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Ionawr i Chwefror
1995

January to February
1995

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



Rathin School

Photograph by Janet Handley, Llandegla W.I.

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:

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

Type of Membership (Circle one)

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

Welcome/Croeso New Members!

Susan Mayse, Saturna Island, B.C.

Do it now!



Membership Report

It's that time again. Memberships are due for 1995 as of January 1st, and I am ready and waiting.

1994 being my first year as Membership Chairman, I did not know quite what to expect. I must say I enjoyed the experience. We have some wonderful new members who have brought an enthusiastic outlook to the Society. It was also very rewarding to have several members re-join after a year or two of absence. We are delighted to have you back. We would like to see more of our past members back with us.

Then, of course, we must appreciate the loyal members who come back year after year, lending wisdom, experience and support to the organisation, through thick and thin as it were. You made my job a pleasure.

1995 is shaping up to be a great year. The New Year's resolution I would like to emphasize is Support! Support! Support! Organisers of the social events, cultural affairs, Chapel services etc. ask only that you support them in person.

Beverly Thomas, Membership Secretary.

EXTRA!

EXTRA!

EXTRA!



Announcing the Executive for 1995

President Mr. Jeffrey Owen
Vice President Mrs. Anne G. Jones
Secretary Mrs. Gaynor Evans
Treasurer Mr. Jack Smith
Membership Secretary ... Mrs. Beverly B. Thomas

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Trustees

Mrs. Stephanie Boggan  
Mrs. Jessie Dodds  
Mrs. Elizabeth Murray  
Mrs. Gwen Tonack  
Mr. Robert Fox

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Immediate Past President Mrs. Ann Roberts

St. David's Day

The Open House annually held on March 1st falls on a Wednesday this year, which also happens to be Ash Wednesday.

So make a note on your calendars please and come down to the Red Dragon to celebrate Dydd Gwyl Dewi with the Eating of the Leeks Ceremony, Cawl Cennin, music and plenty of Hwyl.

This year's St. David's Day Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 4th at the Cambrian Hall.

Catering for the meal will be done by Jordan's and although the cost for the tickets has not been decided officially, it is likely to remain at the same cost as last year:-

\$25.00 for members - \$28.00 for guests.

New Baby Announcement

Gwyn and Gaynor Evans became grandparents for the third time last year - on December 14th - when their second grandson was born.

Brian Edward entered the world ready for his first Christmas and will be a handy brother for big sister Katie to boss around!

Congratulations/Llongyfarchiadau to Gwyn and Gaynor and to the proud parents Andrea and Rob Mawdesley, from everyone in the Vancouver Welsh Society.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY.

The last meeting of the W.A. in '94 was our Christmas Luncheon. We were delighted that some of the ladies who helped at our fund raiser were able to join us - we could not function well without them.

The luncheon was again catered by popular demand by Mesdames Veronica Gilder, Anne Jones, Betty Morgan and Joan Wilkinson. The tables were nicely decorated and carried small gifts for each lady. For these we have to thank Ms. Marion Armstrong, Mesdames Anne Jones, Bertha Miller, Rose Murphy and Gwen Tonack.

Our thanks once again go to the Social Committee who donated the wine to accompany our meal.

It was agreed by all that the whole meal was delicious. Also agreed by all that our Wine Steward, Mr. Tony Tonack and our servers did an excellent job. We very much appreciate the help given by the menfolk whenever we ask them; on this occasion the gentlemen involved were Messrs. Ellis Griffiths, Derek Jones, Milt Morgan, Don Murray, Ken Owens, Gordon Thomas and Tony Tonack. Not only did they help during the meal, but some were down at 9:30 a.m. setting up and preparing the room - all the clearing up, straightening the room and washing up was all done by the gentlemen.

Special mention should be made of Mr. Ken Owens who expertly cared the beautifully cooked turkey -thirty four meals were served and this means Ken

did a lot of work and proved his carving expertise once again.

After our meal, were entertained by Mrs. Veronica Gilder and Mrs. Joan Wilkinson whose beautiful singing voices always delight our ears. A special thank you goes to both as they must have been tired having worked at home and then all morning in the kitchen preparing our meal. In spite of all that, they gave their usual polished performance.

Our good friend and expert accompanist was Mrs. Enid Lewis. Following the duets Mrs. Dorothy Walters led us in Carol Singing; with her usual charm, she got our best from us.

To all the ladies named, a hearty well deserved "Thank You" was expressed by all.

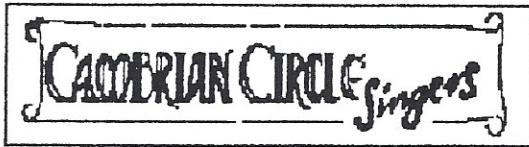
Before the party started, a tribute was paid to the long life and memory of our late member, Mrs. Margaret Howells - we will miss her at our meetings. Greeting cards were sent to all our sick members; we wish them a return to health.

Greetings were received from Mrs. Gwenfyl E. Jones - we hope she will be over to visit us before too long.

My heartfelt thanks to all who made the occasion pleasant and fun. It only remains for me on behalf of us all in the W.A. to wish everyone Good Health and Good Luck in '95.

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda a Phob Bendith yn '95.

Anne G. Jones, W.A. President.



Spring 1995 Calendar.

Rehearsals, 8:00 p.m. at Cambrian Hall.

Wednesday, January 18th.

Wednesday, January 25th.

Friday, February 3rd.

Friday, February 10th.

Wednesday, February 15th.

Wednesday, February 22nd.

Friday, March 3rd, a Singout will be given at New Vista, 7550 Rosewood, Burnaby at 7:00 p.m.

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### Cambrian Singers Report

The Cambrian Singers had a very successful and busy fall schedule with eight performances from September through December. We did three Christmas programmes this year and for the first time we had Phoebe Findlay here to play the flute. Phoebe has always gone south at this time in previous years. Wherever we go we are very well received and in fact many places are now annual visits. The Singers in their voluntary work spread the Welsh culture. Many more people around the Lower Mainland, from our performances, are now aware that Welsh is distinct from English.

The Cambrian Singers would like to increase in numbers so for anyone who would like to sing in Welsh and also give pleasure to Seniors, here's a great opportunity to do both.

I would like to thank all the members of the group for their loyalty and dedication over the years. To Gayle, Bill, Pat, Chris, May, Elizabeth, Muriel, Joan, Mary, Phoebe on flute and Lucy on piano, diolch yn fawr.

Nerys.

### WELSH LESSONS ∞ GWERS GYMRAEG

By the time you receive this Bulletin, we will have started lessons again as of January 9th. Our new learners are making good progress, but some of our last year veterans have had to stop for awhile. Hopefully the Christmas break has renewed health and energy as we would like to see them back.

We have one serious problem and that is a shortage of books. It has been suggested that members who took lessons and bought books the year they were purchased, might come to our rescue and be willing to sell, lend or donate them to the cause. Dr. Evans and the enthusiastic students would be most grateful.

If you know of anyone who might still have "Catchphrase" Part One, published in 1980 by Sain (Recordiau) Cyf, we would ask that you get in touch with Beverly Thomas at 738-0680 or Gwen Tonack at 738-3377.

Written by Beverly Thomas.



# HELP!

We have asked this many times in the past, and this year will be no different; we're asking again.

Extra hands are needed in the Social Committee - not just for "tending bar", but also for helping out in other activities within the Welsh Society.

It goes without saying that the present workers have earned plenty of credit for what they do, but I am sure they deserve a few more "helping hands" too.

Give it some thought and then call a Social Committee member to volunteer.

Jeff & Gaynor Owen ..... 946-4956.  
Tony & Gwen Tonack ..... 738-3377.  
Robert & Lynne Fox ..... 944-6940.

## *Folk Dancing News*

Practice resumed in it's usual time slot of Thursday at 7:30 p.m. on January 12th.

As well as refreshing our memories on the older routines, we will be learning some new ones.

Why not come and join in the fun of it all?

Give a call to our instructors, Jack and Bertha Smith -at 683-1335 and become part of the fun.

Lynne Hughes Fox.

## Concerning the Piano Restoration Fund...

We are still receiving donations from our members and friends toward the repairs that were made to the grand piano downstairs.

The response so far, has been tremendous, but as always with such an expensive undertaking, we still have some way to go before we are at the finish line. So with that in mind, any future gestures that are made towards this worthy cause will be gratefully received.

Thank you/Diolch yn fawr.

## *Obituary*

Margaret Howells passed away peacefully at Inglewood Lodge on Wednesday, November 30th, 1994 at the age of 87.

Margaret left her beloved Wales at 18 to begin nursing in London. Her career took her to many parts of the world, when she served as an R.N. in the British Army during the Second World War. She then came to Canada and settled in Vancouver working at several hospitals in the area. Margaret had been an active member of the Vancouver Welsh Society.

She is survived by her two nephews and their families in Britain and by her many friends.

*"To be born Welsh, is to be born privileged,  
Not with a silver spoon in your mouth,  
But with music in your blood  
And poetry in your soul."*



# VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Box 2978, Main Post Office, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3X4

## Concert List

Saturday, February 11th at 8:00 p.m.,  
Rainbow Ridge Benefit Concert,  
Maple Ridge.

Saturday, February 18th at 8:00 p.m.,  
Capital Theatre, Nelson, B.C.

Sunday, February 19th at 2:30 p.m.  
Kelowna Civic Auditorium, Kelowna, B.C.

For tickets and information for the above,  
call 462-9824.

Sunday, April 2nd at 2:30 p.m.  
"Hope & Glory", University of Victoria  
Auditorium, Victoria, B.C.

Sunday, April 9th at 2:30 p.m.  
"Hope & Glory", Orpheum Theatre,  
Vancouver, B.C.

For tickets and information for the two  
concerts above call 940-3318.

### DUNVANT MALE VOICE CHOIR TO VISIT VANCOUVER

In anticipation of the Dunvant Choir's visit  
in September of this year, we are hoping  
that many of our members will offer  
billets to the gentlemen of the choir and  
quite possibly some of their wives too.

We urge our members to give really  
serious consideration to having one or  
two of the Choir members stay with them  
for a couple of nights. It would be of  
enormous help and greatly appreciated.

If you think you would be able to help out  
at that time, give Jack Smith a call at  
683-1335 for extra information.

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## Lady Augusta of Llys Llanover

by Patricia John

### PART ONE

In 1792, France, on the other side of the English Channel, was at war with itself. The French Revolution was tearing it apart, but in peaceful Wales, near Abergavenny, a gentleman by the name of Benjamin Waddington was just establishing his residence at "Llanover Park". There, in quiet elegance, he would raise his two daughters in proper "English" fashion- to sew a fine seam, to gather roses, and to play the harp - not too well of course, but sufficiently well so that friends, rolling their eyes to the ceiling, might be able to say, "What talented young ladies!"

At his death, Benjamin Waddington, left his entire estate to his second daughter, Augusta. Why it was not his first daughter, cannot be said; perhaps she was not as spirited or as interesting as Augusta. However it was Augusta would leave an indelible mark on the story of Wales.

In 1823, Augusta married the distinguished and enterprising Benjamin Hall of Abercarn, son of a wealthy industrialist. Older than she and educated at Christchurch, Oxford, he entered politics soon after his marriage. From 1832 to 1837, he represented Monmouth, Newport and Usk in Parliament. In 1836 he began building a big pseudo-Tudor mansion, Llys Llanover, designed by Thomas Hopper and built of local stone. Its size assured all who looked upon it that it was the home of a man of importance. The property, of course, had come to him through his wife's inheritance, but then she, as well as he, would share the prestige of such a residence.

The main gate, Porth Mawr, was an exact replica of a Tudor gateway found at a historic mansion belonging to the Herbert family at Crickhowell. The road leading to Llys Llanover passed through this gateway and there was a message inscribed on its side:

"Who art thou stranger?

If a friend, a hearty welcome be thine.

If a stranger, hospitality awaits thee.

If a foe, thou shalt be imprisoned by gentleness".

On the other side were these affecting words:

"Gentle departing friend, leave thy blessing  
With those that thou leavest, and blessed be thou,

Health and ease be with thee on thy journey,  
And a joyful return be thine".

From Porth Mawr, there was an unbroken stone wall that extended about a mile to another gateway, Porth Pen y Parc; a third gateway, Porth y Pentre, was to be found at another point of the compass; and a fourth, Porth Gwenynen, was given Lady Augusta's bardic title, to remind those that passed that the lady of Llanover loved all things Welsh.

Winding drives led from each of the gateways to the Llys. Beautifully situated, the mansion looked out over the distant hills. On the spacious grounds, there were nine wells or springs, each said to have curative powers. The largest of them was known as Ffynnon Gofer.

In 1837, Queen Victoria ascended the throne, and Benjamin Hall was elevated to the peerage to become Baron Llanover. The new Baron Llanover was established as a privy counsellor in London, and soon became president of Her Majesty's Board of Health. In 1855 to 1858, he was appointed Her Majesty's first Commissioner of Works. During his tenure, the great clock, known as Big Ben, was installed in the tower of Westminster.

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Continued next in month's newsletter.
Recopied from "Y Delyn", Spring 1991.

For All Those Born Before 1945

WE ARE SURVIVORS! CONSIDER THE CHANGES WE HAVE WITNESSED

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees and the PILL.

We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens. Before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and THEN lived together. How quaint can you be? In our time, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of". Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagons. Designer Jeans were scheming girls named Jean, and having meaningful relationships meant getting along with cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent, and Outer Space was back of the Riviera Theatre We were before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and computer marriages. We were before day-care centres, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of F.M. radio, tape decks, electronic typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt and guys wearing earrings. For us time-sharing meant togetherness not computers or condominiums. A chip meant a piece

of wood. Hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word.

Back then, "Made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on your exam. Pizzas, McDonald's and instant coffees were unheard of. We hit the scene where there were 5 and 10 cent stores, where you bought things for five and ten cents. Sanders or Wilsons sold ice-cream cones for a nickel or a dime. For one nickel you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy coupe for \$600 but who could afford one? A pity too, because gas was 1.1 cents a gallon!

In our day, grass was mowed, Coke was a soft drink and POT was something you cooked in. ROCK MUSIC was Granny's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office. We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes was discovered, but we were surely before the sex change. We made do with what we had, and we were the generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap today.

But, WE SURVIVED!! What better reason to celebrate?

Submitted by Anne G. Jones.

January / Ionawr 1995

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BLWYDDYN 1 NEWYDD DDA! New Year's Day	2	3	EXEC. 4 MT.G.	5	6	RED 7 DRAGON REOPENS
CHURCH 8 SERVICE	WELSH 9 LESSONS	10	GEN. 11 MEETING	Folk 12 Dance Resumes at 7:30pm	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (U.S.A.)	17	W.A. meet at NOON 18 Cambrian Circle Singers Rehearsal	WELSH 19 NIGHT	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February / Chwefror 1995

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUE. DAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			EXEC. 1 MTG.	2	Cambrian 3 Circle Singers Rehearsal	RED 4 DRAGON OPEN
5	6	7	GEN. 8 MEETING	9	10	11
CHURCH 12 SERVICE	13	14 Valentine's Day	W.A. meet at NOON 15 Cambrian Circle Singers Rehearsal	WELSH 16 NIGHT	17	18
19	20 Presidents' Day (U.S.A.)	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	MARCH 1ST, ST. DAVID'S DAY - OPEN HOUSE AT RED DRAGON			