Orders should be made payable to

**“THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER”.**

Send your renewals to: **Heather Davies, Membership Secretary, Cambrian Hall,  
215 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver B.C., V5V 1A6**

*St. Dwynwen's Prayer*

O Blessed St. Dwynwen, you who knew pain and peace, division and reconciliation, you have promised to aid lovers and you watch over those whose hearts have been broken. As you received three boons from an Angel, intercede for me to receive three blessings; to obtain my heart's desire {*here you may name the person*} or, if that is not God's Will, a speedy healing from my pain; your guidance and assistance, that I may find love with the right person, at the right time, and in the right way; and an unshakeable faith in the boundless kindness and wisdom of God.

And this I ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.