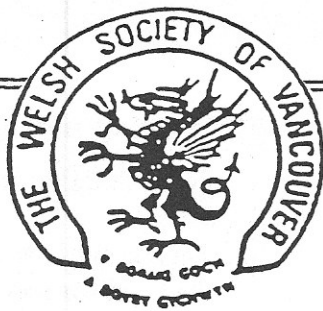


Ionawr i Chwefror
2002



January to February
2002

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



ROSSETT MILLS.

*Photocied by permission of the CLWYD FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Source: From Welsh Pictures ed by Richard Lovett*

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Cambrian News

From The Editor:

This month's newsletter is a little late, reflecting the need for some recovery time after the festive season. I have included the historical document on the opposite page to remind members that St David's Day closely follows the next issue of the newsletter. The inscription reads "My Language, My Country, My Nation Wales -- Wales for Ever" So take note that the **St David's Day Dinner** will take place on **Saturday March 2nd** in the Cambrian Hall. Seating is limited, so please reserve early by calling Ann Roberts.

Reports on the Christmas Dinner Dance, on the Children's Christmas Party, and on the activities of the Cambrian Circle Singers are all included. If you have not yet sent in your **membership renewal form**, please use the form provided! My thanks to those who have sent in contributions and clippings. If they don't appear this time, they are not overlooked. David Llewelyn Davies wrote to thank the Newsletter for publishing Artro Evans' article on Hedd Wyn. He pointed out that the film on his life, in Welsh with English subtitles, is available in Kamloops in the "Foreign" video section. I believe this film made the short list in the Foreign category in the year it was made. A copy is also locally available too!

The notice to Coal Miners appeared in the Sun. It is **not** an official request and may be just a legal firm seeking business. Still it could be important.

David Llewelyn Williams

UK Coal Miners

If you worked in a mine in England or Wales after 1954 or in Scotland after 1949, (or are the wife or family member of a deceased miner), you may be entitled to substantial compensation.

The deadline to lodge a claim is approaching. If a miner suffers from:

- Bronchitis
- Emphysema or small airways disease
- Asthma attacks
- Pneumoconiosis
- Hearing loss (from work after 1963)

Call **MERTON SHINNICK** on: (416) 424-6620 or
email: claims@mertonshinnick.com

Important Notice

THE WELSH IN AMERICA

The Welsh in America
Hon. Thomas M Rees
of California
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 17, 1971

Mr. Rees, Mr. Speaker, the birth of St. David, the Welsh patron saint, will be commemorated on March 1 by Welsh Americans throughout America -- nothing like the St. Patrick gatherings, though St. Patrick was born in Wales and grew up speaking Welsh, not Latin.

Very little has been written of what the Welsh have contributed in all walks of life in the shaping of American history.

Twenty percent of the Pilgrim Fathers were Welsh, as was the Captain of the Mayflower.

How many know that almost 50 percent of the signers of the American Declaration of Independence were Welsh or of Welsh descent-- as were nine of the Presidents of the United States -- and that many of the universities and colleges such as Yale, Princeton, Brown, William and Mary, Virginia, Johns Hopkins, and Andover were founded by Welshmen.

The man who financed the War of Independence was Robert Morris, Pennsylvania was founded by William Penn, and Rhode Island by Roger Williams - all were Welsh. It is strange indeed that such a small country--as Wales, so many people are hardly aware of its existence--has contributed so much more in proportion to its size than any other nation, and stranger still so little has been written of it. Oh, yes. The next time you are in the Capitol and feel like climbing the Washington Monument stairway, about halfway up there is a stone inscribed:

"FY IAITH, FY NGWLAD, FY NGHENEDL WALES--CYMRU AM BYTH."

Thomas Jefferson would have placed it where more people would see it, for he was very proud of his Welsh origin.

It would take many pages to name the great Welsh Americans since the Founding Fathers, who have helped build America--in government, industry, labor, finance, law, architecture, music, religion, literature.

Yes, the Welsh in America can be very proud of their heritage. And it is to be hoped that as each St. David Day comes around more people will remember how much good has come from so small a country, where the greatest honor each year is to be crowned "Poet of the Year."

Christmas Dinner and Dance

Saturday December 8th saw the lower hall filled to capacity for the Welsh Society Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance. A warm festive atmosphere was created by the attention to detail evident in the wall and table decorations. A social time preceding the dinner enabled members and guests to mingle and to patronize the bar which was tended by the volunteer services of Mer Montador. The buffet dinner which followed was catered by Jordan's to their usual high standards and was enjoyed with much relish. Return visits to the buffet were not unusual !

Compensation for the calorie intake was then provided by the music selections of "Blue Pop". Here was music to span the ages, enticing all to strut their stuff on the dance floor, and presented at a volume consistent with the size of the room. I was transported back in time to the Saturday night college hop in the Pritchard-Jones Hall in Bangor in the fifties and then later treated to some very remarkable exhibitions of The Twist, which must have had some consequences the next day!

Many items had been donated for the draw, which was conducted by Jeff Owen to the delight of the lucky winners and the feigned sorrow of those not chosen. Two door prizes (as Jeff said "A back door and a front door") were also awarded. Those with energy left, and they were numerous, then participated in some energetic line dancing and other variations, led by Gaynor Owen. Those of us 'out of line' watched with bemused admiration, particularly the Macarena. All in all, a splendid evening, for which we owe a debt of thanks, especially to Jeff and Gaynor and the Social Committee and their many helpers, but also to all those who donated the prizes.

David Llewelyn Williams

Children's Christmas Party

Sunday December 16 saw the Cambrian Hall come alive as 35 excited children arrived for their annual Christmas party. They would not be disappointed as Gaynor Owen, daughter Susan and friend Jesse had numerous games and activities planned for the afternoon. Parents and doting grandparents looked on as the youngsters tore around the upper hall playing such games as musical chairs and pass-the-parcel, or quietly assembled works of art at the craft table.

When all were worn out and handfuls of candy eaten, everyone gathered in the lower hall to sing Christmas songs and patiently await the arrival of Santa Claus and his sack of presents. Each child visited with Santa and received a special gift, and seeing the beaming faces of each and every one as they tore open their packages, I would say that no-one was disappointed. Hot dogs, juice and ice cream were served to end a perfect afternoon.

Many, many thanks to Gaynor Owen and all her helpers for making the party such a resounding success.

Gaynor Evans

Cambrian Circle Singers

The year 2001 proved to be the Singers busiest year. We sang at fifteen lodges, care homes and hospitals. We did a concert in Harrison Hot Springs in June and also performed with the local group there in another concert. We represented Wales in a German sponsored European Day concert, in Fort Langley's Celtic Festival and in Burnaby Village Museum's Multicultural Weekend in August. We also took part in the Noson Lawen at the Welsh Society's Welsh Weekend in November. We were asked to return to Burnaby Heritage Museum at Christmas time plus we had an enjoyable time performing for the Van Dusen Gardens on a beautiful, not too cold (!) evening just before Christmas. In December, we also performed a quite well attended concert for St. Saviour's Parish in Richmond.

The choir is now busily rehearsing new music for our spring engagements. With the exception of one prior singout, we are starting off the spring season with a concert at St Edward's Church, 1011 Bird Road and St Edward's Drive, (south of Bridgeport Road, east of #4 road) in Richmond on February 24th. at 2:30 in the afternoon. Following this we have engagements every week until the end of April with a few that have not yet booked a definite date. We have also added two new ladies to our group - Dawn Williams (alto) and Merrily Abbott (soprano). Dawn was born in Caerdydd, and Merrily is sister to member Coleen Thomas.

Rehearsals are the first and second Fridays and third and fourth Wednesdays at the Cambrian Hall at 7:30 p.m. New or old singers! are most welcome.

Nerys Haqq

TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS



There is a book published by The Welsh Tourist Board listing the addresses and websites of the County Record Offices in Wales and other useful information.

To obtain a copy, or more information on Wales, telephone the Consumer Enquiry Line in Canada:

1 888-VISIT UK. e-mail: walesinfo@bta.org.uk

Write: The British Tourist Authority, 5915 Airport Rd., Suite 120, Mississauga, Ontario L4V 1T1 Telephone: (905) 405-1840

Wales Tourist Board, c/o British Tourist Authority, 551 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10176

The Welsh-American Genealogical Society website:

www.familyhistory.com/societyhall

Contact or visit the National Archives and Canada Employment & Immigration in Ottawa, Canada

You can also obtain information on The British Heritage Pass and Britrail Passes from the tourist authorities.

Travels to Patagonia Strengthen Welsh Link

Close links with the Argentinian region of Patagonia were "vital" for Wales, said Welsh First Secretary Rhodri Morgan after going on a trade mission to South America that included a visit to Chile.

Links between Patagonia and Wales date from 135 years ago when Welsh settlers went there and, in the province of Chubut, Welsh traditions and culture still survive.

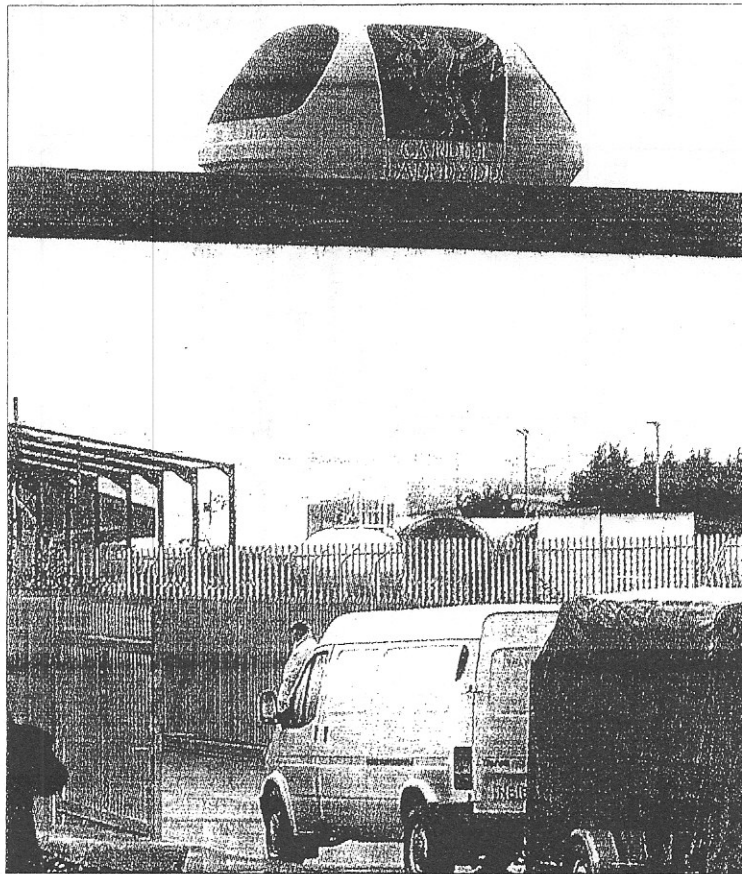


Patagonia - different hillsides, same welcome!

During his visit the First Secretary agreed to work with the governor of Chubut to help strengthen the revival of the Welsh language in Patagonia and promote opportunities in tourism, heritage, economic development and export promotion.

Mr Morgan also launched a new website, Dolen Ysgolion, to link schoolchildren in Wales and Patagonia, and meetings were held with the presidents of Argentina and Chile and the mayor of Buenos Aires.

Mr Morgan said: "I have only rarely experienced such warmth of emotion and it was a very great privilege for me both politically and personally to be the first official representative of the National Assembly for Wales to visit Patagonia. It is so rare for any non-mainstream language to survive in South America, and it is incredible that the Welsh language has been passed down into the fifth generation."



Personalized taxis rides rails

Cardiff's new driverless, computer-controlled taxi service turned many heads yesterday during a test drive in the Wales city. The Urban Light Transport is designed to ride along rubber wheels at a top speed of 38 km/h for a fare of about \$1.43 US. Each cabin would be programmed to stop at the rider's designated station.

Welsh Pub Wins Whisky Pub of the Year Award

It's enough to drive you to drink... The Old House bar in Llangynwyd, Maesteg, Mid-Glamorgan in Wales has been awarded the title "UK Whisky Pub of the Year" by the editors of the Good Pub Guide. It has a selection of 350 malts and an ambience and service which persuaded the judges that it was superior to anywhere else in Britain - even in Scotland. In Speyside there was some surprise at the result - the Craigellachie Hotel with 470 fine malts, luxurious surroundings, knowledgeable staff and fresh Speyside water to add to the whisky is regarded by many as one of the best. But publicans in Scotland tried to be philosophical about it, saying that it was good that whisky was being appreciated in other parts of the UK. The Welsh pub does have some advantages - it is a thatched building dating back to the Twelfth century and it is famed for its good food as well as its collection of malts.

Ed. There is no relationship between
the Taxi Service and the Pub !

January 2002

Mis Ionawr 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			16 W.A. MTC (Noon) Cambrian Circle Singers	17 Welsh Folk Dancers	18	19 Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
20	21 Welsh Speaking Evening	22	23 Cambrian Circle Singers	24 Thursdays Welsh Folk Dancing	25	26 7:30 pm ORPHEUS Gilmore Park U Ch. 8060 No 1 Rd Richmond Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
27	28	29	30	31		

Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society
 Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Ave, Vancouver, B.C.
 V5V 1A6 CA Telephone:- 604 876-2815

February 2002

Mis Chwefror 2002

3	4	5	6 7:30 pm Exec Mtg	7	8 Cambrian Circle Singers	9 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
10 11 am Church & ie bach	11	12	13 7:30 pm General Meeting Camb Circle Singout	14 Welsh Folk Dancing	15	16 7:30 pm ORPHEUS Mt Seymour U Ch. 1200 Pkgate N Van Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm

Mon Feb 18

N Van, Cedar View Ldg

Welsh Speaking