

Ionawr i Chwefror
2000



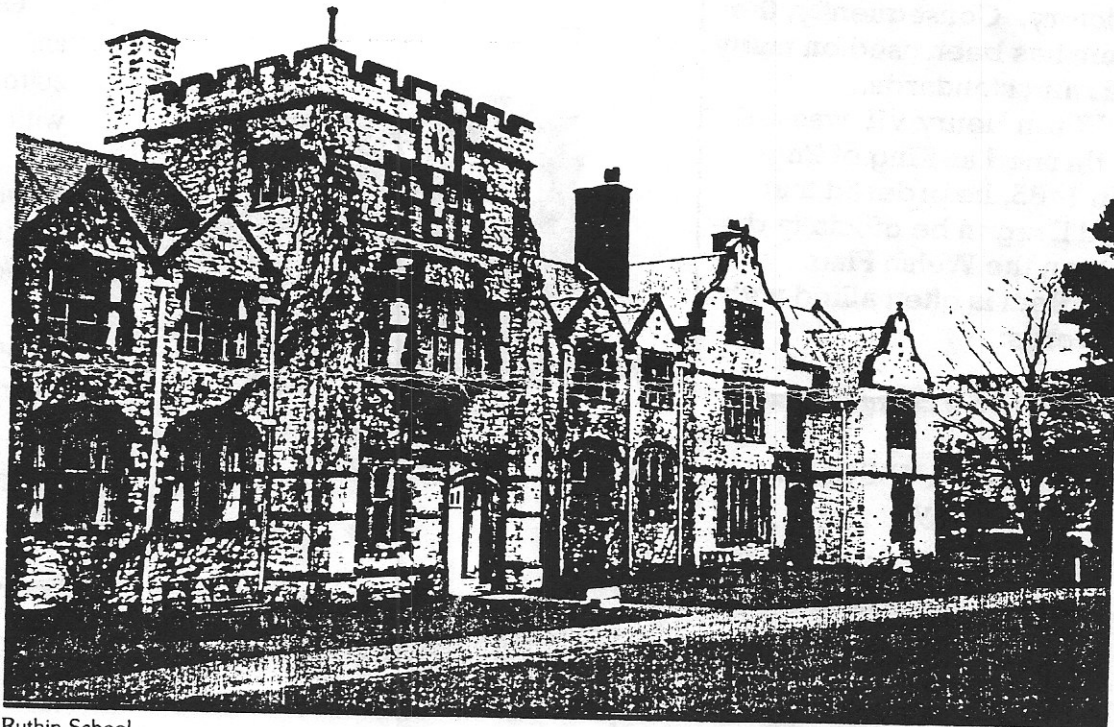
Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones
752 East 2nd Ave
North Vancouver, BC. Can V7L 1E

January to February
2000

Cymdeithas Gymkaeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



Ruthin School

Photograph by Janet Handley, Llandegla W.I.

VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

Officers & Directors for 2000

President : Jeff Owen (604) 946-4956
V. Pres. : Ann Roberts 925-4662
Secretary:
Treasurer: Tecwyn Roberts 464-2760
Mem. Sec.: Margaret Monck 733-9787
News Ed.: Mer Montador 266-8956

Directors: Jane Byrne
Ieuan Lampshire-Jones
Mer Montador
John Pritchard
Mary Slaney

From the Editor

Taking over as editor of the society newsletter is promising to be a challenge. I think it will be a lot of fun as well.

I wish to thank Gwilym Evans for the example he has set as editor for the past three years, for the valuable information he has already passed along to me, and for his kind offer of assistance in the future.

Gordon Thomas has offered to continue producing the front and back pages and all the mailing labels, for which I am very grateful.

Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones has submitted a wealth of material which I have received via Gwilym and which will be very useful in up-coming issues (as well as this one). I shall appreciate greatly whatever further material you may submit, Ieuan. Thank you!!

**THE RED DRAGON
Y DDRAIG GOCH**

This is the emblem of the Welsh People, and since the Middle Ages it has symbolised bravery and victory. Consequently, the emblem has been used on many shields and standards.

When Henry VII was enthroned as King of England in 1485, he ordered that the Red Dragon be officially displayed on the Welsh Flag. The emblem is often allied with these words:

Y Ddraig Goch a ddyry Gychwyn

The Red Dragon Will Show the Way.



Many others write up news of various society and other events and that is what the newsletter is about.

Other submissions and even 'letters to the editor' will be received with interest.

Thank you all for your welcome and support.
Diolch yn fawr.

Mer Montador
tel: (604) 266-8956
email:
mer@telus.net

SECRETARY
URGENTLY REQUIRED

The Society needs a secretary!

Please come to the next General Meeting, on February 9, and volunteer. You will gain not only the satisfaction of doing important work for the Society, but also huge appreciation, great experience, and, as always at the Welsh hall, good friends and good times. Never done it? Give it a try. You'll be welcomed and thanked.

ST. DAVID'S DAY BANQUET

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2000

LOCATION: THE CAMBRIAN HALL
TIME: COCKTAILS AT 6:00
SUPPER AT 7:00
COST: \$28.00 FOR MEMBERS
\$30.00 FOR GUESTS

FOR TICKETS CALL: GAYNOR OWEN AT 946-4956

CATERING BY JORDAN'S

St. David's Day

Open House

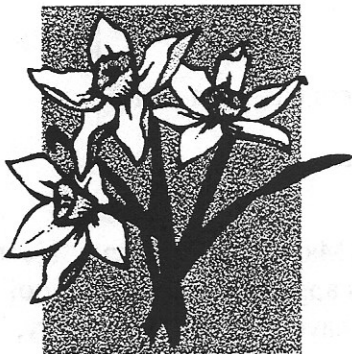
March 1st, 2000

Come to the Cambrian Hall
on Wednesday night for

The Leek-Eating Ceremony

Merriment & Refreshments

Doors Open at 7:00



DYDD GWYL DEWI SANT

Highlights of
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, December 8, 1999

Members present: 24

1. *A minute of silence was observed in remembrance of Bill Evans.*
2. In the Chairman's Report, Jeff Owen cited the Cantorian Colin Jones concert, the end-of-century Gymanfa Ganu, and the then-upcoming New Years' Eve celebration as highlights of the year. He thanked those who turn up and especially those non-Welsh members who show up and assist.
3. *It was decided to change the General Meetings to a bi-monthly schedule. The next General Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 9, 2000. Subsequent meetings will be April 12, June 14, and October 11, with the Annual General Meeting on December 13, 2000. Executive meetings will remain monthly except for June and July.*
4. Millennium Stadium Pavers, Cardiff: Tecwyn Roberts confirmed that the Society-sponsored double paver has been paid for and will read:
Aelodaeth Cymdeithas Gymraeg (The Membership of the Welsh Society)
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada
5. *John Morris moved that we have the poetry readings and music of talented people in the society and allied groups recorded. Paul Lievesley will be asked to make such recordings.*
6. Mary Slaney thanked Gwilym Evans for producing the newsletter for the past three years, and Gordon Thomas for contributing the front and back covers.
7. *Elizabeth Murray thanked Jeff Owen, on behalf of the Society, for everything he has done and continues to do.*
8. Neville Thomas gave a report of the end-of-century Gymanfa Ganu which was a wonderful event and he thanked everyone concerned.
9. *It was noted that the piano in the upper hall would benefit from refinishing; the society will look into having this done.*
10. The nominating committee, Gwilym Evans and Gaynor Evans, presented their nominations for Officers and Directors for 2000. All were all appointed by acclamation. There is still need to fill the position of Secretary.
11. *A Christmas bonus will be paid to our janitor, Alan Dylan.*
12. Boyd Booth will be asked to continue as auditor.

SELT 12
NOV 8th
AGM DEC 13th

At the close of the meeting, Jeff Owen commented that more business had been conducted at this AGM than in all the past year.

On the front cover:

RUTHIN SCHOOL

One of the oldest schools in Britain and possibly Wales; dating back to 6th March, 1296 when a 'Henry de alde schole' appears in the Ruthin Court Rolls as confirmation of what was apparently Ruthin School's first Master. The school was the first in North Wales to teach French, and to have a science laboratory, running water and piped hot water.

H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, unveiled the clock on the school tower, given by the Old Ruthinians, to mark the 700th anniversary of the school on 18th March, 1984.

W.A. Report

WA members, having worked hard on crafts or home cooking all fall, took time off to treat ourselves to our annual Christmas luncheon. Jordans delivered the main course hot and ready. Veronica Gilder provided delicious appetizers, and Joan Wilkinson made her fantastic pudding and sauce. Various treats were given by other members, including Christmas goodie bags made up by Gaynor Owen, with contributions from Viv Sager. Joan had made an extra pudding, which was raffled as a door prize. Marion Armstrong was the lucky winner.

As is our custom, we invited some of our husbands to serve our meal and clean up after. They did an excellent job - getting more efficient every year. Ellis Griffiths provided chef hats for each of them and they looked very good indeed. Besides Ellis, we have to thank Jeff Griffiths, Ellis and Marion's grandson, and Milt Morgan, Don Murray, Gord Thomas, and Tony Tonack. We thank you for making us feel so pampered.

We were pleased to have Jeff Owen, our Society President, as our guest, (& helper) attend this year. We hope this will become a tradition. A special thanks to the Social Committee, who provided the wine, and to Tony, who did such good service tending bar.

Beverly Thomas announced the winners of the raffle. Mareth Hunter won the illuminated picture and Tima Jones the basket of crafts, home cooking and preserving. Many thanks to all who supported our efforts.

The first meeting in year 2000 will be held January 19th, at noon.

Beverly Thomas, Secretary

Christmas Dinner, Dance, & Draw

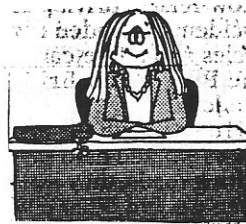
On December 4th, seventy of the Welsh Society folk came to enjoy their annual dinner (catered by Jordan's), dancing (to music from Hot Hits), the draw (culminating a year's worth of ticket-buying and prize gathering), and general merriment provided by everyone present.

Dinner was sumptuous, as always. Even the barkeep was let out to dance.

And the draw brought overdue recognition & reward to the Society's best non-member. For Ivor Davies, after years of supporting the society with his time and skills (from carpentry to darts to one-liners to keeping the stock fresh), all those tickets he contributed to the prize pool finally paid off. Twice. First he won a pair of earrings, then a lady's handbag. Ivor, as my Da would say, how could you be so lucky?

The people who put in their efforts and creativity to deck the Hall and make the supper a great success are too many to name (and we might miss someone), but you know who you are, and we all thank you. Special mention must go to Gwen and Tony Tonack, and to Jeff and Gaynor Owen.

And a good time was had by all.



- ☺ ARE YOU NEAT ?
- ARE YOU ENTHUSIASTIC ?
- ☺ DO YOU LIKE TALKING?
- ARE YOU A GREAT LISTENER?
- ☺ DO YOU LIKE SENDING LETTERS?
- DO YOU LIKE RECEIVING LETTERS?
- ☺ DO YOU ENJOY FRIENDLY GET-TOGETHERS?
- DO WE HAVE THE JOB FOR YOU?

Secretary wanted ☺

Women in Celtic Myth: The British

Who was Boadicea and how did she raise an army to fight the Romans? Was Cerridwen a witch or a wise goddess? How are Blodeuwedd and Diana, Princess of Wales, connected in their tragic lives? Through myth, storytelling, and meditation, we will explore the significance of these women to our present day experience. Langara College is offering this one-day course on Saturday, Mar. 18, 9:30-4:30. Cost \$80. Call 323-5322 to register. Course #200282

**PIG &
WHISTLE
AT THE
RED DRAGON
FEBRUARY 19
VANCOUVER
ORPHEUS CHOIR
FUNDRAISER**

Doors open 7:00 Starts at 7:30

Tickets \$10:00

Contact Norm Webster @ 322-0756

**COME RAISE A GLASS
AND JOIN THE SINGING, SKITS, AND FUN.**

CINDERELLA @ the Metro

This year's Pantomime at the Metro Theatre was a rollicking success. Nineteen of our folks kept things lively in the main theatre, while Nerys Haqq, with her daughters-in-law and grandchildren did their bit from the balcony. One of the lead acting ladies seemed to have the flu (as did two of our members who couldn't make it), but a frog in his [sic] throat didn't do much

to damper the action.

By the way, who was that who kept disrupting things with jumping up and yelling "Three French Hens!?" [Please don't criticise the punctuation].

Afterwards, our theatre-goers enjoyed their annual Fish-&-Chips picnic down at the Red Dragon. This is an annual event (for those who missed this year's.)

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thirty-four children, from age twelve down to what-is-all this-noise-and-confusion?, had a great time at the end-of-millennium Christmas party. [Will some of them see in the twenty-second century?] They made crafts with Bernadette Howells, were tattooed by Gaynor Evans, and played games with Gaynor Owen (such as try to pop a balloon by sitting on it!). They sang Rudolph and other songs and then !!! Santa arrived. A turn on his lap and a gift for each child, then Santa was off again on his busy rounds. Hot dogs and ice cream, more fun and games, and, finally, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" sung by the children to all the parents and grandparents present.

Many thanks to Gaynor Owen for organising the party and getting Santa's gifts ready, and to her helpers: Freda Robbins, Margaret Parry, Bernadette Howells, Gaynor Evans, and Jeff Owen (Santa's special helper). Special thanks are extended to Art Robbins from Santa Claus for sitting in for him this year.



Nothing says shoddy workmanship like wrinkled duct tape. Red Green

Lymph -- v., to walk with a lisp.
Balderdash -- n., a rapidly receding hairline.

The Welsh Folk Dancers

The folk dancers' Christmas pot luck dinner was delicious and a very enjoyable gathering. Thanks to Veronica Gilder for hosting it, and thanks to Gaynor Evans for putting us through our paces with such patience and skill and for finding new music and dances to keep it interesting.

Thursday nights at 8:00, upstairs at the Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Next church service

F
E
B
R
U
A
R
Y



13 11 AM

Addendum to the Gymanfa Ganu:

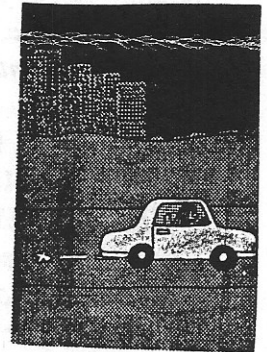
An acknowledgement was missed in the December issue of the newsletter. John and Llinos Pritchard contributed greatly to the success of the gymanfa. They were always available and willing to do whatever was needed. *Diolch yn fawr.*

VIDEOTAPES for the End-of-the-Century **GYMANFA GANU** are sold out!!!
If there is sufficient interest, more copies will be made. Cost is \$12.00
You may contact Neville Thomas @ (604) 294-4332 or via the Cambrian Hall.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

DESPERATELY SEEKING A SECRETARY

Welcome to the New Year!



Membership for 1999 was 163, including eleven new members.

We would like to welcome our newest members: **Glyndwr** and **Lynn Shepard**, and **Ronald Schiefke** joined us late last year and **Alcwyn Rogers** and **Derek Slack** got the jump on the New Year by becoming members December 31st. *Croeso.* We hope to see all our new members at the Red Dragon on a Saturday night and at other social events and the General Meetings. Come and see what wonderful people we are and feel at home with us!!!!

Renewals for 2000 have taken off and are ahead of last year's numbers for the same period. Keep up the good work.

Margaret Monck Membership Secretary

NOTE: Dues for the year 2000 are due as of January 1st.

Annual MEMBERSHIP Application or Renewal

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 Postal Code: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please make cheques or money orders payable to: THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Membership:	Regular	\$35.00	
	Family	\$60.00	(Member, spouse, & children to age 18)
	Seniors	\$20.00	
	Out-of-town	\$20.00	(50 miles or more)

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

Tel: (604) 876-2815

TRAVEL CAUTION

The following has been issued by the **British High Commission in Ottawa:**

Since changes to the law in 1982, the National Health Service only provides free health care to residents of Britain. Non-residents who need medical treatment whilst visiting Britain are eligible for free emergency treatment only at NHS Accident and Emergency Departments of hospitals.

If you are admitted to a hospital as an in-patient, even from an emergency department, or referred to an out-patient clinic, you will be asked to pay unless you are a national or are resident of a country which has a reciprocal health care agreement with Britain.

CANADA DOES NOT HAVE A RECIPROCAL HEALTH CARE AGREEMENT WITH BRITAIN. *There is, however, a ray of sunshine for tourists who are seniors. If you are in receipt of a UK State Pension, then you are exempt from charges. (This includes spouses.) However, this free medical coverage is limited to treatment for which the need arises during the visit. Likewise, those in receipt of a UK war disablement pension or a war widow's pension are also eligible for free coverage (as are their spouses).*

You should take with you a note of your National Insurance/ pension number, and proof that you are in receipt of the appropriate pension. A copy of a suitable letter from the Benefits Agency will do fine.

National Health Service family practitioners will always treat visitors, and by right they should charge; however, it is at their discretion whether or not they do. Seniors who have an ongoing medical condition are strongly recommended to take out suitable health insurance coverage.

Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones, MRIN



Wanted: cheap labour. A keen, enthusiastic, willing drudge to take notes. If this describes you, contact us at 876-2815. (No phone calls please.)

The Dylan Thomas Circle

On December 17, the Dylan Thomas Circle held its Christmas celebration. David Webb opened with a Dylan Thomas poem, then Garath Hill, Alan Jones, and Russell Roberts presented *Remembrances of Christmas in Flad*, by Laurie Lee.

The highlight was, of course, *A Child's Christmas in Wales* read by Garath, Alan, and Russell with wonderful interludes of audience participation. At every mention of a carol, everyone joined in to sing the song in full. It worked delightfully, adding even more richness to the magic of the story.

More wassailing followed, all accompanied by Margaret Airey at the piano.

Ambrose Owen Phillips 1929-1999

The Vancouver Orpheus Choir has lost a valued member and friend. Owen Phillips was born on June 30, 1929 in Abercwmboi, Glamorgan, S. Wales; he died December 24, 1999, in Surrey, B.C.

A tenor in the choir, he was also floor manager, and was planning to find sponsors for the choir when he fell ill.

He initiated the Owen Phillips Open golf tournament with the hopes of bringing together members of the Orpheus Choir, the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir and the Vancouver Welsh Society, and of leaving a lasting legacy. A player to be reckoned with, his straight-faced humour could slice into anybody's game.

He was Jimmy Murphy's **minder** and fishing partner.

Jimmy's eulogy for his friend 'made everybody laugh, except Jimmy; he cried.'

Owen Phillips will be missed by all who knew him.

Help Wanted

Wanted: communications engineer required immediately. Must be Welsh. Your duties will include safe-guarding the vital business of an important organisation, acting as liaison with the British Consul, and meeting the challenges of this exciting position. Interested? Apply directly to the president, Jeff Owen, at 946-4956 or VP Ann Roberts @ 987-6996.

Wanted: Are you out-going? Are you shy? No matter. We need you. We offer an attractive package of appreciation—applause if you like, tea cakes if you prefer—whatever it takes, we need you. Call 946-4956 or 987-6996

New Year's Eve / New Millennium Welcome

Cambrian Circle Singers

The Cambrian Singers are now into our twentieth year. There have been many ups and downs and our emphasis has changed. From our beginnings as a group of people showcasing Welsh costume while singing a few Welsh songs, we have today become a Welsh choir wearing Welsh fashions.

There have been times when I thought the choir would cease to exist due to lack of members but each of those times singers have materialised. A few years ago we numbered almost twenty-five, including eight men. While we are not quite that large now, in the past year we have been fortunate to have four talented singers join. We welcome sopranos Margaret Jameson and Sandy Price-Hosie, and altos Siân Konkin and Coleen Thomas. Unfortunately for the choir we lost an alto when Elizabeth Powell moved to Penticton in November.

This past year three retired members of the choir have died: Art Williams, Mary Young, and Bill Evans. Bill sang with us for as long as his health allowed and with his leaving we once again became a ladies' choir. Mary Young also was a faithful member who made a great effort to be with us as long as she was able.

The choir continues to entertain primarily in Seniors Homes and Nursing Homes, performing Welsh and Canadian music. We are always well received wherever we go. Audiences enjoy both the fashion and the music. This Christmas at St. Edwards Church we gave a concert which was much appreciated by all those present. If there is enough interest we may do another concert in late spring.

We have performed twice at the Orpheum Theatre and are looking forward to appearing with the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir at the Chan Centre, March 1st.

We hope to borrow patterns from the Victoria Welsh Society to make new gowns for members. I can therefore report that the choir continues to be healthy and to do its bit for Welsh culture as well as a service for the community through its music and costume.

As usual, new members are always most welcome to join.

Nerys Haqq

The Red Dragon saw the old year out and the new year in as over seventy people came, all bringing a plate and good spirits full to the brim. The out-of-towners arrived, the music picked up tempo, and the dance floor rocked. (And rolled). Everyone had a great time and, at midnight, corks popped and the champagne flowed. New Year's Eve being Hogmanay, it was only fitting to join hands and sing the Scots bard's *Auld Lang Syne*.

Dave the DJ played on past the allotted time and everyone was able to go home satisfied with bringing in the millennium right.

Thanks, as always, to Jeff and Gaynor Owen, to Tony and Gwen

Tonack, to everyone who helped to organise and to clean up.



'What do you mean, he's too noisy?'

[Buddhist saying:
Before enlightenment,
hauling water,
splitting wood;
after
enlightenment,
hauling water,
splitting wood.]

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

With the New Year, our rehearsals have started again, with our main focus being on our 20th Anniversary Concert. This will be held in the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts at UBC on St. David's Day, our first opportunity to sing in that location. Also featured in our concert will be a performance by the Welsh Society's Cambrian Singers.

The whole spectacular 1,400 seat Chan Shun Concert Hall has been designed to perform like a musical instrument with the audience seated inside.

Much of the content of the program will, of course, be from the program which we will be performing in the 1000-voice concert in the Royal Albert Hall on October 28, at the invitation of The London Welsh Male Voice Choir.

On Sunday, February 27, we will be performing two concerts, at 2.00 and 7.00 in the Mount Olive Lutheran Church in South Surrey.

Des Harris

Everything has an end.

For your concert date, or later changes, or later display are the event, notices for inclusion in this calendar display are BEFORE 4 - 6 weeks requested by month-end.

Welsh Men's Choir Rehearsals Tuesdays at Cambrian Hall
 Orpheus Choir Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. @ John Oliver High School

January 2000

Mis Ionawr 2000

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			W.A. (Noon) Meeting Cambrian Circle Singers Rehearsal	Welsh Folk Dancing Welsh Speaking Evening		Orpheus Choir 22:30 pm St George's 23506 Dewdney Trk Maple Ridge Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Cambrian Circle Singers			Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
30	31					

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

February 2000

Mis Chwefror 2000

				Thursdays Welsh Folk Dancing		
			7:30 p.m. Exec. Mtg			Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
						Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
11:00 a.m. Church Service and to back	Valentines Day		W.A. (Noon) Meeting Cambrian Circle Singers			Pie & Whistle Cambrian Cambrian Singers

March 17 to 25 th BC Northern Tour Orpheus Choir

Feb 24 Cambrian Circle Singers @ New

Feb 26 st. David's Day Banquet