

Mai  
2002



May  
2002

Cymdeithas Gymkaeg Vancouver

*Cambrian News*

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



*The Square, Rhuthun*

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**WELSH SOCIETY**

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## *The Cambrian News*

**From The Editor:**

This month's Newsletter is not being produced at its usual time, partly because there didn't seem to be any critical timing issues, but mainly because I ran out of time. As a consequence, we will produce Newsletters that fit a single month...at least until I run out of time again!

Aside from the Golf and VWMC reports, this issue is largely composed of items brought to my attention by members and I thank them for their input. The item on the Love Spoons (yes, we do have at least one in the Hall) came from David Llewelyn Davies, the Powys Pub from Gwilym Evans (remember we already have the best Scotch Whisky Pub), and the humorous epitaph via an e-mail to John Pritchard.

The next two pages emphasize the Welsh service contributions in various spheres of life. The item on Ted Chapman came via an e-mail to Jeff Owen. I hope there will be something for everyone.

The Executive would like to remind members that the various committees of our organization would welcome additional participants, so don't be shy in stating your preferences!

The Executive would also appreciate being informed of any members in ill health or otherwise in need of support. They would also be happy to be informed of members' achievements and successes.

David Llewelyn Williams

### **The Vernon Welsh Society**

The Vernon Welsh Society goes from strength to strength. This year 45 people attended our banquet at the Village Green Inn. We welcomed several new members into the Society.

Now that Vernon can boast a 750 seat, state of the art, Performing Arts Centre, we are looking forward to hosting more choirs from Wales. If you are in this area be sure to visit this great addition to our community.

Nancy Richardson

## VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY GOLF TOURNAMENT

DELTA GOLF COURSE on SATURDAY, JUNE 22/2002

ARRIVAL TIME FOR ALL GOLFERS 1.00PM : TEE-OFF TIME :1.30PM

This year's fun golf tournament and will be held on the above date. Again the North/South Wales golf duel will be hotly contested!

Please note that the above tee-off time is provisional. There is a possibility that an earlier time can be accorded to us if our tournament is the only one on the golf course that day.

We should make every endeavour to field as many players as possible in order to ensure a booking at the same place next year. Golf tournaments are becoming very competitive and golf courses owners tend to favour large tournaments for obvious reasons. If you know of any of your golfing friends who would like to participate then please sign them up. This will help us to perpetuate this sportive day in the calendar of the Welsh Society.

Further information will appear in the next edition of the newsletter. In the meantime I shall be pleased to answer any queries.

Gwilym Evans : 604-274-3794

### Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

Following our sold-out joint concert with Nanaimo's Chor Musica German language choir in that city's splendid new Port Theatre on Sunday April 14, our next performance will be in the Gateway Theatre in Richmond on Saturday May 4 at 8 p.m. with the Concert Band of the Royal Canadian Legion's Branch #5. The band has been in existence for nearly 30 years and in addition to performing regularly in the Lower Mainland has also made very successful tours overseas to the United Kingdom in 1989 and to the Netherlands in 1995.

Looming in the not too distant future is our concert scheduled for UBC's Chan Centre for the Perfuming Arts on Saturday June 29, and all choir supporters are asked to mark this date on their calendars. This will, of course, be our major concert this spring and will once again feature as a soloist internationally-renowned baritone Jason Howard. Jason was the male soloist during our performance in the 1,000 voice Millennium Concert in the Royal Albert Hall in October 2000 and many Welsh Society members will recall hearing him sing during the Welsh Weekend gala concerts in Vancouver last November.

Des Harris

## Love Spoon Carver

Born in Wales and now residing in Saanich, David Western is a master carver of Welsh love spoons, a form of folk art steeped in tradition and rich in symbolism.

Carved from single pieces of wood, the spoons evolved from a long-handled soup spoon called a 'cawl' and as symbols of hearth and home, they began to play a large part in Welsh courtship rituals.

When a young man took a fancy to a girl in Wales in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, he would carve a love spoon for her to indicate his feelings. She could either accept it to indicate he had a chance with her or reject it to suggest he look elsewhere.

Elements commonly found on Welsh love spoons include good luck symbols (horseshoes, four-leaf clovers and wheels of fortune), love symbols (hearts, knots and vines) and fertility symbols.

As the craft developed, spoons became more refined and required the talents of a skilled woodcarver such as David Western.



EUPHEMIA REDDEN/THE SAANICH NEWS  
David Western can be reached via e-mail at [dhwestern@shaw.ca](mailto:dhwestern@shaw.ca) or by phone at 386-2379

He now carves up to 40 love spoons a year and, in tune with the times, about half are bought by women !

## Powys pub wins best in UK title

A country pub and restaurant in the heart of Mid Wales has won the title of UK Pub Restaurant of the Year. Four years after chefs Colin and Melanie Dawson took over The Talkhouse in Pontdolgoch, near Caersws, they collected the award from TV presenter Lloyd Grossman at a gala event in London.

Representing Wales in the final of the prestigious competition, run by The Publican trade paper, they saw off rivals from Henley-on-Thames, Lancashire and Wiltshire, after the judges visited each of the pubs anonymously.

Mrs. Dawson said, "To reach the final of the UK Pub Restaurant of the Year, an award given by the trade to the trade was quite an achievement and to win it was beyond our wildest dreams." Since arriving at The Talkhouse in 1998, the Dawsons have built an excellent reputation for the quality of their restaurant, with customers travelling from about a 40-mile radius to sample their cuisine.

They are listed in the 2002 Which? Good Food Guide and have a red symbol of distinction in the Micheline Guide, one of only two pubs in Wales currently enjoying that accolade.

## EISTEDDFOD SAIN FFAGAN. 2002.

### PENNILL BEDDARGRAFF DONIOL.

Yma'n ddi-glic, dan bridd a gro,  
Mae'r syrffiwr brwd, *nowbach.co*  
I'w we-fan daeth, a hyn fu'n siom,  
Un E-bost byr gan *death.com*

The winner of the competition for a humorous epitaph in the first ever E-steddfod (announced in the February Newsletter) is Arwyn Thomas Casnewydd (Newport), but originally from Ffestiniog.

Roughly translated, it reads

**Here click-less, under soil and gravel,  
Lies that avid surfer, *nowbach.co*  
To his web-site he came, what a disappointment,  
One brief E-mail from *death.com***

D. Ll. W.

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### News of Bryn Terfel

Gwyneth Moreside (Chase, B.C.) wrote to Gordon Thomas with news she received from her sister in Montreal, who recently attended a concert by Bryn Terfel. She hoped (correctly!) that it would be of interest to our members.

“He had the audience eating out of his hand! His first aria was from Tannhauser – The Evening Star – which just flowed from his magnificent voice box, and we melted on the spot. After the various operatic arias, he finished with some Broadway musicals and by the time he got to “How to Handle a Woman” from Camelot (Answer: Just love them), there were at least a thousand women in the audience ready to sign up. Of course the St. David’s Society was out in full force and someone gave him a Welsh flag after one of the encores and his final, final encore was a Welsh song.”

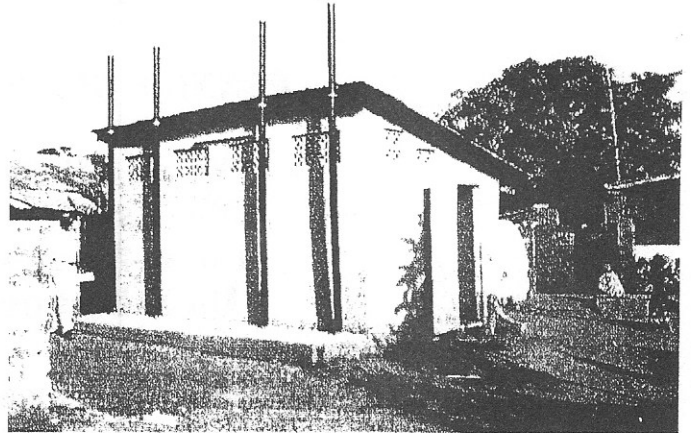


## Holiday gift: free dental clinic in Guatemala

Dr. Jack Hutchinson has many Welsh ancestors and can trace his family tree directly to John Coslett Thomas who was one of the original settlers in Bangor, Saskatchewan. An article with this title was featured in the Vancouver Sun in December. It described how Dr. Hutchinson, a Richmond dentist and his wife Aliza, a trained oral hygienist, together with their children, family and friends – nine people in total – would spend the Christmas season providing free dental care in Guatemala to about 250 orphaned children. We understand the expedition was a great success and that a return visit is being planned.



STEVE BOSCH/VANCOUVER SUN  
Richmond dentist Dr. Jack Hutchinson, with wife Aliza (both front-left), are surrounded by (left to right) Bob Laing, Angela Laing, Rick Pridmore, Andrew Hutchinson and M.J. Pridmore. They will be travelling to Guatemala over the holidays to provide free dental care for some 250 orphaned children.



Graduates from Wales have helped improve public health in Gambia.

## Welsh graduates repeat their Africa health mission

PUBLIC HEALTH in two of Africa's poorest countries is set to get a lift thanks to graduate civil engineers from the UK Wales local association.

A team of 10 volunteer graduate engineers is due to travel out to Gambia and Uganda at the end of the year to take part in a project to construct three public toilet blocks and several refuse repositories.

The project is a continuation of work that was started in the Gambia last year, when a team of six graduates built two public toilet blocks in the capital city of Banjul for Kanifing Municipal Council.

All six graduates – Lloyd Jenkins, Sarah McNae, David Hornblower, Chris Sinclair, Rebecca Marsay and John Cotton – found the challenge so rewarding that they are involved again this year.

They are joined by Max Biles, Anne Brown, Sarah Munks and Nick Price. Two two-strong teams will head back to the Gambia and three two-strong teams will go to Mbale in Uganda. In

both countries the task will be to improve sanitation through the construction of toilet blocks and refuse repositories.

Each team will spend two weeks on site, starting in October. To cover the cost of materials and in country transport the project needs to raise \$13,000. Team members must find \$700 each to cover flights and accommodation.

The fund currently stands at \$9,000 (\$13,000), with \$2,100 donated by Engineers Against Poverty and \$3,300 pledged by ICE President Sir Joe Dwyer to match money raised at the Wales association annual dinner in May. The project team has organised a number of fund raising events.

**Intoplus**

For more information or to make a donation, telephone Engineers for Overseas Development +44 29 2063 0561, e-mail overseasdevelopment@hotmail.com

## Ted Chapman, V.C.

While serving as a corporal with the Monmouthshire Regiment in April 1945, Ted Chapman won one of the last Victoria Crosses to be awarded in the European theatre in the Second World War. Chapman performed his spectacular deeds, which led to his decoration, as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monmouths came up against fanatical resistance in Westphalia. This was in the difficult terrain of the Teutoberger Wald, (Ed. Wald means forest) an area made famous in military history through the destruction there of three Roman legions by the Germanic Cherusci tribe more than 1,900 years before.

Edward Thomas Chapman was born the son of a Welsh coalminer, John Chapman, and his wife Rachel (nee Saunders) in 1920, in Pontllytyn, in the Rhymney Valley. He was educated at Fochriw School until the age of 14 when he left to go down the pit in the Ogilvy Colliery. There he worked until 1940, when he enlisted in The Monmouthshire Regiment and was posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.

He first saw action in June 1944, when his battalion landed in Normandy as part of the 160<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Welsh Division. He was a corporal in command of a section throughout the fighting in the beachhead and was wounded in the breakout at Falaise in August. When he came out of hospital five weeks later he was posted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion and saw action with it in the fighting in the Low Countries in the Autumn of 1944, in the crossing of the Rhine and the advance into Germany in 1945.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monmouths began what were to develop into repeated – and costly – attacks on the thickly wooded ridge of the Teutoberger Wald. Chapman was leading his section in his company's advance along a narrow track through the woods when a machinegun opened fire on them at short

range, inflicting heavy casualties and causing considerable confusion. Chapman seized his section's Bren gun and advanced alone, forcing his opponents to retire in disorder.

During the company's withdrawal, his company commander had been severely wounded and was lying in the open a short distance from Chapman's position. Still under heavy fire, Chapman reached him and carried him back to comparative safety, but as he did so the officer was hit again, the round wounding Chapman in the thigh as well. But when he reached cover, he found that his company commander was dead. He himself refused to be evacuated until the position was finally secured.

Ted Chapman was a quiet, unassuming and down-to-earth man. He possessed ample commonsense and had a keen observation of people and their motives. He did not return to the mines; he found work in an engineering firm, then as a porter on Pontllytyn station and finally for 25 years as a nylon spinner with ICI Fibres in Pontypool.

From childhood Chapman had grown up with horses and after the war he established the Ynyswen Stud of Welsh Ponies (Section A) and the slightly larger Welsh Ponies (Section B). His ponies always did well at the Royal Welsh Shows, even against better funded opposition.

Missing the army, he rejoined the Territorials from which he retired in 1957 having been awarded the BEM in 1953 and both the Coronation and Jubilee Medals for service to his local community.

Chapman died on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002, aged 82. He is survived by his wife, Rhoda, their daughter and two sons. His death leaves 18 living holders of the Victoria Cross.

# May 2002

## Mis Mai 2002

APR 27 7:30 pm  
Orpheus 7:30 pm  
St Andrews Wesley  
& Fiona Blackburn

Saturday

Friday

Thursday

Wednesday

Tuesday

Monday

Sunday

5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Welsh Men's Choir Rehearsals Tuesdays at Cambrian Hall Orpheus Choir Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. @ John Oliver High School Orpheus info line: 515-5686			1 7:30 p.m. Exec. Mtg	2 Thursdays Welsh Folk Dancing	3 Cambrian Circle Singers	4 WMChoir 8:00 pm Gateway Richmond & Rich- Roy Can. Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
			8	9 Welsh Folk Dancers	10 Cambrian Circle Singers	11 Orpheus 7:30 pm Knox United Churi W41st & Balaclava Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.
			15 W.A (Noon) Mtg Cambrian Circle Singers	16 Welsh Folk Dancers		
			22 Cambrian Circle Singers	23 Welsh Folk Dancers		
			29	30 Welsh Folk Dancers		

Cymdeithas Cymraeg Vancouver Welsh Society  
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For your concert date, or later changes,  
notices for inclusion in this calendar display are  
requested by month-end, 4 - 6 weeks BEFORE the event.