

THE WELSH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

Cymdeithas Gymreig Vancouver

Cambrian News

**Mai
2018**

**May
2018**

Society Newsletter - Cylchgrawn y Gymdeithas



CAMBRIAN HALL, 215 East 17th Ave, Vancouver B.C. V5V 1A6

VANCOUVER WELSH SOCIETY

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Antone Minard

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Wynford Owen

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Various

Welsh Speaking Group:

Roy Beavon

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Social Events Committee:

Kathy Thomas (Coordinator)

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The Cambrian News

From the Editor:

“Twmpath? What’s a twmpath?”

This is a question often asked. A twmpath, pronounced “tomb” without the “b” and “path” with a short “a”, is a Welsh word meaning a hump or mound. Traditionally, musicians sat on a mound to play for community dances, so the dances themselves came to be known as “twmpaths,” the Welsh version of the barn dance or *ceilidh*. (“Oh yes; I know what a *ceilidh* is,” I hear you say!) In the 50s and 60s, *twmpath dawn*s (twmpath dances) were organized by **Urdd Gorbaith Cymru** but declined in popularity during the disco era of the 70s. (Source: Wikipedia.org) Now twmpaths are enjoying a revival in Wales - and right here in Vancouver! The Society holds a twmpath approximately three times a year, featuring the very popular (local) **Rattlebone Band** and a caller. The dances attract participants of all ages from the wider Vancouver area and beyond. Our dances are suitable for everyone. You can come alone or with a partner, dance every dance, or sit out some (or most!) and watch and chat while eating delicious baked Welsh treats and sipping a glass of wine or beer. No one needs to be an expert because all the dances are taught on the spot.

So now you know! There’s no excuse not to come and join us at this fun event for all ages and energy levels! See the poster on the last page for information about the upcoming twmpath on Friday 4 May. See you there!

Ruth Baldwin

youcanreachruth@hotmail.com

Forthcoming Events

Please note there may be date and time changes from time to time, so it's best to check the monthly page on the website before attending events

Ceilidh/Twmpath/Barn Dance

Friday 4 May from 7:30 to 10:30 pm in the Cambrian Hall. For further details, see ad on last page of newsletter. For tickets please contact Pat Morris (604 536 9556 druidsgreen@gmail.com)

Executive Meeting

Monday 7 May at 7:00 pm

Cambrian Bookworms

Wednesday 9 May at noon. The book this month is Mary Coin, by Marisa Silva.

Welsh Classes

The summer term will be starting soon, the day and time to be decided shortly. Please keep a lookout for the **SUMMER SCHEDULE** and further details on the Society Website:
<http://www.welshsociety.com/lab5/welsh-classes-at-the-cambrian-hall/>

Bilingual Service

Sunday 13 May at 11.00 am., followed by t  bach (light refreshments).

Welsh Speaking Group

Monday 14 May at 10:30 am. Siarad Cymraeg y bore 'ma.

General Meeting

Monday 14 May at 7:00 pm

Genealogy Group

Wednesday 16 May at 10:30 am in The Red Dragon.

Work Party Day

Monday 28 May from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. A DELICIOUS lunch will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Typical Monthly Events

Everyone is invited to join us at these events but please note there may be changes from time to time, so it's best to check the monthly page on the website before attending. For further information please contact mail@welshsociety.com.

Sundays: 2nd Sunday of the month: Bilingual Church Service. The exception is in November when the Service is on the Sunday of the Welsh weekend.

Mondays: 1st Monday of the month for Board Members only: Executive Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Mondays: 3rd Monday of the month: Welsh speaking group meets at 10:30am.

Mondays: 4th Monday of the month: Volunteer working party: 10:00 am till 3:30 pm.

Wednesdays: 2nd Wednesday of the month: The Book Club meets at 12:00 noon.

Wednesdays: The Genealogy Group meets on the **3rd Wednesday of each month** from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Red Dragon.

Welsh Language lessons: A new term is about to start! The schedule varies and details are shown [here](#).

General Meetings: The dates of the General Meetings will be decided upon by the executive. The **AGM** for year #1 is held in February of year #2, e.g. the 2018 AGM will be held in February 2019.

There are lots more events for the summer in their planning stages! Please consult the Website for details as they become available!

Choirs

Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir

Saturday 5 May: 25th Anniversary Concert at St. Mark's Anglican Church in South Surrey.

Orpheus choir North Coast to Gold Rush Tour!

Please see the choir Website for details or email: mail@vancouverorpheus.org

Information Line: 604 515 5686

Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

Saturday 12 May: Spring Concert at Dave Dunnet Community Theatre, Victoria BC, at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday 29 May: Collaborative Concert at South Delta Secondary School at 7:00 pm.
Please consult the choir's website vwmc.ca for further information.

Calling all Welsh Speakers!

Our Society Constitution, promises that we will “promote the *language*, traditions and culture” of Wales. Our classes, taught by **Antone Minard**, provide a wonderful opportunity for members and non-members, some young, some “older,” to learn the language that is part of our Welsh heritage. However, learners need the opportunity to practice their speaking skills and become conversationally fluent, and this is difficult to achieve in a once weekly class.

To help them with their fluency, some members are looking for one-on-one mentors who will spend a little time with them, by phone or in person on a regular basis, chatting in Welsh. Mentors don't have to be teachers or experts, or have a perfect command of Welsh. It doesn't matter if their Welsh is a bit rusty, either! Learners just want to practice their spoken Welsh, and anyone who speaks Welsh, however imperfectly, can help with that! Please consider volunteering your valuable knowledge in this endeavour, so that Welsh, “the language of heaven,” will continue to be spoken in Vancouver in the years to come!

Email: youcanreachruth@hotmail.com

LAPSED MEMBERSHIPS!

Please note that memberships unpaid by 1st April have lapsed - but you can renew on-line or by cash, cheque or money order!

*Welcome to New
Members !*

*Lorraine Brown - Mindi
Cofman - Greg Edgar - Arthur
Gee - Paul Giles - John Hawkes
- John McBain - Jennifer
Parkinson-Dow - Dan Robb -
Marijo Templeton*

**Photo Gallery of Recent Society
Events**

**St. Dwynwen's Day Celebration
Saturday 27 January**

After a fascinating presentation and video, lots of romantic songs, a brain-stimulating quiz and a delicious dessert, **David Llewelyn Williams** read out the 31 entries to the limerick contest amid lots of hearty laughter. **Carl Sack** won out of 17 entries for Neath and **Eifion Williams** won out of 14 entries for Chirk. Both won Nomnom Welsh chocolate bars! Here are some of the best entries:

There was a young maiden from Neath
Who danced as a nymph on the heath.
Her costume was scanty
Just a bra and a panty
But her head was crowned with a wreath.

There was a young woman from Chirk
Who fell for a young man named Kirk.
But she felt very bitter
When she learned via Twitter
That Kirk was a bit of a jerk.

There was an old lady from Chirk
Her duty she never did shirk –
Dispensing love potions
And sweet-smelling lotions

That apparently always did work.

There was a young fellow from Neath
Who had beautiful shiny white teeth.
He got drunk one night
Got into a fight
And left all his teeth under Neath.

There was a young fellow from Neath
Who liked things to be very brief.
So when he went to Llanfairpwllgwyn-
gyllogerychwyrndrobwilllantysiliogogo-
goch
Staying there was too tough
And he went away grinding his teeth.

**Twmpath/Ceilidh/Barn Dance
Friday 2 February**



Members of the Rattlebone band



Lt to rt: Dancer **Heidi Baldwin** with organizers **Jackie Jones Chapman**, **Wynford Owen** and **Pat Morris**.



Pig 'n' Whistle
Saturday 17 February

St. David's Day Open House
Wednesday 1 March



Acting Mayor **Raymond Louie** read the Proclamation of March 1st and presented it to President **Lynn Owens-Whalen**



Jackie Jones-Chapman and **Alwyn Rogers** delighted listeners with their rendering of "Ar Lan y Môr" at this Vancouver Orpheus Choir annual fundraiser



The flag bearers . . .



the flower girls . . .



and the ceremony . . .



The St. David's Day Dinner Saturday 3 March



President **Lynn Owens-Whalen**
welcomed everyone and introduced the
head table



Secretary **Antone Minard** read the
greetings from kindred societies



Kathy Thomas made the toast to Canada



Marilyn Hames made the toast to Wales



and **Elizabeth Rogers-Jones** made the toast to St David



Emyr Honeybun



Guest pianist **Emyr Honeybun** played several classic pieces that delighted the guests, and also conducted the singing.

Ray Batten was the accompanist for the evening

The Vancouver Annual Sale Saturday 14 April



Volunteers sorted out the donated items in the Red Dragon



and prepared the tables in the hall



while sale-goers lined up outside



At 10 o'clock, the hall quickly filled with shoppers



Items for the silent auction organized by **Lynn Owens-Whalen** where displayed on the stage

And the sale was a huge success, beating all previous years in revenue!

Well done volunteers!

The British are Coming: A British Invasion

Saturday 21 April

We Were There!

A small band of Welsh Society Volunteers joined the Royal Society of St George at “The BRITISH INVASION,” a colourful street party, held at the Roundhouse, in Yaletown. The event, organised by **Steve McVittie**, President of the R.S.S.G., and his wife **Lil**, was held on the St. George’s Day Weekend, to celebrate the History, Heritage, Culture, Customs and Food of the British Isles. This day was also the birthday of **Queen Elizabeth**.

Davie Street was closed for the occasion and food trucks were on both sides of the street, selling British delicacies such as bangers and mash, pork pies and, of course, fish and chips. Tents of various organisations lined the courtyard, with the Red Dragon of our Welsh Society featuring prominently in the middle (next to Dickens Sweets and British Museum, from Chilliwack).

Entertainment in the courtyard was provided all day by various Irish and Scottish bands, Scottish and Irish dancers, the Morris Men and even a Town Crier. I particularly liked the music of local performers **Bob Collins** and **Sarah Ann Chisholm** (originally from Cape Breton) who sang a variety of Celtic songs. Sarah is interested in singing Welsh folk songs, if we can keep in touch.

A huge thank you to **Jackie and Steve Chapman** for supplying the tent, table and chairs and for making our Welsh tent such an attraction, to **Mary Lewis** for attending in traditional costume and to **David Llewelyn Williams** for his invaluable support. Welsh bunting, leeks and daffodils decorated the tent, while maps and memorabilia added interest at the table. The many visitors engaged in lively conversation on wide ranging

topics so that we were able to promote the Society, upcoming events at the Hall, and the value of becoming a member!



Lt to rt: Members **Pat Morris, Jackie Jones Chapman** and **Mary Lewis** “man” the Welsh table.

A Visit from Casglaid y Werin Cymru (People’s Collection Wales) Sunday 22 April

As its Website explains, **Casglaid y Werin Cymru** is “a contemporary, interactive and bilingual online experience dedicated to the history of Wales and its people. It is a rich cultural and social treasure trove that charts the human story of Wales with an archive of reminiscences, photographs, video and audio for future generations,” all handily available on one platform.

On Sunday 22 April, representatives (**Tom Pert, Dafydd James** and **Mike Jones**) from the three institutions that are behind the project - The National Library of Wales, the National Museum of Wales, and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales – explained the project to a group of members gathered in the Red Dragon, using audio/visual materials.

The site is designed to allow users to discover, share and contribute digital objects relating to Wales in this huge interactive database. Users are trained to

navigate the site so that they can easily contribute photographs, diary pages, video or sound clips, and even 3-D objects. These items are then formed into collections that anyone can make use of. Items are also geo-located and given a time value. Historic mapping layers are available, too – for example, the 1840 tithe maps.

The three institutions are also investing in and establishing “hubs” or digital heritage stations housed in empty business premises. In Llyn, for example, an empty store has been turned into a centre where people can go to upload their material, having been trained to digitize it using best practice. The three institutions sharing the creation of this resource have committed to making the collection permanently available.

After the presentation, President **Lynn Owens-Whalen** was presented with a memorial plaque by the visiting team (see photograph below) and the guests from Wales and attending members enjoyed a delicious potluck supper.

People of Welsh heritage living in Wales or abroad are greatly encouraged to submit their stories and materials, so do think about what you might contribute to this vast and permanent collection of digital artifacts!

For more information about the project, please visit the People’s Collection Wales site or watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3o6BwWrN1Y>





The three representatives from Casglaid y Werin Cymru



President **Lynn Owens-Whalen** received a plaque to commemorate the visit

To see lots more photographs of recent events, visit the Society Facebook page!

Buy Welsh!

Add to your list of Welsh goodies available in Vancouver (see the January 2018 issue) delicious **Nomnom Chocolate**, made in Llanboidy, Carmarthenshire. It's sold at Goodge Place, 1523 West 8th Avenue, just off Granville Street. Incidentally, Goodge Place donated generously to our silent

auction at the annual sale this year. Read the fascinating story of the birth of the Nomnom chocolate factory in a Welsh cowshed on a video at <http://www.nomnom.cymru/film> and visit Goodge Place to try this delicious Welsh product.

Look out for more Welsh products when you shop and please let us know what and where so that we can list them here in the newsletter.

Calan Mai

This newsletter is scheduled to appear for May 1st, which is an important date in the traditional calendar of Wales and of all the other Celtic countries. The name of the date in Welsh is *Calan Mai*, and it is the start of summer in the traditional agricultural calendar. We now consider summer to start with the solstice in late June, but there is no real compelling reason to do so, particularly if you are a farmer. The life cycles of crops and livestock were far more important to everyday people than astronomical abstractions, even if those abstractions were useful to keep the calendar on track.

You can see this notion of summer in a rarer Welsh name for May: *Cyntefin*. This word, along with *Mehefin* (June) and *Gorffennaf* (July), contains the word "summer"—*haf*, but here changed to *-ef*, *-hef*, and *-af*. Respectively, the names of the months mean "early summer," "midsummer," and "end of summer."

As in Vancouver, May is the start of the season when you might expect decent weather at least some of the time, and so a lot of the Mayday traditions involved public outdoor celebrations with dancing and games. Some of these involved the maypole (*bedwen* or "birch tree" in Welsh), and others involved the opening of the village green or *twmpath chwarae*. Before electric amplification, musicians used to situate themselves on a

little hillock (the original meaning of *twmpath*) in order to be better seen and heard. The word then came to refer to any gathering around a *twmpath*, and thence to dances such as the Welsh Society *twmpath* scheduled for May 4th.

Because it was a date of seasonal transition, though, it was also a day when spirits were abroad. Mayday features prominently in the tales of “Pwyll” and “Lludd & Llefelys” in the *Mabinogion*, where various dangerous supernatural beings intervene on May 1st. The way we now think of Halloween, which we get from the Irish, used to apply to Mayday in Welsh folklore. The two dates are ultimately related: Halloween is exactly six months from Mayday, and the other major seasonal transition in the Celtic calendar. Why the Irish went one way and the Welsh another is still a mystery.

Antone Minard

Hello Wales! Here We Come!

No matter where I go, I travel as an ambassador for Wales. Whether cycling from shore to shore in Canada, or visiting destinations abroad, I exchange cultures with many people and share my own Welsh heritage in memory of my now dead siblings, all Welsh.

Last summer, my son **Tim** took my granddaughter and I back to Wales so that I could revisit the beloved places of my youth while I can still see, and to introduce his daughter, my four and a half year-old granddaughter, to the land of her forebears.

Adrienne loved the town of Aberystwyth and the beautiful views from its shore. We also visited the castle in Cardiff, the arena, the museum, the shops and the archives. We explored the countryside at Panteg and, as I looked across the fields of sheep, at the hedgerows and paths, took in the immense vista of greenery, the valleys

and the sky, I felt in my heart a nearness, a comfort, and a sense that I was not alone with all the emotion inside me. I was at peace and had come home.

Beti Darvell
(Née Margaret Elizabeth Lloyd Jones)



And from the Archives:

We welcome news of members who have moved away but still want to keep in touch. Out-of-town member **Rhodwyn Sykes** has been in contact recently. He is now living in Ontario but still takes a keen interest in the activities of the Vancouver Welsh community. He kindly sent in a set of photographs of the **Cambrian Circle Singers** taken when the group was on tour in the 1980s. See if you recognize anyone in the group photograph below!



**The Cambrian Circle Singers on Tour
in the UK in 1980**

OBITUARY



Nita Morfudd Adams

January 28, 1924 – February 19, 2018

We were saddened to hear that Nita Adams passed away February 19th after a brief hospital stay.

Nita was very proud of her Welsh roots. Her father Thomas Adams was born in Pentre, Pontypridd and was a carpenter by trade. Her paternal family, however, came from Penllyn, Cardigan and moved to Glamorgan to work in the mines. Her father, a Welsh speaker, immigrated to Canada in 1912, destined for Winnipeg. Within the year, however, he was in Saskatoon and Nita was very proud of a picture of the Saskatoon Male Voice Choir with her father in the front row. Recently the picture was sent to the Archives of Saskatoon.

Nita's involvement in the Vancouver Welsh Society began when she arrived in Vancouver from Ocean Falls to attend Normal School to become an elementary school teacher. She became a fast and life-long friend of Gwenfyl Jones who was a teacher colleague as well as a President of the Vancouver Welsh Society.

Nita was an active member of the WA and also of the local committee that organized the 'North American Festival of Wales' in 1980. Welsh hymn singing always brought tears of joy to Nita's face. Her favourite was 'Gwahoddiad,' (I am coming Lord, coming home to Thee).

The obituary prepared by her family recognized that Nita was a long time Vancouver teacher (General Gordon and Begbie) who was noted for sharing her passion for education and love of reading through the gift of books to the young people in her life.

For years Nita sang at citizenship ceremonies and loved the theatre, opera, hymns as well as classical and Welsh music. She was always ready to share her opinion and could be counted on to add her voice during a hymn.

For the past several years, Nita lived in Chalmers Lodge only three blocks away from her home in South Granville. She greatly missed events at the Cambrian Hall in recent years because of her limited mobility but always retained her pride in her Welsh Heritage and there was always a Welsh hymn in her heart.

A Celebration of Life was led by Nita's family in the Red Dragon on Saturday 21 April.

Please raise a glass of Chardonnay in Nita's memory.

The Welsh Society Newsletter is issued three times a year, in January, May and September. Thank you to those who contributed photographs and articles for this edition!

youcanreachruth@hotmail.com



The Welsh Society of Vancouver invites you to a
Ceilidh/Trimpeth/Barn Dance



The Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Avenue, Vancouver
on
Friday May 4th 2018 from 7:30pm – 10:30pm
with

The Rattlebone Band

*All dances taught on the spot! Come along and
have some fun!*

Beer, wine, coffee, soft drinks and snacks will be for sale.

\$10 (13 years and older)

\$5 (6 – 12years)

Free (5 years and under)

*For advance ticket sales, please contact: Pat Morris
(phone: 604 536 9556 – email: druidsgreen@gmail.com)*