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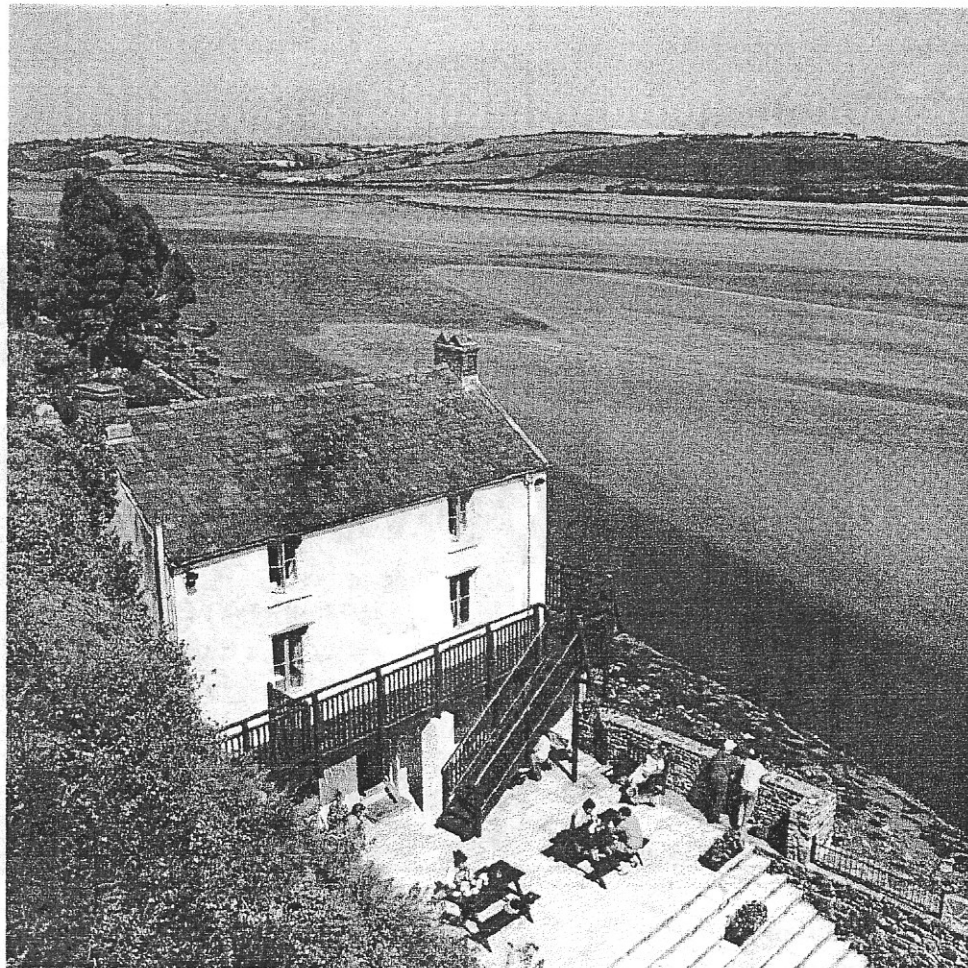


May
2004

Cymdeithas Gymraeg Vancouver

Cambrian News

Welsh Society Newsletter — Cylchgrawn Cymraeg



Dylan Thomas's Boathouse, Laugharne

The Cambrian News

VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

Officers

President:

Jane Byrne (604) 732-5448

Vice-President:

Barrie Hancock 888-9541

Secretary:

Eifion Williams 469-4904

Treasurer:

Gaynor Evans 271-3134

Membership Secretary:

Mary Slaney 888-6563

Immediate Past President:

Tecwyn Roberts 464-2760

Directors

Eric Davies

Allan Hunter

Jeff Owen

Lynn Owens-Whalen

David Llewelyn Williams

Contacts

Building Committee:

Jeff Owen 946-4956

Cambrian Circle Singers:

Nerys Haqq 278-8978

Church Service:

Ann Roberts 987-6996

Rentals and Drama:

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:

David Llewelyn Williams 737-0305
(williams@physics.ubc.ca)

From The Editor:

This edition was supposed to come out in April but I ran out of time. The General Meeting in April passed the required by-law change and we learnt that members of the various groups in the Society had met with the Executive to form a common front to address our fiscal problems. We were also most heartened to learn that Jeff Owen had located and repaired the leak in the roof – at least for the immediate future. We owe Jeff a great debt of thanks for his efforts on our behalf.

I am grateful to Neville Thomas for so eloquently expressing his thoughts on the imminent departure of Alan Jones to the Interior. Alan's many contributions to our Society through the years deserve our recognition and our thanks. He will be sorely missed.

Jane Byrne sent me the material on David Thompson; another example of Canada's Welsh heritage!

'The Glorious 100' should stimulate suggestions!

Let's hear yours! I think of a new one each time.

Do note the 2004 North American Festival of Wales held in Buffalo, September 2-5. Remember that the deadline for the Eisteddfod entry form is June 15th.

David Llewelyn Williams

May Gymanfa Ganu

Last Sunday's Gymanfa Ganu was well attended and characterized by enthusiastic hymn singing under the lively direction of our conductor Lynn Owens-Whalen (who had modestly kept her talents previously hidden) and our accompanist Ray Batten. The program reprised the November 2001 Welsh Weekend program and proved to be one of our most spirited Gymanfaoedd. Still, the highlights of the afternoon were undoubtedly the solos by Lois Carter, the 2003 NAFOW Eisteddfod Winner. As her prize, she will be representing North America at the Welsh National Eisteddfod this summer and one of her four songs, a Welsh translation from 'Carmen', is the set piece for that occasion. As our Chair, Jane Byrne, remarked in thanking all who had participated, this had indeed been a memorable event. Everyone then repaired to the Lower Hall for a Te Bach where those who had not yet lost their voices were able to socialize.

D. Ll. W.

Alan Jones and the Leaving of Vancouver

The cheerful presence and the wonderfully resonant voice of Alan Jones will soon be lost to the Cambrian Hall, the Welsh Society and the Dylan Thomas Circle. With his Vancouver home already sold, Alan and Tima, his wife, will soon be heading into the B.C Interior and a new life at the end of May.

Over many years, Alan has been active on many fronts, often taking the leadership role. He joined the Welsh Society in the late 70's and became its President from 1981 -1984. It was a period of substantial reconstruction, redirection and innovation at the Cambrian Hall. Alan, often with Tima's support, was in the forefront. For the last 20 years, he has been the rental manager, at no fee, for the Upper Cambrian Hall. Alan often cheerfully played the piano in the Red Dragon. He ably supported the bar and every Christmas, Society members would throng to the 'Mulled Wine Evening' to hear Alan's superb, captivating rendition of 'A Child's Christmas in Wales'. Oh, how he will be missed!

Born and raised in Brecon in the mellow, undulating hills of Central Wales, Alan went on to enter Bristol University where, with his considerable intellect, his studies led to a proficient grasp of the full literary field. Dylan Thomas, in particular, proved a joy to him and he has savoured the works of the great Welsh poet to this day. After university, Alan taught school in Britain and then left for Germany where he also taught but soon left the profession to take up sales in a department store. After two years, he returned to Liverpool to continue his retailing work and met his future wife, Tima, who was on a working holiday from Portugal. Emigration to Canada soon followed and after brief stints in Victoria and Winnipeg, they settled in Vancouver. Alan entered the real estate business and, with his disarming affability, he has experienced some years of considerable success.

Back to Dylan Thomas. Alan's great admiration for Dylan's works led him to direct a highly successful stage production of 'Under Milk Wood' in 1985. In 1996 he teamed up with Ted Langley and Neville Thomas to co-found the Dylan Thomas Circle and became its first President. Alan has continued to be a resource treasure for readings, analysis and interpretation of Dylan's poetic and prose compositions. A highlight occasion arose in 1998 when Alan gave a one hour dissertation of Dylan's poem, 'The force that through the green fuse...' to an audience that included two of the world's leading authorities on Dylan Thomas' works, Professor Walford Davies of Aberystwyth and Oxford universities and Professor Ralph Maude. They were impressed. Alan, in his Vancouver leaving, may well have been inspired by Dylan's lines,

*"I have longed to move away ...
Some life, yet unspent, might explode"*

Alan leaves Vancouver to the great regret of his innumerable admirers. Over recent months, plans were underway to record and video Alan reading some of his favourite literary works. The Welsh Society and the Dylan Thomas Circle sought to co-join in an evening of special thanks to him and Tima. Sadly, the complexities of disengaging from a home and several businesses in Vancouver and establishing a new life in the B.C Interior offered no concrete opportunity to undertake these events. But Alan has promised to return for such occasions in the not too distant future.

Every good fortune and success in your new life, Alan and Tima. We shall eagerly await your return visit to the coast. Remember, Alan, more of Dylan's words,

*"No more may gulls cry at their (your) ears
or waves break loud on the seashores"*

Neville Thomas.

North American
**Festival
of Wales**



**Gwyl
Gymreig**
Cogledd America

Celebrate the past, present and future of Welsh heritage at the largest annual Welsh cultural festival in North America. This event traces its origins back to 1929, when thousands from across North America met at Niagara Falls to hold a Welsh reunion over Labor Day weekend. The central focus was a *gymanfa ganu* (hymn singing festival) held on Goat Island, a wooded isle situated in the middle of the river above the world famous Niagara Falls. That event became an annual occurrence, prompting the foundation of the Welsh National *Gymanfa Ganu* Association. In 1979, the National *Gymanfa Ganu* was held again on Goat Island to mark its 50th anniversary with the laying of a plaque. Now in its 75th year of Welsh tradition and heritage, the North American Festival of Wales returns to where it all began, with festival headquarters in nearby Buffalo, New York and a special commemorative ceremony to be held on that same wooded isle above Niagara Falls.

For the special ceremony and commemorative events, buses will transport attendees between festival headquarters at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo and the celebration site at **Goat Island** on Friday afternoon. Participants will then return for a climactic **Grand Banquet** in Buffalo, held in conjunction with the National Welsh American Foundation. There, the NWAFF will bestow its Heritage Award upon Ellis Jones, recently retired Executive Director of the WNGGA. The culmination of the festival will take place Sunday at the **Welsh National *Gymanfa Ganu***, where the talented team of **Meirwyn Walters** and **Alan Thomas** will lead us in singing Welsh hymns. Distinguishing the 75th anniversary event, this year's *gymanfa ganu* is being held in honor of Nelson Llewellyn, WNGGA Executive Director from 1983 to 1998.

There will be plenty of Welsh culture to enjoy and explore during this four day celebration of traditional and contemporary Wales. Featuring beloved harpist Robin Huw Bowen, folk music favorites **Crasdant** will take the stage on Thursday evening for the opening concert. Known for their mix of humor, high energy dancing and brilliant musicianship, **Crasdant** performs Welsh tradition with a flair that will leave you smiling. A finalist in the 1998 CBC Choral Competition, the celebrated **Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir** will perform on Saturday night. Having recently returned from a very successful tour of Wales, this choir of over fifty voices will delight us with favorites old and new under the direction of David Low. The **Festival Eisteddfod** will be held on both Friday and Saturday, with a concert of winners at the end of the Saturday session. Competitions range through literary writing, recitation, hymn singing, vocal and instrumental performances, with separate categories for different ages, solos, groups and semi-professionals. Speakers from Wales and North America will explore topics on historical and contemporary Wales and Welsh America in our **seminar series** and a variety of **children's and youth activities** will be on offer. Throughout the festival, the **Welsh Marketplace** will provide the opportunity to purchase Welsh books, products and souvenirs and to learn about Welsh organizations across North America. Opportunities to explore the interesting and scenic area around Buffalo and Niagara Falls will be provided with **specially scheduled tours**.

— from www.nafow.org with thanks to Gwyn Evans

The Greatest Welshman (or Welshwoman) of All Time?

The internet poll on this topic, which ended on St. David's Day, saw various websites encouraging members to dispense with judgment and vote for their candidate. Under the circumstances, the top 100 formed an eclectic mixture of historical figures ranging from Brenin (King) Arthur to Gerallt Cymro (Geraldus Cambrensis), politicians, poets, novelists and musicians, sportsmen, and present day personalities. Perhaps there should have been separate categories. Not all recent names were familiar to me so it would have helped to have a few words stating their distinction. Some such as Evan (Ieuan Fardd) Evans could be either Ieuan Brydydd Hir or Ieuan Glan Geirionydd or indeed both!

I was unaware that 1973 Physics Nobel Laureate Brian Josephson qualified (and rated only slightly below Dewi Sant!) Josephson proposed the revolutionary effect that bears his name in 1962 while still a Cambridge Ph. D. student. Apart from its impact on basic scientific theory, it has allowed the development of an amazing range of highly accurate devices in the field of electro-magnetism.

I'm sure we all have our opinions as to who should have been included, but then I didn't vote! Welsh novelists were represented by Dr. Kate Roberts, but Islwyn Ffowc Elis, whose novel *Cysgod y Cryman (The Shadow of the Sickle)* was voted Welsh Book of the Millenium, didn't make the list. Neither did Daniel Owen. Welsh poets, R. Williams Parry, T. H. Parry-Williams, Ceiriog, Cynan and Elfed were not included. Welsh Rock Bands were in (John Cale, James Dean Bradfield, and Cerys Matthews) but Geraint Evans, Gwyneth Jones and Stuart Burrows were out. Dr. Thomas Parry's music didn't rate inclusion. But perhaps the most serious omission of all was Sir O. M. Edwards, the founder of Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

D.L.I.W.

The glorious 100

1 Aneurin Bevan	34 Tommy Cooper	67 Prof. Clive Granger
2 Owain Glyndwr	35 Roald Dahl	68 Terry Matthews
3 Tom Jones	36 John Frost	69 Hywel Harris
4 Gwynfor Evans	37 Hedd Wyn	70 Brenin Arthur
5 Richard Burton	38 Jimmy Wilde	71 Cerys Matthews
6 Gareth Edwards	39 Dr Richard Price	72 Laura Ashley
7 Dylan Thomas	40 Syr Kyffin Williams	73 William Henry Preece
8 David Lloyd George	41 Kate Roberts	74 Thomas Jones
9 Robert Owen	42 Roy Jenkins	75 David Davies
10 Saunders Lewis	43 Hywel Dda	76 Colin Jackson
11 Mike Peters	44 Anthony Hopkins	77 Capten Henry Morgan
12 Bertrand Russell	45 Professor Steve Jones	78 Julian MacDonald
13 Catherine Zeta Jones	46 William Williams	79 Gwen John
14 RS Thomas	47 Dewi Sant	80 Rhodri Mawr
15 Andrew Vicari	48 Donald Davies	81 Iolo Morganwg
16 Evan Roberts	49 Rori Davies	82 Alexander Cordell
17 James Dean Bradfield	50 Yr Athro Brian Josephson	83 Owain Lawgoch
18 Esgob William Morgan	51 Syr Henry Morton Stanley	84 Dannie Abse
19 John Charles	52 T E Lawrence	85 Gerallt Gymro
20 Phil Campbell	53 Harri Tudur (VII)	86 Richard Amerik
21 Llywelyn ap Gruffudd	54 Llywelyn ab Iorwerth	87 Robert Recorde
22 Ioan Gruffudd	55 Bryn Terfel	88 David Edward Hughes
23 Richey Edwards	56 Dic Penderyn	89 Evan (Ieuan Fardd) Evans
24 JPR Williams	57 Ian Rush	90 Megan Lloyd George
25 Tanni Grey Thompson	58 Neil Kinnock	91 William Grove
26 Simon Weston	59 WH Davies	92 Richard Wilson
27 John Evans	60 Mark Hughes	93 John Cale
28 Alfred Russell Wallace	61 Bill Frost	94 John Jones
29 Michael D Jones	62 Syr Clough Williams-Ellis	95 Raymond Williams
30 Dafydd ap Gwilym	63 Dafydd Iwan	96 Ernest Jones
31 Archbishop Rowan Williams	64 Dr William Price	97 Waldo Williams
32 Patrick Jones	65 Elizabeth Phillips Hughes	98 Arglwydd Rhys
33 Cayo Evans	66 Margaret Haig Thomas	99 Isaac Roberts
		100 Elizabeth Andrews

H. DAVID MATTHEWS
8807 LAMONT COURT S W
CALGARY, ALBERTA
CANADA T2E 6G6

Feb.28/04

The Editor,
'The Mountaineer'
4814 - 49th Street,
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, AB.,
T4T 1S8

Dear Sir,

As someone with Welsh blood in his veins I wish to support those in Rocky Mountain House who are in favour of maintaining the Interpretive Centre at the site of the old fort.

This tribute to the history of the fur trade and to David Thompson in particular must be maintained by Parks Canada and we should all contact the new Minister responsible for this Government agency namely the Honorable David Anderson, c/o Dept. of Environment, 10 Wellington St., Gatineau, Quebec* or e-mail david.anderson@ec.gc.ca.

David Thompson (who was born Dafydd ap Thomas in London of Welsh parents) worked in the fur trade and became, in the words of the National Geographic magazine 'the greatest explorer and map-maker in North America'. The United States is now celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and when these explorers reached the North West United States guess whose maps they used? David Thompson's as he had travelled in the area several years earlier.

As Auditor-General Sheila Fraser has pointed out Canadian Federal funds must be made available for maintenance of our historic sites rather than being squandered in a series of scandals. This important Interpretive Centre at Rocky Mountain House must be preserved for posterity.

Yours sincerely,



H. David Matthews (403) 249-5483

** Postal Code: K1A 0H3
Phone: (819) 997-1441
Fax: (819) 953-3457

Our Life

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less, we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor.

We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less.

We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill.

Remember, spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side. Remember, to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent.

Remember, to say, "I love you" to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you. Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there again. Give time to love, give time to speak, and give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

Thanks to Jeff Owen for sending this in.

May 2004

Mis Mai 2004

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Welsh Men's Choir Rehearsals, Tuesdays at Cambrian Hall
Orpheum Choir, Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. @ John Oliver High School

								1 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm
2 11:00 a.m. Church Service Noon Tea Social Gymnafa Gannu @ 2:00 p.m.	3 Mondays 10 am except for rain Walking Group Mary Lewis 604 331-1573	4	5 7:30 pm Exec. Mtg	6 7:30 pm Welsh Folk Dancing Thursdays	7 7:30 Rehearsal Cambrian Circle Singers	8 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm		
9 Mother's Day	10	11	12 "W.A." Quiring	13	14 Orpheus Choir @ White Rock 1057 140th St	15 Red Dragon Open 8:30 pm		
16	17 Welsh Speaking Evening	18 *8.00 pm VWMC Concert	19 Cambrian Circle Singers Rehearsal	20	21	22 Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.		
23	24	25	26 Cambrian Circle Singers Rehearsal	27	28	29 Red Dragon Open 8:30 p.m.		
30	31	<p>* Van. School of Theology Benefit Shaughnessy Heights United Church 1550 West 33rd Ave. Vancouver.</p>						

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