

Donator i Chwefror  
2003

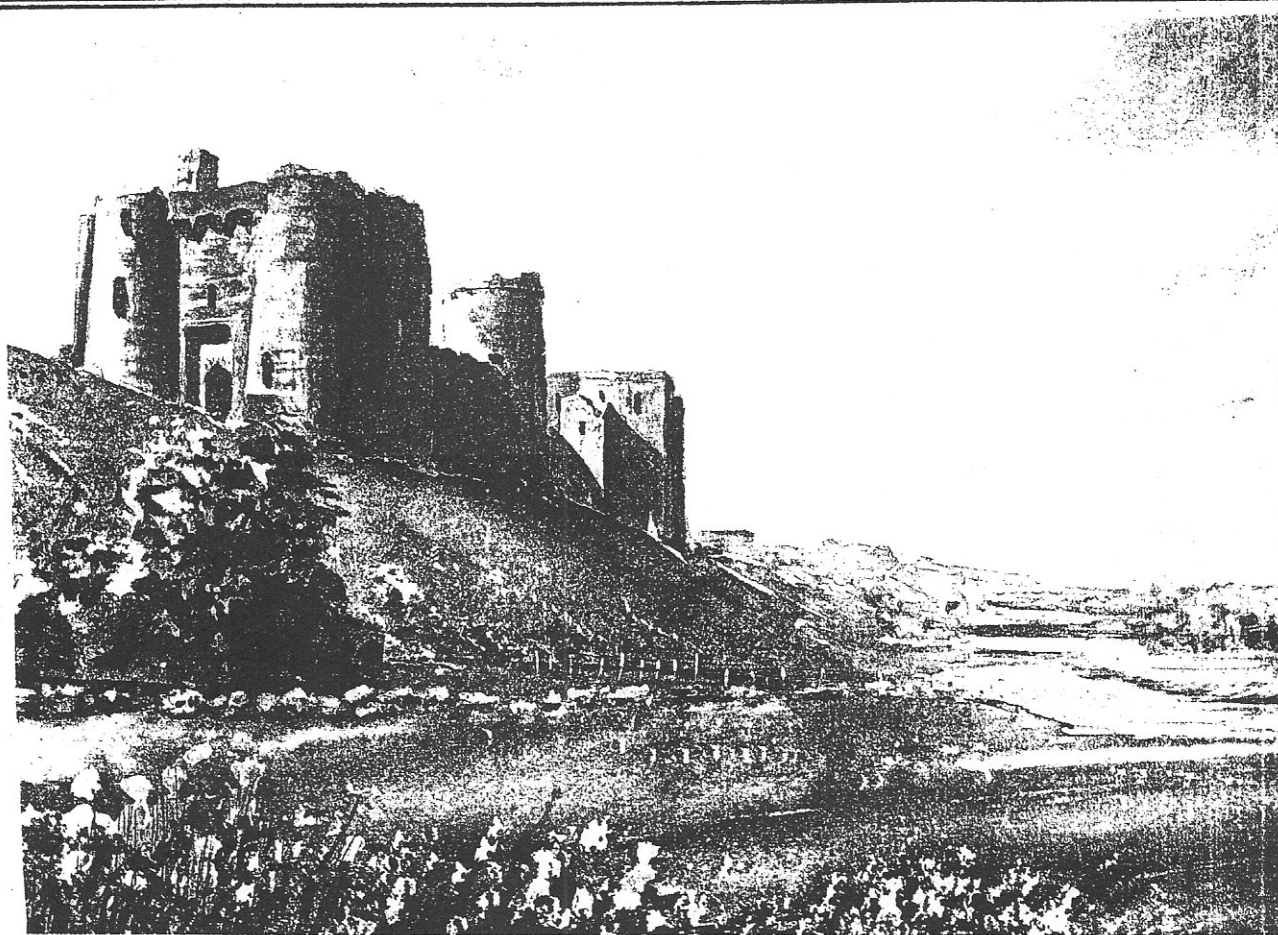


January to February  
2003

Cymdeithas Gymkaeg Vancouver

*Cambrian News*

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



*Kidwelly Castle, Carmarthenshire*

**VANCOUVER**  
**WELSH SOCIETY**

*The Cambrian News*

**Officers**

**President:**

**Tecwyn Roberts (604) 464-2760**

**Vice-President:**

**Jane Byrne 732-5448**

**Secretary:**

**Ann Roberts 987-6996**

**Treasurer:**

**Gaynor Evans 271-3134**

**Membership Secretary:**

**Mary Slaney 888-6563**

**Immediate Past President:**

**Jeff Owen 946-4956**

**Directors**

**Eric Davies**

**Gwyn Evans**

**Barrie Hancock**

**Lynn Owens-Whalen**

**Eifion Williams**

**Contacts**

**Building Committee:**

**Jeff Owen 946-4956**

**Cambrian Circle Singers:**

**Nerys Haqq 278-8978**

**Church Service:**

**Ann Roberts 987-6996**

**Rentals:**

**Alan Jones 437-0304**

**Social Committee:**

**Gaynor Owen 946-4956**

**Welsh Folk Dancing:**

**Gaynor Evans 271-3134**

**Welsh-Speaking Evening:**

**Ann Roberts 987-6996**

**Women's Auxiliary:**

**Bev Thomas 738-0680**

**Newsletter**

**Front Cover & Calendar:**

**Gordon Thomas 738-0680**

**Editor:**

**David Llewelyn Williams 737-0305**  
**(williams@physics.ubc.ca)**

**From The Editor:**

Since the last issue, all the Christmas festivities have concluded and the Annual General Meeting has elected new Executive Officers. Our President and our Secretary have nobly agreed to soldier on, in the absence of volunteers for those positions.

I should remind you of the second E-steddfod organized by the Museum of Welsh Life profiled in the last Newsletter. The deadline for submissions is February 14<sup>th</sup> so put your creative hats on now!

The NAFW update by Alan Upshall requires your input (I note that young is defined as < 25!) Also plan ahead for St. David's Day by reserving your tickets from Gaynor Evans.

Finally, one of my New Year's resolutions is to produce the Newsletter on time. That one didn't last long but I'll try to improve.

David Llewelyn Williams

**Front cover:**

Founded in the reign of Henry I, Kidwelly Castle overlooks the Gwendraeth estuary. Part of a chain of coastal castles, it could be supplied by either land or sea in order to maintain Norman control over South West Wales. Bishop Roger of Salisbury initiated the building and many later medieval castles were based upon the original plan. The most impressive feature is the twin towered southern gatehouse. It provided the Constable's accommodation and contained also the guard rooms and a dungeon. The three arches above the drawbridge and portcullis mask the 'murder holes' through which missiles could be dropped on any enemy who was foolish enough to try to force an entry.

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **St. David's Day Dinner**

Our annual St. David's Day celebration will take place in the Cambrian Hall on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> (St. David's Day!).

The hall will be open at 6.30 pm for cocktails and socializing and dinner will be served promptly at 7.30 pm.

The dinner will be catered by Jordan's International Food Designs and will feature the following menu:

Leek Soup followed by (buffet style) green salad and dressings, rolls and butter, hot cooked vegetables, roast potatoes, lemon chicken, roast beef, assorted tarts and squares, tea and coffee.

The cost will be \$28 for members and \$30 for non-members.

Please call Gaynor Evans at 604 271-3134 to purchase tickets.

### **Seattle St. David Program**

Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 2:30 pm in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 111 NE 80<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle.

Master of Ceremonies Harpist Bronn Journey, gifted soprano Katherine Journey, the Red Dragon Band, and more. Followed by a Te Bach. Sponsored by the Seattle Welsh women and the Puget Sound Welsh Association.

For information phone 206-524-0854

## **Whitehall websites learn Welsh**

Virtually all relevant UK Government websites will be available in the Welsh language. The Office of the E-embassy accepted demands from the Welsh Language Board that sites should be bilingual. Much of the government's key UK Online portal is already available in Welsh. Now, Whitehall's web design handbook has adopted the board's guidelines under the provision of the Welsh Language Act.

E-embassy Andrew Pinder is adding Welsh to the web. It means all government organisations serving the public in Wales should incorporate both Welsh and English in their sites. The requirement was a key plank of evidence given by the Welsh Language Board in a consultation exercise in 2001.

Board chair Rhodri Williams said in a statement: "This is excellent news both for the board and for the language itself. Statutory organisations operating in Wales will now have to consider the two languages when developing their sites on the internet. We are in a unique situation to offer advice to the UK Government here at the board. Providing advice on topics such as bilingual domain names for websites, equal prominence to both languages and direct navigation between parallel pages, is part of our everyday work. Our recommendations are all examples of best practice, and we are delighted that such an important document for those involved in developing websites includes all our advice and recommendations."

Web-savvy Mr. Williams is keenly interested in opportunities for the Welsh language to harness new media and would have been central in driving the policy into the new Handbook On Web Design. He sees as crucial Welsh-language provision on websites and in computer software. The board recently welcomed Microsoft's inclusion of Welsh-language spell-checking tools in its releases of Windows XP and Office.

The latest guidelines in the UK Government's handbook state "Welsh content should be as easy for the public to access as the English content" and point to the Welsh Assembly and Welsh Language Board websites as hallmarks of bilingualism.

## Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

The choir has been taking a well-earned rest over Christmas and the New Year after singing six concerts in less than three weeks. This started with a benefit concert with the Celesta Women's Choir of West Vancouver in the Centennial Theatre in North Vancouver for the North Shore Search and Rescue Team. We then sang a series of five very well-received Christmas concerts; one with the Windermere Secondary Chamber Choir in New Westminster, one with the Magee Secondary Chamber Choir in Abbotsford, two with the Killarney Secondary Chamber Choir in St. Andrew's Wesley Church downtown and finally one with the Academy West Singers in the Surrey Arts Centre.

Our attention is now focused on our upcoming "Forget Me Not" benefit concert on Saturday February 1 sponsored by the Alzheimer Society of BC in the new Bell Centre in Surrey. We are delighted to welcome as guest soloists world renowned mezzo soprano Judith Forst and her brother, baritone David Lumb. Proceeds from this concert will be divided between the Alzheimer Society of BC, the G. S. Lumb Bursary Foundation for Vocal Students at UBC, and the costs of our upcoming concert tour this June to St. Petersburg and Moscow. For tickets and further information on this February 1 concert, please contact Gwyn or Gaynor Evans at (604) 271-3134 or Dave or Veronica Gilder at (604) 274-4274.



## 57th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD

8th - 13th July 2003

Once again, Wales welcomes the World to Llangollen for this celebrated festival of music, song and dance.

Each day, participants take to the stage in a variety of competitions, and then in the evenings, top professional and celebrity artists perform. Set in the beautiful vale of Llangollen, the festival is an ideal event to tie in with a short break.

To receive a brochure for the 2003 Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, please send your name, address and postcode to:

Marketing, LIME Ltd, Royal International Pavilion, Abbey Road, Llangollen LL20 8SW,

or email us at [info@international-eisteddfod.co.uk](mailto:info@international-eisteddfod.co.uk)

or call us on 01978 862007.



## North American Festival of Wales update

Regrettably, we have had two recent disappointments in our planning:

"Rag Foundation", the young modern music group, withdrew before Christmas. They were unable to obtain support for their travel costs. "Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion", the youth choir, informed us last week that they are unable to accept our invitation because of financial difficulties. These two withdrawals are a great disappointment, especially that of Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion, since we wanted to present a youthful face to the Festival. We have been working feverishly to resolve and find new quality talent to fill the gaps.

We have invited, and the invitation has been accepted (guaranteed), an excellent young folk music group "Mabon", based in Bridgend, Wales. The group has in the past received support from the National Assembly of Wales and come with strong recommendations. Mabon has committed to coming as they wish to develop a presence in the North American Celtic Music Scene. Currently they are in discussions with a North American agent. They will be paying their own way and the NAFOW is supporting them on the ground in Richmond.

Because the youth choir withdrew only this week, we believe it is very unlikely that we will be able to find a replacement group of the same caliber at this short notice. As an alternative and to maintain the youth focus, we are currently investigating the availability of several young (<25yrs) persons of high musical talent and we anticipate inviting two (or three) to be part of our after banquet concert. We should have invitations distributed within the month. The presence of these youth coupled with our special eisteddfod competition for youth solo and choir will keep youth to the fore.

Despite these two disappointments, progress has been very good. Membership registration documents will be circulated before St. David's Day; the hotel already has over 300 room nights booked; the Eisteddfod already has entry enquiries. Our North American publicity via the Welsh newspapers is in full swing and Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, CBC Radio, Vancouver has agreed to be part of our publicity with special mention at St. David's Day and through the summer.

We have been able to generate a very strong festival Program with the support and generosity of our supporters and friends and local Welsh Societies, and we thank all of you very much. There are still many sponsorship opportunities remaining with now the new opportunity for target sponsorship of young musicians. If you know of anyone who might wish to be part of the Festival and associated with displaying the best of young Welsh talent, I would be only too pleased to hear from them, or hear about them so I can make the contact.

With Best regards

Alan Upshall

Chairman North American Festival of Wales, 2003

**Subject: Cymuned North America**

Bore da!

I'm writing to you on behalf of Cymuned North America as Canadian liaison. Our mission is to develop awareness of Wales to the World, both culturally and economically. Cymuned North America invites your Welsh Society to become an affiliate. Please let me know if this interests you. We need help spreading the word that we are here as we work to gain international support for Cymuned in Wales. If you know of any other Welsh groups who would be interested, please let me know, or pass this information along. Visit the Cymuned North America web site and get acquainted with our mission [www.CymunedNorthAmerica.iwarp.com](http://www.CymunedNorthAmerica.iwarp.com)

I am also contacting you on behalf of Dr. Hywel Bishop, of Cardiff University's Centre for Language and Communication Research. They are conducting a survey, "Wales and the World". If you would like to participate, copy the following questions and paste them into a new e-mail. Address the e-mail to [BishopH1@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:BishopH1@cardiff.ac.uk), with "Wales and the World" in the subject line. Please feel free to send this survey to anyone who would be interested.

Diolch yn Fawr!

Sidney John Watkins BFA, Media Manager  
Cymdeithas Dewi Sant Montréal Saint David Society of/de Montréal  
[orbit@securenet.net](mailto:orbit@securenet.net)  
<http://www.stdavidssociety.montreal.qc.ca>  
<http://www.welshmalechoir.montreal.qc.ca>  
<http://www.securenet.net/members/swatkins/index.html>

1) Your contacts with Wales

Describe your main points of contact - family past and present, travel, cultural events, etc. How do you keep up with events in Wales? Would you like to be more closely in touch? If so, how?

2) Your own Welsh identity

Describe your own "Welshness". Do you regularly describe yourself as Welsh? What is the time you feel most and least "Welsh"?

3) Interests in the Welsh language

Does the Welsh language have any interest for you at all? Do you have any experience of it? Can you speak or read Welsh? What value do you see in the Welsh language?

4) Welsh Societies

Are you a member of a Welsh society of some sort? Which one(s)? How did the idea arise? How did you hear about the society? What were your first thoughts about Welsh societies? What were your motives in joining, or not joining? If you are a member, which events do you usually attend? How regularly? What do you like or dislike about them? How does the society allow you to "feel Welsh"?

5) Demographic information about yourself

If you are happy to do this, please give us some basic information about yourself, e.g. your name, age, gender, ethnic group, and occupation.

## Extracts from the Press

The Prime-Minister's residence in Ottawa bears the name 'Gorffwysfa' (place of rest – to recover from affairs of state I suppose!). The house on Sussex Drive was given to the Nation by a wealthy industrialist by the name of Edwards who came from Blaenau Ffestiniog.

French men voted Catherine Zeta-Jones the second most desirable date in a recent poll. Top place went to supermodel Naomi Campbell. Liz Hurley and Joan Collins each polled less than 10% of the votes.

The very first car radio receiver was fitted by the Cardiff and South Wales Wireless Society in 1921. It took up more space than a passenger but at least it didn't criticize the driver!

From the National Geographic:

As well as a chromosome, the Welsh have handed down over the generations a deep attachment to the 8,000 square miles they inhabit. "Hiraeth," which can be loosely translated as a longing for home, is one of the core words in the Welsh language. In a rootless, mobile world this anchor to a particular place and community is a source of certainty. When Harry Jones, who lives in Snowdonia National Park, talked to me about Cadair Idris, the mountain in whose shadow he has spent most of his life, he did so as though talking about a close relative. "I think the world of Cadair," he said, as we sat in the yard of his cottage in Abergynolwyn. It was his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, but he still walked head up, shoulders back, without a stick. When I arrived, he was preparing his lunch; roast pheasant with potatoes, carrots and cauliflower from the garden. "I'm no boozier for one thing," he said, when I asked his secret, "And I had a good wife and a good mother."

Not to mention the best StairMaster in the world! Every day for several years after World War II, Harry used to scramble to the top of 2,927 foot Cadair Idris, carrying 20 pounds of provisions for the refreshment room he operated on the summit. I had found its stone remains the day before, after an arduous hike. It had taken me five knee-busting hours to get there. Harry used to make it in just over an hour.

"Most of the provisions were taken up by a man called Dafydd William Davies," he recalled, as we munched on Welsh cakes and drank tea. "Dafydd had a horse named Bess. Oh! they were wonderful together. When the mist was down they couldn't see. Dafydd wore glasses which got all misted up. So they would stand there arguing about which way to go. I would follow behind listening. The horse would stand there shaking its head while Dafydd argued with her. Finally he'd give up and follow Bess down till they got below the mist. She always knew the way!" Harry was the eighth person I'd met with the name Jones. Everyone seemed to be called Jones, Williams, Davies, or Evans. To prevent confusion, the Welsh use nicknames, and nowhere is their teasing wit and love of language more apparent. My favorites were the two Evanses from a Carmarthenshire village. One was an undertaker, the other was a travel agent. The travel agent was called Evans There and Back, while the undertaker was Evans One Way.

A doctor, a lawyer and a civil servant were arguing as to whose was the oldest profession.

Said the doctor: "It says in the Bible that God made Eve from Adam's rib. Such a delicate operation would call for the aid of a doctor, which proves my claim."

"Yes," said the lawyer, "but before that, Order was made out of Chaos. To do this would require the services of a lawyer, so my profession must be the oldest."

"Ah," said the civil servant, "but who made Chaos?"

January 2003

Mis Ionawr 2003

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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

Orpheus info line: 515-5686

19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Welsh Speaking Evening		Cambrian Circle Singers	Thursdays Welsh Folk Dancers		18 @Orpheus Dunbar & His "G" Church
26	27	28	29	30	31	
						25 Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.

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

February 2003

Mis Chwefror 2003

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			7:30 p.m. Exec. Mtg	Thursdays Welsh Folk Dancers	Cambrian Circle Singers	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
11:00 a.m. Church Service and te bach			7:30 p.m. Gen'l Mtg		Cambrian Circle Singers	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.

Feb. 22

Pig & Whistle