

Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones
752 East 2nd Ave
North Vancouver, BC. Can V7L 1E4



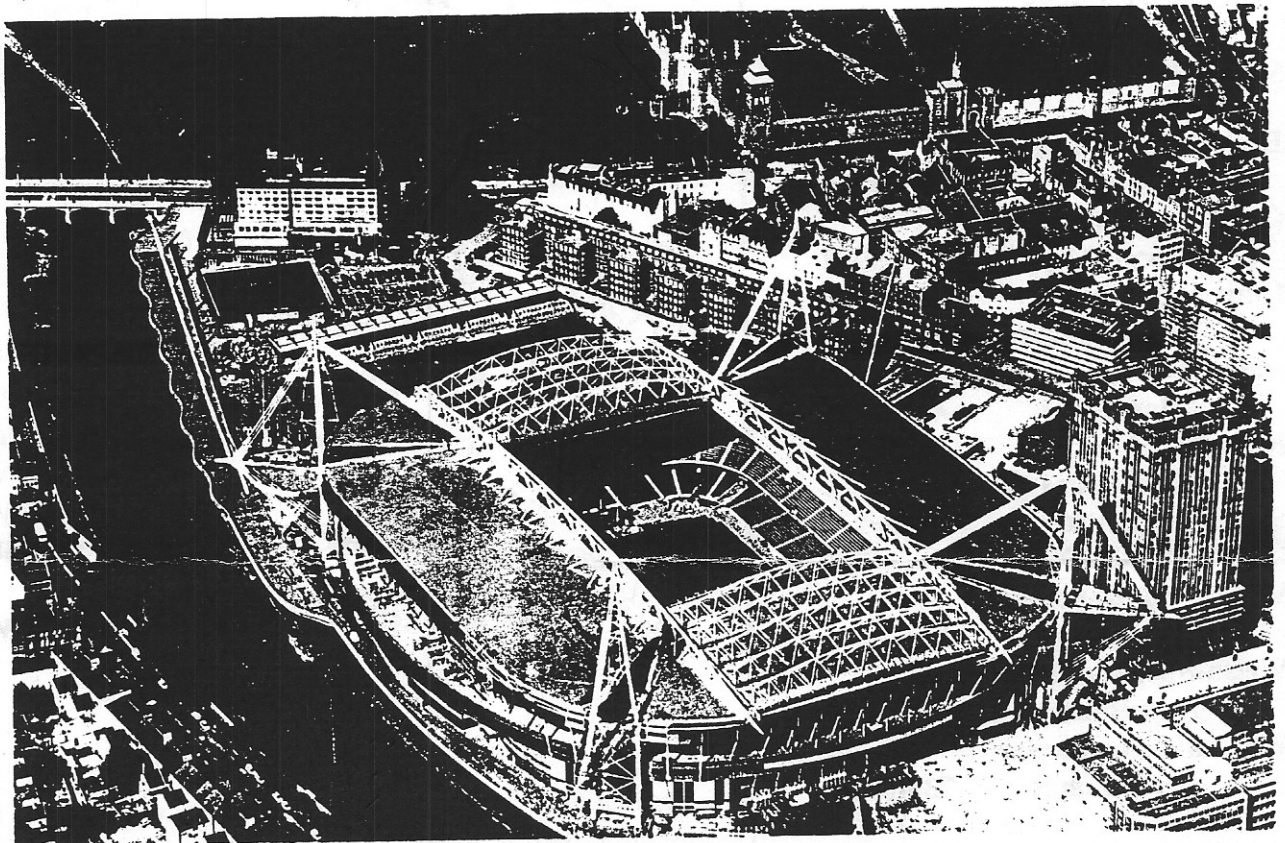
Mawrth i Ebrill
2000

March to April
2000

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



The Millennium Stadium, Cardiff

" Was built especially for the 1999 Rugby World Cup to be hosted by Wales. The new stadium has an all-seater capacity of 72,500.

" ArtcarD" "Photography by Vernon Jones. Porthcawl"

Postcard courtesy of members Veronica & David Gilder

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

**VANCOUVER
WELSH SOCIETY**

Officers

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Jeff Owen (604) 946-4956

Vice President:

Ann Roberts 987-6996

Secretary (elect):

Lynn Owens-Whalen 266-2545

Treasurer:

Tecwyn Roberts 464-2760

Membership Secretary:

Margaret Monck 733-9787

Directors

Jane Byrne

Ieuan Lampshire-Jones

Mer Montador

John Pritchard

Mary Slaney

Contacts

Building Committee:

Jeff Owen 946-4956

Cambrian Circle Singers:

Nerys Haqq 278-8978

Church Service:

Ann Roberts 987-6996

Drama:

Alan Jones 437-0304

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:

Mer Montador 266-8956

email: mer@telus.net

Cambrian News



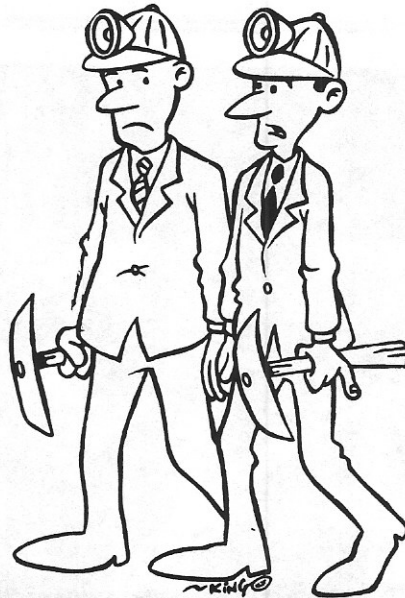
**WE HAVE A
SECRETARY
ELECT!!!**

**THANKS
& WELCOME**

*Diolch
A Croeso
TO/I*

LYNN OWENS-WHALEN

*Applause and Joe Cates
coming up*



ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WHAT
WE HAVE TO WEAR WHEN WE
VISIT THE WELSH ASSEMBLY?

We need
to make it official,
so please come out
to the next
General Meeting,
April 12,
and give Lynn
our acclaim.

Many thanks also to
Ann Roberts,
our vice-president
extraordinaire
for so capably
acting as interim
secretary.

Diolch yn fawr!

Editor's notes:

Submissions and letters are most welcome. Chances are very good that, if used, they will be edited for brevity without, one hopes, losing their essential message.

R. Bennett Williams forwarded two articles (which I hope to include in a future issue) from Mrs Dilys Thomas of Old Colwyn. His letter, dated "20th Feb 2K" (I like that) says, "Dilys tells me the daffs are blooming already!"



St David's Day Dinner

Saturday, February 26

A festive crowd gathered to celebrate St.

David's Day in the Lower Hall which was decorated with daffodils, donated by the WA, and flags of Canada and Wales. The guests of honour were Deputy British Consul General **David Roberts**, and his wife, **Kim Roberts**.

After **John Pritchard** said the blessing, Jordan's Catering again served us a wonderful meal starting, of course, with leek soup.

David Roberts gave the toast to the Queen, and the singing of "God Save the Queen" followed. After introducing the head table, **Ann Roberts** read greetings from Cymrodorion Caerdydd, Johannesburg, Western Australia, Auckland, Hong Kong, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton and from Eva Roberts in Singapore. **Lynn Owens-Whalen**, secretary of the National Gymanfa Ganu Association, delivered greetings from that organization and an invitation to attend the National in Ottawa this September.

Bernadette Howells, in the toast to Canada, remarked that the name "Canada" comes from an aboriginal word *Kanata* meaning a village. She spoke of Canada in terms of its cities, provinces, and territories, its vastness and its beauty, and concluded, "Some village!" With her, we raised our glasses to the rights and freedoms we all enjoy in this amazing country and sang "Oh Canada" with feeling.

The toast to Wales was given by **Ellis Wyn Roberts** who said that Wales is wherever there are Welsh people. In raising our glasses to *Cymru a Dewi Sant* (Wales and Saint David) he said we were toasting each other and our community here in Vancouver. **Margaret Airey**, our talented accompanist throughout, led the spirited singing of *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau*.

Nerys Haqq, accompanied by Margaret, sang poems by Robert Louis Stevenson to music by Canadian composer, Richard Graham, and the Welsh air "How Well I Now Remember" from *Blodwen* by Joseph Parry. Nerys, with Margaret at the piano, then led us all in community singing.

President, **Jeff Owen**, brought the formal part of the evening to a close, thanking all who helped make this year's St. David's Day dinner such a success, in particular his wife, **Gaynor**. Everyone was happy to linger, socialize and sing more oldies to complete a warm and wonderful evening.

Liz Murray



Dylan Thomas Circle

It is gratifying when an event organises itself, when members phone and offer to read the planned poetry. Such was our February 18th meeting when we looked at 'Dylan the Broadcaster'. We did Dylan proud with a magnificent array of readers. **Gerald Morgan, Anthony Tobin, Norman Webster, Ingrid Woods, Peter Roberts, Garath Hill, Norm Levi, Liz Murray, Neville Thomas, Ted Langley and Geoff Madoc-Jones** all gave fine interpretations of the Welsh poets - Henry Vaughan, Edward Thomas, W.H.Davies, Idris Davies, Glyn Jones, Alun Lewis, Wilfred Owen and Sir Lewis Morris. Our own resident Dylan, **Russell Roberts**, read the broadcast commentary and put in the *persona* for his reading of "Poem in October" in Dylan's own voice. What talent we have in our Circle!

The night was truly memorable with an excellent attendance and the time passed too fast to allow many of the other members to read a favourite poem.

Alan Jones

Alan neglected to give himself credit for organising and reading; Tima Jones once again provided her superb Welsh cakes. Diolch!

Copies of **Dr Geoffrey Madoc-Jones's** October address *At the Mercy of Words: Dylan Thomas and the Welsh Poetic Tradition* may be obtained (at the cost of copying and mailing) by phoning (604) 294-4332. Also available are Geoff's translations of some of Dylan Thomas's poems into Welsh.

WA Report

The WA met in February to clean and polish the display cases and their contents. Eight ladies came out and made short work of a beautiful job.

During the business meeting, we moved that Gaynor Owen be given the wherewithal to buy flowers for the St. David's Day dinner. Everyone who was present at the dinner could not help but be impressed by how beautiful the room looked with all the flower arrangements. The shining Trophy Cases added the finishing touch.

Gaynor rewarded the WA members who were at the dinner with daffodil corsages. The primulas which decorated the tables were later planted in front of the Cambrian Hall by Tony Tonack. Thank you, Gaynor, for buying the flowers and, Tony, for making sure our dollars did double duty.

Other business during the meeting was discussion about a future outing. Unfortunately, we could not arrange anything for March so we will meet for a pleasant luncheon as usual in the lower hall on March 15 at 12:00 noon. I hope to see you all there.

Bev Thomas
Secretary, WA

from a letter to Neville Thomas:

Thank you for sending the video [of the 1999 Gymanfa Ganu]. You have no idea how happy it made Mom (Jean Hinkley) to hear the singing. She sings right along with it.

Mom has always been so proud of her Welsh heritage and the singing that goes with it.

The Cambrian was Mom's only salvation, I'm sure, when she was widowed with six children in the '40's. We used to dress in Welsh costume on St David's Day and had wonderful times in the hall.

The joy that the video has brought to Mom's world is truly God sent. Thank you again and God bless you all.

Marion Langstaff

Welcome New Members MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I am pleased to say that we have some new members to welcome, **Carys** and **David Cox**, and **Hazel Gray**.

In the January newsletter, I neglected to mention new member, **Gillian Rogers**. I apologise to Gillian. This was not a nice way to treat a very delightful person.

Craeso! to all.

Just a reminder to the foot draggers, dues were due as of January 1st, 2000.

Margaret Monck
Membership Secretary

Kudo's Korner

The Women's Auxiliary of the Vancouver Welsh Society began with meetings in one another's homes.

Over the years, they have worked hard to fund-raise (the spring tea always well-supported by the Society) & to maintain the beauty & character of the Cambrian Hall. Some of their projects have been the purchase of fridge, shelving, dishes & side-door awnings; having the oak tables refinished; & sewing the costumes for the 1980 National Gymanfa Ganu. They defray Santa's costs at the Children's Christmas party, provide flowers for the St David's Day dinner, & give money to battered women's support services. They polish & clean the display cases & contents, & bake Welsh cakes for special occasions.

KUDOS!!! to the WA. With luncheons, bus tours, lectures, readings, hard work, & fun, your activities & contributions are a vital part of the Society.

Diolch yn fawr, ladies!



Notes from
THE GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, February 9, 2000

Members present: 20

Alan Jones put in a big rentals cheque in January. The hall is rented every day to the end of February.

As is normal for January, Savings Bonds will be cashed in to cover taxes and fees and will be reinvested in June or July.

A new vacuum was bought. (Janitor Alan Dylan says 'thank you' for that and for his Christmas bonus).

With 92 memberships paid up, we are ahead of this time last year.

Jeff Owen is building dollies for the new black padded chairs which are to be purchased to replace the wood and metal ones upstairs.

The furnace is "as old as the building" and needs repair: Jeff has made several trips in to fix and relight it. He charges the society five dollars for gas when he has to come in from Ladner on non-social occasions. A gas fitter looked at the furnace and said the controls can—and must—be replaced; we won't get anything more efficient.

The **May Gymanfa Ganu** is cancelled for this year. Due to the only dates available for the Victoria Welsh Weekend being April 28-30, it was decided that our May Gymanfa Ganu, scheduled for the week following, would be cancelled this year. We hope to have strong attendance here in November and at Victoria this spring. At the Victoria Welsh Weekend, the conductor is to be Rhiannon Acree who, everyone agreed, is wonderful. She conducted at our Welsh Weekend in 1998.

Casting Call—a Welsh Society/Dylan Thomas Circle production of *Under Milk Wood* is in the works—contact Alan Jones @437-0304

Folk Dancers: "...and we need men desperately."

The St David's Day Dinner—baron of beef entrée—will be catered by Jordan's. While prime rib has doubled in price, this is our first price increase in seven years. [Jane Byrne was to be Chair at the dinner, but unfortunately was ill that evening; Ann Roberts chaired.]

New Labour politician, Rhodri Morgan, now leads the Welsh Assembly after Alun Michael resigned.

Two issues to be decided at the next General Meeting, **Wednesday, April 12, 2000**, are:

- a) whether to initiate a non-smoking policy at the Cambrian Hall;
- b) whether to go ahead with refinishing the upstairs piano.

Tony' joke Q: How is a man like a fire?

A: Left unattended, they both go out.



LOOKING GOOD, TONY!!

HAPPY BEING 80! (It took a good blow to get that fire out.)

The Saturday night crowd on March 4th sang three rounds of "Happy Birthday" —to Tony Tonack, Jeff Owen, and Gaynor Owen.

Gaynor had made a wonderful cake à la Red Dragon Bar for Tony, but she only trifled for Jeff's affections. There were flowers for Gaynor, and a gourmet buffet.

Overheard: "Tell my wife those are the best Scotch eggs you've ever tasted so she'll keep making them." [And they were.]

Lawyer joke: 99% of all lawyers give the rest a bad name.

ST DAVID'S DAY OPEN HOUSE

More than sixty folk turned out for the March 1st Open House at the Red Dragon. Singing and good spirits were in abundance.

The awaited event, the **CEREMONY OF THE LEEK**, finally came and, privileged to participate as an initiate, I discovered the inner workings of this honoured tradition.

Rob Barclay explained Welsh Regimental history, conveying the true significance of the occasion. Druids John Pritchard and Alan Jones gave the wet blessing in Welsh and the wet blessing in English.

Meanwhile, the initiates—Alan Sanderson, Mer Montador, Bernadette Howells, & Laurence Reeves—practised intensively for several long minutes—we were ready! We waited nervously for our call, double-checking that our authentic costumes were in perfect order. Finally the big moment came.

Marching to the tune of Jimmy Murphy's drum, we approached the ceremonial table, assumed the correct posture thereon and, with due solemnity, ate the leek (brought by the Server, Jeff Owen). Then, raising a pint, we shouted "**DEWI SANT!**" and downed our beer in one chug while the drum rolled. ...and rolled. ...and rolled. What an occasion!

And what a great evening.
Delicious leek soup by Rose Murphy.
Wonderful Welsh cakes by Tima Jones.
Singing by all present including several members of the Orpheus Male Voice Choir.

Piano accompaniment by:
Alan Jones and Captain Ieuan Lampshire-Jones.

Mer Montador

Canadian Back-up

In February, Canadian bass-baritone **John Fanning** filled in for Welsh bass-baritone **Bryn Terfel** as the Four Villains in Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*. **Terfel** had to withdraw from the production at New York's Metropolitan Opera due to severe back pain.

AP

*There's snow in them thar hills!
Make a date for SNOWSHOEING &/or
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING*

It would be fun for a group to car pool up to Cypress Mountain to snowshoe or cross-country ski.



Proposed dates are:

Evenings (XC Ski):

Tuesday, March 28

or Monday, April 3



Morning: Saturday, April 1 --that's April Fool's Day--what better time to get silly & try out snow-shoeing or skiing. All abilities welcome.

Cost to ski is \$12 (plus tax) all day or \$10.50 evenings; -\$6.50 all day for seniors. To snowshoe is \$5. Rentals: \$15 (\$9.50) for skis; \$13 (10.50) for snowshoes. If you'd like to join us, we'd love to have you. Call:

Mer • 266-8956 or Bernadette • 873-0532

VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

Our 20th Anniversary Concert was an outstanding success. Many fine performers joined us, including soloist **Nerys Haqq** with pianist **Margaret Airey**, and the **Cambrian Circle Singers** with pianist **Lucy Sorenson** and flautist **Lesley Scott**, conducted by **Nerys Haqq**.

Gareth Prytherch presented a brief history of the Welsh choral tradition.


Among those present and singled out by our president **Glyndwr Shepard** were our first accompanist, **Enid Lewis**, our first long-term accompanist and first life member, **Margaret Airey**, first president, **Emrys Evans**, first tenor **Gwyn Evans** who, with **John Wilkinson** and **Bill Jones**, first came up with the idea for the choir, and founding member, **Dave Gilder**.

With the marvelous acoustics of the Chan Centre auditorium, the concert proved a most memorable musical celebration both of our 20th anniversary and of St. David's Day.

from Des Harris

Church service
& te bach

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The Hebrew Connection

(excerpted from the *Mid-Island Welsh Association Newsletter*)

My old chapel, [Carmel, is] closed and for sale. It was a very Welsh chapel with Welsh prayers and Welsh hymns, and the English sermon was always followed by a rousing Welsh oration.

It was many years before I realised that *CARMEL* was not Welsh but Hebrew and that most of the chapels in my village of Beaufort had Hebrew names. There were Moriah, Soar, Bethesda, Ebenezer, Siloam, Salem, and others.

Many of the people of Wales paid a great deal of attention to religion in the 18th and 19th centuries. It has been said that religion was stronger than nationalism and that, given the opportunity, some Welsh people would have left Wales and migrated to the Holy Land in order to be closer to the holy places.

Welsh map-makers liked to superimpose the map of Palestine (now partly the state of Israel) onto the map of Wales. Jerusalem is superimposed onto Becon, which puts Bethlehem on the road to Merthyr Tydfil, and Nazareth in northeast Wales in Llanrhaidr-ym-Mochnant. It would have been unreasonable to change the names of the old Welsh villages and towns to make Wales more like the Holy Land, but it was possible to give the chapels Hebrew names.

It is interesting to note that Sodom and Gomorrah are placed well to the south of Wales, in England.

Graham Rees

Cymdeithas Cymry
Ottawa

Invites you to the
69th Welsh National
Gymanfa Ganu
Aug 31-Sept 3, 2000
featuring

The South Wales Male Voice Choir
Côr Meibion De Cymru

Welsh Canadian Sopranos: **Gwyneth Hughes-Penman**
Shannon Mercer & Sandra Stringer

Contact Roy Morris @ tel: (613)592-1222

fax: (613) 841-9297

email: ottwelsh@istar.ca



Vernon Welsh Society

We celebrated St David's Day with a banquet on March 4th. About thirty people attended from Salmon Arm, Lumby, Armstrong, and Vernon. We were entertained in a programme of Welsh music by Mrs Toni Rose on piano and her son Alex on violin. A group of five members sang traditional airs including 'Springtime in the Rockies' and 'Down in the Valley'—both in Welsh. Then everyone participated in the singing of well known airs.

Our society is looking forward to hosting the visit in September of **Cor Meibion De Cymru**, a choir of 130 voices. Also, we have agreed to host the Cambrian Choir in the spring of 2001.

George Richardson

St David Church Celebration

St David's Anglican Church at 2475 Franklin St., Vancouver once again welcomed all on March 1st with a special service to celebrate St David. The Welsh flag draped the wall and daffodils bloomed at each windowsill. Each of the Welsh hymns had a gusto to equal any gymanfa.

For regular service information, please phone 253-8524.

Father James Penrice, the Rector, a great promoter of St David and Wales, plans to retire on March 1st, next year.

Neville Thomas

March 2000

Mis Mawrth 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Orpheus Choir • Northern Tour Sponsored by "ELKS" Lodges					
19	20 • Kitimat	21 • Terrace	15 W.A. (Noon) Meeting Cambrian Circle Singers	16 Thursdays Welsh Folk Dancing Welsh-Speaking Evening	17	18 Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
			22 • Smithers Cambrian Circle Singers Rehearsal	23 • Pt. George Welsh Folk Dancing	24 • Pt. George	25 Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
26	27	28	29	30	31	
				Welsh Folk Dancing		
April 2000 Mis Ebrill 2000						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> Cymdeithas Cymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society Cambrian Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Vancouver, B.C. V5V 1A6 Telephone:- (604) 876-2815 </div>						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			7:30 p.m. Exec. Mtg	Thursdays Welsh Folk Dancing	Cambrian Circle Singers	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
11:00 a.m. Church Service and to back			7:30 p.m. General Mtg	Welsh Folk Dancing	7:30 pm: Poetry Dylan Thomas Circle	VVMChoir Sechelt Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.