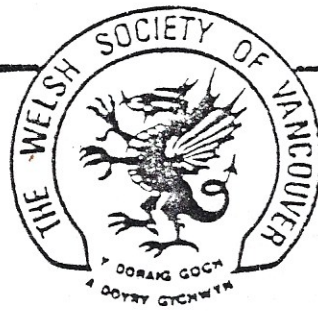


Ionawr/Chwefror 1991

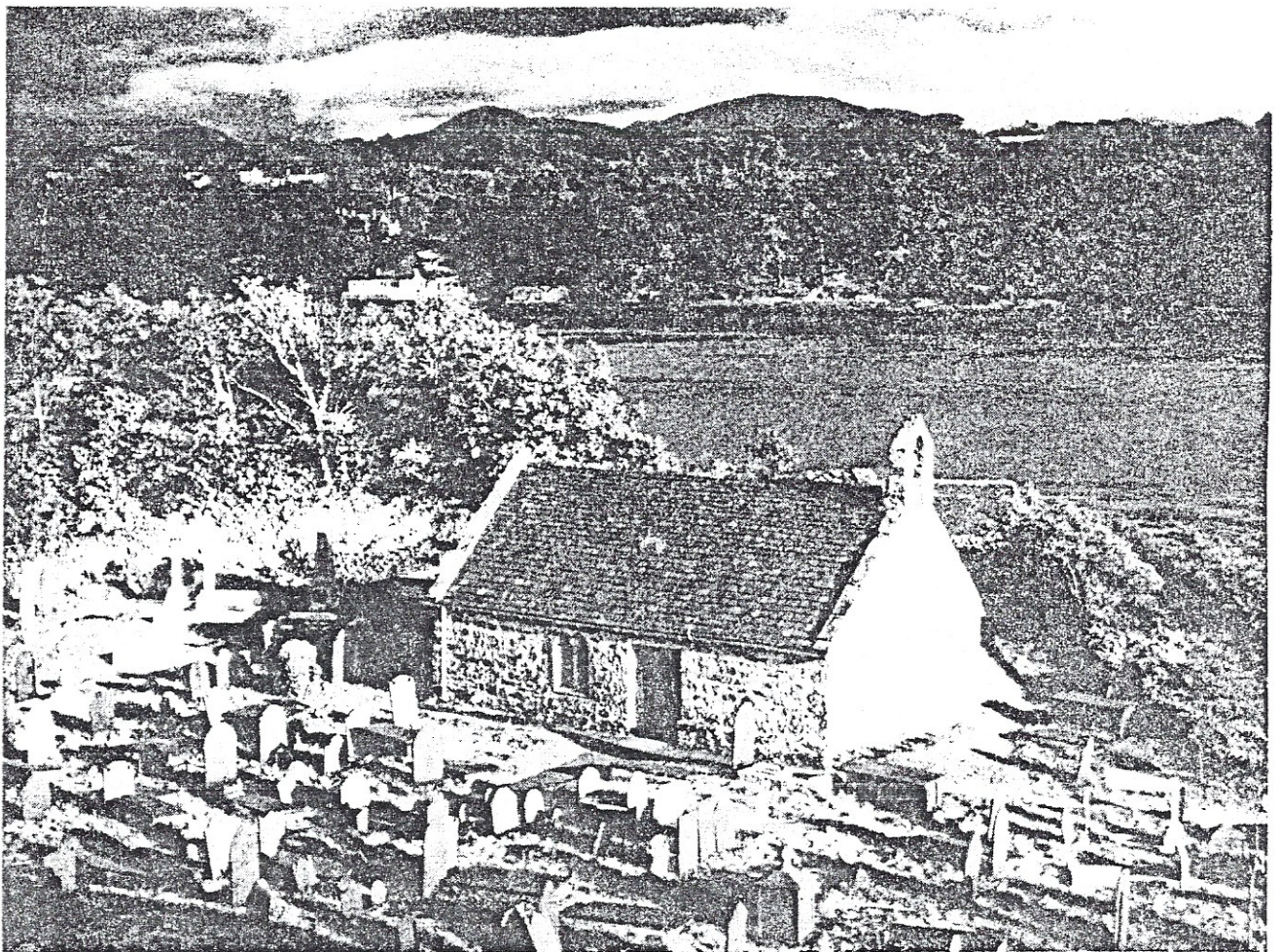


January/February 1991.

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



The Island Church of St Tysilio, linked to Anglesey by a causeway...

CAMERIAN HALL, 215, EAST 17th AVE, VANCOUVER, B.C. V5V 1A6. Telephone (604) 876-2815.....

ABOUT THE COVER

The island church is linked to Anglesey by a narrow causeway. From here St. Tysilio carried out his missionary work.

His father, Brothwel Ysgythrog, was a commander in the British forces and hoped his son would follow in his steps. Two of his cousins, however, were religious men, St. Asaph and St. Deiniol.

Because of the family objections he was forced to run away from home and he was helped by Abbot Gwyddfarch of Meifod in Montgomeryshire, under whom he studied. Because his father still tried to exert considerable pressure on him, he was sent even further away in 590 A.D. and was entrusted with building a sanctuary on Ynys Tysilio in the Menai Straits.

After seven years work he succeeded to the abbacy created by the death of Gwyddfarch. In 603 A.D. his father was defeated at the Battle of Chester and there followed many years of unrest and bitterness in the border counties. This resulted in St. Tysilio leaving for France where he set up a monastery near to St. Malo.

He died in 650 A.S. at his monastery and was buried at the nearby church of St. Suliac. This church stood on the River Rance, by whose estuary St. Tysilio had built his monastery.

Anglesey pancakes



With reference to the article Shrovetide Customs in February Quest. I remember being told of an Anglesey Shrovetide custom which continued until about the end of the nineteenth century. Bands of children would call at the farmhouses within their reach begging for crempog — the Welsh word for pancakes. They sang or recited a ditty of which, sad to say, I remember only the last five lines:—

Mae mam rhy dlawd i brynu
blawd

A nhad rhy ddiog i weithio

Gwraig y ty a'r teulu ou -

Os gwelwch yn dda ga'i grempog

Mae nhag i yn grimpo a grem-
pog.

A rough translation is:—

My mother's too poor to buy any
flour

My father's too idle to work any
more

Housewife dear, and family here
Please will you give me some
crempog?

My mouth waters for crempog.

Perhaps some of your readers
can supply the early lines.

The Anglesey crempog, although made of the same ingredients as are pancakes, are different in size and manner of serving. The batter is spread to a diameter of about six inches on a griddle and fried. The pieces are then thickly buttered and placed one on top of the other to a height of about four inches. Cut in sections, like a cake, they are eaten at tea time with blackberry jelly. There is — or was — thick crempog and thin crempog, the latter being the most luscious. "Food for the gods" indeed.

(Mrs) E. Kenrick Williams.

18, Sefton Park Road,
Liverpool.

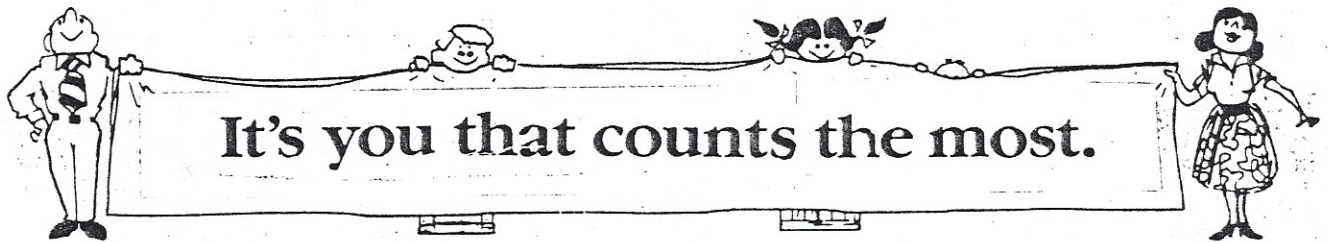
COVER PAGE BY
ELLIS GRIFFITHS

Irresistible!

Have you heard?

BBC BROADCAST TAPES AVAILABLE

BBC broadcast tapes of the Gymanfa which was recorded at the Cambrian Hall are now available for \$5 each. Please call Ieuan Lampshire-Jones at 985-0824 to place your order.



Membership Report

It's that time again...YES ! THE DUES ARE DUE.

At the Annual General Meeting on Dec 12th 1990, it was moved, seconded and approved by majority that the ANNUAL-DUES for 1991 be as hereunder described. We respectfully advise that MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES are due and payable as of January 1st following the Annual General Meeting. Constitution and By-Laws 1986. Article B.9. (Annual Dues).

- (A) REGULAR.....\$30.00 per person.
- (B) FAMILY.....\$50.00 per (Two) Members.
- (C) SENIORS.....\$17.00 per person.
- (D) OUT OF TOWN,.....\$15.00 per person.. (To qualify one has to live a minimum of 80kms or 50 miles outside the city of Vancouver.B.C.)

Please! Membership dues are payable on and after the FIRST OF JANUARY, and all members are urged to pay by no later than January 31st 1991..It is imperative that funds by way of Membership Dues are paid in the first month of the Fiscal year in order that the Executive Committee can plan their programme/s for the year. Please use the REMITTANCE FORM below when sending in your dues....THANKYOU.

MEMBERSHIP.....REMITTANCE FORM.....For the YEAR 1991

Please send the completed form to ; MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Ave, VANCOUVER.B.C. V5V 1A6.

(Please Print)

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....

DO IT NOW!



POSTAL CODE.....TYPE of MEMBERSHIP

Please make cheque or money order payable to; The WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER.B.C.

You too can have everlasting bloomers

The lamenting woman in the bus queue felt like many others. "These house plants are all the same. They look wonderful for a couple of weeks while they are in flower, then you have to hide them for the rest of the year, and look after them just the same all the time they're in purdu."

But whatever the lady thought, her statement is not in fact true. There is a house plant that blooms all the year round, year after year, always prolific, never any slacking off, or rest periods, easy to look after, and available in several colours.

Let it be hastily pointed out that this is no rare or exotic novelty, difficult to come by. It is a plant available in any florist's shop, where it will be supplied in a pot much too small for it. The pretty little thing usually dies of over-care, because the new owner doesn't know the background of the plant.

Imagine a tropical swamp, under the shade of many trees, with humps or tussocks of earth sticking out from the wet and slimy ground, each hump decorated with an African Violet, the fleshy leaves hanging over the hump like a cloak, and the whole topped with bloom.

So there it is, incredible as it may seem, an African Violet will bloom continuously for many years under the right conditions, which are not difficult to duplicate in one's own home.

The white one illustrated was obtained over two years ago, and



was promptly repotted into a five-inch pot. Within three months it was transferred to a seven-inch, and a year ago to the one shown.

The earth used was half and half John Innes No. 3 and peat, but the plant is not all that fussy. Do not

by J.A. Dixon

leave the plant over night in a cold greenhouse when repotting. It will die.

There are very few essential points. The earth in the pot should be humped up in the middle, much higher than the rim, to allow the leaves to "cascade" properly.

The base of the pot should stand in water. It is convenient to refill the dish containing the water

every day or so.

Faded flowers should be picked off, and leaves which rise above the blooms should be gently repositioned below.

Do not allow the plant any direct sunlight. The one shown stands in a north facing window. Try not to let cigarette ash etc. get on the leaves, because the stiff hairs make removal difficult, and the leaves break off readily. Gentle washing is best, if it must be done.

So why not get an African Violet in your favourite colour, and enjoy the perfect house plant?

Just a word or warning though. When the plant outgrows a full size household bucket, it's better not to strain one's resources.

Yet to destroy it breaks one's heart.

ANNOUNCING

THE VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR
FUND RAISER

"PIG AND WHISTLE"

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2, 1991

FIREFIGHTER SOCIAL CLUB

6515 BONSOR AVENUE, BURNABY.

Tickets \$10 each.

ALL WELSH EVENING

Noson Cymraeg

Croeso i Bawb

Cymraeg fydd iaith y noson

Thursday, February 21, 1991
8pm at the hall

Good News

ANNOUNCING THE EXECUTIVE FOR 1991



President - Jeff Owen
Vice - President - Jack Williams
Secretary - Gaynor Evans
Treasurer - Ellis Griffiths
Membership Chairman - Joan Thomsen

Board

Gordon Davis
Anne Jones
Phyllis Owens
Gwen Tonach
Tony Tonach

Immediate Past President - Ann Roberts

As Gwyn Evans, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, points out each of these people has cheerfully volunteered their time and energies to the benefit of the Welsh Society in 1991. We appreciate their contribution.



THE CAMBRIAN SINGERS

The Cambrian Singers under the direction of Nerys Haqq are just now beginning the new season and are welcoming new members. As Nerys says, "Our goal is to promote the Welsh culture through song, and to provide enjoyment to the community through our singing." Nerys and the Cambrian Singers encourage you to come and sing along. For more information please call Nerys at 278-8978. Regular rehearsal times are noted on the calendar at the back of this newsletter. Public performances by the Cambrian Singers during February include:



February 20th Century House (Moody Park)
620 - 8th St. New Westminster
7:30 pm

February 27th New Vista
7550 Rosewood, Burnaby
7:30 pm

NEWS FROM THE W.A.



The January 1991 W.A. meeting was held on January 16th. We had an excellent attendance in spite of the very wet weather.

We were pleased to welcome a guest from Wales, Mrs. Sally Jones, who is visiting with her daughter, Mrs. Gaynor Owen. Also warmly welcomed a new member, Mrs. Beverley Thomas.

Arrangements were made to hold a Spring Tea and Bake Sale on April 20th - the convenor is Mrs. Veronica Gilder. At this event we will have a Jewellery Stall, and a White Elephant Stall. Please sort out any items that are in good condition that you have duplicates of, or think you will no longer use, and bring them to the hall. (no clothes Thank you) If you can not bring them to us, please inform any member of the W.A. We will try to arrange a pick up.

A trip to La Connor and the Tulip fields is being arranged for mid April - members of the Society will be invited to join us on this day. Further details will appear at a later date.

Following the business meeting, Mrs. Phyllis Owens gave a most interesting talk of her recollections of Welsh activities in Vancouver when she was a young girl. The Welsh congregated in each others homes to socialize and sing. Mrs. Owens remembers going with her parents to Welsh Banquets held in the Spencer Building - now taken over by Eatons - again there

was music - she also recalled a Children's Choir formed to sing in The Vancouver Hotel when the then Prince of Wales visited in 1919. The Welsh also held rummage Sales for funds, when two good dresses were sold for five cents.

Also mentioned was the fact that had not the W.A. paid the taxes on the hall for many years we could well have lost our Cambrian Hall - The W.A. have, from the opening of the hall been the backbone of the society, and we try to continue this tradition. Some members remember why money and land was first donated for the building of the Cambrian Hall, and are proud of having been at the opening ceremony.

Please keep saving IGA check out slips for us - we put them to good use.

The W.A. meet on the third Wednesday of each month, at noon. Please bring a bag lunch - tea and coffee will be provided. We welcome new members. We are a friendly fun group. If you can't join us on a regular basis, please feel free to drop in when you can do so.

The speaker at the February meeting will be Mrs. Dorothy Walters. We can look forward to another most interesting talk.

by Anne Jones,
President, W.A.



THE SEARCH for the reality behind the romance of "King" Arthur is one that has excited imagination since Geoffrey of Monmouth, writing between A.D. 1136 and 1146 invented both him and his Court. This he did from a reference in Nennius' History to a soldier of that name, from oral legend and from the work of Gildas who, probably about A.D. 540, wrote of five kings ruling Britain in his day. But to none of them does he give the name of Arthur.

The nearest reference he makes is in his mention of one such king, Cuneglassos. Gildas, a Christian cleric, naturally attacked the classical philosophy based on a study of the stars which gave an interpretation to the structure of Creation at variance with what it thought genuine. In particular, the Stoic doctrine of fatalism which was deduced from observation of the heavenly bodies invited its determined criticism; Gildas both rejects such a philosophy and condemns it as mere astrology.

Many pages of his book are devoted to this condemnation and Cuneglassos is particularly satirised for his interest in the Auriga and the Ursa — constellations of first importance for noting the movement of the heavens and measuring time and space from stellar observation. The Auriga even gave its name to the pilots who used it and the Ursa (Bear) marks the central and only "unmoving" star we call the Pole. The Arth still means in Welsh the Bear; and as a metaphor of leadership and centralised control, the Arth developed into Arthur.

The legend of Arthur grew around a succession of notable leaders in the history of the period from about A.D. 400 when the defence of the Roman provinces of the West was delegated by the Empire to local centres of government and locally recruited "auxiliary" troops, to about A.D. 550 when the "Anglo Saxon" assault, led by Cerdic and Ida, began on the southern and eastern shores of Britain.

The actual nature of the troubles in this island between these two dates seems to have been less racial than religious. It is a complicated story, but Bede confirms that the British or Arthurian element succeeded for 50 years in holding the supremacy, the issue not being decided until the opening of the 8th

The legend of "King" Arthur

by
Alun
Llewellyn

century, after which the Viking descents intervened.

It was the victory of Badon (c. 500 A.D.) which began the 50 year supremacy of the "Arthurian" forces, and Arthur's name is particularly associated with the battle. But he is also identified with the Scottish campaign of Victorinus (c. 400 A.D.), with the expedition to the Lyonnaise (Lyonesse) of Riothamus (c. 480) and with a number of such leaders down to the time of the attempt on the south coast by Cerdic.

Cerdic's efforts were directed at Kent, the Isle of Wight and what was later known as Wessex and, like Ida's capture of Bamborough, were concerned with seizing shore-line strategic objectives. The struggle was fiercely contested, showing that Britain was strongly held internally

by an organised system of government; and the attackers aimed at well considered strategic points.

The strategic key to Britain then, as it was again for Professor Banse just before 1939 when he assessed the probabilities for a successful Nazi invasion, was the triangle between the Thames, the Dee and the Severn. Each side of this triangle can be pierced from the Solent, the Dyfi and the Wash. A northern defence line for this triangle runs directly from Chester to York. What later emerged as the Saxon "Heptarchy" seems in fact to have been in logical succession to the defence positions taken up by the five "kings" whom Gildas names and which may have been in turn derived from those adopted by Carausius.

Arthur, as the generic title for the sub-Roman cause, identified as it was with a distinctive Christian form of religion (the Celtic Church) belongs equally to London, to York; to Maglocunos in the north, to Gerontius in the south-west, where present research is being conducted at Cadbury, to Ambrosius in the south between the Severn and the Thames. But the core of resistance was between the Severn and the Dee, the area stretching from Bath to Chester, supported by the hill-ranges flanking the Dyfi.

It was on the sands of its estuary that, as legend has it, Maglocunos was proclaimed supreme war leader when Cerdic's onslaught was imminent. This area was the ancient Kingdom of Powys, supported by the South-West "kingdom" of Uotipore who, like Arthur, drew his name-title from terms of the scientific philosophy set out in the Black Book of Carmarthen.

Much of the evidence for 5th-6th century sub-Roman Britain is buried under later building. But research should be directed in areas where Romano-British towns are known to have existed and whose sites are thought to be lost. "Arthur" was no tribal hill-chieftain but the eponym of the civilised and sophisticated society Gildas describes. There are two such "lost" Roman cities, Uronicus and Vindomis, the latter in Hampshire, the former in Powys.

The sites may not be in fact as much "lost" as they are supposed to be. Free as they are from any subsequent development, they offer the possibility, greater than elsewhere, of recovering the Britain of Gildas and of Arthur.

Hear Ye!
Hear Ye!



**Special
Events!**

ST. DAVID'S DAY BANQUET

Saturday, March 2, 1991
Holiday Inn on Broadway
Members - \$30/person
Guests - \$35/person

PLEASE NOTE COSTS HAVE BEEN
KEPT THE SAME AS LAST YEAR -
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW:

Call Jeff Owen - 946-4956
or Gaynor Evans - 271-3134
or any member of the Executive!

PACIFIC NORTHWEST GYMANFA GANU ASSOCIATION

WILL HOLD ITS FIRST EVER ANNUAL MEETING AND GYMANFA

April 13, 14 & 15

in Bothell

Registration Fee and Membership - \$6

Friday, April 13, Noson Lawen - \$5

Saturday, April 14: Afternoon Folk Concert - \$5
Evening Grand Concert - \$8.50

Sunday, April 15: Morning First Ever AGM
Afternoon Gymanfa

**SPECIAL
MUSIC**

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT PERSON: ANN ROBERTS 321-4418

Keeping you up to date



ST. VALENTINES DANCE

Saturday February 16th,
Red Dragon Open 8:30
Dancing at 9:30
Tape Music, Variety for All

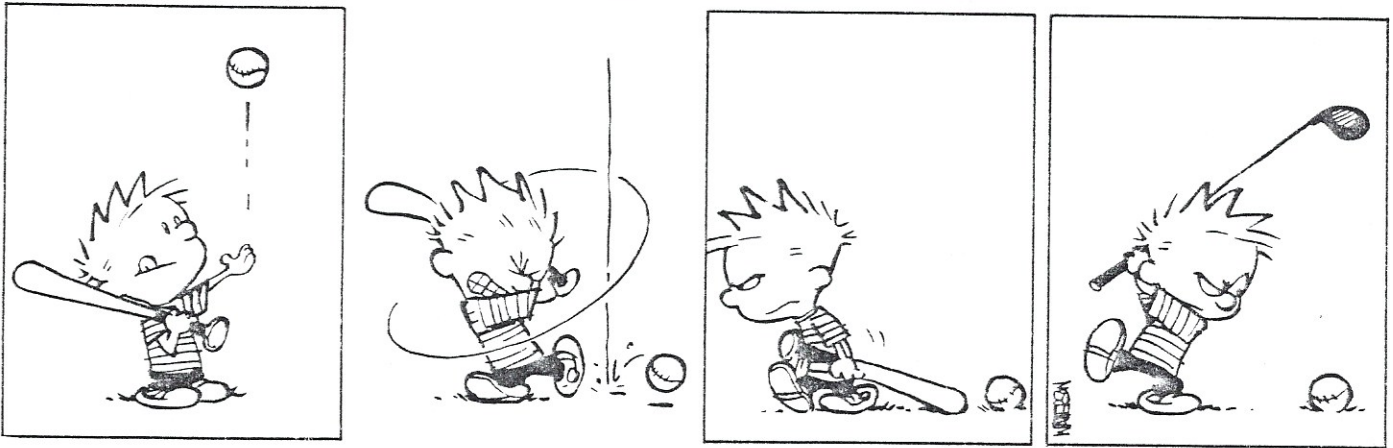
SPECIAL
LOOK
WALES

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

CAMBRIAN HALL OPEN
ST. DAVID'S DAY
MARCH 11, 1991

WATCH NEXT NEWSLETTER/
FOR MORE DETAILS.

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE IS A VERY ACTIVE
& FRIENDLY GROUP - PLEASE CONSIDER
JOINING US IN PRESENTING THE MANY
SOCIAL EVENTS THAT KEEP THE SOCIETY
A BOILING CONCERN. CALL GAYNOR OWEN
AT 946-4956, OR GWEN TONACH AT 738-3377
YOUR HELP WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED
BY ALL!



Dart champions

FOR DARTS ENTHUSIASTS!

The Embassy World Darts Tournament was held on Saturday, January 12. The contenders were the well-known ERIC BRISTOW, and an unknown named DENNIS PRIESTLEY.

Dennis beat Eric six sets to nil! During the match Dennis also beat the old record of 24 perfect scores of 180, scoring a total of 26 perfect scores.

A Yorkshireman, Dennis entered the tournament as an unknown and beat several top players during his climb to the final.

by Jeff Owen

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 1991 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 1991 S M T W T F S 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					RED DRAGON OPEN 8:30 pm 2 GROUND HOG DAY
3	4	5	CAMBRIAN SINGERS REHERSAL 8:00 pm 6	7	8	RED DRAGON OPEN 8:30 pm 9
10	11	12	W.A. MEETING NOON CAMBRIAN SINGERS PERFORMANCE 7:30pm 13	VALENTINE'S DAY 14	CAMBRIAN SINGERS REHERSAL 8:00 pm 15	VALENTINE'S DANCE RED DRAGON OPEN 8:30pm DANCING 9:30pm 16 Taped Music
17	18	19	CAMBRIAN SINGERS PERFORMANCE 7:30 pm 20	ALL WELSH NIGHT 8:00pm 21	22	RED DRAGON OPEN 8:30 pm 23
24	25	26	CAMBRIAN SINGERS PERFORMANCE 7:30 pm 27	28		RED DRAGON OPEN 8:30 pm 29

February

1991

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR THE ST. DAVID'S DAY BANQUET
 SATURDAY MARCH 2nd at the HOLIDAY INN on BROADWAY