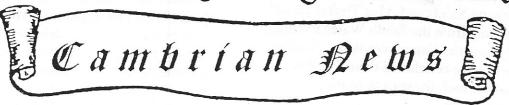
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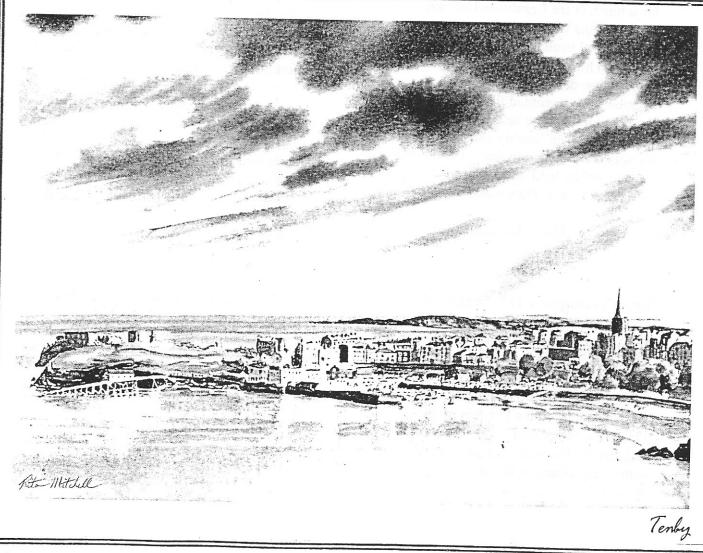


June 2003

Cymde 1thas Gymraeg Vancouver



Welsh Society Rewsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17TH Ave, VANCOUVER BC V5V 1A6 Tel: (604) 876-2815

The Cambrian News

From The Editor:

This issue will be the last for the summer season. Ieuan Lampshire Jones contributed the article on Saints and Alan Tucker passed on the article from the South Wales Evening Post. By now the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir will have concluded their Russian Tour and we look forward to hearing of their experiences.

Our immediate concern should now be the

North American Festival of Wales which I am sure will be an event to remember. On Friday August 29th tour buses will stop to have lunch at the Cambrian Hall; all contributions will be welcomed!

The Festival itself is seeking volunteers to work two hour shifts at the reception and information desks.

Members are reminded that a Memorial to Jean Hinkley will be held in the Lower Hall at 2 p.m. on Sunday June 29th. By way of advanced notice, our Anniversary Dinner will be held on October 18th and the Christmas Dinner Dance on November 28th.

David Llewelyn Williams

Tenby's Georgian and Victorian colour washed buildings together with the spire of St. Mary's ancient church seem to proclaim that humans can indeed enhance nature. Part of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, the beautiful bays of Tenby combine safe sandy beaches with a fascinating history. This view of the North and Harbour beaches includes St. Catherine's Fort to the far right with Caldy Island in the distance.

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

Our regular performance season this year has finished with a flurry of activity, with joint concerts with the New Westminster Concert Band in Burnaby, with the Chilliwack and District Pipe Band in Chilliwack and with the Delta Police Pipe Band in Tsawwassen. The latter event was particularly well-attended, with over 900 people in the audience. Audio and videotapes of this concert will be available later. The season finished with a Gala Farewell Concert featuring the 3 Divas in Magee High School Auditorium in Kerrisdale.

It was indeed a farewell concert, since by the time that this issue of the Cambrian News comes out we will be well into our Russian tour to help, as one of the only two Canadian invitees, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the founding of St. Petersburg. We have two concerts scheduled in major concert halls and one mini-concert at a church service, all in St. Petersburg, plus a Gala Concert in the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory.

Our schedule is also loaded with a lot of sightseeing plus attendance at folk concerts, and a performance of Giselle at the Bolshoi, so by the time we return we will have definitely earned a summer break!

Tenby's position at the mouth of the Bristol Channel ensured its place in historical records and it is mentioned in the Laws of Hywel Dda around 942 AD. Once a Norman garrison town, it has Medieval town walls. St. Catherine's Fort was built in the middle of the 19th century to ward off possible French attacks on the important trade of the harbour and to protect the naval base at Pembroke Dock.

GOLFF

Saturday, May 31st blessed all participants at our Annual Golf Tournament at Delta Golf Course with excellent weather. Our professional participant, Nigel Williams, set the standard with a score of 67 despite being unable to 'buy' a putt throughout the round. As one of that foursome I can attest that any reasonable contribution from the laws of statistics would have resulted in a significantly lower score! The rest of us in the amateur ranks, and you really would have to love the game to continue, competed for the following:

Men's low gross: Rob Barclay (77).

Men's low net: Wyn Roberts (67).

Ladies low gross: Irene Evans (106).

Ladies low net: Margaret Monk (75).

Long Drive: Bill Tsetzos (Huge!)

K.P.: David Young

Fewest Putts: Rob Barclay 28

Bill Tsetzos 28

The annual North- South contest was won this year by South Wales, represented by Rob Barclay, Gwyn Evans, Dave Gilder and Bob Marsh.

Our sincere thanks go to Gwilym Evans for his efforts in organizing this event and also to David Young for recording all the scores. Gwilym also provided a prize for the K.P. and also, in anticipation, a gift to the South Wales team. Thanks also to Jeff and Gaynor for opening the Hall early.

E-Steddfod 2003

Readers will recall John Pritchard's successes in this competition.
Here are some more of his entries:

Llythyren "A"

Aflonydd Arabiaid all arwain aml aelwyd at anrhefn. Atgasedd arddangosant at Abraham a'i âch.

A all awyrennau America amddiffyn ardaloedd? A'i amgennach – arloesi ag addfwynder, amynedd ac anwes?

Letter "D"

Dauntless Dick discovered diamond deposits deep down.
Difficult digging days disappeared.
Daylight displaced dispirited darkness.

Limerig

A glywsoch chi'r stori ryfeddol Am Gymro bach pur uchelgeisiol, A'i fryd ar Osama, Ei ddal yn Tacoma, Enillodd y wobr sylweddol.

Limerick (given the first line)

A Swansea-born spinster called Bet, Had got herself really upset. The hope for a male, In no time got stale, A nun she became in Tibet. July 3rd commemorates St. Peblig, a 4th century saint. He was the brother of Owain and Ednyfed ab Macsen, both saintly men. According to an ancient manuscript their father, Macsen Wledig, was Emperor of Rome and their mother, his wife, Elen, daughter of Eudaw.

The church of Llanbeblig in Caernarfon is dedicated to Peblig and was founded before the town of Caernarfon existed and just after the Romans finally departed from Britain. The Roman town of Caernarfon was Segontium and it is highly probable that this was destroyed by the Irish. St. Mary's in Caernarfon was a daughter chapel of Llanbeblig and there was formerly another chapel-at-ease dedicated to St. Helen, the mother of Peblig, or perhaps an older Helen as some people maintain that the Empress was never canonized.

Maximus (Macsen) left Britain in 383 and his departure gave rise to savage invasions by the Irish Picts, or Gwyddel Ffichti, of the west coasts of Wales and other parts of Britain. They were expelled by Ceredig, Arwysti, Dunod, Edyrn, Mael, Coel, Dogfael, Rhufon, Einion and Oswal, chieftains whose clans thereafter occupied the territories vacated by the Irish and whose names survive in these territories. By about 430 a.d. the Irish had been driven out.

Contemporary with the sons of Maximus was the famous Brychan whose mother was a daughter of Tudor or Tewdrig. His father was said to have been one of the very pirates mentioned above, though of Royal

Irish blood. So one dynasty dies as another has its foundations and history created. Many of those who fought to drive the Irish out were the sons of Cunedda Wledig who ruled in north Britain and had himself been driven out by the Irish invaders.

Owain, brother of Peblig, was elected by rightful succession to the British throne at the time of its independence. He was a young man at the time. One of the Triads refers to his being raised to Pendragon, or Sovereign, of Britain, although he was not an Elder.

All these chieftains gave generously to the Church, bestowing lands and endowments. Many of their sons and descendants became distinguished Celtic Saints and clerics. David, Dogfael, Teilo, Tyssul, Pedr, Cwmfelyn and Cwmdeyrn were all cousins and descendants of Cunedda. The saints Cybi, Cado, Iestyn, Geraint and Ysgin were sons and grandsons of the chieftain Cystennyn Gorneu, whose descendants settled in Cornwall. Cystennyn was a contemporary of Brychain, Owain and Cunedda. King Arthur was said to be a grandson of Cystennyn and consequently closely connected with the region of Devon and Cornwall.

Since many of these intermarried or married twice, the relationships to each other and to many of the later Celtic saints is intricate and the extraordinary proliferation of remarkable, saintly and outstanding men and women, one of the wonders of history and one of the glories of Christianity.

Welsh Male Choirs Encounter Recruitment Problems

(South Wales Evening Post)

The hills around Swansea may soon no longer be alive with the sound of music. Male voice choirs in the area admit they are facing a bleak future as they struggle to attract new members. Some are now resorting to forgoing the traditional hymns for more modern numbers in the hope of getting younger blood through the doors.

Dunvant Male Choir is one of the biggest groups in the area but even it admits it is facing hard times. Chairman Paul Stableforth believes it is a case of striking a balance between keeping the choirs' traditions and adapting to modern sensibilities. "The solution, which several of the choirs have chosen, is changing the emphasis towards musical theatre to attract a younger audience. "We need to keep our base in the chapel and keep the traditional spiritual music and hymns but there is a change towards a more varied programme. "Hopefully, we will be able to get younger choristers off the back of attracting younger audiences." He said new members tended to be in their 40s and 50s, although there were some younger. "It is difficult as the average age is quite high and young people coming in look around and feel very isolated. "We need to attract groups of young people so they can support one another."

Morriston Orpheus Choir has managed to stem the tide of dropping membership, but secretary John Betts admits the group, which has struggled to get the average age of membership below 60, can never become complacent. "We have a recruitment officer who is charged with thinking of ways to attract people to the choir," he said. "One of the things we did last year was to set up a stand at the freshers' fair in the university. "It did get seven or eight young people, although most of them have fallen by the wayside. "But we are managing at the moment to maintain our numbers. "We are getting young people but it is something which needs working on." Mr Betts agreed that lifestyles got in the way of joining a choir. Morriston Orpheus meets twice a week to practice and is usually performing every fortnight. "Like most of these things, the problem is commitment." People these days have difficult working patterns. You have to make allowances for the fact that they may miss rehearsals because of shift work."

The problem of falling numbers in male voice choirs has been studied by Ken Griffin, a member of the Welsh Amateur Music Federation, who said membership has been in decline for the past three decades. Mr Griffin blames the collapse in industry which he believes forged strong links with the choirs. "The areas where numbers are suffering are mainly areas of high unemployment," he said. "But where there are strong communities, the choirs are still strong. Male voice choirs were strongest in manufacturing and industrial areas. "People don't use their enforced leisure time to join the choirs and people don't tend to go out as much as they used to. Also chapels are declining and there are very few choirs in Wales which are chapel choirs."



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Featuring the 72nd National Gymanfa Ganu

and from Wales:

The Dunvant Male Choir

Baritone Jason Howard

Welsh folk group'Mabon'

Concert tickets for WALES - A MUSICAL JOURNEY on Saturday, August 30 at the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver, BC (The Duvant Male Choir and Jason Howard) from www.ticketmaster.ca or 1-604-280-4444

Register for the North America Festival of Wales...and soon!

There are many advantages to registering for activities at the North American Festival of Wales this August:

\$2 per day parking. Nonregistrants will have to pay
\$5 per day...max \$12 saving.

\$40 grand concert ticket.. Those purchasing tickets through Ticketmaster will pay up to \$46.

Admission into both Gymanfa sessions free...others will have to pay \$10.

Guaranteed tickets for opening concert, Grand Banquet and entertainment. Pre-selection of table seating at the Grand Banquet.

Choice of seminars available before tickets sold out. Festival book, registration name tags and package...not available to non-registrants

Your savings will account for nearly all of your registration costs and you will receive all information and support that other registrants receive. Also you will be supporting your own society since 8.3% of the profits of the Festival will be returned to your Vancouver Welsh Society. Don't run the risk of not being able to attend any event because of the 'full up ' sign. Register for the Festival and do it soon. Registration is \$35 before August 1st and \$42 after August 1st!

You can obtain all information and download a registration form from our website www.nafow.org. or Don Murray at (604) 542-2470.