

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Gymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Tonawr
2009

January
2009

Society Newsletter - Pylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



A Popular Visitor at the Children's Christmas Party

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The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

At the Annual General Meeting in December a new slate of old and new members of the Executive was elected. We congratulate them on their election and thank them for agreeing to serve. At the same time we wish to express our gratitude to the members of the 2008 Executive for their dedicated service to our Society. Other members in their different roles and contributions also deserve our heartfelt thanks.

Two items not dealt with at the AGM require a continuation at a Special General Meeting for their approval. These involve a change in the By-Laws to limit the terms of the President and Vice President and also a change in the Membership Fees for 2009. As earlier announced, this meeting will be held on Monday, January 26th. Please attend.

The Memorial Service on November 22 for John D. Williams was inspiring; his impact on the community impressive. I am grateful to Ieuan Lampshire-Jones for the material on Senator Ray Perrault and our Society and I am grateful to David Llewelyn Davies for the unique documents concerning O. M. Edwards. I was unable to attend either the Mulled Wine Evening or the Christmas Dinner but I understand both were enjoyable occasions. The Children's Christmas Party certainly was a great success.

Sadly I must report that Glyn Shepard has been seriously ill for some time at St. Paul's Hospital. I understand he is slowly improving and we send all our best wishes for his early recovery.

David Llewelyn Williams

Forthcoming Events

Monday January 26th at 7:30 pm
Extraordinary General Meeting followed by February General Meeting. Please plan to attend.

Wednesday Jan. 28th 11.30-1.30pm.
Lunch at the Cambrian this month will feature "**Treasures from our Past**", stories of our senior members, researching and recording our family history and planning a Vancouver Welsh Society Cook Book. Our guest will be **Gordon C. Thomas** who has agreed to help us in our family history efforts.

Friday Jan 30th Social & Movie Night
The bar will open at 7:00 pm and the program will start at 7:30 pm.

- Jan. 25th St. Dwynwen's Day (A brief introduction to the tradition and the legend by David Llewelyn Williams.)
- The Social Committee will be providing a home-cooked Chilli supper followed by a mouth-watering dessert.
- Paul Lievesley will present a film of his visit to Cambodia. (see the attached poster)

There will be a \$10 charge for the event. Proceeds to cover costs and augment our Kitchen Fund.

Wednesday February 4th at 7:30 pm
Executive Meeting

Sunday February 8th at 11:00 am
Church Service followed by Tê Bach.

Monday February 16th at 10:30 am
Welsh Speaking group

Thursday February 19th at 10:00 am
Work Party Come, help if you can.

Saturday February 21st at 7.30 pm
Quiz and Pizza Night.

This will be a repeat of our very successful Quiz night of last year (but with different questions). This time we will have pizza for supper. There will be a \$10 charge. Proceeds to cover costs and augment our Kitchen Fund.

Wednesday February 25th 11:30 am – 1.30 pm
Lunch at the Cambrian

The annual **St. David's Day Dinner** will be held in the Cambrian Hall on **Saturday February 28th**. Doors open at 6 pm and dinner will be served at 7 pm. The event will be catered by Jordans. Program and entertainment details will be available later. Tickets from Gaynor Evans (604 271-3134) at \$37.00 each. **Please reserve early.**

Sunday March 1st at 8.00 pm
VWMC St. David's Day Concert
St. David's United Church, 1525 Taylor Way, West Vancouver.

Advance Notice: We plan a "Second Time Around" Sale on April 25th. Give some thought to items you might be able to contribute for us to sell!

*New Year's Greetings
from Peredigion*

**Blwyddyn Newydd DDA i Gymdeithas
Gymraeg Vancouver.**

Even though a year has passed since we had a wonderful time in your company, we still talk of the great welcome you extended us at the Centenary Celebrations. We wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Cymraes ac Islwyn Davies

The Children's Christmas Party

*Oh! The weather outside was frightful!
But the party inside was delightful!
So we all had a warm place to go.
Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!*

The Carol Service on the morning of December 14th was cancelled in view of the snow, but the Children's Christmas Party went ahead. It proved a great success and was much enjoyed by the children and their families who attended. Santa's visit was the highlight but many games and activities were also enjoyed.



Gaynor Evans, who deserves our warm thanks for organizing such a fun event, adds her thanks to all who contributed. (Photos by Uta Williams) D.L.I.W.



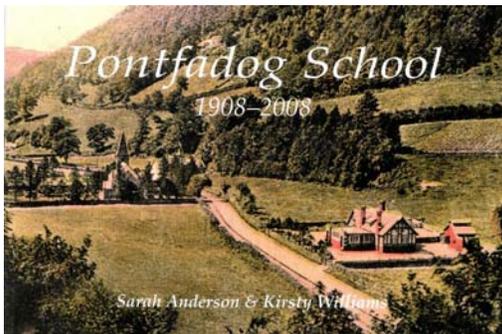
Many, many thanks to all who helped at the Children's Christmas party on December 14th. I would especially like to thank Santa (aka Brian G) for taking the time from his busy schedule to visit with us, also Andrea, Katie, Gabby and Brian for their help with the games and crafts, and for helping to hand out gifts to 20 very excited children. Thanks to Mary Lewis for the endless pots of tea and to Alice Roberts for her mince tarts and her valuable help in the kitchen. The 20 children who visited with Santa received a gift and a chance to give him their Christmas wish list. Parents as well as children had a fun time making Christmas wreaths, reindeer ornaments and decorating Ginger Bread Men. Thanks to all the parents who braved the snow to attend the party and thanks to the members of the Society's Church Group for their generous \$200 donation. See you next year! Gaynor Evans



Archival Material on Owen Morgan Edwards:

In response to my article in the last Newsletter on Sir O. M. Edwards, I received two very interesting pieces of archival material from our member in Kamloops, David Llewelyn Davies.

This summer David had attended the hundredth anniversary of his first school, Pontfadog School in the Ceiriog Valley. A detailed 120 page history of the school has been produced; its front cover showing its idyllic setting is reproduced from an old postcard supplied by David. He says the school is largely unchanged.



Of particular interest is the 1912 Log Book which records the **“Report made by HM inspector Mr. O.M. Edwards after his visit of 9th January 1912”** and also **”Report of the Chief Inspector for Wales upon school libraries in public elementary schools in the Ceiriog Valley”**. These reports make fascinating reading and show the Chief Inspector’s influence on Education. For example, while the school “can take its place with the best country school of the district”, he also notes that “the essay subjects tend to encourage reproduction; the consequence is that the work, though neat and accurate, has not the originality of a well taught child.” He encourages the use of the school building to become

“the home of education within the district” so that former pupils who remain in the district might have access to an evening course. He suggests a course of Welsh literature would be of great educational value. In his report on school libraries “in the Ceiriog Valley where children are intelligent and anxious to know” he encourages the gradual formation of a library from lists of suitable books that appeal to the children. As an example, he submits “a first list of Welsh Books suitable to the Glyn Ceiriog district”.

These reports reveal an educator whose ideas were ahead of his time and whose ideals are just as relevant today.

The second item comes from the recollections of David’s grandfather, Sir Alfred Davies, the first Permanent Secretary appointed by Lloyd George to specifically look after Welsh Education, written during his retirement. I quote: “If I have reserved to the last all mention of the fellow-countryman who was most closely associated with myself in the work we were privileged to do together in and for Wales in those years, it is because in my opinion he was inferior to none of them in mental calibre, and was the superior of all in the influence he exerted over his day and generation. Needless to say I refer to the incomparable Sir Owen Morgan Edwards, than whom Wales never produced a more brilliant son, Oxford never had a more illuminating History lecturer, and the Board of Education never had its policy in regard to Welsh Education inspired and guided by one of greater insight, of such indomitable energy and enthusiasm as well as such devotion to the cause to which he gave, and even sacrificed, his all too short life.”

**IN MEMORY OF JOHN DEULYN
WILLIAMS**

Our Society lost one of its long-time members on November 10 with the passing of John Deulyn Williams or John D. as he was known to his friends.

John was born in Bangor, but grew up in Dwygyfylchi which is between Conway and Penmaenmawr in North Wales. After attending Friar's School, Bangor, John completed an Honours Degree in Welsh at Bangor University. His National Service was performed at RAF Valley in Anglesey but he stayed on for a total of four years as an instructor, during which time he married Hazel. He returned to Bangor for an Education year and commenced his teaching career at Holywell Grammar School.

The family was encouraged to emigrate in 1960 by an exchange teacher from the Vancouver area who spent a year at Holywell, and John's and Hazel's subsequent teaching careers were spent entirely on the North Shore. John taught Social Studies and History and later served as Vice Principal at Sentinel, and then Principal at West Vancouver and Hillside Secondary Schools.

St. David's United Church in West Vancouver was filled to overcapacity on November 22 as family, friends and colleagues celebrated the life of a truly remarkable man. Our Society was well represented; Ann Roberts read the 23rd Psalm from the Welsh Bible that first belonged to John's grandfather, the Bard Dewi Deulyn. John always read from this Bible at our monthly services, which he regularly attended. John Pritchard gave the blessing in both languages at the conclusion of the memorial service.

John was respected by both students and teachers for his caring nature, firmness and sense of humour. Next to his family, John's greatest love was for teaching and the students and teachers with whom he was privileged to work. His influence was widespread and lasting and much appreciated by those who wrote their tributes to his memory.

An enthusiastic sportsman and athlete, he could always be counted on to play a competitive game without ever losing his sense of humour. When he first came out, he excelled at Field Hockey and played for the Grasshoppers in the local league. He had represented Bangor University at Golf and we all remember his participation along with his sons Tim and Nigel in the Annual Welsh Society Tournament. But it was Tennis that was his sport of choice in his later years and he won many Gold Medals in the B.C. Seniors Championships, either in singles or in doubles play. His support was instrumental in the establishment of The Grant Connell Tennis Centre on the North Shore and it is noteworthy that, in his memory, an award has been set up in his name to recognize the teenager who most exemplifies the characteristics and qualities of John.

He was a Rotarian for many years and a worthy recipient of the Paul Harris Award which is awarded "For Service above Self". He served as a member of the Board of Capilano United Church and later, as its Chairman, established a relationship with St. David's United Church, which enabled them to share the services of Rev. Bob Burrows (St. David's) and Rev. Sheila McKinnon (Bowen Island) thereby maintaining continuity of service at Capilano.

In summary, there are few aspects of the community to which John did not cheerfully and selflessly devote his energy and talents. In our Society he will be remembered for his participation in our monthly Church Services, his good-humoured role as M.C. at the Noson Lawen at the North American Festival of Wales in 2003, his participation in our Annual Golf Tournament and in our many festive occasions. He will be greatly missed both in the Welsh community and in the wider society.

John is survived by Hazel, his wife of almost 53 years, his three sons Tim (Patti), Nigel (Sue) and Peter (Sara), and

his five grandchildren - Carrie, Kelsey, Stephen, Emma and Sophie. He is also survived by his sister Marian (Jim) and numerous nephews and nieces in the UK. The photograph below shows John surrounded by family during Marian's visit last Thanksgiving.



Ieuan Lampshire-Jones writes:

The Welsh Society has lost an old friend with the death of Senator Ray Perrault on November 24th at the age of 82. He and Grace McCarthy assisted us in obtaining our "A" Licence. Perrault loved music and was a fan of our Vancouver Welshman's Choir, never missing a concert on the North Shore. The following historical photograph shows him as Head Table guest at our 1988 St. David's Day Banquet.



From left to right: Mrs. Phil Lampshire-Jones, Mr. Jack Williams (Vice President) Mrs. Elizabeth Watkins, Senator Ray Perrault, Mrs. Ann Roberts (President), Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones (Past President), Mr. Brian Watkins (British Consul General), Mrs. Gaynor Evans (Secretary), Mr. Gwyn Evans.

Pablo and Diego in Cambodia.

Showing on a big screen at the Red Dragon, January 30th 2009.

Pablo and Diego endure the trials and tribulations of air travel, including running the gauntlet of self righteous terrorists known as immigration officials to bring you the temple complex of Angkor, and the beauty of Cambodia after the Khmer Rouge and the potty dictator.

