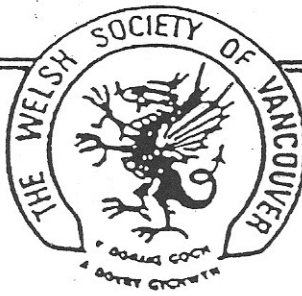


Mawrth i Ebrill  
2002

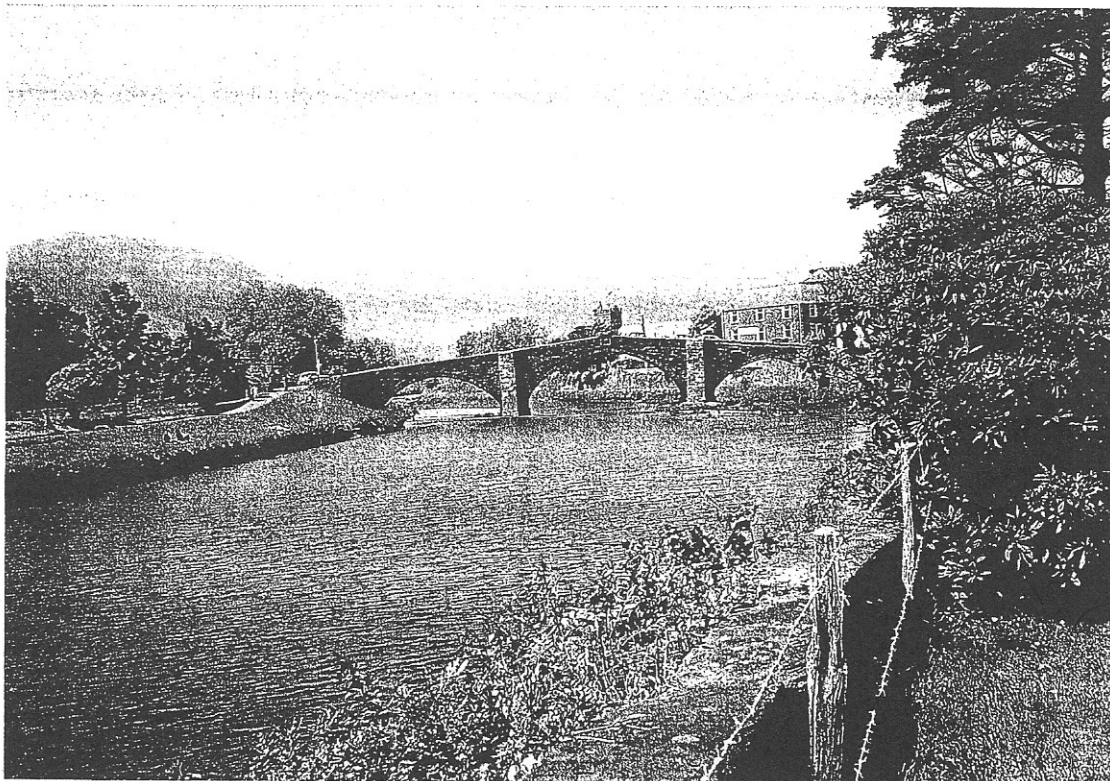


March to April  
2002

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



The Bridge at Llanrwst built by Inigo Jones 1636

Photograph by Mrs. J. Alder, Chirk W.I.

Published by Clwyd-Denbigh Federation of Women's Institutes  
Ffederasiwn Seiydliadau Merched Ddiaboch-Ciwyd

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

VANCOUVER  
WELSH SOCIETY

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## *The Cambrian News*

From The Editor:

This past month's activities have naturally focussed around St. David's Day. Readers will recall that last month's newsletter contained greetings from the Lord Mayor of Cardiff. This issue contains greetings from our Deputy Prime Minister as well as an interesting message from Sunny California! A report on our own very enjoyable celebration is also provided. An unexpected bonus to the weekend was provided by the Monday evening visit of Trebor Edwards to the Hall. This occasion attracted many people at short notice and was very well received. Our thanks go to Neville Thomas for realising the opportunity and making this possible. A report is included. I am indebted to Artro Evans for the poem on the faithful hound Gelert who is commemorated in the village of Beddgelert. It is a classic story. Again I would like to thank those who have sent me contributions. I now have several 'in waiting'. Perhaps I should expand the Newsletter!!

David Llewelyn Williams

Gaynor Evans received a letter from Mrs Margaret Thomas who will be staying at the Empire Landmark Hotel from March 25 to April 1. Mrs. Thomas was born Margaret Jenkins in Swansea in 1935 and attended Swansea High School and the London School of Economics (B.Sc.(Econ.)) She married Jeffrey Thomas Q.C. M.P., the Labour M.P. for Abertillery, who later died. From 1980 to 2000, she worked for the World Health Organization. She is now retired and lives in London. Mrs. Thomas wonders if there are any Welsh people linked to the Jenkins family living in the Vancouver area since some emigrated about 1890. Grandparents: DAVID JENKINS (Mining Engineer, Senior Deacon Moriah Chapel, Treboeth, Swansea) married SARAH WILLIAMS  
First Cousin of Grandparent: LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS (Tycoch Farm, Mynyddbach, Swansea)  
Brother of DAVID: DANIEL JENKINS

Deputy Prime Minister



Vice-premier ministre

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6

Ms. Ann Roberts  
Welsh Communication Association  
103-172 East 2nd Avenue  
North Vancouver, British Columbia  
V7L 4N3

Dear Ms. Roberts:

I wish to take this opportunity to convey to the Welsh Society of Vancouver and all Canadians of Welsh origin my best wishes on the occasion of the March 1 Feast Day of St. David, the Patron Saint of Wales. St. David holds a special place in the hearts of the Welsh throughout the world. His place of birth in Wales and the Cathedral built in his name remain, fourteen centuries later, one of the most important shrines of medieval Christendom.

The values of tolerance and compassion by which St. David lived his life are evident in the lives of the Welsh who have made Canada their home. All Canadians owe a debt of gratitude to the Welsh people who over the years have done so much to enrich the Canadian mosaic.

Although immigration from Wales to Canada is not what it once was, the miracle of modern telecommunications affords us the means to maintain close ties. There will be other creative ways to build our relations as well. The Wales-Canada rugby test match scheduled for November 2002 is perhaps a good example.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Manley".

John Manley

Canada

## St. David's Day Dinner

*In commemoration of our Patron Saint, our usual dinner in his honour was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March in the Cambrian Hall, which was well attended in a most agreeable atmosphere. The Master of Ceremonies was our Vice President, Mr. John O. Pritchard, sitting in for our President, who was somewhere on the high seas around Asia. The honour of saying Grace and of proposing a toast to Her Majesty the Queen fell on Capt. Ieuan Lampshire-Jones, a past president of the Society. St. David's Day Greetings were received from other Welsh Societies across North America and from as far afield as Australia. These as well as a message from the Deputy Prime Minister were read out by our Secretary, Mrs. Ann Roberts. The Toast to Canada was made by Dr. Peter Byrne and the Toast to Wales by Dr. David Llewelyn Williams.*

*An excellent and toothsome dinner was provided by Jordans Caterers and enjoyed by all. Following the dinner the entertainment was by a father and son combination, Phillip and Richard Beynon, with Phillip playing a synthesizer for orchestral effects and young Richard as an accomplished flautist. This was their second visit to the Hall. No St. David's Day dinner would be complete without the traditional Community Singing of the old favourite hymns. The singing was led by Mrs. Nerys Haqq, conductor, leader and soloist with the Cambrian Circle Singers of the Society, with the ever faithful Mrs. Margaret Airey at the Grand Piano.*

*A big 'thank you' is due to all who took part, especially to the Dinner Committee, Mrs. Gaynor Evans, Mrs. Jane Byrne, and Mrs. Ann Roberts, for their excellent arrangement capabilities in making such a joyful evening possible. Also thanks to the Church Service Fund for all the table flowers.*

*Ieuan Lampshire-Jones*

### VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR

The First Avenue Christian Alliance Church in Chilliwack seats 1200 people on main floor and it was almost filled by an enthusiastic audience for our joint concert there with the Delta Police Pipe Band on March 2. It was lucky that it is a very large space, since most pipe bands are not noted for how quietly they can play! In any event, the audience obviously enjoyed the concert since the Friends of the Choir sold over \$1,000 worth of our tapes and CD's that evening.

We will be singing next at an 8.00 p.m. evening service in St. Andrew's Wesley United Church at Burrard and Nelson in downtown Vancouver on Tuesday March 26. Our next concert after that will be a joint performance with the Chor Musica in the Port Theatre in Nanaimo on Sunday April 14 at 2.30p.m. in the afternoon. This will be the first time that we have sung in the new Port Theatre, and we are really looking forward to the opportunity to do so.

To The Vancouver Welsh Society

Greetings!

Here is some happy news re what is happening here in Sunny California re St. David's Day 2002 in San Geronio Pass. For the first time, the Welsh Red Dragon will fly on March 1 in Banning, which has officially proclaimed it "Welsh St. David's Day." We will be having also a "Celtic Celebration of St. David of Wales and St. Patrick of Ireland--Two Great Welshmen" on March 9 at my American Legion Post 428 here.

Have a happy Welsh St. David's Day.

Rees Lloyd/Rhys Llwyd  
Cymdeithas Gwynfor Evans Cymry America and Twm Sion Cati

1. NEWS RE ST DAVID'S DAY IN BANNING

1) We appeared before the City Council of Banning, California, last night (Feb. 26, 2002). The first item was "Presentation of Proclamation of March 1 as Welsh St. David's Day." It was received on behalf of Cymdeithas Gwynfor Evans Cymry America and Twm Sion Cati.

2) The council was thanked by way of reading a letter from Gwynfor Evans to the Banning City Council. Gwynfor Evans' letter was warmly received, and made a part of the permanent record of proceedings. Further, I had received earlier a review copy of "Eternal Wales" from Y Lolfa. I had it with me, and held it up before the City Council, announcing it was Gwynfor Evans' latest book, published as he approaches his 90th year, his tenth book among myriad publications. In appreciation for the City's acts re the Welsh, our society was making a gift of "Eternal Wales" to the City for the Library through the council.

3) When the Mayor presented me with the Proclamation of Welsh St. David's Day, I presented him with "Eternal Wales" and a Red Dragon Flag. I respectfully requested that the city council take the unprecedented step of flying the Welsh Flag along with the Stars and Stripes on the City's flagstaff on St. David's Day March 1. The council members voted unanimously to do so. Thus, on March 1, it will be "Welsh St. David's Day" in Banning in Sunny California and the Red Dragon Flag of Wales will be flying!

Gwynfor's new book, "Eternal Wales," published by Y Lolfa, is brilliant. It should be in every Welsh North American home. Cymru am byth!

REES LLOYD a/k/a RHYS LLWYD  
1949 W. Williams St., Banning, CA 92220  
(909-849-8676; fax:909-849-1695; Cymry:1-800-80-WELSH)

Editor's Note: Gwynfor Evans is President Emeritus of Plaid Cymru (The Party of Wales). He was the first Member of Parliament elected from his party (in 1956). His election forced the government to recognise the existence of Welsh concerns.

## Trebor in Town

When it was learned that the noted traditional Welsh singer, Trebor Edwards, would be in Vancouver for two days, it became an imperative for his many admirers to hear, once again, that distinctive, delightful, swynol voice. When I contacted him in Seattle, he readily agreed to attend 'an informal gathering' at the Red Dragon on the evening of Monday, March 4th. Hasty arrangements for the event and information calls to Welsh Society members were soon underway.

Trebor proved as warmly engaging and as talented a performer as he was when he was last in Vancouver in 1986. He astutely chose a selection of songs to please everybody. The romantic Bugail Aberdyfi, the nostalgic Cymru Lan, My Little Welsh Home, Myfanwy, and Unwaith Eto Nghymru Annwyl were among the many nostalgic treasures that had audience faces beaming and eyes glistening. The audience themselves proved to be worthy participants too. Trebor was greeted with a vigorous rendition of Calon Lan. Later, two Welsh folk songs were attempted (but more practice is needed !!). David Williams masterfully presented two Welsh poems and towards the end of a wonderful evening, two hymns, I Bob Un Sy'n FFyddlon and Sanctus, were sung with enthusiasm. Very significantly, the audience responded to a donation call with a most generous collection, which was given to Trebor as an indicator of how much we cherish him and to defray some of his costs.

Acquiring an accompanist for the evening at such short notice proved a little difficult for me. Our considerable appreciation must be given to Dr Michael Beddoes, who agreed to volunteer his services and was given his first exposure to the Welsh songs he was to play just prior to the Monday evening. Captain Ieuan Lampshire-Jones rounded the evening off well on the piano. The Society Social Committee did an excellent job of preparing a superb food selection that was readily consumed as we socialized the evening away with Trebor and his wife, Ann. They carried back to Wales some very fond memories of their brief stay in Vancouver. To everyone who helped make this evening a success: Diolch yn fawr!!

Neville Thomas

## A Goon Again Evening

On Friday, April 12th, the Welsh Society will sponsor a second Goon Show Evening. This may well surprise many people because the Goon Show has little Welsh content and the Society not too many Goon fans. The reason lies in the great success of the "Remember Harry Secombe" evening in September at the Cambrian Hall and its follow-up, "Goon But Not Forgotten", in the Red Dragon in November. Both of these were sponsored by the Welsh Society and, since the coming April evening promises to be a profitable one, the event organizers felt the Society should be a beneficiary.

On April 12th, many of the routines will be shared with members of the Comedy Company, a group of Vancouver entertainers. They are well-known comedy entertainers at major corporation and charity events in the Pacific Northwest. Video segments are being composed by our ever-resourceful Paul Lievesley. The evening should be zany, ridiculous and vastly hilarious in true Goon fashion.

A very definite caution. If you are not a Goon fan you will find the evening's entertainment absurd and would be well advised to stay home. A large turn-out is expected and all planning attendees must contact 604-294-4332 prior to the evening to reserve a spot so as not to exceed the capacity.

Ying tong, Ying tong, Ying tong iddle I po - Neville Thomas

## BETH-GELERT (BEDDGELERT)

The spearmen heard the bugle sound,  
And cheerily smiled the morn,  
And many a brach and many a hound  
Obeyed Llewelyn's horn.

And still he blew a louder blast,  
And gave a lustier cheer:  
"Come, Gelert, come, wert never last  
Llewelyn's horn to hear.

"Oh! where does faithful Gelert roam,  
The flow'r of all his race?  
So true, so brave; a lamb at home,  
A lion in the chase!"

'Twas only at Llewelyn's board  
The faithful Gelert fed;  
He watched, he served, he cheered his lord,  
And sentinelled his bed.

In sooth he was a peerless hound,  
The gift of royal John;  
But now no Gelert could be found,  
And all the chase rode on.

And now, as o'er the rocks and dells  
The gallant chidings rise,  
All Snowdon's craggy chaos yells  
The many mingled cries!

That day Llewelyn little loved  
The chase of Hart or Hare,  
And scant and small the booty proved,  
For Gelert was not there.

Unpleased, Llewelyn homeward hied:  
When, near the portal seat,  
His truant Gelert he espied  
Bounding his lord to greet.

But when he gained his castle door,  
Aghast the chieftain stood:  
The hound all o'er was smeared with gore,  
His lips, his fangs, ran blood.

Llewelyn gazed with fierce surprise:  
Unused such looks to meet,  
His fav'rite checked his joyful guise,  
And crouched and licked his feet.

Onward in haste Llewelyn passed,  
And on went Gelert too,  
And still, where'er his eyes he cast,  
Fresh blood-gouts shocked his view.

O'erturned his infant's bed he found,  
With blood stained covert rent;  
And all around, the walls and ground  
With recent blood besprent.

He called his child, no voice replied;  
He searched with terror wild;  
Blood, blood he found on ev'ry side;  
But nowhere found his child.

"Hell-hound! my child by thee's devoured!"  
The frantic father cried;  
And to the hilt his vengeful sword  
He plunged in Gelert's side.

His suppliant looks as prone he fell,  
No pity could impart;  
But still his Gelert's dying yell  
Passed heavy o'er his heart.

Aroused by Gelert's dying yell  
Some slumb'rer waken'd nigh:  
What words the parent's joy could tell  
To hear his infant's cry!

Concealed beneath a tumbled heap  
His hurried search had missed,  
All glowing from his rosy sleep,  
The cherub boy he kissed.

Nor scath had he, nor harm, nor dread;  
But that same couch beneath  
Lay a gaunt wolf, all torn and dead,  
Tremendous still in death.

Ah, what was then Llewelyn's pain!  
For now the truth was clear;  
His gallant hound the wolf had slain,  
To save Llewelyn's heir.

Vain, vain was all Llewelyn's woe:  
"Best of thy kind, adieu!  
The frantic blow, which laid thee low,  
This heart will ever rue."

And now a gallant tomb they raise,  
With costly sculpture deckt;  
And marbles, storied with his praise,  
Poor Gelert's bones protect.

There never could the spearman pass,  
Or forester, unmoved;  
There oft the tear-besprinkled grass  
Llewelyn's sorrow proved.

And there he hung his sword and spear,  
And there as evening fell,  
In Fancy's ear he oft would hear  
Poor Gelert's dying yell.

And till great Snowdon's rocks grow old,  
And cease the storm to brave,  
The consecrated spot shall hold  
The name of "Gelert's Grave."

**William Robert Spencer**

From "The Best Loved Poems of the American People" selected by Hazel Felleman (1936)

# March 2002

## Mis Mawrth 2002

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

17	Orpheus Concert - Ganges New Com Theatre Salspring Island	18	Orpheus Concert, Sidney, Vancouver Island Info604-515-5686	19		20	W.A. (Noon) Mtg Cambrian Circle Singers	21	Welsh Folk Dancers	22		23	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
24		25	7:30 pm Welsh Speaking Evening	26		27	Cambrian Circle Singers	28	Welsh Folk Dancers	29	Good Friday	30	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.

31  
*Easter Sunday*

**April 2002**  
**Mis Ebrill 2002**

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

1		2		3	7:30 p.m. Exec. Mtg	4	Welsh Folk Dancers	5	Cambrian Circle Singers	6	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.		
7		8		9		10	7:30 p.m. General Mtg	11	Welsh Folk Dancers	12	Goon Again Evening	13	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
14	11 am. Church Service <i>E te bach</i>	15	Welsh Speaking Evening	16		17	W.A. (Noon)	18		19		20	Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.