

Mehelin i Gorffennaf
1998

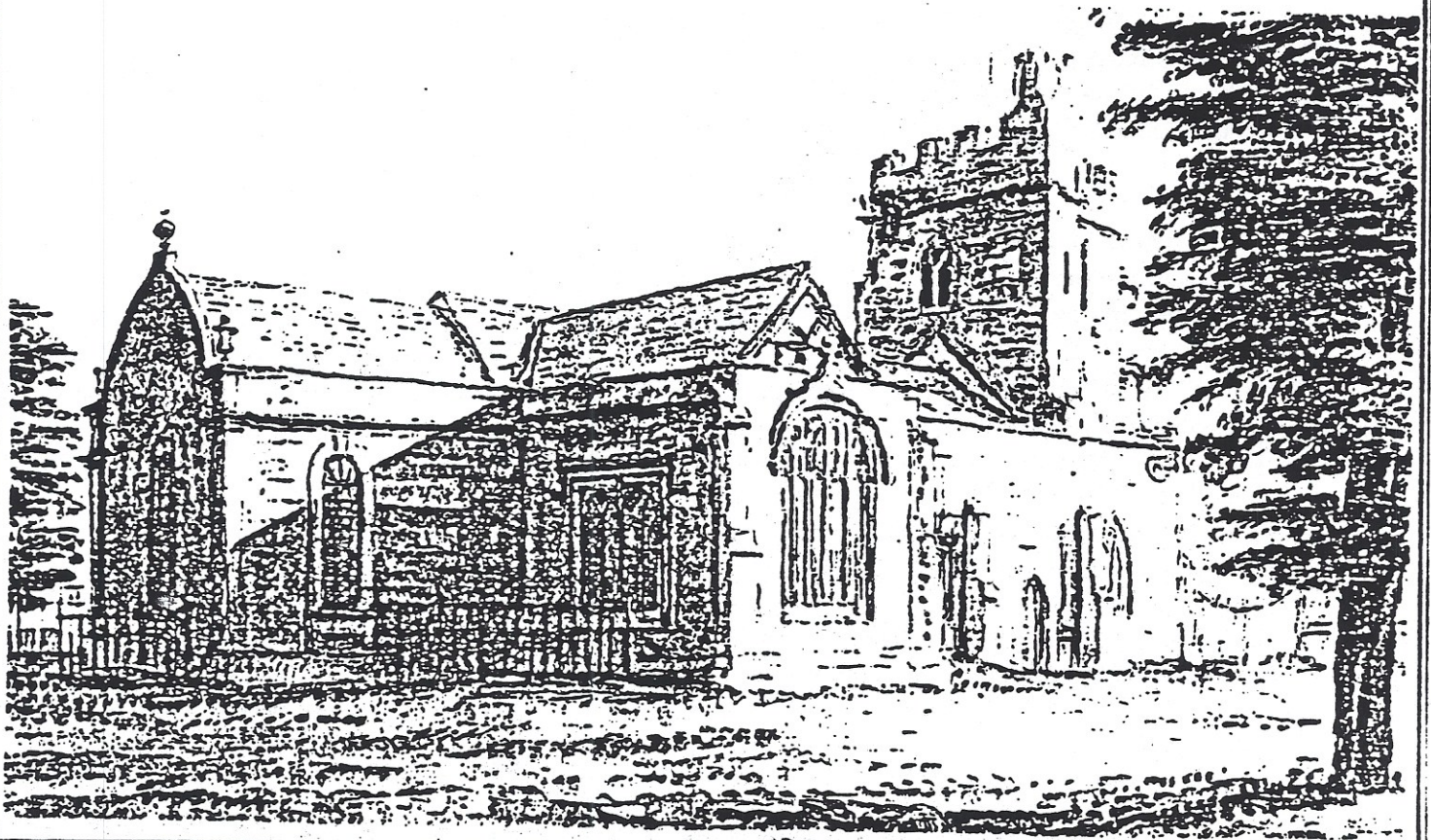


June to July
1998

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



OVERTON PARISH CHURCH BY MOSES GRIFFITH
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CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17th Ave. VANCOUVER, BC V5V 1A6 Tel: (604) 876-2815

Pacific Northwest Welsh Applaud Vancouver Welsh Weekend.

If you weren't there, you missed a terrific time. The Vancouver Welsh Weekend was a resounding success. Weekenders revelled in the fun, fellowship, hiraeth and celebration of the Welsh culture.

A full house at the Noson Lawen relaxed and enjoyed the entertaining offerings of trumpeter, Roy Beavon, Cor Cymreig Seattle, The Vancouver Welsh Folk Dancers, soloists, Alan Tucker, and Veronica Gilder of Vancouver and Blake Hodgetts of Eugene, Oregon, a comedy Welsh Dressing Act by Gaynor Rees of Nanaimo and the comedy of David Lintern (Victoria), Ellis Griffiths and others. Enid Lewis, a treasure to the society was ever ready and able, providing accompaniment and humour from her perch at the piano. Honoured guests, the new Consul General, Ian Kidd, Deputy Consul, Fraser Wheeler and their wives Louise and Sarah appeared to be enjoying themselves immensely. Nobody was shy about consuming great amounts of fine food at the half-time ploughman's lunch. In fact, the weekend was noted for the presence of food everywhere, any-time, night or day provided by Gaynor Owen, and her team of helpers. Later, most guests proceeded downstairs to The Red Dragon where there was more food and beverages, a chance to socialize, to sing with Enid around the grand piano and to witness the famous Vancouver Welsh Leek eating ceremony. By 1:00 AM a tired crowd made their ways back to their homes and hotels.

Saturday evening's concert "Wales in Song", chaired by Ann Roberts, was a resounding audience success. Strong performances by the Vancouver Orpheus Male Voice Choir, The Norman Madrigal Singers and the Dylan Thomas Circle were applauded by an enthusiastic audience. Russell Roberts portrayal of Dylan Thomas in America, in the second half, was a highlight of the evening. Performers and weekenders then moved back to the Red Dragon for the concert "Afterglo" and yes, more food, beverages, singing and socializing until 2:00 AM.

The Gymanfa Ganu, Sunday afternoon at the Tenth Avenue Alliance Church, was the fitting culmination of a fine weekend. Gymanfa Ganu Chairman, John Pritchard, masterfully moved us into an afternoon of singing. Following the reading by Elizabeth Murray, and with Enid Lewis at the piano, Co-Directors, Tim Dyck and Rhiannon Acree inspired us to musical harmony and hwyl. Tim Dyck, no stranger to Pacific Northwest Cymanfaoedd Canu, conducted the first set and set the tone for the afternoon. Rhiannon Acree from Dolgellau, now living in Los Angeles, inspired us with her direction of the second and third sets. When Rhiannon reads a hymn verse it is truly poetry. Her energy and delight are infectious. In finale, Tim brought the part singers forward to sing the last few hymns 'in the round' to top off an enjoyable afternoon of singing and hiraeth.

Finally, most participants gathered in the Church Fellowship Hall for Te Bach, to savour the events of the past two days, and to say goodbye and plan to meet again. The 1999 Pacific Northwest Welsh Weekend will be in the Seattle-Tacoma area, hosted by the Puget Sound Welsh Association.

Don Murray

Many thanks are accorded to the Vancouver Welsh Weekend Committee and the many members who 'did Vancouver proud' producing a Welsh Weekend that Pacific Northwest Welsh will remember for years to come!

Don Murray

News Round-Up

The World of Music

The theme music of the blockbuster film "Titanic" was composed by Aberystwyth-born Michael J. Lewis. He now lives and works in Hollywood, and has produced many diverse classic scores for the film industry. In the recent Academy Awards, his elegant melodic music was chosen to accompany its affectionate tribute to great Hollywood actors who had passed on during the year.

The Rev. Cerwyn Davies writes glowingly about Mr. Lewis' compact disc, *The Romantic Splendour of Wales/ Gogoniant Rhamantaidd Cymru*, released in 1997. In his critique, the reverend lauds Mr. Lewis' ability to combine instrument and voice to effect an eeriness that pervades the very depth of the Welsh soul .

Welsh Cellist

Kathryn Rhian Price, an exciting young cellist residing in Chepstow, Gwent, enthralled concert audiences recently when she played with the prestigious Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. During a masterful rendition of a complex Russian cello concerto. Kathryn's solo interpretation of a cadenza in the emotionally-laden concerto earned her tremendous applause and accolades, the audiences rising to their feet and calling her back again and again.

On June 9th, 1998 Kathryn Rhian Price will be playing in her first New York Carnegie Hall recital. It is predicted that soon this gifted cellist will ascend to the the highest musical stardom on the world stage.



Celestial Aspirations

On April 17th last, the space shuttle Columbia soared into the heavens from the Kennedy Space Centre on a neurological research mission. One of the crew members was Dr. Dafydd Williams, an emergency room physician, who hails from Saskatchewan. His father was born and raised in Bargoed, South Wales, and emigrated to Canada when he was in his late teens.

Dr. Williams had prepared a short statement to be spoken in the language of heaven, whilst in "the heavens", and it read as follows : 'Dw i wedi bod yn paratoi at y daith yma ers amser maith ac o'r diwedd mae wedi dod. Dw i'n edrych ymlaen yn fawr iawn at fynd i'r gofod.'

('I have been preparing for this journey for a very long time and at last it has come. I am looking forward very much to going into space.')



A Deed Most Foul

Our beloved national symbol, the Welsh Dragon, is in peril of being slain by officials of the Welsh Office.

Mr. Peter Hain, Welsh Minister, wants to project a more positive image of Wales abroad, and he suggests that the way to do it is to change the national emblem to coincide with the launching of the new Welsh Assembly next May.

The favoured alternatives are : (a) an image of a red kite against a mountainous background; (b) the crest, which bears four thin dragons, used by LLewelyn Gruffydd, the last native Prince of Wales.

One has to wonder at the prudence (and arrogance) of politicians in becoming involved in such a delicate matter. No doubt much flak has been generated in Wales by this act of wanton interference, and I sincerely hope that this pompous and unthinking minister will have his nose bloodied in no uncertain manner.

In a classical statement which shows a complete ignorance of Welsh affairs, the aforementioned minister declares with self-righteous certainty that "Wales lacks self-confidence". I would suggest to the minister that that confidence of the Welsh citizens would be much more likely to be restored by giving them more autonomy to govern their own affairs than by changing the logo on government stationery.



Golden Wedding Anniversary

Gord and Beverly Thomas are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 5th, 1998.

We all extend to them our Heartiest Congratulations and Best Wishes, and many ,many more years of marital bliss.



A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done!

Fred Allen

Point Roberts Parade

There is a spectacular day planned in Point Roberts this 4th of July, the Parade, with clowns and floats and bands will leave the Breakers at 11 am following along Gulf to Tye and ending at the Marina. The Marina Park facility will be open to the public as of noon and we have planned, A bull head fishing contest, Kite flying (bring your kite) Children's Arts and Crafts, Kids Olympics, Delta Cable's new truck open to the public, music on stage all day, and a Taste of Point Roberts, put on by our local restaurants, and our Beer Garden to cool the parents heels.

Following, we will have a wonderful Fireworks display at the West side of the Point, and the Rotary Club of Tsw. will be offering refreshments for the kids at the Pier Point location.

Hope you can join us, and for further questions or if you wish to participate in the parade or help with some of the childrens events, please call our chamber office 360-945-2313 or 945-5536

Regards
Terrie



VWS Newsletter

This is the last edition until September. I wish to thank all those that have contributed to the newsletter over the past year. In particular, I would like to single out the valueable endeavours of Gord Thomas who faithfully provides both the graphic frontispiece and the back calendar pages for each edition.

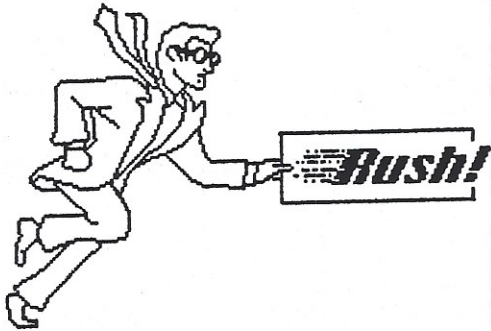
I would encourage those of you who have yet to 'dip the quill' to make a contribution in the forthcoming winter months. Who knows we may have a budding novelist laying dormant in our midst!

I wish you a pleasant summer wherever you may be.

REMEMBER : buckle up and drive safely.
ED.

WELSH SOCIETY ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

DELTA GOLF CLUB , SATURDAY, 20TH JUNE,1998



This is the last call to prospective golfers to register for the above event. Phone Bob Marsh(946-3612) or Rob Barclay(940-9112).

Don't forget that the golfers congregate in the Cambrian Hall in the evening after the match for fun, barbecuing and prize distribution. As usual, non-golfers can join in the fun for \$5.00. You are all reminded to bring your meats with you for cooking ; but potatoes, salad, coffee, tea and dessert will be provided.



The Secret Lives of Walter Mitty

I remember seeing this film many years ago, featuring Danny Kaye who played a happy-go-lucky character, Walter Mitty, who would lapse into reveries in the middle of the day and fantasize about performing impossible feats in all walks of life.

Well, it seems that we have a few Walter Mittys in the South Wales golf team ! Fancy..... some of them calling themselves Tom Watson Gilder and Arnold Barclay, in the last newsletter !

The strict tee-totallers in the North Wales team welcome their opponents' quaffing of ale before the match, for it lends credence to the fact that this is the only way the Southerners can muster enough courage to face their certain demise, at the hands of the Northerners.



Church Bulletin Bloopers

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter , who laboured the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

Celebrating 50 Years of Welsh Life



They say the past is a different country. Nowhere is this more evident than at the Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagans, just outside Cardiff, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. Forty period buildings (from a Celtic Village to an Elizabethan castle to a terrace of iron workers cottages) take visitors through 2,000 years of social, cultural and domestic life in Wales. Next year, the journey will be

illuminated by a bright and colourful anniversary programme, magicking the museum's castle and cottages to life.

Bloody Battle

One of the year's most sensational events will be the reconstruction of the bloody "Battle of St Fagans," the final battle of the Second Civil War, fought 350 years ago on the site where the museum now stands. Visitors will be able to see the rebel Roundheads

triumphing over the Cavaliers near St Fagan's castle. The event will take place during the museum's traditional May Day Festival, (May 2 - 4) marking the month in which the battle actually took place.

For those in pursuit of a more romantic, but equally colourful experience, the adjacent castle grounds will be "coming up roses" as the old rose garden will be restored to its stately, turn of the century splendour, enabling visitors to see varieties of rose rarely seen today.

Dance Festival

One of the world's biggest folk dancing festivals, the Gwyl Ifan, will take place at the museum's midsummer celebrations (June 20 - 21). Dancers will raise the summer pole and transform museum buildings such as the 17th century Kennixton farmhouse - already painted red to protect it from evil spirits - into a kaleidoscopic swirl of streamers, skirts and ribbons. Also part of the festival is a children's folk dancing day - Gwyl y Plant (13 June).

Work will also begin on re-erecting and restoring a magnificent late medieval church in the museum grounds, and is expected to continue throughout 1998. St Teilo's Church, originally located in South West Wales, will be pure white on the outside, providing a breathtaking contrast with the blaze of medieval wallpaintings inside: thirty square metres of brilliant reds, yellows, purples and gold leaf, including 16th century paintings.

The colourful life of another saint will be the subject of a gala celebration when the 50th anniversary programme is officially launched on March 1. Along with traditional music, food and crafts, there will be an exploration of the life and legend of St David, Wales' national patron saint.

Other anniversary highlights taking place during 1998

April 18 - 19 Historic Car Rally

April 25 - 26 Forest Fair

June 6 Miners Gala and silver band

July 4 A free entry gala day celebrating the Birthday of the Museum

July 22 - Aug 1 Everyman Theatre Festival

Aug 29 - 31 "Youthful Promise Wales" - A series of music and opera concerts by young people

Sept 26 - 27 "Gwyl Fihangel - A Harvest Festival

Oct 12 - 18 Welsh Drama Festival

Oct 31 - "Calan Gaeaf" - A pagan Halloween celebration

Nov 21 - The Museum of Welsh Life "Eisteddfod"

Dec 2 - 5 A celebration of popular Christmas traditions past and present.

VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Our spring tour to Alberta proved to be a tremendous success, right from the oversold SRO concert with the St. David's MVC and soprano Ann Parry in All Saints Cathedral in Edmonton on May 16 to our final performance with the Calgary Festival Chorus on May 23 in that city's Jubilee Auditorium. In between we were also received enthusiastically in both Lethbridge and Red Deer. The concert in the Red Deer Memorial Centre, where we were hosted by the Red Deer Music Society (all of whom wore specially printed sweatshirts with the Welsh flag and the concert date on the front and "Gwlad y Gân" on the back, with a reception afterwards featuring imported Welsh cheeses and great mounds of Welsh cakes) was particularly memorable. In between we had sightseeing trips to Waterton Lakes National Park, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Calgary's Heritage Park, Banff, and the Royal Tyrell Museum in Drumheller plus a steak barbecue, floor show and dance at the Calgary Stampede grounds. Emblematic of the audience response were the sales by the Friends of the Choir during the tour of a total of \$5,418 worth of our tapes and CD's. Following a recording session in Christchurch Cathedral on June 6 we will be taking a break for the rest of June, July and August. Till September, may we wish all members of the Welsh Society a happy and prosperous summer?

Desmond W. Harris

The Prime Minister's Residence

There was no official residence for Canada's Prime Minister, until the Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent moved to 24 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, in April, 1951.

This Gothic-style limestone structure was completed in 1868 for Joseph M. Currier, an American-born lumber baron. He had tragically lost two wives and three children; but on the occasion of his third marriage he built for his new wife a "home of her dreams". Seeking peace and serenity after his tragedies, he decided to call the new home by the name of Gorffwysfa, which is Welsh for resting-place.

Mr. Currier died unexpectedly in 1884, and his widow continued to live in Gorffwysfa for the remaining 16 years of her life.

The property was bought by the Edwards' family, prominent Ottowans of Welsh descent. Mr. William C. Edwards was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 1903, and Gorffwysfa continued to be one of the great centres of social, political and cultural activity of the city of Ottawa.

In 1951, the residence became to be known as 24 Sussex Drive. However, in the late 1980s, when the Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney was prime minister, interested parties lobbied for a plaque or shield, bearing the name Gorffwysfa, to be placed on a prominent part of the building. Whether this came to fruition or not, I do not know.

When Mr. Joe Clark was Prime Minister, his wife, Maureen McTeer, became the chatelaine of the residence. She became much interested in its historical background, and she wrote a popular book entitled "Residences of Canada's Prime Ministers."

One-footed man climbs Everest

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

LONDON — A Welshman living in the U.S. has become the first climber to scale Everest with only one foot.

Tom Whittaker, 49, who reached the summit after a three-day climb with friends, hopes his success will inspire other disabled people to believe they can achieve similar challenges.

It was his third attempt at climbing the 8,848-metre mountain since losing his right foot in a car accident in 1979.

Sir Chris Bonnington, who climbed Everest in 1985, said it was a great achievement. "To climb Everest with two feet is hard enough, but to climb with only one requires that much more effort because you don't have the same rhythmic stride."

Three Ladies and a Harp

They came and we took them to our hearts. Yes, indeed three ladies and two harps came to Vancouver on their way to cruise to Alaska and entertain passengers on the "Crystal Harmony".

On Friday, May 15 the three ladies entertained the members and friends of the society at the Cambrian Hall. The three ladies were born and educated in Wales. Two chose to leave and work in the United States and one stayed in Wales. Eluned Jones who originally came from the Rhondda now calls Virginia home as does Mari Morgan who was born in Llanelli. Elinor Bennett now lives in Bontnewydd near Caernarfon, Wales

The three entertained us with Welsh Folksongs, Penillion singing and recently composed Welsh music. Eluned danced the clog dance - this reminded many of us of the visit of "Ar Log" some years ago. Both Eluned and Mari gave wonderful renditions of Welsh music. Elinor Bennett has an international reputation as a harpist and we in Vancouver were very fortunate that her first concert in Canada was held in the Cambrian Hall. Her ability, skill and presentation of music could easily be seen in her playing of William Mathias' Santa Fe Suite. Her ability of changing from modern Welsh compositions to the eighteenth century arrangements by Welsh harpists gave the audience an opportunity to hear a musician of extraordinary ability and talent.

What more is there to say. Those of you who couldn't attend missed a very pleasant evening. Will the three come again to Vancouver? I'm sure that they will - who can resist Vancouver !!

It was Silyn Roberts explained it best when he wrote of the feelings of those away from home.

Rwy'n llesg ac unig a phell o'm bro,
Ar draeth anghysbell fy ngwallgof hynt;
Ond egyr anian drysorau'r co -
Melyswyn brofiadau'r dyddiau gynt.

Ann Roberts

June 1998

mis Mehefin

Farmer's Market
May to October
Trout Lake Commu
↓

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 11.00 am Church Service and tea back	15	16	17	18 Welsh Speaking Evening	19	20 Dale Cefn Cwm Society Cefn Day Self-Serve Barbecue at Red Dragon
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
28	29	30				

Cyfeirnodfa'r Cymraeg Ym 1998
Camdrïan Ffali, 215 & 174 Sde, Sarnouber, N. &
35F 126 Telephone: (004) 976 2815

July 1998 mis Gorffennaf

5 Annual Summer Picnic 11 am onwards at The Owens	6	7	8	9	10	11 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm